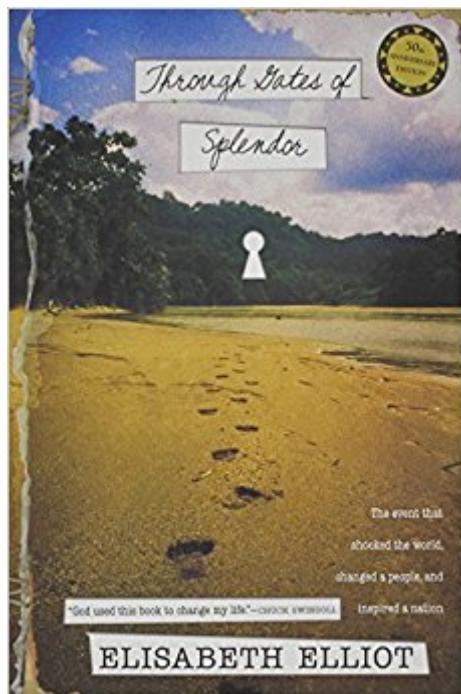


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# Through Gates Of Splendor



## **Synopsis**

Through Gates of Splendor is the true story of five young missionaries who were savagely killed while trying to establish communication with the Auca Indians of Ecuador. The story is told through the eyes of Elisabeth Elliot, the wife of one of the young men who was killed.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

In 1956, five young men traveled deep into the jungles of Ecuador to establish communication with the fierce and isolated Waorani tribe. In a nearby village, their wives huddled around a radio receiver, eagerly awaiting news of the historic encounter. The news they received sent shock waves around the world and changed their lives forever.

Elisabeth Elliot (born 1926) is a Christian author and evangelist. Her first husband, Jim Elliot, was killed in 1956 while attempting to make missionary contact with the Huaroni of eastern Ecuador. She later spent two years as a missionary to the tribe members who killed her husband. Returning to the United States after many years in South America, she became widely known as the author of over twenty books and as a speaker in constant demand. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Point: By faith men and women set aside all that this earth may offer them of success, happiness, ease, and safety and look to a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Path: Elisabeth Elliot retells the story of the five families who gave up what they could never keep, in exchange for what they

couldn't lose. She details the preparation, planning, and mission of Nate Saint, Roger Youderian, Ed McCully, Pete Fleming, and Jim Elliot to reach the Auca Indians in Ecuador, South America. Sources: Based on her heavily involved role as wife, mother and fellow worker, Elliot gives the reader an inside look into the thoughts, motives, and fears of a missionary. Agreement: This story has had a tremendous impact on the evangelical world over the past fifty years. God used the lives of these servants to encourage men and women to reevaluate their goals and lifestyles. It challenges the reader to set aside the alluring lie of ease and comfort which the world tells us we deserve, and press toward the goal. I believe stories like these do exactly what the author of Hebrews stresses in Hebrews 12:1 - they push us to run our race, laying aside every weight and sin, and looking forward to Christ, the author and finisher of our faith. Disagreement: Although it is highly challenging, this story strays close to becoming a hagiography (idealizing its subject). These men were dedicated and showed true commitment to Christ. But they were sinners as all men are. This is understandable given the relatively recent time of writing after the event (I believe only several years according to the ending of the first edition). They wanted to cast the men in the best possible light, and there was much for which one could laud them. With that said, I was very appreciative of Elliot's inclusion of the doubts of Roger in chapter 12, The Savages Respond. I believe in those several pages the reader gets a real look into the doubts and fears which often plague the missionary's life. Personal App: What level of dedication do I display in my life day by day? Favorite Quote: Quoting Barbara Youderian, "I want to be free from self-pity. It is a tool of Satan to rot away a life. I am sure that this is the perfect will of God" (236). It would be worth another read and I would recommend it.

I had heard about these missionaries so I wanted to read the book. It showed their dedication to their "calling" as missionaries. It is well written. Very relational since Elizabeth is still living and has a short program on the radio. I listen to it often. I can recommend the book. It is very encouraging if you are a widow to how the wives coped the death of their husbands and how God used them.

In 1955 a group of five missionaries entered the jungle in Ecuador to bring Christ to a violent and primitive tribe. They showered the natives with gifts and built an airstrip before being massacred by the very people they came to serve. Written by the wife of one of these martyrs, this story challenges the readers and forces them to ask, "How much would I give for the advancement of the kingdom of God?" Elisabeth Elliot uses interviews, articles, journals and personal accounts to take the reader to primitive Ecuador. This book and these five men have done more to advance Christian

missions then almost any event in the past 100 years. The 50s and 60s saw a swell of men and women willing to give their lives to Christ in the mission field. Even 50 years later, countless missionaries site this story as the catalyst for their own service in foreign lands. These men and their families started out by giving no more than thousands of other missionaries give every day; their comfort, their wealth, their leisure and their normalcy. In the end these men paid a price that few dare imagine. Five decades later we see that the martyring of these five men purchased an army of missionaries and a generation of new Christians from the jungles of Ecuador. The events of this book have been retold in numerous other books and a full-length feature film (*End of the Spear*). Few can touch this gripping tome by Elisabeth Elliot.

While it tells a story about what happened and there is some degree of accuracy, it is a religious book. The story is about missionaries in South America so it fits a young adult curriculum for church teaching. This was required in a 7-12 classroom and is very fundamental. Be careful where this is taught and to whom.

My mother read this book (also Elliot's "Shadow of the Almighty") back in the '60's and they were on her bookshelf for years. How I wish I had them now! I just received this paperback edition of TGS and find that in their effort to print a compact paperback edition, the editors have presented a volume with EXCRUCIATINGLY small print! I wonder if I will even be able to read it. Just fair warning - I recall the story is wonderful, but if you are bothered by minute text, you will be very unhappy with this particular edition of the book. "Shadow of the Almighty" isn't much better.

Clear, vibrant biographical sketch of the 5 men who were willing to risk their physical lives to enable an unreached people group to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This story is not the least bit sappy, maudlin or sad. It is inspiring not only because of the faith the men showed, but especially that of the wives who continued on.

I first read this book as a teenager many years ago. I read it again with the eyes of a 50 something person, and learnt so many new things from this book. It is a book of challenge and wonder, grace and forgiveness! It is a book that takes the command to spread the gospel to the uttermost part of the earth in all the seriousness and love with which Christ said it. One cannot read this book without reflecting on one's own life as a child of God. One cannot read this book without marveling at the power of the Gospel to change lives, to bring about forgiveness and reconciliation in the

circumstances where vengeance and retribution would be justifiable.

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