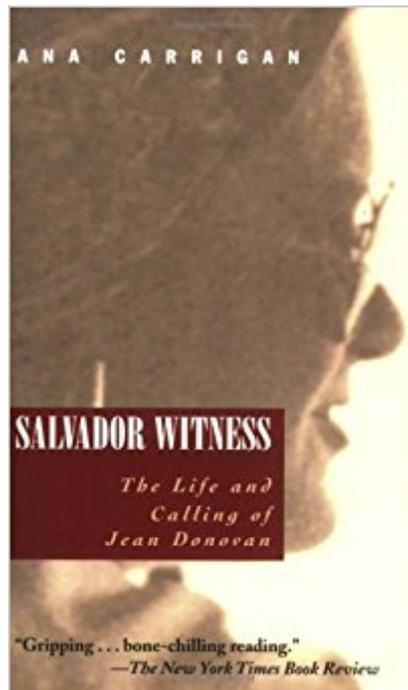


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Salvador Witness: The Life And Calling Of Jean Donovan



Synopsis

"Salvador Witness" recounts a remarkable journey from the affluent suburbs of Connecticut to the jungles and refugee camps of El Salvador. The murder of Jean Donovan and her fellow churchwomen by Salvadoran troops in 1980 made headlines around the world. This book tells the story behind that event, but also the story of a young woman, her growth, bravery, and humanity - and the price she was willing to pay for them.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (6 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

For an oral history project, I had the fortunate opportunity to interview a former grassroots committee member who was investigating the goings-on in El Salvador via the political influence of Joseph Moakley; it was through this interview that I first heard of Jean Donovan and the three nuns (Ita Ford, Maura Clarke and Dorothy Kazel) who were murdered by Salvadoran government troops. Though the interview and project that I was working on wasn't specifically directed at the lives of these heroic missionaries, their lives and choices deeply fascinated me, especially the life of Jean Donovan. It really made me stop and pause as to why someone who was on the corporate up-and-up in middle America would want to chuck it all away to work in a hotbed of political strife and terror that was El Salvador, a country in which she had no emotional or physical connection to whatsoever. It is in Ana Carrigan's crisp and terse biography, *Salvador Witness: The Life and Calling of Jean Donovan*, that her life and choices are expertly and eloquently explored. Using personal letters and interviews by those who knew her best, an overall profile is created of a woman who sensed that she had more to offer than being a corporate executive on the fast track to

affluence and living in "lollipop acres." But on a deeper plain, she felt compelled, as Catholics would say, a calling to be a helper, which, in reality, is a universal vocation. But it is illustrated in her Maryknoll Missionary application, where she wrote, "The family experience which has most affected my life was when my brother got Hodgkins disease...at the time, it made me realize how unsure our existence is, and how precious life is to each of us. Many of the valuse people exalt are not so important after all." Page 67.

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