



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.

From [AudioFile](#)

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:

Phillip Ruiz:

As people who live in the particular modest era should be change about what going on or data even knowledge to make these individuals keep up with the era which can be always change and make progress. Some of you maybe may update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to a person is you don't know what kind you should start with. This *Triumph: Life After the Cult--A Survivor's Lessons* is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Paul Frazier:

Nowadays reading books become more and more than want or need but also turn into a life style. This reading addiction give you lot of advantages. The benefits you got of course the knowledge even the information inside the book that will improve your knowledge and information. The info you get based on what kind of reserve you read, if you want get more knowledge just go with schooling books but if you want sense happy read one with theme for entertaining for instance comic or novel. Often the Triumph: Life After the Cult--A Survivor's Lessons is kind of book which is giving the reader erratic experience.

Kimberly Wheatley:

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their free time with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic inside park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Do you need to something different to fill your free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book might be option to fill your free time/ holiday. The first thing you will ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the guide untitled Triumph: Life After the Cult--A Survivor's Lessons can be great book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

Dennis Lewis:

Are you kind of busy person, only have 10 or even 15 minute in your time to upgrading your mind expertise or thinking skill also analytical thinking? Then you are having problem with the book in comparison with can satisfy your short space of time to read it because all this time you only find reserve that need more time to be study. Triumph: Life After the Cult--A Survivor's Lessons can be your answer given it can be read by a person who have those short spare time problems.

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