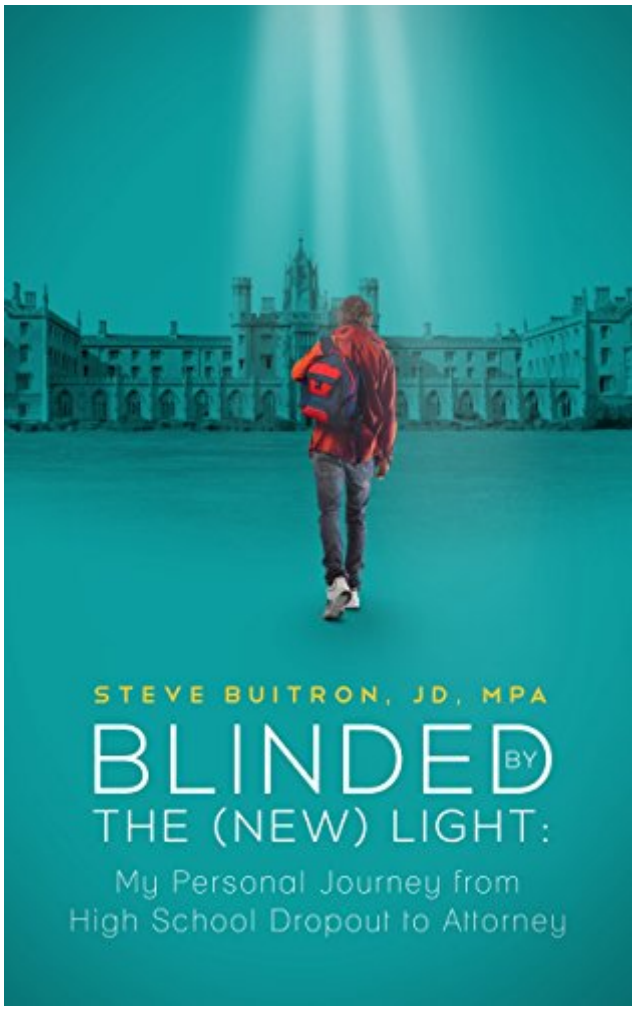
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Blinded By The (New) Light: My Personal Journey From High School Dropout To Attorney



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Synopsis

An inspiring and deeply personal memoir of the author’s life focusing on his lonely childhood, struggle with personal identity and challenges growing up as one of Jehovah’s Witnesses. A domineering mother ran the household and the author lived under the strict rules of his parent’s faith which included five church meetings a week, no holiday celebrations, corporal punishment and a virtual complete lack of concern with secular education. Dropping out of high school after his freshman year the author recounts his painful and confusing struggle for personal identity, family tragedies and the challenges he eventually overcame to achieve professional and educational fulfillment. Living in what his parents taught him was a demon haunted world very near total destruction was quite a challenge for a small, lonely boy. Jehovah’s Witnesses taught that the battle of Armageddon would come in 1975 and that all who weren’t members of their faith would perish - they also decreed that Witnesses not participate in worldly pagan celebrations such as Christmas or Easter. School and church meetings dominated his life - but his parents and other Witnesses freely acknowledged that no secular education was needed beyond learning to read and write - so other than being segregated away from school holiday celebrations school work, home work and grades were virtually ignored. Loneliness and frequent corporal punishment completed the recipe for what should have been and very nearly was a failed, angst filled life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book was a short but sweet lesson of life. It teaches that you can get what you work for IF you are willing to work for it . He took ownership of his failures and went on to rise above them. It was a good read but it left me wishing I had answers to some of the details he mentioned. I hope he will write a sequel and share some of the blanks that I am sure will be interesting.

Blinded by the (New) Light was inspirational and uplifting in that everyone can relate to ups and downs in their lives but not everyone has the courage to overcome them in such a valiant way! I felt totally encouraged!Ex Jehovah's Witness

Disclaimer: I have known Steve for about 40 years now, since we were teenagers, and was happy to hear he has shared his memoirs in this book. A lot of water has passed under the bridge since then, but after all these years we still maintain our friendship. One reason for this is our shared experiences of growing up in the Jehovah's Witnesses faith.Steve starts the book by telling us about his childhood being raised in this faith and his growing doubts about its authenticity.When Steve started fading away from "the truth," (Steve is two years older than me) I remember the very distinct fear I had that Steve was going to lose his eternal life on paradise earth and would be destroyed in the fiery judgment of Armageddon.The basis of this fear? I had come to the determination that Steve was in imminent danger of becoming a bit too "lucky" with some lovely young lady. Think of the nunnery scene from Monty Python and the Holy Grail.Another disclaimer: This book is only rated PG. If you want the R-rated version, you need to buy him a drink.But I digress. Let me get back to the rest of the content of this book.Excuses abound for why we put off doing what needs to be done to achieve success in our lives. And Steve had plenty of excuses, many of which were exceedingly legitimate. Steve shares with us the family crises he weathered and the physical and emotional health issues he endured.Steve also shares the encouragement he had along the way, such as the immortal words of his mother, "If you've decided to be insane, why did you have so many kids?"Well, many of us have made such "foolish decisions" in our lives...and then, by golly, we need

to find a way to overcome them. Steve found a way to do this. The path wasn't pretty, clean, straight-forward, and it wasn't easy.In all honesty, knowing Steve through the years, I often thought to myself, what the hell are you doing??But Steve has an inner drive that has kept him going, and I admire and respect him for this.I enjoyed the tale and the journey Steve shares with us. I hope you enjoy it too.

Nicely written but it's the same story told over and over. Anyone who has been associated with the JWs will relate.

Blinded by the (New) Light is a very motivating and inspiring read. Many individuals want to blame their childhood for whom they have become (or not become) as an adult; however, as clearly noted from Mr. Buitron's words, being honest with oneself, taking full responsibility for your own actions and never losing sight of your capabilities and dreams is how we should all live our lives. Not only do I have a better understanding of a religion I was never well-informed of, I also have a sincere admiration for this man, and all men and women, who recognize the road they were put on to travel may not be the best route through their journey of life so they find the strength to choose a different way. A very well-written and uplifting book!

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