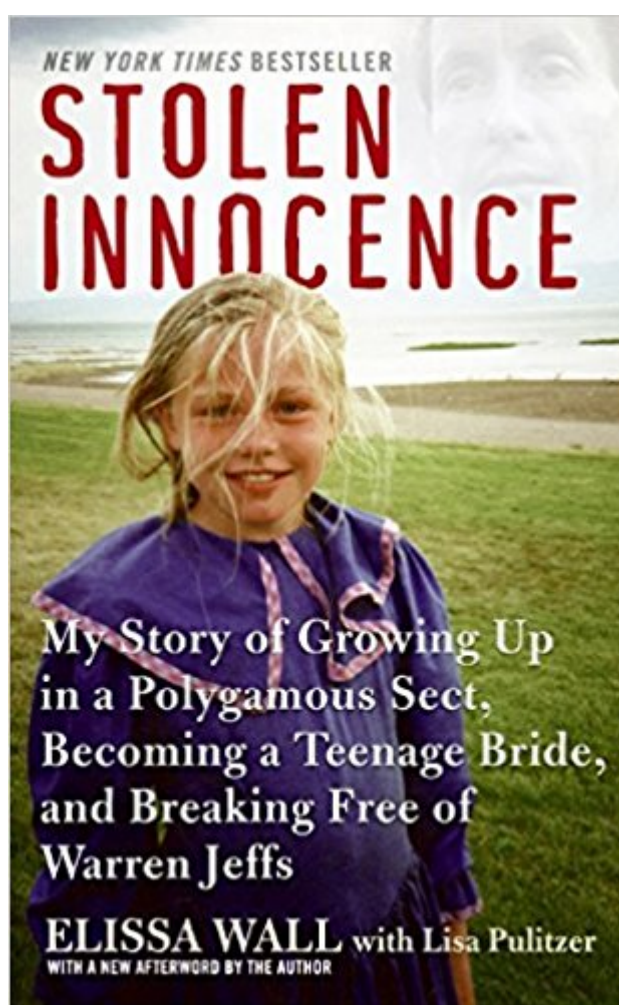


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Stolen Innocence: My Story Of Growing Up In A Polygamous Sect, Becoming A Teenage Bride, And Breaking Free Of Warren Jeffs



Synopsis

“Both creepy and quite moving.” —New York Times Book Review
“Wall’s story couldn’t be more timely.” —People
Stolen Innocence is the gripping New York Times bestselling memoir of Elissa Wall, the courageous former member of Utah’s infamous FLDS polygamist sect whose powerful courtroom testimony helped convict controversial sect leader Warren Jeffs in September 2007. At once shocking, heartbreaking, and inspiring, Wall’s story of subjugation and survival exposes the darkness at the root of this rebel offshoot of the Mormon faith.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Wall’s story couldn’t be more timely. Her descriptions of the polygamous sect’s rigidity are shocking, but what’s most fascinating is the immensely likeable author’s struggle to reconcile her longing for happiness with her terror of its consequences.” —(People)

In September 2007, a packed courtroom in St. George, Utah, sat hushed as Elissa Wall, the star witness against polygamous sect leader Warren Jeffs, gave captivating testimony of how Jeffs forced her to marry her first cousin at age fourteen. This harrowing and vivid account proved to be the most compelling evidence against Jeffs, showing the harsh realities of this closed community and the lengths that Jeffs went to in order to control the women in it. Now, in this courageous memoir, Elissa Wall tells her incredible and inspirational story of her time in the Fundamentalist Church of Latter Day Saints (FLDS), detailing how she emerged from its confines to help bring one

of America's most notorious criminals to justice.

I know Elissa can't save every girl with her bravery in writing her truth, but I know this book will make a difference. Most people have watched enough news programs to know about this cult, but reading Elissa's personal experience and journey is so much more powerful. She took her pain and did something so positive with it. God Bless you Elissa and all the other victims that are brain washed to accept true evil as a way of life. I believe in freedom of religion. What I just read was not religion. It was organized pedophiles. Every single person that is a member allowing this to happen is just as guilty as "Uncle Warren" Putting yourself before your innocent children is something I personally don't understand. I would die for my children's protection. Regardless of anything. Elissa's courage saved her life. I do wonder what the outcome would have been had she not met Lamont.

Written with a voice that is both the plaintive cry of a child left without choice and the powerful roar of a survivor, I read this in one sitting. Elissa's journey is both heartbreaking and enlightening as layer by layer she uncovers what evil man can do to his fellow man, all in the name of God. I cried tears of happiness as she made her escape to true and lasting love, even as I mourned portions of a life taken from her, not to be reclaimed.

Elissa Wall's story of growing up in the FLDS, the conditioning she, her family and friends (the whole of the FLDS) received, the abuse she endured, and her escape was both riveting and heart-wrenching. She does a wonderful job of telling her story, from her point of view, and as factually as possible. Throughout my read of her story, my emotions were pulled in every direction as I took in the details of her abuse, felt her desperate-ness, hopelessness, and utter despair as she tried to prevent being married to a man she detested. I was crushed when those in authority who were supposed to love and protect her stood by and allowed these atrocities to occur, and I felt the betrayal she felt. I also drew hope from her story. Her escape and her ability to fight for herself and those who are unable is truly inspiring. I would absolutely recommend this book so that someone could understand how the FLDS has changed since Rulon's inability to carry out his responsibilities as Prophet, thus allowing his son Warren to slowly obtain utter control over a people who truly believe that he is their leader and only way to obtain eternal salvation. Under his rule, the practice of child-brides reared its ugly head and became rampant. The FLDS community is often painted as a patriarchal community where only the men have power, but this book reveals that most men in this

society are also very constrained by the FLDS practices and rules, and often lose everything if they step out of line (not to imply that women don't have it bad in the FLDS community and hold little to no control over their own lives or that of their children). As someone who has been following the stories of escaped/ex-FLDS individuals for years, and has taken the time to learn a lot about their founding, their practices, their traditions, and how the community has changed under different Prophets, I believe this is a fantastic book that lays down the necessary foundation for those who are not familiar with the FLDS so that the reader can have a better understanding of WHY she couldn't leave sooner, and why her family COULDN'T help her.

This is one of many books by ex-FLDS Members I've read. (Others are about the 19th Wife, the Lost Boys Abuse, and the Investigator into the FLDS's Abusive Warren Jeffs.) It carries the voice of an extremely young girl who is trapped in a cult-religion, married off to a cousin she loathes, and repeatedly raped, all with the knowledge of her Prophet. It thankfully does NOT go into detail, but is rather extremely vague on description concerning the horrific abuse suffered at the hands of her "loving husband". IF you are working your way through the Ex-FLDS books, don't forget this one! I liked it much better than The Lost Boys (that one was much more painful to read because of the horrendous abuse!), and The 19th Wife one, I liked the least. Read this if you want to know why these people believe, and stay in such horrible abusive religions.

Elissa Wall's story is about commitment, allegiance, brainwashing, cruelty, doubt, conformity, pain, inner strength, profound courage and love. If we listen to her words, this young woman can inspire us all to stand against injustice -- small every day injustice that we let slide by and the cruel life shattering kind of injustice she has encountered. How often do honest people watch silently as injustice occurs around us -- or busy ourselves with everyday stuff as others do the hard justice work for us. I wonder how many of us choose bitterness instead of the love that permeates her being. Ms Wall's book is full of lessons for both men and women.

This was a great book and very well written. Found myself not being able to put it down, although at times it was hard to read imagining what she was going thru. Elissa Walls was and is a very courageous woman. I had no idea these type of cult like groups existed and still exist. It is sad that we are not able to do more to stop this activity. Hopefully, this will inspire others to come forward and stop the abuse on these poor young men and women. We have to remember it's not just the young girls, these boys are being brain washed into acting the way they do as well. Hopefully, one

day there will be a stop to all of it.

It isn't the smoothest written book but one from the heart. Some was hard to read, not because of the wording but because of the experience Elissa had to endure. Spiritual abuse is rampant in the FLDS and looking in from the outside, it is incredibly hard to understand why anybody would follow the senseless demands of an evil man. It took courage to tell her story and I am glad she did. Made for some pondering and discussing religion with my children.

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