



Triumph: Life After the Cult--A Survivor's Lessons

By Carolyn Jessop, Laura Palmer

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The author of *The New York Times* bestseller *Escape* returns with a moving and inspirational tale of her life after she heroically fled the cult she'd been raised in, her hard-won new identity and happiness, and her determination to win justice for the crimes committed against her family.

In 2003, Carolyn Jessop, 35, a lifelong member of the extremist Mormon sect the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (FLDS), gathered up her eight children, including her profoundly disabled four-year-old son, and escaped in the middle of the night to freedom. Jessop detailed the story of her harrowing flight and the shocking conditions that sparked it in her 2007 memoir, *Escape*. Reveling in her newfound identity as a bestselling author, a devoted mom, and a loving companion to the wonderful man in her life, Jessop thought she had put her past firmly behind her.

Then, on April 3, 2008, it came roaring back in full view of millions of television viewers across America. On that date, the state of Texas, acting on a tip from a young girl who'd called a hotline alleging abuse, staged a surprise raid on the Yearning for Zion Ranch, a sprawling, 1700-acre compound near Eldorado, Texas, to which the jailed FLDS "prophet" Warren Jeffs had relocated his sect's most "worthy" members three years earlier. The ranch was being run by Merrill Jessop, Carolyn's ex-husband and one of the cult's most powerful leaders. As a mesmerized nation watched the crisis unfold, Jessop once more was drawn into the fray, this time as an expert called upon to help authorities understand the customs and beliefs of the extremist religious sect with which they were dealing.

In *Triumph*, Jessop tells the real, and even more harrowing, story behind the raid and sets the public straight on much of the damaging misinformation that flooded the media in its aftermath. She recounts the setbacks (the tragic decision of the Supreme Court of Texas to allow the children in state custody to return to their parents) as well as the successes (the fact that evidence seized in the raid is the basis for the string of criminal trials of FLDS leaders that began in October 2009 and will continue throughout 2010), all while weaving in details of her own life since the publication of her first book. These include her budding role as a social critic and her struggle to make peace with her eldest daughter's

heartbreaking decision to return to the cult.

In the book's second half, Jessop shares with readers the sources of the strength that allowed her not only to survive and eventually break free of FLDS mind control, but also to flourish in her new life. The tools of her transformation range from powerful female role models (grandmothers on both sides) to Curves fitness clubs (a secret indulgence that put her in touch with her body) to her college education (rare among FLDS women). With her characteristic honesty and steadfast sense of justice, Jessop, a trained educator who taught elementary school for seven years, shares her strong opinions on such controversial topics as homeschooling and the need for the court system to hold "deadbeat dads" accountable. (Among Jessop's recent victories is a court decision that ordered her ex-husband to pay years of back child support.) An extraordinary woman who has overcome countless challenges and tragedies in her life, Jessop shows us in this book how, in spite of everything, she has triumphed—and how you can, too, no matter what adversity you face.

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Editorial Review

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In 2008 when Texas state authorities raided a remote ranch and took into custody 167 children of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, it dredged up awful memories for Jessop. She had escaped the Mormon polygamist sect and a 17-year marriage to one of its leaders. Because of her experience and best-selling book, *Escape* (2007), which chronicled her life with the FLDS, the state of Texas called on her as a consultant. She offers a keen analysis of how the situation was handled; worries about a repeat of the fatal raid of the Branch Davidian compound in 1993; the posturing of FLDS representatives; the use of her own daughter, who at 18 returned to the sect; and the legal and political wrangling in the largest custody battle in U.S. history—what went right and what went wrong—before the children were eventually returned to their parents. In later chapters of the book, she focuses on her own transformation and the hope that other FLDS families might also be able to escape. --Vanessa Bush

About the Author

Carolyn Jessop was born into the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, a group splintered from and renounced by the Mormon Church, and was married for seventeen years to one of its highest-ranking leaders. Her bestselling account of fleeing the FLDS, *Escape*, was published in 2007. She lives in West Jordan, Utah, with seven of her eight children.

Laura Palmer is the author of *Shrapnel in the Heart* and has collaborated on six other books, the most recent being the *New York Times* bestseller *Escape*. She lives in New York City.

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The second memoir by former FLDS (Fundamentalist Latter Day Saints) member Carolyn Jessup focuses on her family's new life while continuing to explore many of the radical sect's controversial practices, including child abuse, the forced marriage of young girls, and home schooling. Just as Jessup's writing exhibits increasing maturity and a more sophisticated worldview, Ann Marie Lee's presentation has developed more depth and range since her narration of Jessup's first book, *ESCAPE*. Lee's crisp, clear tone conveys the confident and successful woman Jessup has become while allowing glimpses of the naïve newcomer who is still adjusting to her new world. Although some incidents and issues from the earlier book are revisited, this is an intriguing account well worth a listen. M.O.B. © AudioFile 2010, Portland, Maine

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Nona Whitehouse:

This Triumph: Life After the Cult--A Survivor's Lessons book is just not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book is actually information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get info which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you will get. That Triumph: Life After the Cult--A Survivor's Lessons without we comprehend teach the one who looking at it become critical in contemplating and analyzing. Don't become worry Triumph: Life After the Cult--A Survivor's Lessons can bring if you are and not make your case space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it in the lovely laptop even mobile phone. This Triumph: Life After the Cult--A

Survivor's Lessons having excellent arrangement in word in addition to layout, so you will not experience uninterested in reading.

Theodore Stewart:

As people who live in often the modest era should be update about what going on or info even knowledge to make them keep up with the era that is always change and progress. Some of you maybe will probably update themselves by reading through books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know which one you should start with. This Triumph: Life After the Cult--A Survivor's Lessons is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, since this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Jared Williams:

People live in this new day of lifestyle always attempt to and must have the extra time or they will get lots of stress from both lifestyle and work. So , when we ask do people have extra time, we will say absolutely sure. People is human not just a robot. Then we consult again, what kind of activity do you have when the spare time coming to a person of course your answer will certainly unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading books. It can be your alternative with spending your spare time, the actual book you have read is definitely Triumph: Life After the Cult--A Survivor's Lessons.

Angela Souther:

In this period of time globalization it is important to someone to obtain information. The information will make a professional understand the condition of the world. The healthiness of the world makes the information simpler to share. You can find a lot of personal references to get information example: internet, paper, book, and soon. You can see that now, a lot of publisher that will print many kinds of book. The particular book that recommended to you personally is Triumph: Life After the Cult--A Survivor's Lessons this guide consist a lot of the information from the condition of this world now. This particular book was represented just how can the world has grown up. The dialect styles that writer require to explain it is easy to understand. Typically the writer made some analysis when he makes this book. That's why this book suited all of you.

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