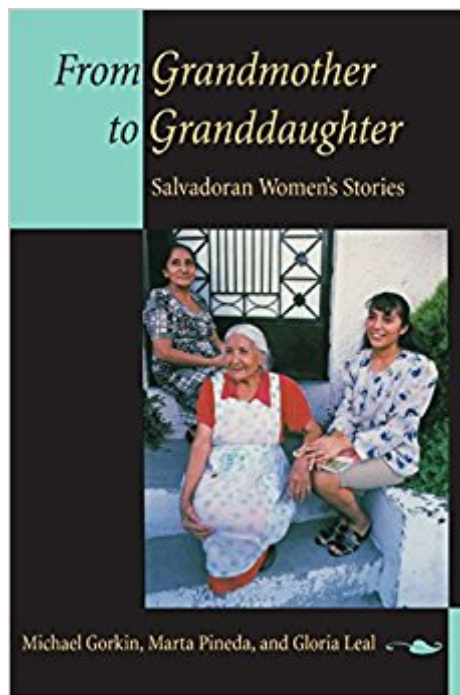




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From Grandmother To Granddaughter: Salvadoran Women's Stories



Synopsis

The life histories and testimonies of nine Salvadoran women from different generations shape this intimate portrayal of contemporary El Salvador. The authors interviewed a grandmother, mother, and granddaughter from three Salvadoran families: La Familia Nuñez, members of the upper class; La Familia Rivas, from El Salvador's growing middle class; and La Familia García, from the campo, the Salvadoran peasantry. The voices we hear convey a deep sense of the world of Salvadoran women and how life is lived in that Central American country today. Each woman tells her own life story, and interspersed with recollections of childhood, marriage, and childrearing are revealing accounts of El Salvador's turbulent political past and present. Reflected in the stories are the vast changes in educational and occupational opportunities for women and the shifts in male-female relationships. Class differences are still a fundamental part of Salvadoran life, but changes are occurring in this area as well. From Grandmother to Granddaughter is a vivid and authentic portrait of today's El Salvador that convincingly illustrates how individual lives can reflect the larger changes within a society.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I could not put this book down. I thought that the title sounded a little "sappy" and almost didn't buy it. The title does not express the volume of information about hardships in life, values, family, and most importantly breaking through the history of being women held down by culture and poverty. It explains through very personal eyes the lives of three generations of women, upper, middle and lower class. The most interesting parts to me were how they viewed and sometimes participated in

the Civil War and the changes they have seen. This book gave me great hope that as El Salvador recovers from their war, we are going to see some very strong and good women from there change the world for the better. I am not from El Salvador. I visited this beautiful country before the war started and look forward to visiting it again someday.

I am an American who has been living and working in EL Salvador for the past 9 years. Micheal Gorkin's book is an insightful, reflective piece of reality- it weaves the tale of daily life, civil war survival, family challenges, and gender roles in today's El Salvador woven with the strong and ubiquitous issue of SOCIAL CLASS as its varying thread. As he states early on in the work- only about 10% of Salvadorans fall into the Upper Socio-Economic class, and 60-70% are stuck in the Lower class with the rising middle class claiming only around 20-30% of inhabitants. This stark contrast to America's wealth distribution colors much of one's experience here. He and his co-interviewers did a magical job of telling tales from different generations all across the varied social spectrum. It is a pioneer in the field of opening up, and letting ALL SIDES tell their tales- and gives its reader the gift of social and political insight and empathy as a treat along the way.

I am just finishing this book. I found it very interesting and very insightful into the women and by extension the country of El Salvador. I have to admit bias towards the campesinos. I was struck by how little it took to make these women contented - basically a house, food and education for their children. They have struggled a long time. I also was happy to read about the growing middle class as I was not aware that it existed. The women from the upper class were good women who have been affected by El Salvador's wars but certainly not to the extent of the other classes. Thank you to the authors for this marvelous book.

I would recommend this book to anyone who is interested in the social history of El Salvador. Through the stories of 3 generations of women , one from each economic class we see how life has changed, primarily during and after the civil war. The characters come alive as they recall their experiences. I have never read a book compiled from interviews of the subject. It was fascinating. There is also a time line in the back of the book, a map of the country and a glossary of the Spanish words used in the stories

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