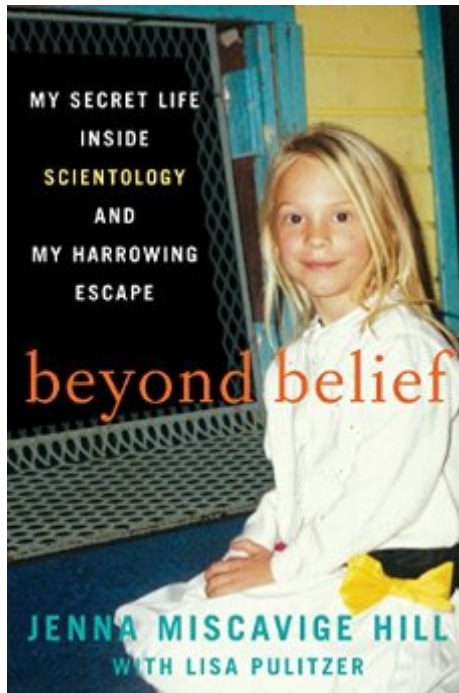


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Beyond Belief: My Secret Life Inside Scientology And My Harrowing Escape



Synopsis

Jenna Miscavige Hill, niece of Church of Scientology leader David Miscavige, was raised as a Scientologist but left the controversial religion in 2005. In *Beyond Belief*, she shares her true story of life inside the upper ranks of the sect, details her experiences as a member Sea Org—the church's highest ministry, speaks of her "disconnection" from family outside of the organization, and tells the story of her ultimate escape. In this tell-all memoir, complete with family photographs from her time in the Church, Jenna Miscavige Hill, a prominent critic of Scientology who now helps others leave the organization, offers an insider's profile of the beliefs, rituals, and secrets of the religion that has captured the fascination of millions, including some of Hollywood's brightest stars such as Tom Cruise and John Travolta.

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Customer Reviews

I eagerly awaited the publication of this book, ticking off the days on my calendar until the February 5th release date. Why? Because a story from a niece of the leader of the Church of Scientology, David Miscavige, was too good to ignore. While there are numerous books written by high-ranking defectors from the clutches of Scientology, the story of a blood relative of "COB" is unique. And

thus, with much expectation, I read this memoir. Jenna Miscavige Hill, the niece of David Miscavige, was born February 1, 1984, and became a member of the third generation of a family of Scientologists. When she was four her parents gave up their lives as "public Scientologists" and traveled to Los Angeles to join the Sea Org. Since her parents were upper-echelon members of the church, Jenna was raised at the Ranch, a facility where the children of high-ranking Scientologists live. As you can imagine, Jenna did not see her parents often, but as she had no outside experience, this was not odd to her. Nor was signing a Billion-Year Contract to join the Sea Org herself at the young age of 6 viewed as odd. In her own words, she wanted to make her parents proud. What follows is the story of a woman who saw the inner machinations of the church. Her parents arrived in LA shortly before L. Ron Hubbard died, and while young, she witnessed the rise of her Uncle Dave as the leader of the Church of Scientology. Jenna describes the rigid lifestyle of Sea Org members, detailing the grueling work schedules and harsh punishments for mistakes. Ultimately Jenna comes to see Scientology as many others do: a cult that has the power to destroy lives.

I am not now, nor have I ever been, a scientologist. My interest in books such as Jenna's stems from the fact that I live in Clearwater, FL (Scientology's Mecca or whatever the heck they call it). For most of us Clearwater residents, we barely notice the Cult's presence. If you live outside of Downtown Clearwater, you will rarely if ever see a Cult member. (I'm fairly certain they're not allowed to go to the beach either at least not in uniform I've never seen any there in my 20 years of living here. Bummer for them). While most of us accept the fact that our Downtown has been destroyed by the Cult and abandoned by pretty much everyone else, many of us do feel sad that there is absolutely no reason to stop there on the drive between our homes and our beautiful beach. Although they claim to be huge, with millions of members, we on the ground here can tell you that their buildings occupy a few city blocks, and their actual cult members do not appear large in number. The average tourist to our beaches would have no knowledge of their existence, as the drive down 60 from TIA to the beach would not in any way reveal their presence. That said, their presence here still irritates me, hence my purchasing Jenna's book (and others like it). Each time I read one of these "escape from the cult" books, I feel ashamed of our local child protective services. I'm saddened that my city's law enforcement has no balls when it comes to the cult. Jenna's experience, like that of most children within the confines of the Cult, is hard for me to fathom. I'll never understand people like Jenna's parents, who happily sacrifice their children to a life of labor and servitude, in order to further the Cult's

agenda. An agenda which, is clearly about nothing more than making money.

If you have any doubt that Scientology is a dangerous cult, this book will dispel that notion. Brainwashing? Check. In fact, the author, like many others, signed a ONE-BILLION-YEAR contract to serve Scientology's most "elite" division AT THE AGE OF SIX. Near-worship of a charismatic leader (L. R. Hubbard)? Check. Forced isolation from the outside world? Check. False imprisonment and near-slave labor (e.g. \$24/week for hard physical labor of 15+ hours a day)? Check. A deliberately cultivated culture of fear and paranoia, including rewarding members for reporting the alleged misdeeds of others? Check. Separating spouses from each other and parents from children (physically and otherwise) for months or even years at a time? Check. Controlling personal relationships (e.g., who one can or cannot marry and whether one can have children)? Check. Vast differences in the lavish lifestyle of the higher-ups and those lower on the totem pole? Check. Please note that his book details life of those inside the organization, i.e. those who live and work solely within the world of Scientology, as opposed to "public members," who have outside lives, but must pay to take "courses" that will lead to higher enlightenment. This search for enlightenment can mean an investment of up to \$100,000 or more. Still, they are subject to many of the same restrictions. Violation or out-loud questioning of the tenets of Scientology can result in being ostracized as an "SP," Suppressive Person. Celebrities, however, who are highly prized for their money and ability to recruit more innocent suckers, have a completely different experience - i.e., major ass kissing and no contact with the grunts. No wonder they defend this bogus "religion". I have never been a Scientologist.

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