

Daughter Of Gloriavale My Life In A Religious Cul

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Dad Scares Me, God Scares Me - Vera Laree
2020-03-27
Born into a polygamist cult in Mexico in 1971,

Vera LaRee was one of fifty-seven children her father had with his eleven wives. Constantly told that women were inferior to men and God was to

be feared, from an early age she experienced manipulation, brainwashing and sexual violation. Married off to her deceased sister's husband at the age of sixteen, she helped raise her sister's children and gave birth to three of her own--truly believing what she had always been told: That a woman could not get to Heaven without a man. But hard as she tried to live "celestial marriage," to please her husband and make peace with her life, she never felt loved, respected or valued. However, every time she silently (and secretly) dared to question the beliefs of the cult, she found herself overcome with guilt, shame, and fear. So, for years, the control that her father, husband, and their polygamist God had over her continued--but it all began to change when the seed of a single idea she read in a hidden book slowly started taking root. THE TRUE STORY OF ONE WOMAN'S QUEST FOR FREEDOM, THIS IS A BOOK YOU WILL NEVER FORGET!

Grace Plus Nothing - Jeff Harkin 2010-04

Join the ever-increasing army of Christians who are learning to relate to God on the biblical basis of grace alone. This text is filled with Scripture and practical examples leading to the conclusion that godly character comes about through grace alone.

Escape - Carolyn Jessop 2007-10-16

The dramatic first-person account of life inside an ultra-fundamentalist American religious sect, and one woman's courageous flight to freedom with her eight children. When she was eighteen years old, Carolyn Jessop was coerced into an arranged marriage with a total stranger: a man thirty-two years her senior. Merrill Jessop already had three wives. But arranged plural marriages were an integral part of Carolyn's heritage: She was born into and raised in the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (FLDS), the radical offshoot of the Mormon Church that had settled in small communities along the Arizona-Utah border. Over the next fifteen years, Carolyn had eight

children and withstood her husband's psychological abuse and the watchful eyes of his other wives who were locked in a constant battle for supremacy. Carolyn's every move was dictated by her husband's whims. He decided where she lived and how her children would be treated. He controlled the money she earned as a school teacher. He chose when they had sex; Carolyn could only refuse at her own peril. For in the FLDS, a wife's compliance with her husband determined how much status both she and her children held in the family. Carolyn was miserable for years and wanted out, but she knew that if she tried to leave and got caught, her children would be taken away from her. No woman in the country had ever escaped from the FLDS and managed to get her children out, too. But in 2003, Carolyn chose freedom over fear and fled her home with her eight children. She had \$20 to her name. Escape exposes a world tantamount to a prison camp, created by religious fanatics who, in the name of God,

deprive their followers the right to make choices, force women to be totally subservient to men, and brainwash children in church-run schools. Against this background, Carolyn Jessop's flight takes on an extraordinary, inspiring power. Not only did she manage a daring escape from a brutal environment, she became the first woman ever granted full custody of her children in a contested suit involving the FLDS. And in 2006, her reports to the Utah attorney general on church abuses formed a crucial part of the case that led to the arrest of their notorious leader, Warren Jeffs. *Betrayal of the Spirit* - Nori J. Muster 2013-03-15 Combining behind-the-scenes coverage of an often besieged religious group with a personal account of one woman's struggle to find meaning in it, *Betrayal of the Spirit* takes readers to the center of life in the Hare Krishna movement. Nori J. Muster joined the International Society of Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)--the Hare Krishnas--in 1978, shortly

after the death of the movement's spiritual master, and worked for ten years as a public relations secretary and editor of the organization's newspaper, the ISKCON World Review. In this candid and critical account, Muster follows the inner workings of the movement and the Hare Krishnas' progressive decline. Combining personal reminiscences, published articles, and internal documents, *Betrayal of the Spirit* details the scandals that beset the Krishnas--drug dealing, weapons stockpiling, deceptive fundraising, child abuse, and murder within ISKCON--as well as the dynamics of schisms that forced some 95 percent of the group's original members to leave. In the midst of this institutional disarray, Muster continued her personal search for truth and religious meaning as an ISKCON member until, disillusioned at last with the movement's internal divisions, she quit her job and left the organization. In a new preface to the paperback edition, Muster discusses the personal

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circumstances that led her to ISKCON and kept her there as the movement's image worsened. She also talks about "the darkest secret"--child abuse in the ISKCON parochial schools--that was covered up by the public relations office where she worked.

Quiverfull - Kathryn Joyce 2009-03-01

Kathryn Joyce's fascinating introduction to the world of the patriarchy movement and *Quiverfull* families examines the twenty-first-century women and men who proclaim self-sacrifice and submission as model virtues of womanhood—and as modes of warfare on behalf of Christ. Here, women live within stringently enforced doctrines of wifely submission and male headship, and live by the *Quiverfull* philosophy of letting God give them as many children as possible so as to win the religion and culture wars through demographic means. From the Trade Paperback edition.

See You in September - Charity Norman
2022-01-05

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It was supposed to be just a short holiday... but when Cassy is lured to an idyllic valley called Gethsemane it's years before her friends and family see her again. Can her family rescue her before it's too late? A dazzling, gripping new novel about a young woman lured into a clutches of a doomsday cult by its charismatic leader, Justin.

Being Magdalene - Fleur Beale 2015-08-26

The gripping sequel to the award-winning and bestselling YA novels *I am not Esther* and *I am Rebecca*. In this breathtaking follow-up to *I am not Esther* and *I am Rebecca*, Fleur Beale revisits the Pilgrim family and its closed religious community, *The Children of the Faith*. Four years have passed since Rebecca ran away. The community simmers with tension and rumours of an approaching split, and life has become terrifying for Rebecca's remaining siblings as Elder Stephen seizes any chance to take revenge on them. Twelve-year-old Magdalene lives in fear that her strong-willed

little sister, Zillah, will be his next target. The girls have run out of people who can protect them. To Zillah their path is clear but Magdalene is torn. How can she cause more hurt and shame for her parents? But, equally, how can she face a life with no freedom to be herself? And another question scares her most of all. Without the elders' suffocating rules that tell her how to live, who would Magdalene be?

Yasmeena's Choice - Jean P. Sasson 2013

Yasmeena was an innocent abroad. She was a college educated, English-speaking flight attendant graced with an unusual amount of confidence and sophistication. She was also a virgin and a conservative Muslim daughter and sister. When Yasmeena's flight out of Kuwait was delayed, it was because Saddam Hussein had just invaded Kuwait. Iraqi soldiers threw her into a woman's prison where the guards committed ghastly sexual attacks and tortured the women in excruciating ways.

The In-Between Years - Mary Zenchoff

2017-09-12

For twenty-four years, Mary Zenchoff lived in a convent. She endured conditions that most of us never realized existed. Near-starvation, social deprivation, and impossible work assignments prevailed while Mary worked and prayed, and struggled to understand whether this was the life Jesus and God meant for her.

I Fired God - Jocelyn Zichterman 2013-05-14

Traces the author's upbringing in and eventual flight from the sect under preacher Bob Jones, revealing its practices of secrecy, insular marriage, female subservience, and unconventional parenting.

Wrong Family - Charisse Dahlke 2018-01-14

Charisse always felt like she was born into the wrong family and at fourteen finds out that she has a different father than her four sisters. In order to break the dysfunctional cycle, Charisse needs to overcome the chaos caused by generations of family secrets, extreme poverty, fanatical religion and sexual abuse all of which

leaves her ill equipped to make her own adult decisions. Can she overcome a legacy of lies?

Journey to God's House - Brock Talon

2013-08-09

A naive young man named Brock Talon journeys to the World Headquarters of Jehovah's Witnesses in New York City, seeking a spiritual paradise. But things are not at all what he expects. Once there, he encounters a creature called The Hanger Man, a blubbery dude named Big Tex and a cute girl with epic breasts. He also chances upon the music icon Michael Jackson, an oddball named Mr. Coffee and various other denizens of that unique place called Bethel. Join Brock as he rubs shoulders with the powerful leaders of the faith, explores the mysteries of Armageddon, investigates the secrets of paradise and wrestles with the conundrum of sex, romance, drinking and sin. This nostalgic tell-all from the 1980s is an adventure that will keep you laughing and crying, as well as inspire you to reflect upon your own personal journey to

God's House.

Under the Banner of Heaven - Jon Krakauer

2004-06-08

NATIONAL BESTSELLER • From the author of *Into the Wild* and *Into Thin Air*, this extraordinary work of investigative journalism takes readers inside America's isolated Mormon Fundamentalist communities. Defying both civil authorities and the Mormon establishment in Salt Lake City, the renegade leaders of these Taliban-like theocracies are zealots who answer only to God; some 40,000 people still practice polygamy in these communities. At the core of Krakauer's book are brothers Ron and Dan Lafferty, who insist they received a commandment from God to kill a blameless woman and her baby girl. Beginning with a meticulously researched account of this appalling double murder, Krakauer constructs a multi-layered, bone-chilling narrative of messianic delusion, polygamy, savage violence, and unyielding faith. Along the way he uncovers

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a shadowy offshoot of America's fastest growing religion, and raises provocative questions about the nature of religious belief.

Conversations with God for Teens - Neale Donald Walsch 2012-10-01

Suppose you could ask God any question and get an answer. What would it be? Young people all over the world have been asking those questions. So Neale Donald Walsch, author of the internationally bestselling *Conversations with God* series had another conversation. *Conversations with God for Teens* is a simple, clear, straight-to-the-point dialogue that answers teens questions about God, money, sex, love, and more. *Conversations with God for Teens* reads like a rap session at a church youth group, where teenagers discuss everything they ever wanted to know about life but were too afraid to ask God. Walsch acts as the verbal conduit, showing teenagers how easy it is to converse with the divine. When Claudia, age 16, from Perth, Australia, asks, "Why can't I just have sex

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with everybody? What's the big deal?", the answer God offers her is: "Nothing you do will ever be okay with everybody. 'Everybody' is a large word. The real question is can you have sex and have it be okay with you?" There's no doubt that the casual question-and-answer format will help make God feel welcoming and accessible to teens. Conversations with God for Teens is the perfect gift purchase for parents, grandparents, and anyone else who wants to provide accessible spiritual content for the teen(s) in their lives.

The Savage Altar - Asa Larsson 2008-02-07

'A breath of fresh cold air . . . a dangerous edge to gladden fans of Lisbeth Salander' Boyd Tonkin
The first in the Rebecka Martinsson series from the million-book bestselling author, for fans of Stieg Larsson, The Bridge and The Killing TV series. A church in the glittering frozen wastes of northern Sweden. Inside, a sacrifice: the body of a man - slashed to pieces, hands severed, eyes gouged out. The victim's sister is first to

discover the body and she soon finds herself the police's only suspect. Terrified and confused, she calls on an old friend: hot-shot city lawyer Rebecka Martinsson. Can Rebecka dig beneath the surface of the community that she once fled, and find the truth? 'A chilling plot knee-deep in blood-spattered snow' Jim Kelly 'A labyrinthine conspiracy, superlative storytelling' Independent
A nail biting, suspense-filled mystery' Sunday Telegraph

Torn by God: A Family's Struggle with Polygamy
- Zoe Murdock 2009

I Am Rebecca - Fleur Beale 2014-08-01

Life inside a religious cult becomes too much for 16-year-old Rebecca when she finds out who she is to marry. An award-winning and thrilling sequel to the bestselling classic I am Not Esther, by the acclaimed Fleur Beale. Winner of a Storylines Notable Young Adult Fiction Award 2015 LIANZA Librarian's Choice Award 2015
When she turns 14, Rebecca will find out who

she is to marry. All the girls in her strict religious sect must be married just after their 16th birthdays. Her twin sister Rachel desperately wants to marry the boy she's given her heart to. All Rebecca wants is to have a husband who is kind, but both girls know the choice is not theirs to make. But what will the future hold for Rebecca? Is there a dark side to the rules which have kept her safe? Can the way ahead be so simple when the community is driven by secrets and hidden desires? Award-winning YA writer Fleur Beale's gripping sequel to the bestselling classic *I am not Esther* is a psychological thriller.

[My Life as a Sister Wife](#) - Karen Miller
2018-11-13

As a young girl, Karen Miller lived a quiet life in Australia. She never imagined when she grew up, she'd be lured into a polygamous marriage, spend her spare time dumpster diving to feed her kids, and fighting to escape her increasingly demented husband. How was she lured into such

a lifestyle? What was day to day life like in the polygamous community? What eventually drove Miller to seek a new way of life? *My Life As a Sister Wife: What You Don't Know Can Hurt You* is the gripping, true-life story of Miller's life, beginning with her traumatic childhood and ending with her eventual freedom from a polygamous cult in Utah.

A Cry of Innocence - Stan-Collins Ubaka
2012-09

For Ijeoma, it's an ordinary afternoon. She's curled up in a comfy chair, reading a novel, and enjoying her time off from school. Then her mother storms into the room and asks a question that will change the teenage girl's life forever: "Are you a witch?" Dumbfounded by the ridiculous charge, Ijeoma further learns that her classmate, a beautiful young girl named Adaugo, is dead. But before she died, Adaugo confessed to being a witch, and claimed that Ijeoma was one, as well. Ijeoma vehemently denies this charge, but her mother does not believe her.

Worse, neither does her beloved father. Their entire Nigerian village soon hears of the charge, and Ijeoma is judged accordingly. Helpless, vulnerable, naïve, and inexperienced, Ijeoma is abandoned by her loved ones and forced to face the indignities of those who want her punished. But in the midst of the ashes of her life, Ijeoma clings to her faith and determines to discover the truth behind the deceit. Intense and thought-provoking, *A Cry of Innocence* reveals the tragic consequences suffered by those falsely accused and serves as a stark reminder of society's responsibility to the truth.

Closing the Gate - Deb Simpson 2012-03-01

For most of us, the headlines regarding the Mass Suicide of the 39 "Heaven's Gate" cult members in Rancho Santa Fe, Ca. in 1997 was a sad curiosity. For Author Deb Simpson, it became up close and personal when her now adult, baby brother Jimmy, became collateral damage. She writes with great courage and honesty in examining Jimmy's plight: his dream of a place

to call home, his tumble into the world of a cult, and the inevitable downward spiral that his lonely life takes. She causes us to examine and reflect on the crucial developmental years and every child's yearning to belong. *Closing the Gate* is simply and frankly written. The author pulls you into her story and doesn't let you go. In fact, you will be thinking about this one long after you close the book.

The Family - Marissa Kennerson 2014-10-08

Just like any average seventeen-year-old, Twig loves her family. She has a caring mother and a controlling father. Her brothers and sisters are committed to her family's prosperity... All one hundred eighty-three of them. Twig lives in the Family, a collective society located in the rainforest of Costa Rica. Family members coexist with values of complete openness and honesty, and they share a fear of contagious infection in the outside world. Adam—their Father, prophet, and savior—announces that Twig will be his new bride, and she is overjoyed and honored. But

when an injury forces her to leave the Family compound, Twig finds that the world outside is not as toxic as she was made to believe. And then she meets Leo, an American boy with a killer smile, and begins to question everything about her life within the Family and the cult to which she belongs. But when it comes to Family, you don't get a choice. Praise for *The Family*: "Fascinating and chilling, *THE FAMILY* takes you past the armed guards of a secluded compound where individualism is punished, technology is forbidden, and a charismatic leader plays God through terror and control. The novel's relentless plot and vividly drawn characters will suck you in, but be warned: once you're in the Family, it's almost impossible to escape." —Anna Schumacher, author of *End Times* "Eerie and suspenseful, Kennerson gives us a fascinating look into the psychology of cults and the meaning of Family." —Bianca Turetsky, author of *The Time-Traveling Fashionista*

In the Days of Rain - Rebecca Stott 2017-07-04

A father-daughter story that tells of the author's experience growing up in a separatist fundamentalist Christian cult, from the author of the national bestseller *Ghostwalk* Rebecca Stott grew up in in Brighton, England, as a fourth-generation member of the Exclusive Brethren, a cult that believed the world is ruled by Satan. In this closed community, books that didn't conform to the sect's rules were banned, women were subservient to men and were made to dress modestly and cover their heads, and those who disobeyed the rules were punished and shamed. Yet Rebecca's father, Roger Stott, a high-ranking Brethren minister, was a man of contradictions: he preached that the Brethren should shun the outside world, yet he kept a radio in the trunk of his car and hid copies of Yeats and Shakespeare behind the Brethren ministries. Years later, when the Stotts broke with the Brethren after a scandal involving the cult's leader, Roger became an actor, filmmaker, and compulsive gambler who left the family

penniless and ended up in jail. A curious child, Rebecca spent her insular childhood asking questions about the world and trying to glean the answers from forbidden library books. Only when she was an adult and her father was dying of cancer did she begin to understand all that had occurred during those harrowing years. It was then that Roger Stott handed her the memoir he had begun writing about the period leading up to what he referred to as the traumatic “Nazi decade,” the years in the 1960s in which he and other Brethren leaders enforced coercive codes of behavior that led to the breaking apart of families, the shunning of members, even suicides. Now he was trying to examine that time, and his complicity in it, and he asked Rebecca to write about it, to expose all that was kept hidden. In the *Days of Rain* is Rebecca Stott’s attempt to make sense of her childhood in the Exclusive Brethren, to understand her father’s role in the cult and in the breaking apart of her family, and to come to

be at peace with her relationship with a larger-than-life figure whose faults were matched by a passion for life, a thirst for knowledge, and a love of literature and beauty. A father-daughter story as well as a memoir of growing up in a closed-off community and then finding a way out of it, this is an inspiring and beautiful account of the bonds of family and the power of self-invention. Praise for *In the Days of Rain* “A marvelous, strange, terrifying book, somehow finding words both for the intensity of a childhood locked in a tyrannical secret world, and for the lifelong aftershocks of being liberated from it.”—Francis Spufford, author of *Golden Hill* “Writers are forged in strange fires, but none stranger than Rebecca Stott’s. By rights, her memoir of her father and her early childhood inside a closed fundamentalist sect obsessed by the Rapture ought to be a horror story. But while the historian in her is merciless in exposing the cruelties and corruption involved, Rebecca the child also lights up the

book, existing in a world of vivid play, dreams, even nightmares, so passionate and imaginative that it helps explain how she survived, and—even more miraculous—found the compassion and understanding to do justice to the story of her father and the painful family life he created.”—Sarah Dunant, author of *The Birth of Venus*

The Priest, the Woman, and the Confessional - Charles Chiniquy 1874

[I Am Not Esther](#) - Fleur Beale 2012-03-02

A classic bestseller that's been in print for over 20 years, this gripping YA thriller follows a teenage girl caught in a religious cult. Imagine that your mother tells you she's going away. She is going to leave you with relatives you've never heard of - and they are members of a strict religious cult. Your name is changed, and you are forced to follow the severe set of social standards set by the cult. There is no television, no radio, no newspaper. No mirrors. You must

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wear long, modest clothes. You don't know where your mother is, and you are beginning to question your own identity. I am not Esther is a gripping psychological thriller written by New Zealand Post Children's Book Awards-winning children's writer Fleur Beale. In *Esther* she creates an enthralling and utterly compelling portrait of a teenager going through her worst nightmare.

The Splendor of Truth - Catholic Church. Pope (1978-2005 : John Paul II) 1993

Pope John Paul II proclaims a sense of urgency in challenging moral darkness with the light of truth.

Sex Cult Nun - Faith Jones 2021-11-30

Named a Best Book of 2021 by Newsweek and a Most Anticipated by People, TIME, USA Today, Real Simple, Glamour, Nylon, Bustle, Purewow, Shondaland, and more! Educated meets The Vow in this story of liberation and self-empowerment—an inspiring and stranger-than-fiction memoir of growing up in and breaking

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free from the Children of God, an oppressive, extremist religious cult. Faith Jones was raised to be part a religious army preparing for the End Times. Growing up on an isolated farm in Macau, she prayed for hours every day and read letters of prophecy written by her grandfather, the founder of the Children of God. Tens of thousands of members strong, the cult followers looked to Faith's grandfather as their guiding light. As such, Faith was celebrated as special and then punished doubly to remind her that she was not. Over decades, the Children of God grew into an international organization that became notorious for its alarming sex practices and allegations of abuse and exploitation. But with indomitable grit, Faith survived, creating a world of her own—pilfering books and teaching herself high school curriculum. Finally, at age twenty-three, thirsting for knowledge and freedom, she broke away, leaving behind everything she knew to forge her own path in America. A complicated family story mixed with

a hauntingly intimate coming-of-age narrative, Faith Jones' extraordinary memoir reflects our societal norms of oppression and abuse while providing a unique lens to explore spiritual manipulation and our rights in our bodies. Honest, eye-opening, uplifting, and intensely affecting, *Sex Cult Nun* brings to life a hidden world that's hypnotically alien yet unexpectedly relatable.

Some Kind of Crazy - Terry Wardle 2019-10-08
An unforgettable story, in the tradition of *Hillbilly Elegy* and *Educated*, that reveals how a careful look at a broken past can open a path to profound healing and a satisfying future. Terry Wardle grew up in the Appalachian coalfields of southwestern Pennsylvania, part of a hardscrabble family of coal miners whose cast of characters included a hot-tempered grandfather with a predilection for blowing up houses, a distant and disapproving father, and a mother who disciplined him with harsh words and threats of hellfire. After enduring a crazy

childhood, Terry graduated to a troubled adolescence, and then on to what seemed like a successful transition into adulthood, earning multiple degrees and founding one of the country's fastest growing churches. But all was not well. All his life, he felt he was never enough. Plagued by a truckload of fear no matter what he accomplished, he fell down the ladder of success into the deepest ditch of his life—ending up in a psychiatric hospital. Fortunately, that's when he discovered that Jesus has no fear of ditches. In fact, Jesus does some of his best work with people who find themselves there. In sharing his remarkable journey, Terry offers hope that healing and wholeness are possible no matter how broken a life may be. His larger-than-life story will help you move forward along your own healing path.

The Family - Chris Johnston 2016-11-24

The apocalyptic group The Family and their guru, Anne Hamilton-Byrne — one of very few female cult leaders in history — captured

international headlines throughout the 1980s and 1990s. Hamilton-Byrne, who some followers believed was Jesus Christ, was glamorous and charismatic — and, many allege, very dangerous. From her base in a quiet suburb, she recruited wealthy professionals to join her cult, including doctors, lawyers, nurses, architects, and scientists. She acquired children and raised them as her own, bleaching their hair blonde to make them look like siblings, and her group became surrounded by rumours of LSD use, child abuse, and strange spiritual rituals. In 1987, police swooped on The Family's lakeside compound and rescued children who claimed they were part of Anne's future master race. The children recounted terrible stories of near starvation, emotional manipulation, and physical abuse. But Anne could not be found, sparking an international police hunt that involved Scotland Yard, Interpol, and the FBI. Could they bring Anne to justice? Today, the elderly Anne has an estate estimated to be worth millions, with only

one minor criminal conviction to her name. Her few remaining followers attend her nursing-home bedside. How did such a notorious group come to flourish? How did Anne maintain a hold over her followers? And why was she never fully brought to justice? Drawing on revelatory new research, including interviews with survivors, *The Family* tells for the first time in full the strange and shocking story of one of the most bizarre cults in modern history.

Stolen Innocence - Elissa Wall 2009-10-13

"Both creepy...and quite moving." —New York Times Book Review "Wall's story couldn't be more timely." —People *Stolen Innocence* is the gripping New York Times bestselling memoir of Elissa Wall, the courageous former member of Utah's infamous FLDS polygamist sect whose powerful courtroom testimony helped convict controversial sect leader Warren Jeffs in September 2007. At once shocking, heartbreaking, and inspiring, Wall's story of subjugation and survival exposes the darkness at

the root of this rebel offshoot of the Mormon faith.

Behind Closed Doors - Ngaire Thomas
2011-11-01

A gripping and revealing first-hand account of one family's experience in the Exclusive Brethren community in New Zealand. Ngaire Thomas grew up, married and raised her children within the Exclusive Brethren church in the Palmerston North area. In plain, non-judgemental style, Ngaire describes life inside this community with its strict rules. She says: 'By the time I was nine, I had developed an independent spirit . . . [which] usually meant that a person had begun to think for themselves rather than obeying the M.O.G. [Man of God] - an undesirable trait that needed to be dealt with.' *Behind Closed Doors* tells of the struggles Ngaire and her family went through in order to remain within this close but challenging community. She and her husband Denis, a very devout man, had a strong and committed

marriage, raised five children and attempted to live a good life within the church. However they were eventually excommunicated and went to live 'on the outside'. Ngaire describes the trauma of adjusting to life on the outside and its devastating effects on her children. This is a fascinating window into a world that few of us will ever know - told by an intelligent and compassionate woman.

The Son of Seven Mothers - Benjamin Risha
2021-03-23

A man shares his story of growing up in a late 20th-century American cult—and how he escaped—in this gripping autobiography. As the adopted son of two cult leaders, Benjamin Risha was raised to someday assume a place of leadership in the Alamo Christian Foundation, with the Bible, and his parents' interpretations of it, as his guide. He believed the prophecies of his adoptive mother and father, Tony and Susan Alamo, including them being the two prophets foretold in the Book of Revelations who precede

the second coming of Jesus Christ, them rising from the dead after they died, and such dire warnings as the ground opening up to swallow non-believers into hell. And he was sure that Susan Alamo could raise the dead as promised. However, when none of it happened, and the foundation slid from bucolic communal lifestyle to insufferable criminality that included absolute obedience to the Alamos, and polygamous marriages with girls as young as eight years old, Benjamin knew he had to escape. If he were caught trying to escape, he would be severely beaten, forced to go without food and water for his sins, and shamed in the community. So, he embarked on a journey to locate his birth parents, discover the truth about a world he knew nothing about . . . and find himself. In *The Son of Seven Mothers*, Benjamin Risha takes readers on a harrowing journey that few in the United States can imagine. And eventually he must choose between the life he knows and was "chosen" to lead, and his freedom.

Undertow - Charlene Edge 2016-11-10

Undertow, an award-winning memoir, reveals the dangers of fundamentalism and cults. It chronicles Edge's personal tragedy, rejection of family and friends, and 17-year commitment to Victor Paul Wierwille's sect, The Way International. Reading like a mystery, Undertow portrays idealism, devastation, and escape.

Lost and Found - Toni Street 2021-09-28

A profound and brave addition to the celebrity memoir canon.' - The Spinoff Toni Street's easy on-air style and warm personality has made her a firm favourite with thousands of New Zealanders. But behind the bubbly persona, is a story of heartbreak and resilience. Toni and her twin brother Lance were the much-loved first children of Taranaki dairy farmers Geoff and Wendy Street. At nine months old, Lance was diagnosed with Acute Myloid Leukaemia, passing away a year later. Devastated but determined to give Toni another sibling, Wendy became pregnant soon after Lance's death, but

after a difficult pregnancy, their baby Tracy was born, but only lived for a couple of hours. Trying to pick up the pieces of her shattered life, Wendy became pregnant again, and the Streets were overjoyed and relieved to welcome to a healthy boy, Stephen. Life returned to some kind of normalcy, and two years after Stephen was born, Wendy gave birth to another baby, Kirsty. But then, when Stephen was 14, the unthinkable happened. While out on the farm with his dad, Stephen was killed in a quad bike accident. His death would become the seismic marker of Toni's life, as she vowed to do everything in her power to bring happiness to her parent's life. Toni would go onto become one of New Zealand's most popular and successful television reporters and hosts and was determined to raise her own large family, with husband Matt. But after giving birth to their second child, she became seriously unwell, and was admitted to hospital, in agony. Eventually diagnosed with a rare immune disease, Churg-Strauss syndrome,

she had her gall bladder removed, and is on permanent medication. As a result, she and Matt found that she was unable to carry another child. Desperate for the large family that her parents missed out on, Toni's dream for a third child was realised by her best friend, who offered to be her and Matt's surrogate. Toni and her family's story is one of almost unbelievable trial and tragedy, but also love, determination and incredible resilience and will strike a chord with anyone who has gone through difficult times.

Sins of the Father - Fleur Beale 2013-03-01
The disturbing story of the ruthless exercise of power in a New Zealand religious cult. Charismatic, driven and self-righteous, Neville Cooper set up his own brand of Christian utopia on earth: a reclusive community on the West Coast of New Zealand. For the 400 inhabitants of Gloriavale, his word is law - despite his 1995 conviction for sexual abuse. His son Phil Cooper, as headstrong as his father, had to escape. But

Phil's wife Sandy was bound to the will of Neville and his brand of eternal salvation. And so began the monumental tug-of-war between father and son: a son who wanted to give his children a chance in the world. This is a true story of power and control, of abductions and night raids, of hearts broken and those trying to mend. It's also the story of the long shadow cast by the unyielding vision of one man, and the hope and resolve of one family to restore its shattered past.

New Boy - Keith Casarona 2019-04-16
Enjoy a fifty year odyssey of one person's journey into the bowels of the Watchtower Bible & Tract Society, otherwise known as the Jehovah's Witnesses. How has this same organization, has been instrumental in the death, suicides and insanity of thousands of people, many of whom are not even Jehovah's Witnesses? Find out what devastating tool this organization uses, to keep over eight million of their followers in line with their teachings and

policies. Why do millions of their drone-like followers knock on doors every week looking for new converts? Find out why these people want you to join them in their soon to be paradise Earth. A paradise that can only take place after their god Jehovah kills off the vast majority of the Earth's population. A carnage they are looking forward to, that could even include many of their own family members. Find out what devastating problem could be the complete demise of the Jehovah's Witnesses and is costing their organization millions of dollars every year. Keith Casarona has written a telling account of his life, in and out of the Jehovah's Witnesses organization. Alternately humorous and painful, it is an intriguing educational read. --Jack Sutton Find out the real truth about the truth! [Daughter of Gloriavale](#) - Lilia Tarawa 2017-08-23 In this personal account, Lilia Tarawa exposes the shocking secrets of the cult, with its rigid rules and oppressive control of women. She describes her fear when her family questioned

Gloriavale's beliefs and practices. When her parents fled with their children, Lilia was forced to make a desperate choice: to stay or to leave. No matter what she chose, she would lose people she loved. In the outside world, Lilia struggled. Would she be damned to hell for leaving? How would she learn to navigate this strange place called 'the world'? And would she ever find out the truth about the criminal convictions against her grandfather? 'A powerful and revealing book...' Kirsty Wynn, New Zealand Herald 'An affecting parable and testament, in the most commendably secular senses.' David Hill, New Zealand Listener [Unfollow](#) - Megan Phelps-Roper 2019-10-08 The activist and TED speaker Megan Phelps-Roper reveals her life growing up in the most hated family in America At the age of five, Megan Phelps-Roper began protesting homosexuality and other alleged vices alongside fellow members of the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas. Founded by her grandfather

and consisting almost entirely of her extended family, the tiny group would gain worldwide notoriety for its pickets at military funerals and celebrations of death and tragedy. As Phelps-Roper grew up, she saw that church members were close companions and accomplished debaters, applying the logic of predestination and the language of the King James Bible to everyday life with aplomb—which, as the church’s Twitter spokeswoman, she learned to do with great skill. Soon, however, dialogue on Twitter caused her to begin doubting the church’s leaders and message: If humans were sinful and fallible, how could the church itself be so confident about its beliefs? As she digitally jostled with critics, she started to wonder if sometimes they had a point—and then she began exchanging messages with a man who would help change her life. A gripping memoir of escaping extremism and falling in love, *Unfollow* relates Phelps-Roper’s moral awakening, her departure from the church, and how she

exchanged the absolutes she grew up with for new forms of warmth and community. Rich with suspense and thoughtful reflection, Phelps-Roper’s life story exposes the dangers of black-and-white thinking and the need for true humility in a time of angry polarization.

Before You Meet Prince Charming - Bekah
May 2012-03-01

A young lady who is pure will shine with a radiant brightness in this world of darkness. How can a young lady stay physically and emotionally pure as she waits for God's best in marriage? What should be her primary focus? How can she build close relationships with her parents? How can she be growing daily in her walk with Christ? What are some practical ways she can deal with a crush? What principles should she remember in her friendships with young men? How can she be wise in her internet usage? Recommended for individual or small group use, this study guide is a helpful companion to the book *Before You Meet Prince*

Charming. Including memory verses, personal reflection, discussion questions, and suggested activities, it challenges girls to dig into God's Word for themselves, seek to know the Lord and learn His ways, and evaluate their own lives based upon His truth.

Churches that Abuse - Ronald M. Enroth 1993

This book warns and informs readers about the fringe churches and groups that operate with abusive styles, creating emotional and spiritual perils for their adherents.

Awful Disclosures - Maria Monk 2018-06-18

Awful Disclosures Maria Monk Lurid and fictional tale of a woman's escape from a Montreal convent, the publication of which stirred anti-Catholic sentiment and discrimination against immigrants. We are delighted to publish this classic book as part of

our extensive Classic Library collection. Many of the books in our collection have been out of print for decades, and therefore have not been accessible to the general public. The aim of our publishing program is to facilitate rapid access to this vast reservoir of literature, and our view is that this is a significant literary work, which deserves to be brought back into print after many decades. The contents of the vast majority of titles in the Classic Library have been scanned from the original works. To ensure a high quality product, each title has been meticulously hand curated by our staff. Our philosophy has been guided by a desire to provide the reader with a book that is as close as possible to ownership of the original work. We hope that you will enjoy this wonderful classic work, and that for you it becomes an enriching experience.