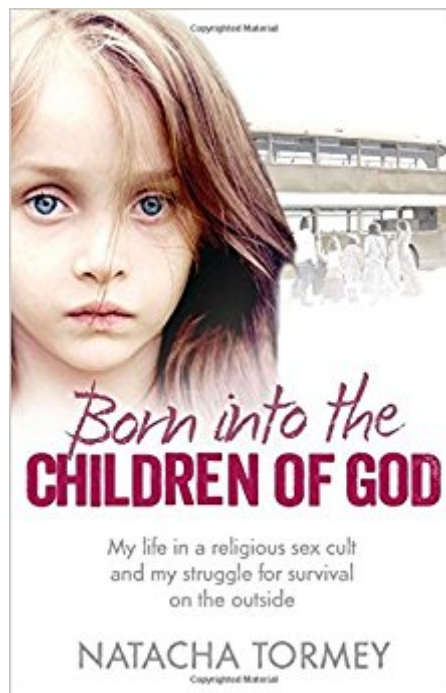




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Born Into The Children Of God: My Life In A Religious Sex Cult And My Struggle For Survival On The Outside



Synopsis

Natacha Tormey was born into the infamous religious cult known as The Children of God. Abused, exploited, and brainwashed by "The Family", Natacha's childhood was stolen. Born to French hippy parents attracted to the religious movement by the unusual mix of evangelical Christianity, free love and rejection of the mainstream, from an early age Natacha was brainwashed to believe she had a special destiny so that she was part of an elite children's army bestowed with superpowers that would one day save the world from the Anti-Christ. Torn away from their parents, Natacha and her siblings were beaten on a daily basis and forced to sing and dance for entertainment in prisons and malls. Natacha never expected to live to adulthood. At the age of 18 Natacha escaped, but quickly found herself hurtling through a world she had no understanding of. Alone, and grappling to come to terms with an unbelievable sense of betrayal, she was stuck in a kind of limbo so confused and unable to feel part of either way of life. Natacha is one of the lucky ones; not all of her family survived the battle to shed the shame and pain of their past. To date over 40 ex-Children of God members of Natacha's generation have committed suicide. All Natacha ever wanted was to feel normal, but escaping the cult was only the beginning. Shocking, moving, but ultimately inspiring, this is Natacha's full story; it is both a personal tale of trauma and recovery, and an exposé of the secret world of abuse hidden behind commune walls.

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Customer Reviews

Natacha Tormey is 29 years old. She was born into The Children of God cult (also known as The Family International or The Family) and grew up in a variety of communes across South East Asia, East Africa and Europe. Her French-born hippy parents joined the cult in their youth, going on to marry and raise 13 children within it. Natacha finally escaped at the age of 18. Against all odds she has survived and thrived. Today she works as a Human Resources manager, is happily married and lives near London. Natacha is writing her story under her real name. Natacha's co-author Nadene Ghouri is a bestselling author and award-winning journalist and broadcaster.

This is a great memoir--well written and riveting--depicting life in the cult of the Children of God. I do not know how Natacha Tormey survived intact, or any of the other adult children who grew up inside The Family. Evidently, some did not survive, God bless their souls. I easily trigger so I skimmed through the sexual molestation parts and read very quickly through the corporeal punishment parts. But I understand what happened. I mean, I intellectually comprehended the basic facts.

Understanding what -- to me -- was evil incarnate, is something I'm not capable of. I would have loved to hear more about how she healed, what the stages were, what worked and what didn't -- strictly because that's what I'm into--releasing trauma energy. But the book totally works and is complete as is. I remember the Children of God. In the early 70's, they lived in my neighborhood in downtown Chicago. There were three I'd see every day: a really handsome hippie guy and two hippie girls. They'd stop me on my way to the bars every afternoon the summer I graduated high school. They were so friendly, so charming, and appeared completely enamored by my little teenage self. Through I was not-smart when it came to my lifestyle at the time, I instinctively knew the Children of God were not for me. Maybe if I'd stopped drinking and was really depressed, alienated and isolated, I'd have been ripe as True Believer material, but when it came to a choice between drinking beers with my best friend in a cool dark bar while listening to great music or talking about Jesus with attractive hippies, there was no contest.

Good book. I grew up in the same cult. Every child had a different experience, but based on my own experience and what I've heard from friends of mine who grew up in Thailand, it's a pretty accurate description. I appreciate that she refrains from sensationalizing. I was particularly interested in her transition and the experiences she had as she made a life for herself in the "real" world. I find it curious that I have similar residual issues to deal with. Congrats Natacha for creating a beautiful life for yourself! You are amazing

Shocking! Just imagine not knowing the basics in the world as we know it, such as opening a bank account. The last book I will finish in 2015 and the most upsetting. It is a shame to think that this is happening every day. People manipulate others to believe their stories and to follow their instructions, all for personal gain. Users of the worst kind and it are often the kids that suffer the most.

It never ceases to amaze me how people join these cults, are they weak minded. The worst part is that allow the abuse of their children to go ahead. The book was an eye opener as to how many disturbed people there are in this world. It makes me sick to my stomach when people use God as a cover up for their depravity.

This is the 2nd I've read about cults and can definitely say that it will be my last. Although my heart goes out to the children who are trapped in such an evil lifestyle, I'm just at a lost to try and understand how adults, many well educated, can be lured into a cult and then let their children be beaten and sexually abused and even in some warped recess of their brains believe that it is all god's will. My heart goes out to the author and her siblings.

Interesting and well-written. It's hard to believe a cult like this could exist in modern America, but it does. What's behind the curtain is not so pretty. I've read quite a few books on this topic, but this is the one that answered all my questions and clarified the issues. Worth the read.

Natacha tells her story in a way that keeps the reader interested. She was born into the cult, but finally managed to get free of it. The book is a warning to the reader to be wary of cults in general.

WHAT A BRAVE WRITING. HOW NATACHA ENDURED HER CULT CHILDHOOD IS A MIRACLE. THE SCARY THING IS THIS CULT STILL EXISTS TODAY. IF YOU WANT TO READ A STORY OF REAL HUMAN ENDURANCE, AND THE ABILITY TO OVER COME A PAINFUL CHILDHOOD, READ THIS BOOK.

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