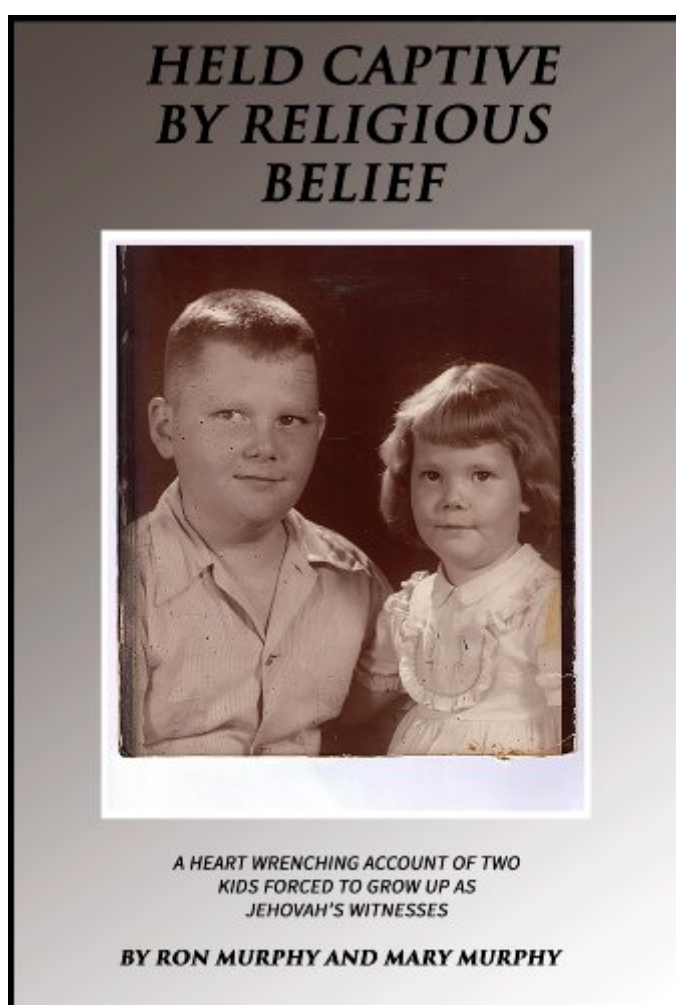


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Held Captive By Religious Belief: A Heart-Wrenching Account Of Two Kids Forced To Grow Up As Jehovah's Witnesses



Synopsis

One Sunday morning in the early 1950's, a young boy answered his family's front door. A young adult woman asked if the boy's parents were home. She was a Jehovah's Witness, but when asked, she said she was a Bible Student. This was the beginning of a nearly 15 year struggle for the 10-year old boy & his 5 year old sister. I am that boy. My name is Ron and my younger sister is Mary. This book is our "memoir" of that time from shortly before the JW showed up until we eventually got away from them over a decade later. Our lives through the 50's and 60's were dominated by two words: "Armageddon" and "Worldly". During that time, our parents became more like strangers who, little-by-little, forbid us from seeing our relatives. They also disallowed any mention of Christmas, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and even our own birthdays. We think you will find our memoir enlightening, educational, and even (oddly enough) humorous in places. We've poured our hearts into this little book and hope you will read it. Ron & Mary

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I really enjoyed this book. Growing up my best friend in school was a JW child. Her mother decided to "go Jehovah" on her family of 8 children, and they were all forced to be alienated from everything other children were allowed to do and participate in. I have been very intrigued to read stories of other children forced to do the same. I know other reviewers have given it bad ratings because of grammar and punctuation, but with the type of book this is it doesn't really bother me. Although they would have benefited having a decent editor, the most important thing is the honesty and ability to convey their personal experiences which I think they did an excellent job of. It was read like you were having a conversation with the two of them and I thought they did a wonderful job with that approach.

An interesting story about a brother and sister Ron and Mary Murphy who resisted their parents religious faith and teachings: "Held Captive By Religious Belief: A Heart-Wrenching Account of Two Kids Forced to Grow Up As Jehovah's Witnesses". The story took place in the 1950's-1960's. Before Ron and Mary's parents started studying the Bible with the Jehovah's Witnesses (JW) they had a happy and engaging family life with their parents and extended family members that included joyous Birthday, Christmas and other holiday celebrations. This all became a memory when their parents joined the JW and their lives radically changed and was controlled by church elders. The religious meetings at the Kingdom Hall (the place of JW worship), Bible and Watchtower Magazine study increased to four times a week, which included door-to-door ministry that is a requirement of all active JW. Both Ron and Mary feel they were robbed of a normal childhood, which is true as they weren't allowed to associate with anyone not a JW. All holiday and birthday celebrations were forbidden. This isolated them from their extended family, neighbors and potential friendships with other students from the public school. JW encourages members to remain in the world but not of the world- of course this isolates them from others as members every move is observed by others and if there is association with "worldly ungodly persons" (anyone not a JW) it is reported to church elders and the offender risks a process called being "Disfellowshipped", that is banned from the JW, this was a humiliating process that results in shunning by all JW members. There was also pages of terms to understand the JW expressions and lingo, which is helpful in understanding the story. The author forfeited a college scholarship, which was really quite a loss. Mary would enter an abusive marriage as a teen with a much older man (also a JW) that included domestic violence. This was very unfortunate that her clueless parents seemed unable to discern her husband had serious mental health issues, it was a blessing that he abandoned her and was never seen again. Ron remained single and never married. There was a certain hopefulness at the end of the story when

Ron stood up for himself and declared his independence from JW and his parents, what followed was surprising, and a step in the right direction. Great book cover! ~ 3* GOOD.

How sad that the children of this cult had to suffer. My heart ache for them and thousands of others who will never know God as loving, joyful, peaceful. patience, good, kind, and faithful. A cult that teaches that the Holy Spirit is just a breath of wind, despite the fact that the bible says otherwise. Jesus was not led into the wilderness by wind, He was led by the Holy Spirit. I could go on to disprove their false doctrine, but there is not enough space. However, if you want to read how a family was destroyed by this cult, Get this book! It will break your heart.

Too bad that there are so many unscrupulous people that prey on others who are looking for a spiritual experience.

Spiritual Abuse is prevalent and more people need to tell their stories! Thank you for being brave! Someone may be saved by your stories!

I wish we could have had more detail to read about specific JW situations. This story was very moving and both authors' message was very clear.

Very Good Book

The subject matter was interesting, and I have no doubt that the author has accurately described his experience as a JW. For his suffering, I am truly sorry. For his testimony, I am thankful. My only criticism is that the book is not well-written. Mr. Murphy could have used a ghost writer or a better editor. The writing style is not one I can describe, except to say that it reads like a transcript of a spoken lecture. I'm sure it was difficult to relive and organize all of the content therein, and I give him kudos for that. Just do not expect a scholarly treatment of the subject.

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