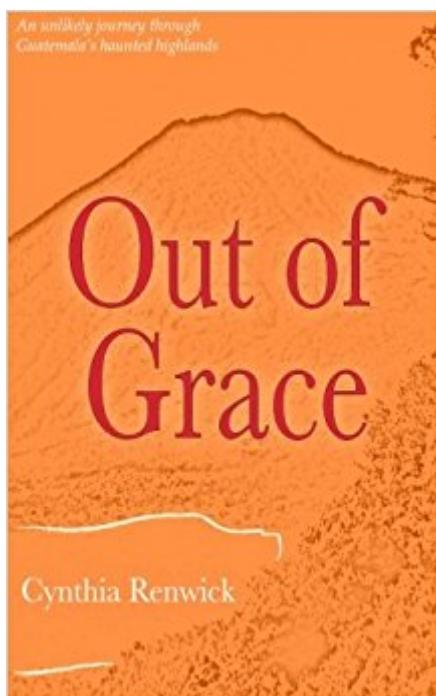


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Out Of Grace: An Unlikely Journey Through Guatemala's Haunted Highlands



Synopsis

Guatemala City is officially classified as one of the most dangerous cities in the Americas, where armed guards stand in the doorway of every bank, shopping center, and McDonalds. Murders make daily headlines. The men hiss at women the same way they hiss at dogs. Here, in the shadow of the country's many spectacular volcanoes, a 22-year-old anthropologist embarks upon her Fulbright research, and quickly finds that things aren't quite what she expected. Even the folks at the U.S. Embassy want her to be afraid. She tries to ignore them, and travels to the Western Highlands to begin her fieldwork. But after a weekend climb of the Pacaya Volcano turns tragic, the author struggles to shake the helplessness and fear that haunt her. The last place she expects to find answers is in the bewildering town of San Pedro la Laguna, a mixed-up community of Mayan fishermen and law-breaking European expats. The town is a place where cultures collide, and is home to a thriving drug trade, strange secrets, deadly vendettas, and a north wind, the Xocomil, that is fabled to wake restless souls. This darkly adventurous personal narrative is at once an exploration of faith, a coming of age story and a reflection upon the haunting shadow of corruption and fear in a war-torn land.

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Customer Reviews

Cynthia Renwick has had an interest in Latin culture since her first Spanish lessons as a child, and the adoption of her brother and sister from El Salvador in 1984. She is a Fulbright Scholar, a frequent traveler to Central America, an anthropologist and professional contract archaeologist, a fluent Spanish speaker, and a graduate from the Goucher College MFA in Creative Nonfiction

program. In addition, she currently teaches Spanish and Language Arts at a middle school in Colorado, and spends summers in Central America leading teenagers on service learning and language immersion adventure trips for Global Works. She has a husband and baby girl at home, and belongs to several local bluegrass bands in which she sings and plays stand-up bass or guitar.

This was an interesting true story that I had problems putting down. I never knew how it was going to come out in the end. Certainly gave me lots to think about in challenging my deep faith in God and the differences between cultures that I hadn't recognized.

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