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June Carolyn Erlick

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June Carolyn Erlick : A Gringa in Bogot: Living Colombia's Invisible War before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Gringa in Bogot: Living Colombia's Invisible War:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Is she actually here?By MapacheThis is a rather meandering and casual look at this huge metropolis. Its somewhat repetitive with too many unofficial polls on topics. Despite her strange fixation on the pride of Bogot, its mass transit endeavor, she never explores possible political reasons for a system overwhelmed by Bogots population or questions why a city of such size and importance didnt build a sturdier

rail system. This is a book of personal feelings with limited scope. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Price does not reflect the Quality By Gabriell've read several books about a gringo's experience in Colombia, and on Colombia in general. I was greatly disappointed with this one. There are other more interesting, honest and better written books on this topic. Some of these books have been pretty cheap, so expectations were rather low. Yet, although the cheaper ones still required a good amount of editing, they were all valuable. That is not the case with this book. This book was expensive, I paid 18 dollars. However, the quality of the writing was poor and there is very little to glean about Colombian culture from this book. I would recommend buying several other cheaper priced books on this topic in place of purchasing this one. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A delight By L. Grenville We have lived in multi-dimensional Bogota for over a year now and have thoroughly enjoyed Ms. Erlick's perceptive, sensitive and adroit observations and vignettes about this fascinating and endlessly contradictory city. I highly recommend "Gringa" for anyone with an interest in Colombia and Bogota on ground-level.

To many foreigners, Colombia is a nightmare of drugs and violence. Yet normal life goes on there, and, in Bogot, it's even possible to forget that war still ravages the countryside. This paradox of perceptions outsiders' fears versus insiders' realities drew June Carolyn Erlick back to Bogot for a year's stay in 2005. She wanted to understand how the city she first came to love in 1975 has made such strides toward building a peaceful civil society in the midst of ongoing violence. The complex reality she found comes to life in this compelling memoir. Erlick creates her portrait of Bogot through a series of vivid vignettes that cover many aspects of city life. As an experienced journalist, she lets the things she observes lead her to larger conclusions. The courtesy of people on buses, the absence of packs of stray dogs and street trash, and the willingness of strangers to help her cross an overpass when vertigo overwhelms her all become signs of convivencia the desire of Bogotanos to live together in harmony despite decades of war. But as Erlick settles further into city life, she finds that "war in the city is invisible, but constantly present in subtle ways, almost like the constant mist that used to drip down from the Bogot skies so many years ago." Shattering stereotypes with its lively reporting, *A Gringa in Bogot* is must-reading for going beyond the headlines about the drug war and bloody conflict.

About the Author JUNE CAROLYN ERLICK lived in Bogot from 1975 to 1984 and from 2005 to 2006 and has visited the city many times in between. A veteran journalist and foreign correspondent who now teaches feature writing at Harvard Extension and Summer Schools, she is the Editor-in-Chief of *ReVista*, the Harvard of Latin America at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard University. Her previous books include *Disappeared: A Journalist Silenced*, the Irma Flaquer Story and the original Spanish version of this book, *Una gringa en Bogot*.