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Undeadly

Survival of the Fittest and How the Lost Boy Survived It All

No Strings Attached

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Posted on 12 March 2018 By Joan Kruckewitt

#READ BOOK ? The Death of Ben Linder: The Story of a North American in

Sandinista Nicaragua ì eBook or E-pub free

I don't hang on to a lot of books, but I've kept this one around since I read it than ten years ago Ben Linder's story is heartbreaking, aggravating and yet inspiring I wanted to read a book in conjunction with a trip to Nicaragua, but you don't have to have any connection to the country to find this a compelling story. There are books I find it hard to finish, because they make me so angry I have to keep stopping to cool down This is one of those The title is a little inaccurate although it does end with the death of Ben Linder murdered by Reagan's terrorists , it is mainly the story of his life and work Ben was raised in a politically conscious family his mother was a Jewish refugee from Nazi Germany his older brother John I knew as an activist in New York Ben graduated with a degree in engineering, and rather than take a high paying job with some corporation or war contractor, he decided to work in an underdeveloped country where his skills could make a big difference in people's lives He went to Nicaragua, and ultimately took on a project of building a small hydroelectric plant to bring electric power for the first time to a small rural village But anything which helped the population was a threat to US interests, and engineers like Ben, along with doctors, nurses and teachers, were the prime targets for the terrorists The Contras shot him in the head point blank after wounding him in an ambush at the site of the weir he was building. #READ BOOK Û The Death of Ben Linder: The Story of a North American in Sandinista Nicaragua Â In , The Death Of Ben Linder, The First American Killed By President Reagan S Freedom Fighters The US Backed Nicaraguan Contras Ignited A Firestorm Of Protest And Debate In This Landmark First Biography Of Linder, Investigative Journalist Joan Kruckewitt Tells His Story In The Summer Of , A Year Old American Named Ben Linder Arrived In Managua With A Unicycle And A Newly Earned Degree In Engineering In , Linder Moved From Managua To El Cu , A Village In The Nicaraguan War Zone, Where He Helped Form A Team To Build A Hydroplant To Bring Electricity To The Town He Was Ambushed And Killed By The Contras The Following Year While Surveying A Stream For A Possible Hydroplant In , Kruckewitt Traveled To The Nicaraguan Mountains To Investigate Linder S Death In July She Finally Located And Interviewed One Of The Men Who Killed Ben Linder, A Story That Became The Basis For A New Yorker Feature On Linder S Death Linder S Story Is A Portrait Of One Idealist Who Died For His Beliefs, As Well As A Picture Of A Failed Foreign Policy, Vividly Exposing The True Dimensions Of A War That Forever Marked The Lives Of Both Nicaraguans And Americans This book caught my eye after I had bought the Criterion Collection's new DVD release of Walker, the 1988 film that told the tale of William Walker Walker was an American adventurer who went to Nicaragua in the 1850s as a hired gun leading a small ragtag army but ended up becoming its dictator for a time The film came out while the Reagan administration was openly

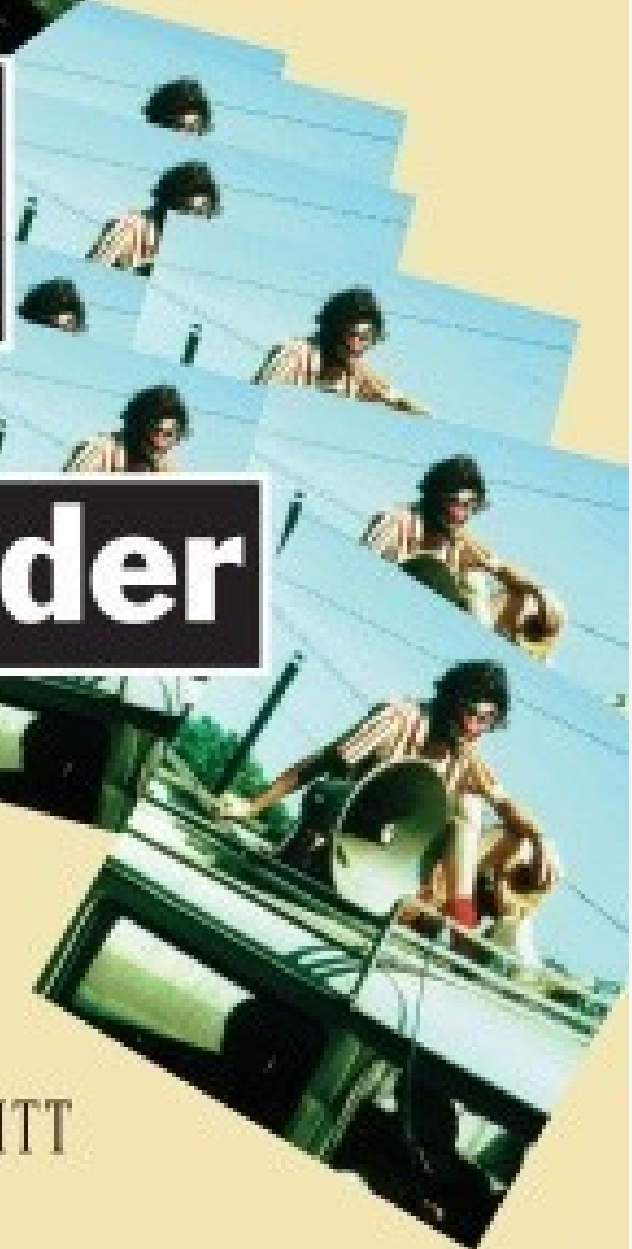
supporting the Contra rebels who were fighting to overthrow the revolutionary Sandinista government. In a written diary that accompanied the film, a crew member mentioned that during filming, a young American had been killed by the Contras. This intrigued me as an American had been killed by members of a group organized and funded by American tax dollars. This American was Ben Linder. I did some research, and bought this book as a result. It was a wholly engrossing read. Joan Kruckewitt has weaved together a well researched, yet touching account of someone I believe represents the best of America. Ben Linder went abroad to a foreign country because he believed that the best way to help a country was to help build it instead of contributing to a war which would lead to the opposite outcome. I highly recommend this book though it discusses a period during the tail end of the Cold War, it is highly relevant today due to our current involvement abroad in places like Iraq and Afghanistan. After finishing this book, I came to two conclusions first, I want to make this into a film one day, and second, to paraphrase the old saying, your words get further laced with honey than vinegar. Building a country seems to me a far better option than destroying it. An incredible book. Through an amazing amount of research, personal interviews, and journals, the author paints a vivid portrait of life in 80s Nicaragua, as well as the life of Ben Linder. Linder, a young American, writes in his journals movingly and powerfully about the desire to help a country ravaged by US funded Contras, and the complexities of making life choices about work, love, and which fights to fight. His life, all too short, comes alive in Kruckewitt's excellent and very readable although heartbreaking book. Highly recommended. I read this book while living in Nicaragua. It was an incredibly intense read for me, bringing alive the history, struggle, passion, and conflicts of the time I had been attending meetings at the Casa de Ben Linder on a regular basis while there so I could gain a better understanding of the country. I was volunteering in from the locals and ex pats who'd been there for decades. They all recommended I read this book and I wholeheartedly pass on that recommendation for anyone who seeks to know what's happening beyond America's borders. I read this book while I was in Nicaragua and it really put a lot of things into perspective for me along with the stories I would hear about the impact the war had during the 1980s and presently. The book does a very good job of making you feel like you are there during this period of Nicaraguan history through its vivid descriptions. Interesting story about an American engineer who goes to Nicaragua in the 80s. Ben Linder was the first American to be killed by the Contras which some say turned the tide for opposition to the U.S involvement in the war. I read it to learn about Nicaragua and the politics at the time and the book definitely provided this. A great way to dive into US Nicaraguan history in the Contra war through the story of one young man living his convictions.

"[A] poignant and gripping tale."
—NOAM CHOMSKY



The
Death
of

Ben Linder



*The Story of a
North American in
Sandinista Nicaragua*

JOAN KRUCKEWITT

this book changed my life a wonderful account of the ethics of engineering in the context of war and social unrest.

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