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978-0-521-66942-9 - Pro-Life Activists in America: Meaning, Motivation, and Direct Action

Carol J. C. Maxwell

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PRO-LIFE ACTIVISTS IN AMERICA

This book offers a fascinating oral history of pro-life direct activism in America from the late 1970s through the early 1990s. Through the stories of leaders and followers, men and women, Catholics and evangelicals, Carol Maxwell explores the complex beliefs and desires that gave rise to this activism, sustained it, and eventually undid it.

Maxwell's interdisciplinary approach weaves theory from sociology, political science, anthropology, and moral philosophy. She pays special attention to key themes underlying this activism: the role played by participants' diverse concepts of salvation; their concerns about social change; their unresolved grief; their personal experiences of abortion; and differences in men's and women's commitment to protest. The book offers a unique window into the minds of individual protestors as they shifted from conventional activism to more radical, direct action. Maxwell gives an important account of the direct action movement as its initial commitment to Ghandian nonviolence gave way to the lethal acts that accompanied its end.

Carol J. C. Maxwell is an anthropologist currently residing near Flagstaff, Arizona. Since completing her Ph.D., she has worked on community health research projects funded by the National Institutes of Health (National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, 1992–1996; National Institute on Drug Abuse, 1996–1998). She is currently conducting oral history projects in Flagstaff (which she began in 1998) and East St. Louis (beginning in 2001). Her first creative writing effort was published in *The View from Here* (2000).

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*For Bruce, Ian, Clinton, Collin, Jim, and the friends
who have brought such light, contentment,
and joy into my life, as makes a woman rich.*

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