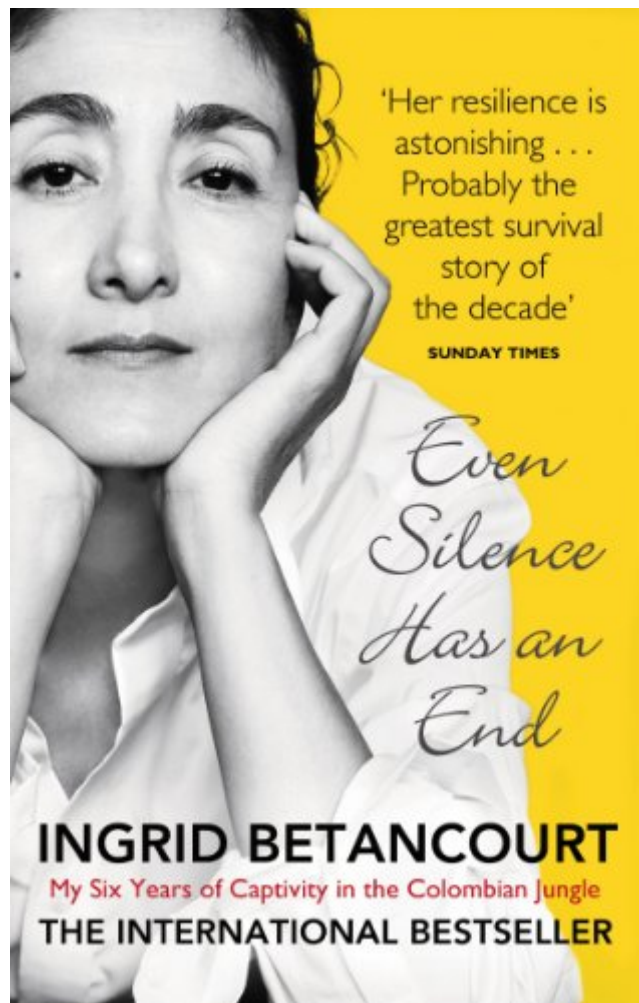




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Even Silence Has An End: My Six Years Of Captivity In The Colombian Jungle



Synopsis

Ingrid Betancourt's story - her exemplary courage, spirit and resilience - has captured the world's imagination. A politician and presidential candidate celebrated for her determination to combat the corruption and climate of fear endemic in Colombia, in 2002 she was taken hostage by FARC, a terrorist guerrilla organisation. She was held captive in the depths of the jungle for six and a half years, chained day and night for much of that time, constantly on the move and enduring gruelling conditions. She was freed and reunited with her children and relatives in 2008. It is Betancourt's indomitable spirit that drives this important and deeply moving book, telling in her own words the extraordinary drama of her capture and eventual rescue, and describes her fight to survive, mentally and physically. As she confronts the horror of what she went through, her story also goes beyond the specifics of her own confinement to offer an intensely intelligent, thoughtful and compassionate reflection on what it means to be human.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I read this and then Out of Captivity: Surviving 1,967 Days in the Colombian Jungle to get a broader picture after seeing her on Oprah. Here's the ups and downs of this one for me: DOWNSIDES: Much

of the time, I was frustrated and annoyed with Betancourt. Despite her being in a REALLY horrific situation, she generally comes across as incredibly arrogant, self-entitled and many times as bratty and foolish. At some points, I almost felt like the FARC would have happily given her back just to be rid of her if she hadn't been so politically important to them.- She displays a pattern of making reckless decisions, failing to choose her battles with care, not thinking through consequences and deliberately antagonizing her captors. Ultimately, these result in probably much worse treatment for her and others dragged into her sphere.- She neither details nor takes responsibility for any of her own selfish behaviour, justifying it as things everyone did on occasion given the circumstances. I believe this. But, then she throws Rojas, her initial captive companion, as well as others under the bus about their behaviour in petty detail. UPSIDES: Still, here's the thing - it's a fascinating story of survival. She's an exceptionally gifted writer. And, she's incredibly courageous even if sometimes her actions seem misguided or not well thought out.- I can't imagine a place worse than the jungle to be held captive - forced marches of days through jungle and swamps, little decent food, bugs, diseases, chains, etc. The FARC are evil.

The story of Ingrid Betancourt is controversial. I read her book along with other books written by some of her fellow hostages and here is my recommendation: If you are looking for entertainment, this book can provide that. If you are looking for the full story, all the facts and a fair assessment, you should also read books written by the other hostages, such as "Out of Captivity" published in 2009 and a New York Times Bestseller, an excellent book written by the three Americans who were kidnapped and lived under the same conditions with Betancourt. There are other books available, written by some of the other hostages, there are also articles written in reputable news papers and journals about this subject as well. Betancourt entered the enemy territory on her own free will after being advised against it by the Colombian government, informed of the dangers involved, and signing a release form stating that she assumed responsibility for entering the FARC territory. This would make her a victim by her own doing. All the other testimony offered by all her fellow hostages, is consistent in portraying Ingrid as an abusive and heartless human being, who was willing to endanger the lives of others to satisfy her needs. This considering that according to the hostages, Ingrid actually received special treatment while she herself treated everyone else in a ruthless manner. There are readers who would justify Ingrid's behavior due to the extreme conditions that all the hostages were subjected to. However, one would have to wonder, if all the hostages faced the same extreme conditions, why did no other hostage besides Ingrid, allegedly become vicious and abusive.

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