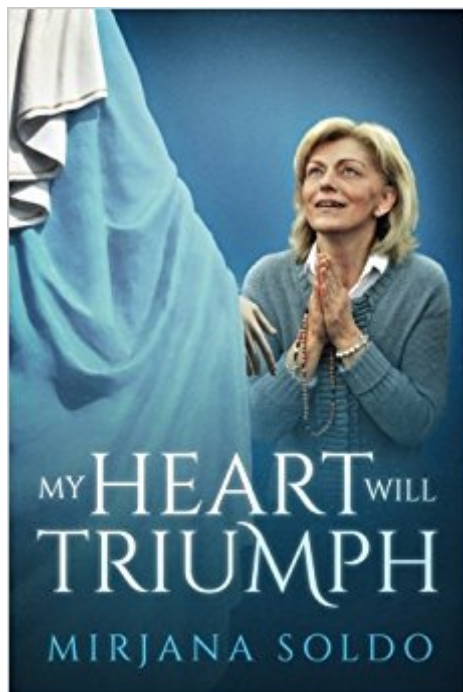


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My Heart Will Triumph



Synopsis

Mirjana Soldo was only 16 years old when she and five other children saw a mysterious young woman on a remote hillside in the village of Medjugorje, then part of Yugoslavia. The woman who possessed a beauty and grace that seemed to come from beyond identified herself as the Virgin Mary. The apparitions that began on the afternoon of June 24, 1981 would dramatically change Mirjana's life and the lives of countless people around the world. Her claims, however, contradicted the atheistic ideologies of the Communist government and Mirjana was deemed an enemy of the state. Amazingly, the apparitions have continued for over 35 years. Millions of people travel to Medjugorje every year in search of answers to life's biggest questions. The messages given by Mary are a call for mankind to return to God. And, according to Mirjana, the Virgin entrusted her with ten secrets that foretell the future of the world secrets that she will reveal within her lifetime.

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Customer Reviews

Mirjana Dragicevic-Soldo was born in Sarajevo, ex-Yugoslavia, on March 18, 1965. Her life was dramatically transformed in 1981 when she and five other young people experienced an apparition of the Virgin Mary.

This work is largely an autobiographical account of one of the Medjugorje visionaries. A substantial portion of the book, perhaps two-thirds, is about Ms. Soldo's personal life history: her childhood, her time in high school, her attempts at college, her marriage, her experiences during the war. A significant theme throughout those years is the oppression of communism, particularly the sort

which was terrified over the lack of control of the unfolding events of the Blessed Virgin's alleged visits. This oppression came down hard upon Mirjana, and her many persecutions as a young woman themselves offer substantial evidence that her claims are authentic. Indeed it would be quite astonishing that after seemingly endless trials by the communist regime directed against this person, who by all accounts wanted nothing more than a quiet life, it would turn out that she fabricated the entire thing or was deceived by demonic forces. That would be like Samwise Gamgee making up the entire Lord of the Rings story because he wanted a little excitement in his life - a totally honest, simple soul who wanted nothing but a little garden in the back of a quiet house. So the book proceeds with a nice organization: her youth and her close relationship with her father, her time in high school and how dramatically it changed once the apparitions started. Her inability to finish college due to communist oppression, her marriage, the war years, and the period after the war. There are also plenty of anecdotes, such as her meeting with John Paul II and receiving his shoes after his death. The final section is a glimpse into her meetings with the many pilgrims who have gone to Medjugorje over the years as well as a surprisingly intimate sharing of what her experience of Mary is like during an apparition. "Sincere, simple, authentic, genuine" are words which come to mind. I found myself thinking, "yes, of course this is how it would be if I met the Blessed Mother." Mirjana answers the question everyone wants the answer to: "why has Mary been visiting for so long, why so many messages?" After you read this book you won't ask that anymore. You'll ask what you can do today to bring God's light into this dark world. That is ALL that matters. Not whether Medjugorje is true or not, or whether the end is nigh or any of that. What is God asking of you in your life this day so you can be his disciple more effectively? Let the rest to Him. The questions and curiosities only distract us and waste our energies. Throughout the book we are treated with photographs of her life. She also skillfully weaves some of Mary's messages throughout. Given the vast trove of messages, the fact that she is so capable of selecting some to fit the context of what she is talking about is notable. There are a few things I found striking. One is her humility. She insists throughout that Mary does not have favorite children: she is no more important or loved in the Blessed Virgin's eyes than anyone else on earth. It pains her that pilgrims focus so much on her, though she understands why they might. Mirjana is always directing people's eyes upward to God. Another delight in the book is her great sense of humor. She comes across as someone like you or I - just plain, down home, no-nonsense but deeply in love with God and wanting to do His will in all things. She stresses the importance of humor and rightly points out the poison of a melancholy which destroys faith and trust in God. She also stresses the importance of conversion over a continual curiosity about the messages or what will happen in the future. "Who

cares what the secrets are if your time on this earth is up before they happen?" In this we hear echoes of St. Antony of the desert, who, when asked about the secret of his intense spiritual life, stated: "When I arise I act as though I will die before bed, and when I go to bed, I act as though I won't live until the morning." He was given a grace to live each day as though it were his last. The time of our death is our own personal secret, and that is the one to focus on - conversion today, learning to love - today. Many will feel consoled by her words of complete and filial obedience to her bishop ("I would walk a hundred miles if he told me to"), as well as the Pope. In such a deeply divisive time it is refreshing to hear of her simple and confident faith that the Holy Spirit provides the Church the kind of Pope she needs for the times. Mirjana stresses throughout the book the importance of love, love, love. Never judge, never criticize, only help others come to learn the love of God by loving them. Anyone who is worried about an excessive focus on this needs to spend time with the Johannine works. Almost completely absent are any complaints about how frequently she is misrepresented by the many books written about Medjugorje. We finally get to hear it from her own mouth, and the feeling I got after finishing it was that the publication of this book may be one of the most important episodes in the history of Medjugorje in a very long time. I think it was Divine Providence that guided her to write this book at this time, and if she is reading this, I thank her very much for it. Just don't buy it to satisfy any kind of burning curiosity about the secrets or the future - you will be disappointed. The book concludes with a short section talking about the five main areas of focus: Prayer, Fasting, Confession, Mass, Scriptures. * * * I have been to Medjugorje twice: once in 1989 and again a year or two later (I returned only to see a little while later on tv the hotel where I was staying in Dubrovnik shelled by the war). I visited the houses of some of the visionaries though I can't recall who. Honestly, I treated the first trip as a kind of retreat, and resisted the urge to figure out whether anything was really happening there. I can say it was a profound experience of Church like none other on the planet. Everyone around me was there to change their heart - everyone. It was an experience of brotherhood like no other. It adds nothing whatsoever to say it, but I will. At one time I gazed up at the sun and stared at it around midday for several minutes. I clearly saw a white disk ("host," if you will) spinning around on the face of it. Whether or not it was a visual phenomenon I don't know. Don't be scandalized: I believe in the Real Presence so to me, I wanted to respect what I saw if it was from God, but it was of no importance to me, with the indwelling Christ of the Eucharist. What was the visual miracle to me when I had Christ's very own life blood coursing through me from Mass? I figured it was intended for others. The second time I went with a friend, who wanted me to accompany him. I felt very strongly in my heart that I was meant to be back home, busy about my life mission. A word was spoken to me while atop Cross

mountain one evening alone, which I wrote in my journal. That was about 26 years ago and it is beginning to unfold in my life as the word said. The message is simple: change your life utterly for God, completely and totally. Set out on the journey anew each day. Live prayer, live and learn love, forgiveness, mercy. Immerse yourself in the Word of God, embrace the sacraments with frequency, take God's love everywhere He tells you to, even if it is alone in your cell each day in unceasing prayer of reparation. The word God spoke to me awhile back: "Don't be like Jonah, looking out over the city of Ninevah wondering whether I will burn it down. Be like Abraham, looking out over Sodom and praying without ceasing for my mercy, that I may spare it." That is the choice before us, my brothers and sisters: will you be like Jonah or like Abraham?

I have read other books about Medjugorje, but this one is so personal and well written that it drew me into the story and I felt as if I were seeing and experiencing everything along with her as Mirjana recounts the events in this small village that changed her life and the lives of countless others. I feel as if Mary is speaking to me personally as I read and I am gaining more understanding and insight into what has and is occurring through her apparitions. I highly recommend *My Heart Will Triumph!*

As someone who has followed the events at Medjugorje since the early 80's I was delighted to learn that Mirjana Soldo had written a book about the apparitions of our Lady. This book captivated me from beginning to end. It is well written and doesn't appear to be translated from another language. Mirjana's openness to telling the whole, unedited story makes this a "must read" for devotees of our Blessed Mother. As we approach the 100th anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima's final appearances, we should intensify our prayers, fasting, conversion, confessions and service to others. May Jesus Christ be praised!

I've followed the history of Medjugorje since its beginnings, visited 5 times, and read just about every book on the subject... this book however was very unique and offered something that none of the others offered... it was such an easy and fast read, it really highlighted the struggles of the people of the region during the Bosnian war and how it affected Mirjana and her family and enlightened me to things I've never known all these years, despite being quite an avid believer and follower. It shows how down to earth and funny Mirjana is and also how she matured and grew in love over the years of seeing Our Lady... and how she learned to be strong in faith despite the struggles during communist times. It was really a remarkable book. And also, she is the one possessing the 10 Secrets to be announced to the world, which she cannot disclose until the

appointed time, yet she still allowed a little more insight on them to be released -- just enough to give you something more to 'chew on' and contemplate. This book was full of information I hadn't known and thoroughly enjoyed reading it. Probably the best book yet written on Medjugorje and I highly recommend it! Queen of Peace, Pray for us!

I have actually been to Medjugorje. I was teaching 4th grade at the time when our IT guy popped his head around the corner and said, "Did you hear? Fr. T is taking a group on pilgrimage to Medjugorje. You should look into it!" When just moments before that I heard, "I'm bringing you to Medjugorje." All during the rest of that semester, I interiorly heard Our Lady's voice telling me I would "see her soon", which would make me giddy with anticipation and I would smile without any provocation. My students always commented on this. Reading Mirjana's account of what it's been like for her to actually SEE the Blessed Virgin, is like going back to that pilgrimage and wishing I was there again. If you've never been, this book will encourage you to go. If you've already been, it will renew your spirit and the memories of the experience of being there. Did I ever "see" our Blessed Mother? Only in the faces of her children, especially in those who I witnessed that had strong conversions and returned to the faith after a 35+ year absence. I HIGHLY recommend this book!

Simply a beautiful book. Written with clarity, this book describes the apparitions of the Blessed Mother. When I finished this book, I felt such a feeling of peace, knowing the Blessed Mother is watching each and every one of us. But there is a big lesson here, and that is called Love. If we could all love each other, and turn ourselves to God, it would be a much better world. Miranja doesn't disclose what's in the mysteries that Mary had given her, but there is an undercurrent of what could happen if we don't heed her messages.

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