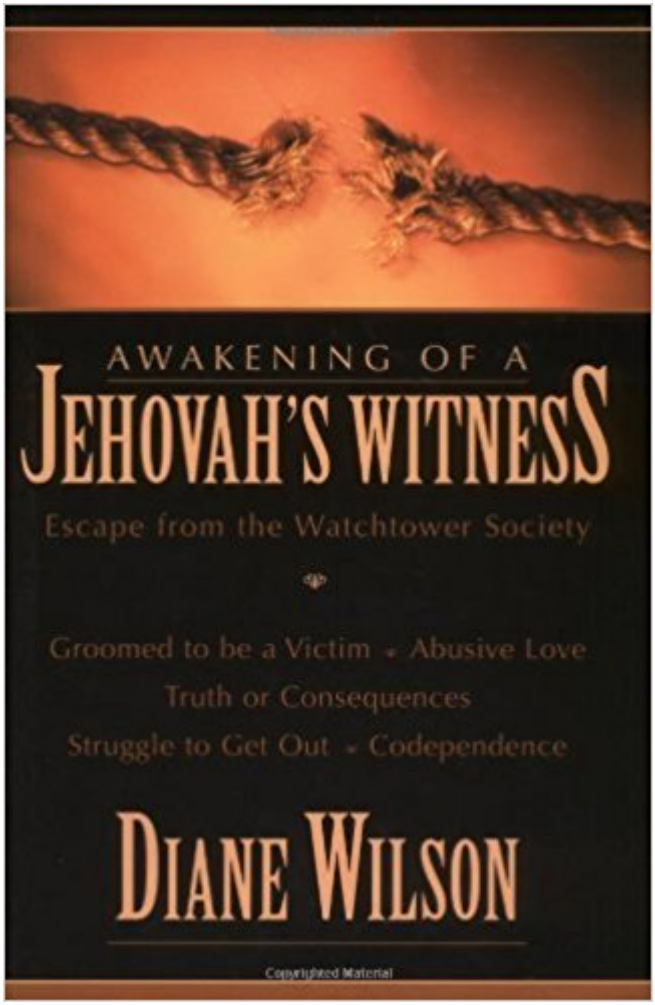
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Awakening Of A Jehovah's Witness: Escape From The Watchtower Society



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Synopsis

This tale of mind control, the use of fear to manipulate vulnerable people, and final escape from a suffocating cult environment is a revealing exposÃƒÂ©Ã Â of a secretive contemporary sect, as well as a true psychological thriller. Diane Wilson spent twenty-five precious years of her life, first becoming indoctrinated by the dogma of the Watchtower Society, and then struggling to free herself from its pervasive, intimidating clutches. In this probing, brutally honest assessment, Wilson describes how a childhood of psychological abuse and lack of self-confidence rendered her vulnerable to the seductive doctrines of the Jehovah's Witnesses.Ã Â What she reveals about the goings-on within the closed Watchtower Society will shock the average person who assumes the polite, well-dressed people who pass out leaflets are much like any other conservative religious group. Wilson contends that membership in the Jehovah's Witnesses requires obedience bordering on psychological enslavement and complete suppression of individuality. Her engrossing memoir will be of great interest to former Witnesses, students of cult phenomena, and anyone who has ever had contact with Jehovah's Witnesses.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is the personal biography of a woman who was severely abused by her mentally unstable mother as a child, forced out of her home at seventeen and then indoctrinated into the abuse of a religious cult for the next 23 years of her life. Her experience is candid and spellbinding. One of the highlights of this book is lists that she compiled through her personal research on advise from her therapist. The first is a list of 20 actions/activities that are representative of all cults. The second is lists of traits that many religions, in addition to Jehovah's Witness' all share in common with cultism. If you are a member of any religious organization you would do well to read this book in an effort to determine exactly what religious cultism is and how it destroys the lives of millions of decent people around the world. Is your religion a cult? You may change your opinion after reading this true-life testimonial.

I thought this was an honest and very authentic portrayal of not only her experience leaving the Watchtower Society, but the Society itself.She accounts for absolutely everything she says regarding their doctrines and practices in general with page numbers from the Watchtower literature to back up everything she says. I also found what she learned about cults, and the how and why people get sucked into them to be very interesting as well.

I actually thought the book was well written, and having grown up in the Jehovah's witnesses religion with both Parents indoctrinated into the Watchtower, I could relate to alot of what Diane went through. I think next to Ray Franz's book, this is probably the best personal account of being a Jehovah's Witnesses that I have ever read. I applaud Diane for her courage, and her honesty. I found myself cheering her on as she slowly overcame her doubts and fears and slowly through her internal transformation found the strength to break the chains that held her captive for so long. Once she got past the fear and doubts and believed in herself she was able to move on.The only criticism I have is that I agree that the quotes of the watchtower articles may have been a little much and took away from her telling her story which is why I only gave 4 stars. However I also appreciate Dr. Bergman's commentary and input. He helped me to see the emotional and psychological impact the organization has on people. By exposing that it will help people to be able to have the strength to walk away. He has not only helped Diane but he has positively affected the lives of countless others who will read this book and because of him be able to find their own strength to break free.Therefore, I think it was important to have Dr. Bergman involved in this book. I am impressed that he put so much time and effort into helping with this. I wish more therapist would be open to

learning about these kinds of organizations and thus they would be able to better assist clients who deal with these sorts of issues. I would highly recommend this book and will read it a few more times!

It is almost surprising to see readers that claim to be Jehovah's Witnesses reviewing this book because reading so is strictly forbidden. It can weaken them. If they are here writing a review and giving it one star it is because they already feel something tells them the religion they are in has something wrong in it. Those who have left other religions and joined the Jehovah's Witnesses were lured because of the circumstances in their lives and not due to genuine reasons. As Diane Wilson states in her book, many Jehovah's Witnesses became so because at the point of conversion they were vulnerable and this religion seemed to be the only hope. Unfortunately, once a person is too involved it is extremely hard to leave.-----I became a Jehovah's Witness at the age of five when a woman named Gina knocked on our door back in the late 80's when my mother was most vulnerable due to my cheating father. I can say that at that point on, my life was put on hold and I was forcefully and painfully dragged to perform the endless tasks that this organized cult dictates its members to do. I was always in the Hispanic congregations, and even with the existing cultural differences I experienced the same things Wilson experienced. ----I'm now 27 but endured the injustices, hatred, and control that the JW's place on the followers for 20 years. Wilson's account couldn't be more accurate.Reading the book from cover to cover in two days left me a little more nearsighted, but I actually felt as if I was there with Wilson at every meeting and convention. All these accounts were dead-on:- How "sisters and brothers" go through the preaching duties fighting over which and whose house they will inherit in their territory once this system of things passes. -People placing rows and rows of literature on the seats to reserve them for family members that don't even show up, while mothers with young children are exposed to the dehydrating sun during convention days.- The fear of Demons and the obsession of sex.- The heartlessness of the elders. The vicious backstabbing going on to obtain an elder position.- The guilt imposed regarding the preaching duties saying it's voluntary when this is overtly not so.- The guilt towards pursuing higher education.- Children forced to sit through hours of repetitive non-sense,Simply, every page was filled with facts I can relate to. This was the only life I knew before I left a few years ago and I have seen it all and heard it all. I never felt the warmth in this religion. I never felt part of it. I do not think it's the truth and the only reason people stay in it is because that's all they know and venturing out and living in this world's reality is just too overwhelming. The Jehovah's Witnesses provide the answers to everything, even if far-fetched, unrealistic, and fictitious, and hence that's comforting to

those who are otherwise lost. My father became a devout JW when he went into financial ruin.I finally had to leave and as Wilson did, I no longer wanted to give such a cult the power to inflict more pain on me by disfellowship. It is too unimportant for me now. My wounds are still healing, but this book has helped me find the real basis for my decision to leave.Those who consider to join this religion would be be better off as Atheists. The god of the Jehovah's Witnesses is merciless and as Wilson puts it, is always in constant battle with his own son Jesus for attention.All in all, this book isn't a victim's book but it is the account of the members who lose it all and give it all to end up in a life of suffering and disillusionment. A great read with supportive facts, accounts,and research. My best wishes to Wilson and to those who are having a hard time leaving. It can be done.

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