

Radcliffe and Guatemalan Women

Now I've got a feeling if you simply gather at the class of '50
 Whether she was raped, deceived, bribed, seduced, persuaded
 Some things I don't think I can do I end up doing
 The original half-breeds, workers without patrimony
 I thought you were a judge
 A woman from the dominated class facing a man from the dominant
 class

We saved the government 85 million dollars
 Oppression, repression, and discrimination
 Why did I retire, it's a long story
 A total disregard for the rights of the poor
 Anna Marie had 13 children
 Political, social and economic discrimination
 Mary had 9, youngest 17

Guatemalan women have been relegated to the realm of the
 household and to domestic labor

I taught for a year at Carol Center
 Upper class has relied fundamentally on machismo
 We have six bedrooms

They are paid lower wages than the men
 Our parents were getting older so we did add on in a fashion
 Women constitute only 13.7 of the employed
 That's very nice. I wonder if maybe they make extra keys
 Girls constitute 12.6 percent of the juvenile labor force
 (children from 10 to 14)

Kitsy, are you still in the diplomatic corp?
 Eighty per cent of Guatemalan households lack drinking water,
 electricity

She was a very nice mother, very capable
 Laundry is done at the river
 She had to raise five children by herself
 Minimal health care services scarcely exist
 She's really into the woman's movement

In thirty years, in spite of "modern" legislation, only
 five women have been elected to congress

I don't have a model for being a woman who was still active
Peasant women attend to household chores and to their children,
but they also work in agricultural activities, later selling
the harvested produce

Who's the girl, the feminist with the long hair?

The market women are denied the right to organize

My mother kinda got fixed into a little pattern

Annual migration of indigenous peasants from the highlands
to the large southern coastal plantations to pick cotton,
coffee, beans and sugar cane

My sisters are all a fair bit older than I

Must carry her youngest child on her back while working
in the fields

We all have changed a little bit

The work-day begins at 4:00 in the morning and doesn't end
until 9:00 or 10:00 at night

We knew exactly what we should do, get married

When her work is weighed or measured by the forman she is
cheated shamelessly

We produced exactly the same number as the national average
Not provided with any protection against the toxic effects
of the insecticides

Fifty-five masters degrees

For housing they are herded into barracks too filthy for
human occupation

We're poised at this historically important point

Indian women who work as domestics are obliged little by
little to adopt ladino ways and customs

If you can feed something like that into the questionnaire

Women are also exploited sexually by factory owners and foremen

Grading English compositions for twenty years gets to you

Those women who participate in an organizing drive are fired

I have a two year old grand-daughter I've been baby sitting for

Any woman fired can easily be replaced from among the pool of
thousands of unemployed women

We've tried younger volunteers

Many indigenous women survive in the cities by making tortillas

I married and had four children and did all of that

75,000 teachers are unemployed, most of them women

We had one young man who recently left the seminary

Indigenous teachers must very often pretend to be ladinos

My husband was alcoholic

Women of the rural areas, both Indias and ladinos, have joined
the struggle

I had power in the field of civil rights

She led hundreds of peasants in a struggle for land

We'd better grab two quick minutes for class business

More than one hundred peasants from Panzos were murdered
on May 20, 1976

What are your perspectives on Radcliffe at this moment

A war of extermination, primarily waged against the Indian people

My father could still recognize me

In February, 1980, over 76,000 semi-proletarian agricultural
workers went on strike

This woman wanted to shut off her husband's feeding tube

Leadership of the Committee for Peasant Unity (CUC)

My mother brought us up

Involvement in the struggle has meant confrontation with
society, culture, and family

Even if you work with a computer, doing your own programming

The needs of the revolution have opened the eyes of the people

Look at Russia and its health care delivery situation

Cultural changes in the attitudes toward women are required

The Russians are a lot smarter

Many women companeras have been obliged to sever ties with their
families

And the British system, if you look at it cosmically

Entire families are being drawn into the revolution

We have the resources to have a superb health care system

Oppressed by North American imperialism, oppressed as women,
women are the slaves of slaves

Health care is a business

The army kidnapped or murdered their husbands

There should be something more human about it

Women have assumed responsibility for caring for children
not their own

Today with jet planes filling the skies

Women participate along with men in village meetings

If we have any vision of a flourishing economic world

They do guard duty and set up traps for the enemy

When we were still emerging as a world power

Sabotage measures digging trenches; they devise warning
signals and flight plans for the villagers

Our own economic policies

Women work in literacy campaigns among women

We can again take the offense seeking a global market

They care for the gunshot wounds of the villagers

In the aftermath of the last great economic crises

Hundreds of women - with infants on their backs - sabotaged
several miles of the highway

But today we have a new generation

Definitive liberation from U.S. imperialism and local
dictatorships

Confidence is the most precious asset

She helped educate the other women and children

To exercise strong supervision and regulation

In meetings with the women she would act as translator

The lessons of financial crises

There is a lot that women can do in this struggle, which is
everyone's struggle

A strong sense of business integrity

She saw members of her family murdered by the army

To protect the public at large

She became a leader of the popular movement

My own alma-mater since the days of President Wilson

I started working for a living when I was eight years old,
on the plantations

Have shared that tradition

I could no longer bear the expression of pain on my mother's
face. She was always exhausted
In the end its a matter of respect
My wage, when I started, was twenty cents a day
The responsibility of government
When I was eleven, two of my little brothers died on the
plantation from malnutrition and sickness
Bettering the lot of our communities
We used to get up at three in the morning
Stability and continuity
For breakfast we had tortillas with salt
Larger national purposes
Customs dont permit a young girl to walk alone
My concern is with economics as a responsibility of government
For us, the earth is sacred
We will succeed
When I was fifteen, in 1973, my father was arrested for the
first time
They can call on a lot of PHD's for technical abilities
It was all the rich who persecuted us campesinos
Let's make the most of them
He suffered a lot of pain and could not work in the fields
For all those women throughout the world who are torn by
political and economic revolution and by attacks against
home and family
We taught the children how to guard the road during the day
A truly liberating education
Soon afterward my father was killed...burned alive inside
the embassy
With an appreciation of the humanistic worlds
My mother died three months later. The military chief raped
her and torured her like they did to my brother
I am very proud of the history of Radcliffe
They placed her under a tree and her body became infested with
worms
Radcliffe has done so well, in fact
The troops stayed until the vultures and dogs ate her

Most Radcliffe women today

The only thing I can do is struggle, to practice that violence
which I learned in the Bible

The studies to improve women's higher education

The rich and the army say that all of us Indian people are
communists....So for our own safety...we have stopped
wearing our Indian dress

We are grateful to you alumnae

In 1970-71, when thousands of workers and peasants "disappeared",
political assassination became a daily reality

It was an intimidating institution

The struggles waged by the teachers movement are intense

An outward veneer of academic success

Teenagers, as well as mature and even elderly women, take
part in demonstrations

A lot more self assurance than I had at first perceived

The association of Families of the Disappeared was able to
operate until 1974, when its legal advisor was assassinated

I redirected my career

Along with disappearances, kidnappings and torture, women
(including girls of 14 and 15 and even elderly women)
are raped

We are now reaching the point in our lives

Not only are women raped, they are also blinded

A woman should not draw attention to her achievement

Yet another form of torture is the firing of machine-gun rounds
into the vagina

Those of us who pursued active careers

I know that a disappearance means almost certain death

In contrast we have been freed

People turn up badly tortured. They obviously suffered terribly
before they died

It is clear that young women today

It was engineered, as we all know, by the CIA. I mean the

CIA says this quite frankly

They are making far fewer early marriages

Peasant self-defense league - the CUC or Committee for
Peasant Unity

The super woman approach places a tremendous burden

How old was she when she disappeared? Sixty five.

We would like to be later-day Renaissance women

Indians in Guatemala are among the most down-trodden human
groups

To work for the virtual eradication of tuberculosis

The supposedly democratic elections are nothing but an

incredible farce. You have nothing except the right and
the far right

I had such a wonderful life

We do not want American military aid to Guatemala renewed

This award is really a tribute

The CUC has local committees in small settlements, hamlets,
villages and even in the city where there are poor people

And was I think a great teacher

We women participate equally with men

Learning was a wonderful experience

Celia, the youngest, who is only 13

I received a wonderful background

4,000 peasants participated with us demanding this wage. Many

of them were assassinated, kidnapped and threatened

He taught me what research was all about

How long did the strike last? It lasted a month or more

We're coming to the close of a wonderful afternoon