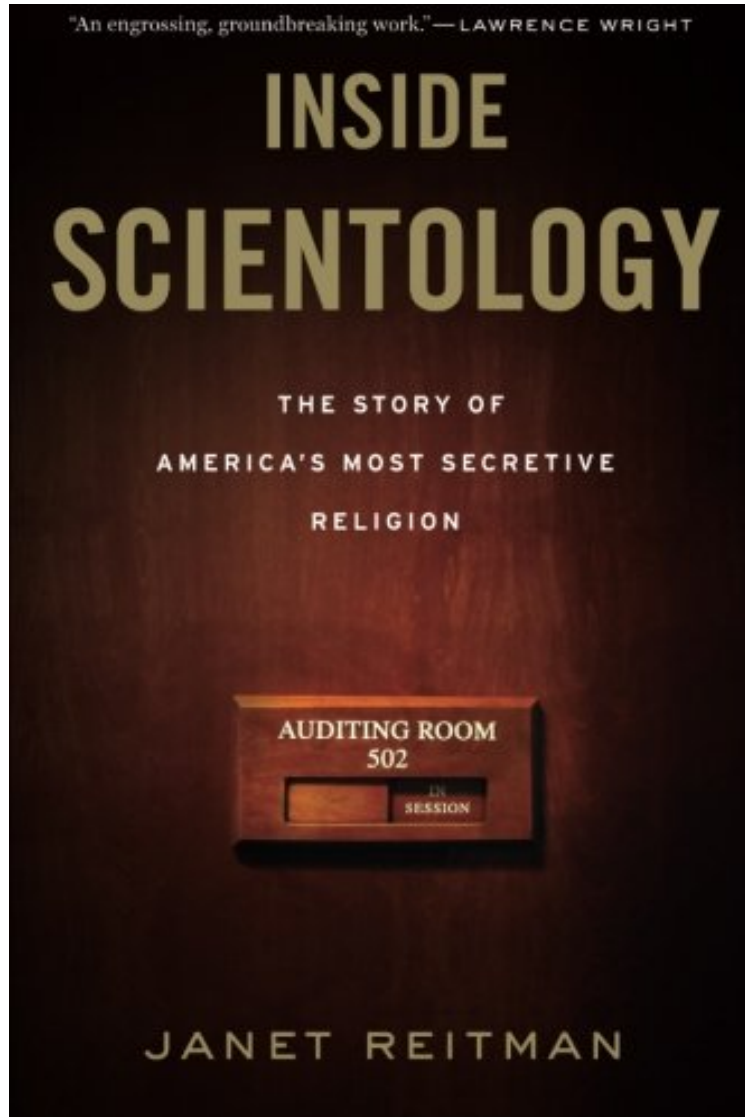


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Inside Scientology: The Story of America's Most Secretive Religion

Janet Reitman

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#55598 in Books Janet Reitman 2013-08-06 2013-08-06 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x 1.18 x 5.311, .80 #File Name: 0547750358464 pages Inside Scientology The Story of America's Most Secretive Religion | File size: 58.Mb

Janet Reitman : Inside Scientology: The Story of America's Most Secretive Religion before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Inside Scientology: The Story of America's Most Secretive Religion:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Twisted doesn't even begin to cover it. Good book on a twisted 'religion'. By Josef Erik I knew very little about the twisted 'religion' called Scientology prior to reading this book, except that it's basically a cult hellbent on destroying lives and relationships if you decide you've changed your mind,

or if those around you don't agree with your choice to join a cult of a 'religion'. This was a good read and gives you a clear picture of what it's like inside this 'church'. Why would anyone choose such a hard life? My next read on the subject is gonna be Ron Miscavige's book, 'Ruthless'. 13 of 14 people found the following review helpful. What Tabloids Don't Write About? Scientology! By SylvialstelBack in the early 1990s, Joan Rivers Talk Show featured guests like Star Tabloid Magazine's columnist Janet Charlton. Rivers asked "What can't you write about?" Well, Charlton answered "Scientology." Somehow that moment has stuck with me for over 2 decades. What was it about this organization whether religious or new age is so secretive and why? What is Scientology and how does it operate? The author, Janet Reitman, has written a controversial detailed analysis in America's most secretive religion which features A-list stars like Tom Cruise and John Travolta as it's members. There are others like Oscar Winner Paul Haggis, actresses like Anne Archer, Mimi Rogers, Leah Remini (noticeably absent in this book), Jenna Elfman, Michelle Stafford, Sharon Case, Nancy Cartwright (who donated \$10 million dollars in 2007), Kirstie Alley, etc. There are those like Will Smith and his wife who send their children to scientology schools but aren't scientologists. The membership is either a lot bigger or smaller than it appears. We don't really know. The celebrity scientology centre in Los Angeles is far less scary than it appears to be. The author does write about Tom Cruise and his recruitment with the help of his first wife Mimi Rogers (daughter of a powerful member). The first marriage ended in divorce. Tom Cruise seems to be the appointed spokesman for scientology. John Travolta is still a member but his son's death is never addressed in the book. Regardless, the author has done a brilliant job in gathering the information about L.R. Hubbard, the scientology organization's history, and it's present status. Of course, scientology took a dark turn in the 1970s when another author, Paulette Cooper (wrote Scandal of Scientology in 1971) was targeted for discrediting her book and herself. So much was the paranoia that it landed scientology in a world of trouble. Scientology's paranoia is abundantly a big part of this religion's problem. They don't want anybody to criticize against it especially former members. The history of the religion is now run by David Miscavige, a diabolical dictator and his regime. Many former members have decided to start their own independent scientologist organization away from his rule. The author speaks with scientologists, past and present, to provide a wider perspective. The tragic death of Lisa MacPherson doesn't go unnoticed especially when she needed to be cared for by professionals rather than other scientologists. Anyway, the author shows the good and the bad about scientology. She tries to be objective about the religion and it's secrecy. With today's internet access and available information, the religion has become a joke to some extent. Those true hard believing scientologists have either stayed with the organization or have left because of disagreements with leadership. Still this book answers a lot of questions about scientology but I still have questions like why is scientology so powerful in Hollywood? We don't really know their scope of power. But when I remember how Charlton answered that question over 20 years ago, I believe that more is involved. Is scientology really running Hollywood anyway underneath the surface? Scientology has a lot of money, secrecy, and power in the entertainment industry. I believe there are lot more scientologists who control the puppet strings in the entertainment business. You have to ask yourself why Charlton was discouraged from pursuing scientology? She wrote for the Star tabloid and not the New York Times. Of course, scientology doesn't like bad publicity but still she's a gossip columnist and not an investigative reporter. Her credibility is not taken seriously but enough by the powers that be to be scared off. I hope there are other books written about the truth of scientology and to expose the myths and secrets once and for all. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great way to learn about this fascinating perspective (from an unofficial source) By kk_grayfox As someone who knew close to nothing about Scientology (besides what has been shown on South Park), I found this to be a very informative book about the history of this 'religion'. It's difficult to say with certainty how biased it is. Clearly the Church denies that it was well-researched, but if you read the book, you're not really surprised by their reaction. Janet is not an ex-Scientologist, so the only kind of bias I can conceive of would be to have a book that highlights the controversial aspects of the Church's history for dramatic effect. But, to be fair, she mentioned her fair share of neutral factoids. I'm having trouble remembering if she ever said anything explicitly positive about the Church, except perhaps to say that a lot of people felt that they benefitted from auditing. This latter point was something that was significant for me in my views of Scientology. I used to say, "If someone asks me whether or not I believe in Scientology, I'd say that I don't believe that Scientologists believe in Scientology" (mostly keeping the whole Xenu story in mind while saying this). Now I can say confidently that people do believe in Scientology, or at least aspects of it, and they have reaped benefits from these parts that they adhere to. Overall, it was fascinating to read about Scientology, albeit overall alarming. You will not come away from reading this book without thinking that they are a dangerous cult (certainly not as dangerous as IS, say, but dangerous nonetheless). I gave it four stars instead of five partially because: 1) it got somewhat dull in perhaps the first third of the book and I put it down for awhile. I think maybe I got tired of reading about L. Ron Hubbard, but it picked up for me at the Lisa McPherson case and stayed interesting throughout the rest of the book. Not that it's not interesting at ALL early on (e.g., you become more convinced that L Ron's Science Fiction writing had a hand in crafting some of the doctrines of Scientology); 2) much of Scientology involves terms and acronyms that are unique to the religion, and there were many times throughout the book where I forgot what an acronym stood for, as it seemed like they were defined 1 or more chapters earlier. It would have been more helpful if Janet redefined them more often or provided a glossary at the

back of the book. An example is the fact that the headquarters for Scientology is called both Gold and Int, which I had forgotten and was wondering what the difference between the two was; 3) the same problem occurred with people in the book. I'll never forget L. Ron, David Miscavige, Lisa McPherson (or celebrities like Tom Cruise), but many of the other individuals that were mentioned throughout the book were not important enough or mentioned often enough to store in long term memory. A glossary would have helped here too. Besides these relatively minor gripes, if you're interested in learning about Scientology from an outside perspective, I'm sure you can't do much better than this book!

A masterful piece of reporting . . . Reitman tells a spellbinding story of a larger-than-life personality whose quirks, ticks and charisma shaped America's newest homegrown religious movement. Washington Post Scientology is known for its celebrity believers and its team of volunteer ministers at disaster sites such as the World Trade Center; its notably aggressive response to criticism or its attacks on psychiatry; its requirement that believers pay as much as hundreds of thousands of dollars to reach the highest levels of salvation. But for all its notoriety, Scientology has remained America's least understood new religion, even as it has been one of its most successful. Now Janet Reitman tells its riveting full story in the first objective modern history of Scientology, at last revealing the astonishing truth about life within the controversial religion for its members and ex-members. Based on five years of research, confidential documents, and extensive interviews with current and former Scientologists, this is an utterly compelling work of nonfiction and the defining work on an elusive faith. A meticulously researched history and revealing exposé, a frightening portrait of a religion that many find not just controversial, but dangerous. Boston Globe This book is fearless. Wall Street Journal A New York Times Notable Book Amazon.com Best Books of 2011, Nonfiction San Francisco Chronicle Top Ten of 2011

.com Best Books of the Month, July 2011: Whatever your opinion of Scientology, the truth is more extreme. Inside Scientology is journalist Janet Reitman's incredible book-length follow-up to the Rolling Stone cover story of the same name, a 2007 finalist for the National Magazine Award. Founded by wayward science-fiction writer and historical revisionist par excellence L. Ron Hubbard, "America's Most Secretive Religion" is perhaps best known for high-profile adherents like Tom Cruise and John Travolta, but its tenets, processes, and internal organization form a story as surprising and captivating as that of any investigative work released this year. Reitman's extensive research--including hundreds of interviews with devotees and defectors alike--culminates in an expansive, page-turning survey of the origins, development, crises, beliefs, and scandals of this fascinating incorporated religion, all with a fair-minded approach that favors diligent curiosity over judgment at every turn. "It has been my goal to write the first objective modern history of the Church of Scientology," Reitman writes in the book's introduction, and to this end, Inside Scientology succeeds in spades. This book will remain the definitive study of the subject for a long time to come. -- Jason Kirk "[a] searing expose." -People Magazine "the most complete picture of Scientology so far." Garry Wills, New York Times Book "compelling, rich and courageous...what comes through this prodigious reporting effort is a really good read about the birth of a strange and yet all-American institution...INSIDE SCIENTOLOGY is an impressive high-wire act producing a scrupulous history of how one man reframed the universe and how a lot of people paid for the privilege of agreeing with him." - Oregonian "Inside Scientology is a masterful piece of reporting....a compelling introduction to "America's most secretive religion," as the subtitle has it. Even for those who have no interest in parsing when cults become religions or why faith upends fact, Reitman tells a spellbinding story of a larger-than-life personality whose quirks, ticks and charisma shaped America's newest homegrown religious movement." - Washington Post "this book is fearless" - Wall Street Journal "[a] meaty, engaging new book" - Slate.com "In a new book, Inside Scientology: The Story of America's Most Secret Religion, author Janet Reitman tells the fascinating history of the mysterious organization and its members." - Time.com "[a] meticulously researched history and revealing exposé, a frightening portrait of a religion that many find not just controversial, but dangerous Throughout the book, the author displays consummate journalistic skills. Her accumulation of evidence is particularly impressive and gives rise to one of the more memorable works of investigative nonfiction in recent years." - Boston Globe "a well-researched and compelling read" - Los Angeles Times "[a] richly narrative history of the organization The book is convincing and compelling. It will be interesting to see how the Scientology leadership responds." - St Louis Post Dispatch "Inside Scientology leaves no scandal unturned in the life of L. Ron Hubbard, underlings, celebrities and cult "slaves" in this story of America's most secretive religion....It is a riveting read not only for its thorough research, and winning style, but because [Reitman] has left no greed undescribed in the 396 page-turner." - Seattle Post Intelligencer "So most journalistic accounts of Scientology fall into two categories: ax-grinding exposé or fawning apologetics. Fortunately Janet Reitman finds a third way in her authoritative, absorbing "Inside Scientology": nuanced reporting that lets the facts speak for themselves..." "Inside Scientology" will remain a thoughtful, fair-minded record of its tumultuous first generation." - San Francisco Chronicle "a serious, painstaking investigation of the organization's unique structure and bare-knuckled business acumen." - GQ "Reitman's book delivers all it promises, and it promises a lot [Reitman] has put together the most masterfully written, narratively rewarding, and thorough yarn about L. Ron Hubbard, David Miscavige, and Scientology and its strange past, present, and possible

future. In *Inside Scientology*, we have a thorough, brave journalist backed by a major publisher, and soon what no doubt will be a major publicity push: Reitman's book should soon become Scientology's biggest headache in years." - *Village Voice*"[a] meticulously compiled expos, culled from hundreds of interviews with active Scientologists and defectors alike. [Reitman's] revelations including abuse allegations against church leader David Miscavige and details about the organization's aggressive courtship of Tom Cruise come with impressive backup." - *Entertainment Weekly*