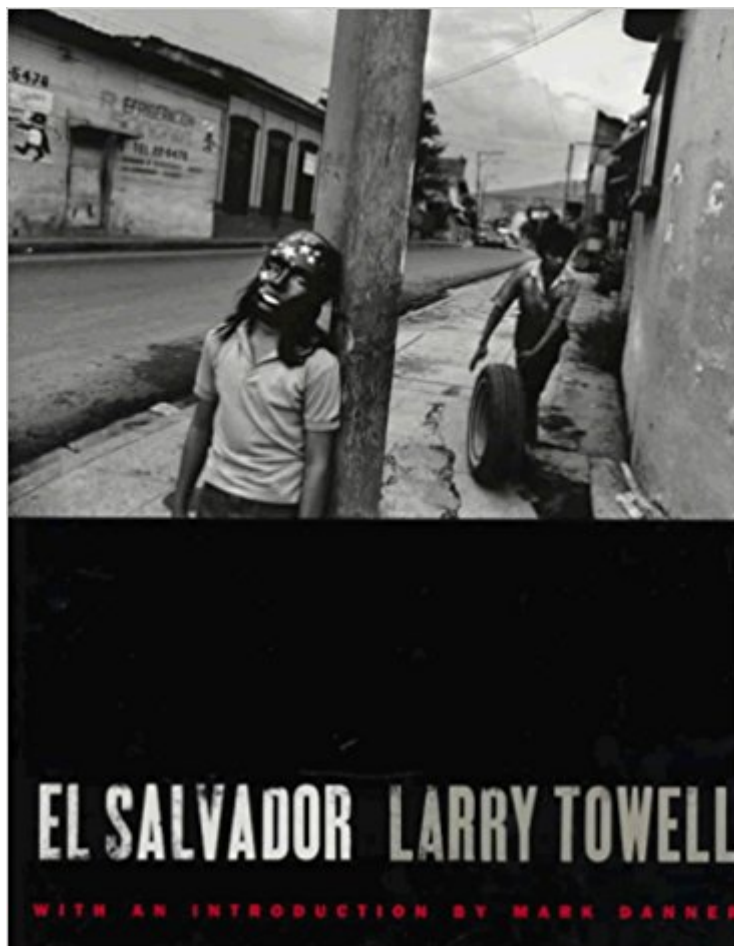


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# El Salvador (DoubleTake Book)



## Synopsis

A deeply compelling look at a tumultuous country, Larry Towell's photographs are at once powerful and compassionate, revealing a country of violence, heartbreak, strength, and dignity. Magnum photographer Larry Towell first traveled to El Salvador in 1986 as a member of a human rights delegation. Since the beginning of the civil war in 1979, 50,000 people had been killed, 25 percent of the population were refugees, and death squads terrorized the nation. The war ended in the early 1990s and Towell had thoroughly documented both the war and its aftermath. Towell is perhaps one of the finest photojournalists since Cartier-Bresson. In these haunting photographs, we see a world in which everyone becomes a combatant and every place a war zone. Yet amid the brutality and death there is a harsh beauty people grieve and move on; peasant women wash clothes and nurse infants under the eyes of soldiers; children with hopeful faces forage the dumpsites for food.

62 duotones

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Larry Towell is a member of Magnum Photos and a freelance photographer and writer. He lives in Ontario, Canada. Mark Danner is the author of *The Massacre of El Mozote: A Parable of the Cold War*.

Larry Towell's work forced me to change how I photograph, and what I've heard from others, how

they photograph too. He captures a moment with people, in a special place, at a unique time, with a different perspective that is remarkable and captivating. It is almost like he is the Zen master who shows us humanity with a single person. At the same time, Towell is a radical photographer who clearly has taken sides with people who are struggling for justice and dignity. You won't find any photos of the famous, nor photos of bored middle class. Towell does not take pretty photos, but they are beautiful. He doesn't take ordinary photographs, but they are moving and understandable. I've visited El Salvador many times and taken many photographs. Only a few of mine are really any good. Towell's "El Salvador" is a whole book of stunning photos. Towell connects with the people he photographs. He uses a wide angle lens - not a zoom - which forces him to get very close to the people he takes a photo of. And so, these photos are not stolen from unsuspecting subjects - they are a mutual conversation. Towell's photographs of Palestine, the Mennonites in Mexico, and people crossing no man's land into the U.S. are also phenomenal. If you appreciate photojournalism, and black and white, you must check Larry Towell's work. He is one of the best out there.

Very beautiful black and white pictures, it shows in depth the art, the pain, and culture of this country back in the 80's. Author and photographer did a stunning job!

great pics and some sad ones too, but its history to know

I would recommend this book to anyone who is moved by high quality documentary black and white photography. Or anyone who is interested in the culture of El Salvador. As a photography student, I know how many thousands of exposures it takes to get one image that has a truly unique perspective and contains real power. This book has many images that would be the "photo of a lifetime" for most people I know. It was very moving. Larry Towell does real honor to the word "photojournalist" with this collection of work. I would love to own a print from one of his negatives someday.

Larry Towell gives you a chance to see El Salvador through a completely different perspective. There are many books out there that show photography in a very literal way, but in this book you sometimes have to search for what Towell is trying to tell you. You can't just flip through this book and understand what is going on in a photo in a few seconds, but you have to take time to look at each one, think about it and look at all of the layers. If you are adept at looking at complex photojournalism, then I highly recommend this book.

all good

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