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Church Of Lies

CHURCH OF LIES



FLORA JESSOP
and PAUL T. BROWN



Synopsis

"My name is Flora Jessop. I've been called apostate, vigilante, and crazy bitch, and maybe I am. But some people call me a hero, and I'd like to think they're right too. If I am a hero, maybe it's because every time I can play a part in saving a child or a woman from a life of servitude and degradation, I'm saving a little piece of me, too. I was one of twenty-eight children born to my dad and his three wives. Indoctrinated to believe that the outside world was evil, and that I resided among the righteous, I was destined to marry a man chosen for me by the Prophet. I would then live in harmony with my sister-wives, bear many children, and obey and serve my future husband in this life and throughout eternity. But my innocence didn't last long. While still a child, I understood that the church of the righteous was nothing but a church of lies. When I was eight years old my father sexually molested me for the first time, raping me when I was twelve. I tried to kill myself. Beaten, molested, taunted, and abused by family members alleging they only wanted to save my soul became a daily routine, I ran from this abuse more than once in my early teens--even attempting to cross the desert on foot. My family hunted me down. I thought government agencies would provide me safety if I reported my father. Instead, police and social services colluded with the FLDS to return me to my family and I ended up back inside polygamy, right where I started." Flora goes on from there to tell the dramatic true story of how she ultimately escaped and has been fighting against frustrating obstacles with hard fought successes in rescuing women and children from the FLDS. It's a story you can't put down.

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Customer Reviews

A few weeks ago, I read an article about a reality show that TLC recently aired, "My Five Wives", about a polygamous family in Utah. This triggered memories of the raid 5 years ago on the YFZ Ranch, an FLDS compound near Eldorado, Texas, and piqued my interest in learning about women who have fled the FLDS. Right away, I bought Carolyn Jessop's book, "Escape", and her follow-up, "Triumph: Life After the Cult - A Survivor's Lessons", but I wanted more and then found Flora Jessop's "Church of Lies". Flora is Carolyn's cousin by marriage, and while they both fled the cult, they had very different experiences. Flora's life was difficult from day one. She grew up with almost nothing, while learning about sex much sooner than any child ever should. Flora was sexually abused and molested as a child by her father and her brother. Some readers complain about Flora's foul language and the graphic descriptions of what her father did to her, but I found that it adds credibility to her tragic story. I am in awe of the obstacles that Flora overcame, which at times seemed insurmountable.

Hard to say 'I Love it--but I love Flora--- I guess she's used to that. She's so real, so believable, and I see why she has trust issues. Her story is brutal, it's raw, it's dirty, it's life and although I was able to run from these types of men creatures who also went after me in my youth, they exist forever, for girls and boys, and in every type of world experience. As for Polygamy, it is a perfect set-up for predatory men. I hate it. I would run away in a heartbeat, too. Thanks to God that that animal that group calls their prophet is locked up in a little cell because he is the very word evil, a sociopath nightmare and I only hope the only place that he goes is directly from that cell into a smaller box. YFZ? It belongs to Texas now.

Church of Lies: What an eye opener! These people are sick and need to be confined in a prison. I never did trust priests, nuns or any other cults. I find they all have one thing in common, they don't like physical work but still want to get paid by others. They have mastered the way to convince the weak and the very young to follow in their footsteps. Those people suck the life and their money on all the ones they prey on I read the book in one evening. Could not put it down. We have Jehovah's Witnesses coming to our door from time to time, my husband always answers the door but I stay away, because all I want to ask them is how do they treat their women and children. Anyways ... I sure don't need religion to live, and I'm sure I am not going to hell either. Church IS a BIG LIE.

Church of Lies / 978-0470565469 I'm coming late to "Church of Lies", having already read "Escape" and "Stolen Innocence", as well as "Answer Them Nothing", but I'm glad that I kept reading on this

subject because "Church of Lies" is an incredible and moving read. This book probably isn't going to be a bestseller or made into a movie; I can't even find an audiobook version to sit alongside my audiobook versions of "Escape" and "Stolen Innocence". It's not surprising that this book won't appeal to everyone: it's a brutal and unflinching look at abuse in Flora's childhood community. Rape, abuse, and unlawful detention are all a commonplace part of Flora's childhood, and a part that the authorities she reached out and appealed to chose to ignore in the name of political expediency. The narrative is biting, acerbic, and wry -- and 100% real and visceral. "Church of Lies" is absolutely worth a read if you're interested in FLDS biographies and polygamy escape stories. Flora's devotion to the girls she helps escape is palpable, and her wry humor and acerbic wit provides some relief for the reader as they wade through the emotional turmoil. This is a book that is a short read and yet stays with you forever, and I highly recommend it. ~ Ana Mardoll

This book was beyond belief--amazing. Yes the style is gritty and there are disturbing descriptions at the beginning--I had to skip over them--but even so, I got the message loud and clear. It must be written truthfully in order for people to be shocked out of the sense of denial most of us are in about what goes on out there. After reading the book, one is left feeling "something must be done!!!"--which is I guess exactly what Flora wants. The sexual abuse, physical abuse, child labor abuses, harassment, cruelty and kidnapping that goes on in this cult is more than random; it appears to be systemic, based on the volumes of testimony coming from former members. Truly, it is appalling that it has been allowed to flourish, untouched, for so long. That is why books like this, bringing this stuff to the light, are so important. After reading this book, and Carolyn Jessop's "Escape", and Brent Jessop's "Lost Boy", my mind runs to a bigger picture, that of our society as a whole. Although the cult is repressive in many ways religiously, the men in general seemed to be raised to be above accountability, with unlimited power. This, ironically, is a sort of unbridled "freedom" that breeds the kind of abuses that we see: men with no boundaries or limits to their appetites. When people escape from the community, "freedom" to them means being able to do all the things our permissive society offers--good and bad--and ironically end up becoming enslaved once again--to lusts for drugs, prostitution and sexual perversions. And in embracing our permissiveness, they fail to see--at least at first--that this very permissiveness will probably some day take them full circle back into polygamy. After all, now that we are re-defining marriage in so many ways, isn't it only a matter of time before polygamy and even pedophilia become accepted practices? This I find horrifying....

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