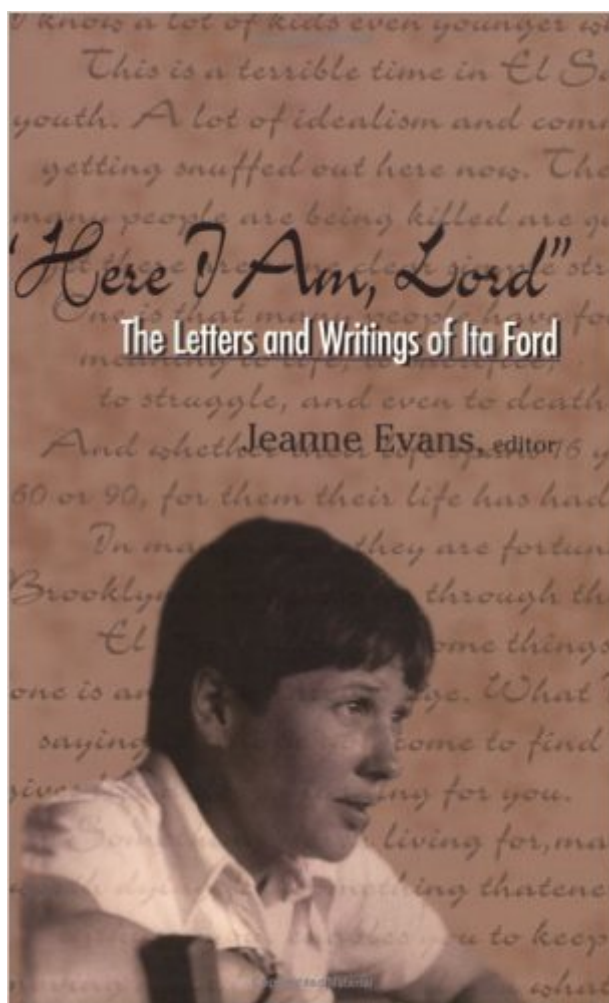


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"Here I Am, Lord": The Letters And Writings Of Ita Ford



Synopsis

The murder of four U.S. churchwomen in El Salvador in 1980, was one of the defining events of its time: an act of brutality, and at the time a singular witness to the power of the Cross. Twenty-five years later, Jeanne Evans has compiled the writings of one of these women, Ita Ford, a Maryknoll Sister and native of New York. Through her journals, letters, and other writings, we follow Ford's spiritual journey from her early life and decision to enter the Maryknoll order, to the experiences in Latin America that altered and deepened her understanding of the gospel. Her writings reflect the qualities that endeared her to friends and those she served.

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Customer Reviews

Discovering "Here I Am, Lord" The Letters and Writings of Ita Ford came as an unexpected surprise. Not being a dedicated reader of books that could be categorized as theology, the story of Sister Ita Ford's life as told through her letters (which are prefaced by concise but very vivid and helpful Introductions by the editor, Jeanne Evans) impressed me as I became caught up in the simple power of an amazing woman's life work. In retrospect, the relevance of Ita Ford's life story as revealed by Evan's book is compelling to any reader interested in how an individual can fight to change the political structures that control everyday people for the enrichment of the powerful few. The most important actions Ita Ford took on in her life led to her execution-style murder by the Salvadoran military on December 2, 1980. This act of brutality was covered by TV and print reporters around the world. It seems to me that the importance of Ita Ford's life is mirrored in the recent successes of films like United 93 and Oliver Stone's World Trade Center. These films tell the

stories of many people caught up in the horrific events of September 11, 2001. They give direct, moving glimpses of the heroism of everyday people, who are very like Ita Ford in suddenly finding themselves facing unexpected unspeakable evil. Ita Ford's heroic death may be a quarter of a century ago; but, the evil committed by certain individuals who are willing to kill the innocent to promote what they see to be their right: to impose their will upon others, is as common an event today as it was in 1980. The politics change, but the importance of everyday people who will sacrifice themselves to fight fanaticism and greed remains as amazing and important in 1980, or 2001, as it is today.

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