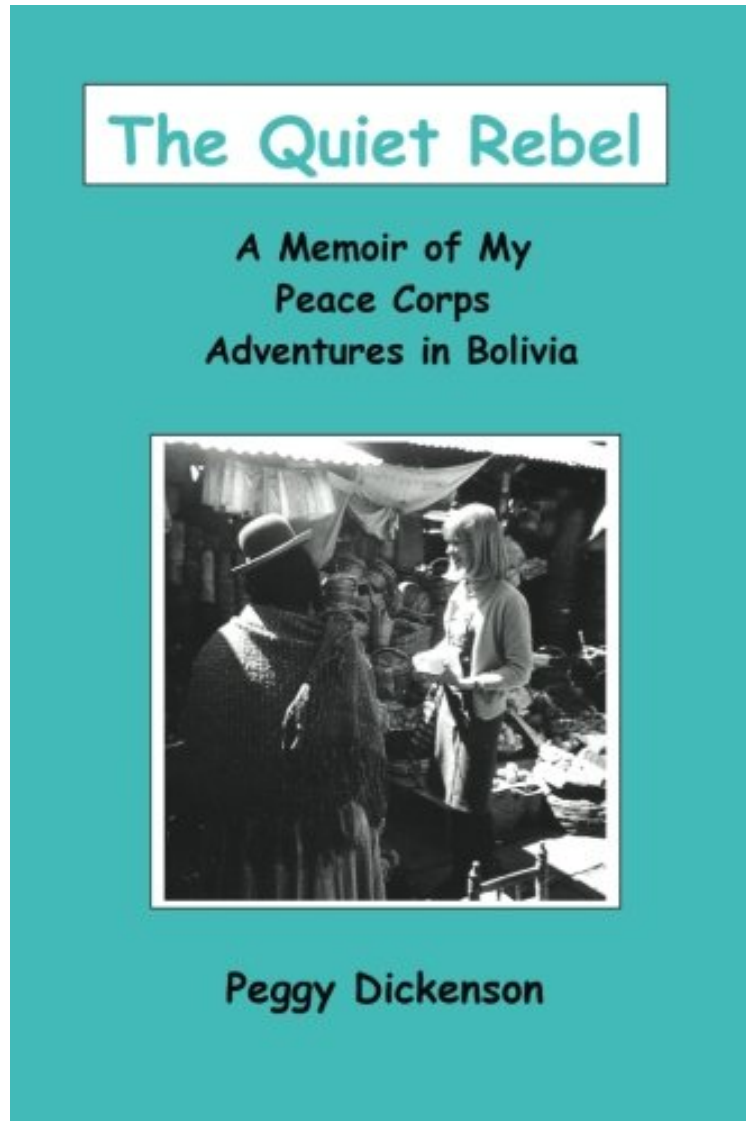


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The Quiet Rebel: A Memoir of My Peace Corps Adventures in Bolivia

Peggy Dickenson

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Peggy Dickenson : The Quiet Rebel: A Memoir of My Peace Corps Adventures in Bolivia before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Quiet Rebel: A Memoir of My Peace Corps Adventures in Bolivia:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. one of the most beautiful countries on earthBy MarilynToo much about all her boyfriends. Not enough about Bolivia, one of the most beautiful countries on earth. Nothing about all the

joys and frustrations of Peace Corps volunteers in the mid 1960's who lived with and worked with Bolivians far out in the campo whether in the Beni, down in the Yungas, on the Altiplano, in Chuquisaca, far out in Santa Cruz; who worked in agriculture, on public health issues, in university education, on sanitation projects for small towns. The locations and projects are numerous. Did she ever leave the safety of her office? .0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Quiet Rebel By Russ Heitz "Ask not what your country can do for you." Ask what you can do for your country. "Even today, more than a half century later, the words of President John F. Kennedy still have the power to inspire. When he first said them, however, his words did MORE than inspire. They sent thousands of idealistic young Americans to the nearest Peace Corps office to sign up for two years of public service in a foreign land. One of those thousands was a young woman named Peggy Dickenson. THE QUIET REBEL is her account of what she calls "the most exciting and challenging" two years of her life. From the first day she reported for Peace Corps training at the University of Arizona on June 19, 1965, to her last flight out of Bolivia on a lemon-yellow Braniff airliner, Ms Dickenson paints a vivid and enthralling montage of images that bring the whole experience to life. She takes us on an enjoyable journey that covers, among many other places, the rugged and desolate altiplano landscape, the bustling sensory-overload city of Las Paz, the soaring snow-capped Andes, and the warm and leafy city of Cochabamba that was located at an oxygen-rich altitude of 8,600 feet (compared to La Paz's 13,000 feet!)"My job," says Ms Dickenson, "embodied the best of both worlds--the structure of the office and the freedom to explore and contribute outside that setting--and I loved it." Ms Dickenson's twenty-four month assignment brought her into contact with a wide variety of interesting characters; from local Aymara Indians in derby hats to high-ranking government officials whose chests were often covered with ribbons and medals. The stiff and starched U.S. Marines who guarded the American Embassy by day usually turned into free-spirited disco dancers at night. And Argentine cowboys really DID wear baggy gaucho pants, colorful neck scarves, and knee-high boots. New adventures and sometimes-wrenching cultural adjustments occurred nearly every day. Early morning showers were often ice cold with the water draining, not into a pipe, but through a hole in the floor. Large and hairy tarantulas marched down the middle of empty streets as though they owned the whole world. Bull fights sometimes turned out to be more butchery than spectacle. And any party that was scheduled to begin at four o'clock meant, in the Bolivian scheme of things, it probably wouldn't ACTUALLY start until six o'clock, maybe even eight o'clock. Gut-wrenching, bone shaking rides over main "roads" were more like torture sessions along faint pathways of potholes that stretched to the horizon. Airplane passenger cabins were sometimes shared with crates full of live chickens. And the cosmopolitan city of Montevideo, Uruguay, turned out to be more European than South American. Through it all, Ms Dickenson also performed a kaleidoscope of official Peace Corps duties that included radio operator, elementary school teacher for native children, English teacher for university students, and lecturer at Peace Corps functions. She also taught shorthand and general office procedures to Adult-Ed students. Understandably, exhaustion both from her hectic work schedule and the high altitude were a constant companion. But, yes, there was still time left over for a love affair or two. This is an engaging book that can be enjoyed and savored by everyone from idealistic high school and college students to senior citizens who are still wondering "what might have been" had they not only admired President Kennedy's inspiring words, but lived them fully, as Ms Dickenson did. Our hat is tipped to a courageous lady and a story well told. Russ Heitz 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Quiet Rebel By Customer Have you ever wondered what it was like to be in the Peace Corps? Follow Peggy's journey in Bolivia as she struggles to master the language and learn the customs of the people native to that country. Her storytelling is so vivid that you feel like you are walking in her shoes for those two years. Her stories about the locals and those who she worked with are compelling. I couldn't put the book down. Peggy's love for the USA shines through. She followed President John F. Kennedy's directive to join the Peace Corps and to "share in the great common task of bringing to man that decent way of life which is the foundation of freedom and a condition of peace." Job well done, Peggy!

"The Quiet Rebel" tells the story of Peggy Dickenson's two years in the South American country of Bolivia where she served as a Peace Corps Volunteer from 1965-1967. These are her recollections as she struggled to learn the language and customs while making a contribution as a Peace Corps Volunteer secretary and teacher of Gregg shorthand and English. She lived 13 months in La Paz, the highest capital city in the world, nestled in the Andes Mountains at 12,000 feet above sea level; and 10 months in the eastern lowlands of Bolivia in semi-tropical Santa Cruz, an isolated city unspoiled by modern civilization with dusty streets and ox-drawn carts. Tag along with her on the adventure of a lifetime as she discovers the unique country of Bolivia, its people and its culture.

About the Author Peggy Dickenson was born in New York City. After serving two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Bolivia, she taught English for a year at a language school in Osaka, Japan and spent a year in Madrid, Spain as Assistant to the Director of an English language program at the U.S. Cultural Center. She lives in Florida with her husband, Don.