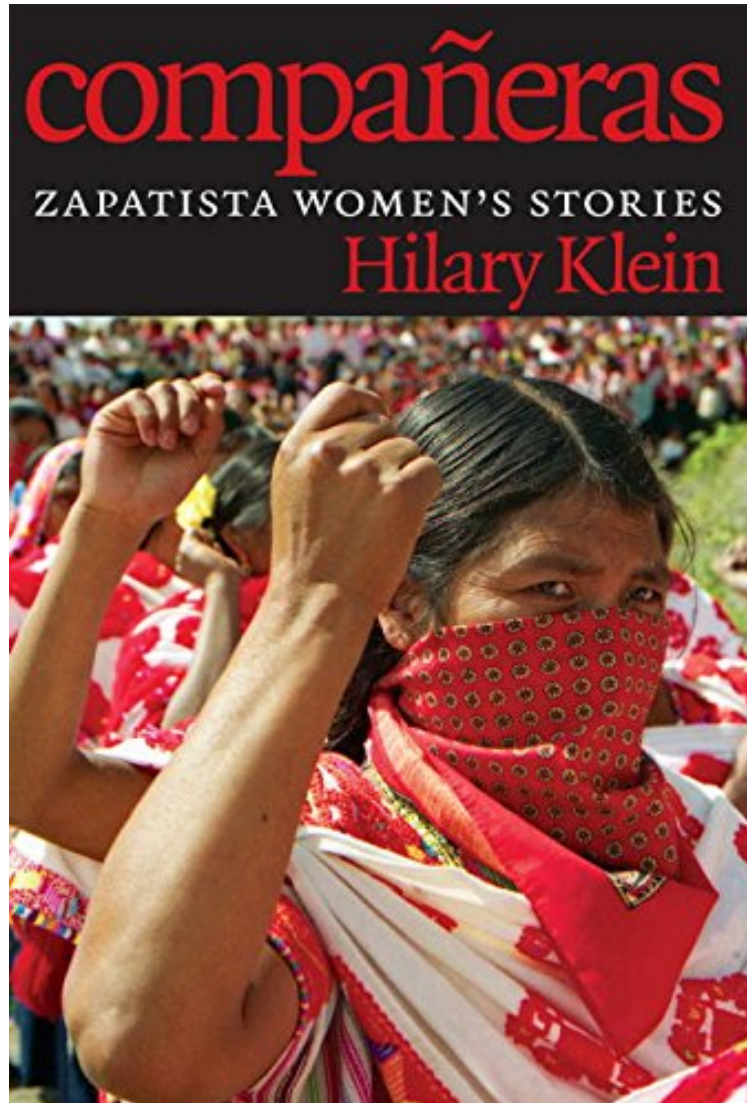


(Download) Compaeras: Zapatista Women's Stories

Compaeras: Zapatista Women's Stories

Hilary Klein

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Hilary Klein : Compaeras: Zapatista Women's Stories before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Compaeras: Zapatista Women's Stories:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The struggles of the Zapatista women are of course intense and painful and hardBy Deborah AxtI will confess that I had become a little weary of the books I "should" read in order to understand social movements and political struggle. I have been craving a bit of junk literature to just let my brain rest and be entertained. But this book defied my expectations - rather than another book that I read for 50 pages and then let linger on my bedside table while I watch tv, this one drew me in. The struggles of the Zapatista women are of

course intense and painful and hard, but what comes through in this book - in really lovely and engaging prose - is the joy and power and liberation. The feel of this book is not heavy or pedantic or "important" to read. This is a book to pick up when you feel that life or work is hard, and you want a taste of beauty and inspiration and love. You move quickly through the pages and the gorgeous words of powerful women. And you will feel much better falling asleep after a few chapters of *Companeras* than after an hour or two of indulgent t.v.!!!2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Poignant, Powerful Stories By DAVID FANN JR. This extraordinary book is a study in all that it means to become a revolutionary, not only for women but for the communities in which they live. It describes in visceral detail, in the voices of the women themselves, the brutal, startling, and sometimes beautiful process of internal and communal political and interpersonal transformation. Hilary Klein's skillful narrative is crafted as a framework to provide context for the first hand stories she collected during the years she lived and worked in Chiapas, traveling to many indigenous communities to collect testimony and spend time as an observer. From the decade before the Zapatista uprising in 1994, to the twenty years of community building that followed and continues today, 'Companeras' chronicles a powerful movement. But more importantly it illustrates how the EZLN and the women who joined it were lifted up each by the other, empowering them both to succeed. With this book, Hilary makes of herself a bridge so that the voices of the companeras can walk out of their communities and into the international arena, illuminating the dark places where hopelessness and despair harbor the belief that revolution is impossible. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This book is by far the best that I have ever read about the Zapatista struggle. By dave This book is by far the best that I have ever read about the Zapatista struggle. It's beautifully written around the stories of Zapatista women in a way that illustrates both how and why we build a better world. I would highly recommend it to anyone interested in the Zapatistas, regardless of how familiar you may already be with their efforts. I would also suggest it to anyone interested in women's liberation, Indigenous rights, campesino movements, or social movements generally. As an educator, I also see this book being incredibly empowering for some of my young Latina friends - many of whom come from migrant and/or farmworking families. I think this book would be a great addition to a college reading list and would also be suitable to some high school students. Because of the content and complexity, it would likely be tough for a younger audience. However, I think it is important that younger kids learn about the Zapatistas and the women's stories. I would suggest selected reading and guided reading/discussions for the younger audiences. I don't believe in censoring content for younger audiences, but there is discussion of rape and murder and, at the very least, I'd want to be sure kids had someone that knew what they were reading to check in with. In my community, I have noticed that kids know very little about Mexican history or the history of chicana/o social movements in US America. As a consequence of their history and culture being ignored in schools, I have noticed a lot of kids in the community debating what it means to be Mexican and whether or not they are Mexican. I really think this book could do a lot towards healing from some of that violence and engaging in the work of social justice both locally and internationally.

Compaeras is the untold story of women's involvement in the Zapatista movement, the indigenous rebellion that has inspired grassroots activists around the world for over two decades. Gathered here are the stories of grandmothers, mothers, and daughters who became guerilla insurgents and political leaders, educators and healers who worked collectively to construct a new society of dignity and justice. *Compaeras* shows us how, after centuries of oppression, a few voices of dissent became a force of thousands, how a woman once confined to her kitchen rose to conduct peace negotiations with the Mexican government, and how hundreds of women overcame ingrained hardships to strengthen their communities from within.

"A guiding light for a new generation of feminists and others who would challenge patriarchy, poverty, gender oppression, racism, and all the other inhumanities maintained by global capitalism." Elaine Brown, Black Panther Party leader and author of *A Taste of Power* and *The Condemnation of Little B* "Beautifully written, *Compaeras* is a story of love and courage that gives a new depth to our understanding of the Zapatista movement and resonates beyond Chiapas." Silvia Federici, author of *Caliban and the Witch: Women, the Body and Primitive Accumulation* "Belongs on the bookshelves of social justice activists and scholars everywhere." Chandra Talpade Mohanty, author of *Feminism Without Borders* "Hilary Klein is a major talent and a welcome fresh voice." Luis Alberto Urrea, Pulitzer Prize finalist for *The Devils Highway* "Compaeras is a powerful testament to the collective vision and *lucha* of the Zapatista women. Here are the intimate stories of becoming politicized as *mujeres* of taking risks, questioning everything, and rewriting history. This book is a guide for anyone who is trying to walk a new camino at the intersection of gender, class, and race struggles." Daisy Hernandez, author of *Colonize This! Young Women of Color on Today's Feminism* "Full of gritty insights. . . . *Compaeras* is as moving as it is eye-opening." Cynthia Enloe, author of *Bananas, Beaches and Bases* "The most complete, well-documented, and moving work about the struggle of Zapatista women spanning twenty years and told from the indigenous communities of Chiapas own heart." Guiomar Rovira, author of *Mujeres de Maz* "Klein underscores that women's emancipation is tied to the emancipation of land, to indigenous sovereignty to liberation. Women's lives, struggles, and leadership are still invisibilized and our stories are often untold. I am grateful for the

herstory of the powerful and mighty Zapatista women." Cindy Wiesner, National Coordinator of Grassroots Global Justice Alliance "The perfect mix of good storytelling, careful documentation, and the sympathetic observation of someone who lived and worked among the Zapatistas for six years. . . . Reading *Compaeras* gives me hope." Margaret Randall, author of *Sandinistas Daughters Revisited* and *Che on My Mind* "This is a book that should be on every activists reading list, and in every social studies class." Raj Patel, author of *The Value of Nothing* and *Stuffed and Starved* "Compaeras provides a view from within the Zapatista communities of the women who are making history in the Lacandon settlements. . . . Working in producer and market operations, the women gained the ability to voice their history in moving accounts that reveal what led to the revolt and the changes they have succeeded in making during the twenty years since the uprising." June Nash, Distinguished Professor of Anthropology Emerita, The City University of New York "Hilary Klein has given us a rare gift: an accessible book that beautifully conveys the experience of many indigenous Zapatista women in a time of incredible social mobilization and change." Shannon Speed, Director of Native American Indigenous Studies at the University of Texas at Austin and editor of *Dissident Women: Gender and Cultural Politics in Chiapas* "The Zapatista movement captures the essence that as we build collective power to achieve social justice, we make the road by walking. *Compaeras* contains many valuable lessons for those of us in the immigrants rights movement in this country, and is a must-read for all organizers and movement-builders." Javier H. Valds, Co-Executive Director of Make the Road New York "Women are taking leadership in social change. Again. In this very special book, Hilary Klein describes how women do this within the Zapatista movement and explains why Zapatista women can firmly say, 'Today there is hope and freedom in our lives.' Not only is this a fascinating book, it should be a solid point of reference for all those interested in constructing a new world of freedom." Gustavo Esteva Figuerola, author of *Celebration of Zapatismo* "Klein has made a tremendous contribution to the world. . . . *Compaeras* would be a delight to use in college courses in Women's Studies, Latin American Studies, Sociology, or Political Science." Karen Kampwirth, Robert W. Murphy Professor of Political Science at Knox College and author of *Feminism and the Legacy of Revolution: Nicaragua, El Salvador, Chiapas* "This is a book for women and men, for activists and for students, for survivors and world-changers, for the oppressed, the poor, and the precarious. Onwards *compaeras* y *compaeros*!" Peter Linebaugh, author of *Stop, Thief! The Commons, Enclosure, and Resistance* "This account of resistance is a unique document that will enable the reader to understand the profound implications of the Zapatista uprising for indigenous women. Hilary Klein brings to the English-speaking world the soulful stories of indigenous women who have decided to build a world in which many worlds fit." R. Ada Hernandez-Castillo, author of *Histories and Stories from Chiapas Border Identities in Southern Mexico* and editor of *Dissident Women: Gender and Cultural Politics in Chiapas* "Hilary Klein has provided us with the most beautiful gift. . . . I was beyond moved by this book. I love it. It is a tool for constructing freedom, by women, in the creation of new worlds." Marina Sitrin, author of *Everyday Revolutions: Horizontalism and Autonomy in Argentina* and co-author of *They Can't Represent Us!: Reinventing Democracy from Greece to Occupy* "As refreshing as cool water in a heat wave. . . . A richly textured narrative where political and historical context blend seamlessly with the compellingly personal." Aurora Levins Morales, author of *Medicine Stories* and *Remedios: Stories of Earth and Iron from the History of Puerto Rico* "About the Author HILARY KLEIN lived in Chiapas, Mexico, for several years, where she worked on projects in Zapatista communities. After she edited a book of Zapatista women's testimonies to be circulated within their own villages, women within the movement suggested that Klein compile a similar book for an outside audience. *Compaeras: Zapatista Women's Stories* was the result. Klein, a D.C. native, has been engaged in social justice work and community organizing for twenty years. She currently works at Make the Road New York, a membership-based organization that allies with immigrant and working-class communities to help them achieve dignity and justice.