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# Vultures And Butterflies: Living The Contradictions



## Synopsis

Susan Classen and her companions struggle toward safety through bullets and bombs, then- "Just before Guarjila we passed a dozen vultures. I noticed them from far off and was afraid we would find another cadaver in the road. . . . As we drew near, the vultures reluctantly flew to a nearby fence; I realized hundreds of yellow and white butterflies danced in that same area. We passed through their graceful flight" Classen shares her search for meaning amid the life-and-death contradictions symbolized by the vultures and the butterflies. Vultures shadow a decade that begins with her mother's death, sees her enter El Salvador's agony, and ends with her father's death. Yet butterflies also dance as Classen finds within the darkness a God who turns death into life and weakness into strength. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

## Book Information

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I have quite a heart for missions and adore reading stories, insights, struggles, and wonders that those who are missionaries endure or share. Susan was/is a missionary through Mennonite Central

Committee in Bolivia and El Salvador daily dealing with the guerrilla warfare and the politics and government issues that they would go through. She shares how even though there is a lot of gruesome stuff she has seen while doing medical caring and helping guide people to Jesus, there is beauty there as well. She gives a lot of details and some hard things are in these stories that are very sad. She shares how she struggled a lot being in these places as her parents suffered and died during the turmoil of daily war she lived in. She definitely went through a vast amount of emotions while loving those at home and longing to be with them but seeing her family as those around her in El Salvador. It was a very touching story. I really had no idea what this was going to be about when I started to read it and I am pleasantly happy that I decided to read it.

Susan's personal story and account of experiences while in Central America provoked thoughts about my response to poverty and injustice. It also opened my eyes to what it means to be a pacifist against poverty as well as war.

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