



A Thousand Little Deaths: Growing Up Under Martial Law in the Philippines

By Vicky Pinpin-Feinstein

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On an otherwise normal morning at a private school for girls, a 15-year-old student is picked up by soldiers and sent to a military camp, becoming one of the thousands of political prisoners arrested under Ferdinand Marcos' repressive regime in the 1970s. A year earlier, Marcos had declared martial law and a military government effectively took over the Philippines. After her release, author Vicky Pinpin-Feinstein was required to report to camp, her probation lasting five years. She was never charged and was never told why she was arrested. The effects of prison and the long-term probation makes Vicky's story an authentic representation of the pernicious effects of dictatorship and tyranny, effects that pervaded a life for decades to come. This is a historically vital memoir, not only moving in its rendition of what life was like for a young innocent girl, but also for its incisive analysis of the political forces that wrecked democratic ideals in a country where politics and violence have always worked together for the benefit of the few.

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- Sales Rank: #544466 in Books
- Published on: 2013-06-07
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.50" h x .49" w x 5.50" l, .56 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 214 pages



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