

**Ex-Member Accounts from New Religious Movements:
A Compilation, 2000-Present**

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ABSTRACT: The 21st century has seen an explosion of personal accounts of life in and exodus from a range of new religious movements (more than 200 book-length titles). Much of this literature is self-published, poorly publicized, and difficult to obtain. Though often ignored, this ex-member literature forms a valuable additional insight into new religious movements when used critically and integrated with the many other information sources available to researchers. Ex-member accounts have added promise as representatives of three longstanding genres—religious testimonies, apostate stories, and memoirs. The literature cited also indicates the expansion of interest within the cult awareness movement beyond the relatively small number of new religions that dominated controversy in the 1970s and 1980s to look at the Amish, Hassidic Jews, polygamy-practicing Mormons, and traditionalist Catholics.

KEYWORDS: New Religious Movements, Cults, Apostate Literature, Religious Memoirs, Ex-Members of Minority Religions.

Introduction

In recent centuries, especially as religious freedom has become a fact of life, accounts by individuals of their pilgrimage from the religious group in which they were raised or joined as a young adult, to either a secular life or membership in another religion, have appeared decade by decade. Since World War II, with the growing diversity in religions in the West, the number of such accounts have

risen dramatically. Of special interest have been the stories of “apostates,” those who have not only withdrawn from their former religion but subsequently turned on it with often harsh criticism.

Apostate literature has been a subject of controversy over the years. Through the 1960s and 1970s, with the proliferation of new religious movements (NRMs), researchers viewed much ex-member literature as little more than a segment of the literature expressive of the emerging anti-cult (or “cult awareness”) movement. Indeed, several ex-members went on to become deprogrammers, helped create the cult awareness movement, and became important leaders of it. Simultaneously, NRM scholars also used former members (both those who authored articles and books and those who did not) as important sources of information. They tested the claims of former members about groups as they moved through the material published by groups and made their own observations of group activity.

There is also a body of scholarly literature critiquing apostate accounts and warning of the need to handle such accounts critically. A significant case highlighting the need to apply critical tools toward ex-member accounts was the book *Michelle Remembers* (1980), eventually uncovered as a hoax, but only after sparking the social panic over Satanism in the 1980s. While, the overwhelming amount of ex-member literature bears little resemblance to *Michelle Remembers*, the widespread acceptance of the book stands as a vivid reminder of the need to remain alert in approaching ex-member literature even as we keep all our research tools on the ready when visiting new religions.

Apostate accounts can be quite valuable in calling attention to problems within religious groups not readily available to even the most persistent scholars who may be blocked from certain aspects of any given group’s life while conducting research. Some groups announce up front their esoteric nature, and make no secret that certain aspects of their life are considered the sole property of accomplished members and should not be disclosed either to outsiders or the uninitiated. Almost all groups have matters that they wish to remain confidential, especially confidences shared with them by individuals in pastoral situations. The real problem often arises when groups attempt to withhold information on actions by leaders that might be considered illegal, immoral, or embarrassing. In this respect, ex-member literature provides new research agendas by calling attention to possible issues of interest that previous researchers had ignored.

While the accounts of former members of the many NRMs might be considered under the heading of apostate literature, such accounts also have an indistinct border with what might be considered testimonies of religious conversion, a large percentage of which includes the story of leaving one's birth religion for a new faith or a life of unbelief. Christian literature has made space for testimony stories of conversion to Christianity from other faiths, and in recent decades, as the world's religions have emerged in the West, they have begun to publish similar titles, and Atheist and Humanist literature has long valued accounts of people telling how they lost any faith in God and need for the community of the religious life.

These books also fit into another genre, that of memoirs. Memoirs have been valued for centuries for the personal point of view they promise on particular events the author has witnessed, and the unique illumination their insider status has given them. The memoir format suggests insights available only to someone who has lived through the events being described. As such they not only supply new data but offer some degree of emotional impact not found in, for example, third person accounts of life in a new religion. Memoirs can become an important platform for communicating intense feeling about a particular group.

Some ex-member accounts are also especially valuable in calling attention to groups from which little or no literature is available due to their separatist lifestyle, their lack of publications, and their refusal to cooperate with outsiders seeking to learn of them.

The discussion of the varied opinions on ex-member accounts over the last 60 years, however, goes far beyond the limited purposes of this paper, which are two. One is to re-affirm the continuing importance of ex-member NRM literature when used alongside of the spectrum of sources that one would want to consider in studying any given group. And, of course, it should be second nature to us, that like the literature generated by any group, ex-member literature from the same group is also to be used critically and not simply accepted at face value.

Second, this article is to call attention to the explosion of such literature in the new century. After an initial appearance of this literature relative to the more controversial NRMs in the 1970s and 1980s, there was a seeming drop off in the 1990s. However, since 2000, several hundred books by former members of different NRMs have appeared and over the past few years, the authors of this article have been compiling it for use in our work. Many of these books have been

difficult to locate as they were privately published and given little publicity, hence we offer a compilation of what we have found for any wider use that may flow from it. We also note that the number of groups called out as being “cults” or “cult-like” has expanded greatly. In recent years, hostile ex-member literature has targeted a whole new set of groups not included among the “cults” in the 1970s and 1980s, most notably the Amish, Hassidic Judaism, polygamist Mormons, and traditionalist Catholics. Several groups which were prominent in the earlier cult controversies have also continued to be targets of former members, most notably the Church of Scientology and the Unification Movement.

In organizing the many ex-member books, we have chosen to organize our list around the groups that have been left behind, and to organize those groups under the major religious traditions into which they fit. We start with the Asian religions—Buddhism, Hinduism, and Sikhism and Sant Mat—which are followed by Western Esotericism, Judaism, and Christianity. Finally, at the end are a set of books in which the “cult” being discussed is either unidentified or its placement in a major religious tradition difficult to discern. These are listed under “Additional Groups” (such as the Manson Family).

Finally, while the assembling of this list has occurred over several years during which time a diligent search for all of the literature (in the English language) was made, items have obviously been missed. The authors welcome information on additional items that should be listed below but have been missed. Please forward information on such Items to J. Gordon Melton (JGordon_Melton@baylor.edu) and/or W. Michael Ashcraft (washcraft@truman.edu).

Part I. Asian Religious Traditions

A. Buddhism

Chandler, Christine A. *Enthralled: The Guru Cult of Tibetan Buddhism*. N.p.: Walk Away Publishing, 2017.

Re: Shambhala International.

Downing, Michael. *Shoes Outside the Door: Desire, Devotion, and Excess at San Francisco Zen Center*. Washington, DC: Counterpoint, 2001.

Linnell, Renee. *The Burn Zone: A Memoir*. Berkeley, CA: She Writes Press, 2018.

Newland, Tahlia. *Fallout: Recovering from Abuse in Tibetan Buddhism*. Escarpment Publishing/AIA Publishing, 2019.

Re: Sogyal Rinpoche.

B. Hindu and Related South Asian Groups

Cohen, Andrew (Evolutionary Enlightenment)

Andrew Cohen, a student of Hindu spiritual teacher H.W.L. Poonja (aka Poonjaji, 1910?–1997), emerged as a popular spiritual teacher whose students began to complain of changes in his teaching style and about demands he made upon students. In 2013 he took a sabbatical from teachings and in 2015 apologized to his students, ceased teaching, and disbanded his organization.

Sand, Marlowe. *Paradise and Promises: Chronicles of My Life with a Self-Declared, Modern-Day Buddha*. Alresford, Herts., UK: O-Books/John Hurt Publishing, 2015.

Tarlo, Luna. *The Mother of God*. Rhinebeck, NY: Monkfish Publishing Co., 2009.

van der Braak, Andre. *Enlightenment Blues: My Years with an American Guru*. Rhinebeck, NY: Monkfish Book Publishing Co., 2003.

Yenner, William. *American Guru: A Story of Love, Betrayal and Healing*. Rhinebeck, NY: Epigraph Publishing Services, 2009.

International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)

Angyal, Andrew T. *From Church to Ashram: Joining the Hare Krishnas and Coming Back Home to Catholicism*. N.p.: the Author, 2011.

Bhakta Jim. *The Life and Times of Bhakta Jim: As Told by Himself, with Elaborate Purports*. N.p.: the Author, 2012.

- Brandis, Gabriel. *Servant of the Lotus Feet: A Hare Krishna Odyssey*. New York: iUniverse, 2004.
- DiCara, Vic (aka Vraja Kishor). *Train Wrecks & Transcendence: A Collision of Hardcore & Hare Krishna*. N.p.: the Author, 2016.
- DiCara, Victor Leo. *Krishna's Punk: A Parent's Journey*. N.p.: the Author, 2016.
- Ford, Paul. *Mad After Krishna: My Life in a Destructive Cult*. 2011. Kindle edition only.
- Gelberg, Steve J. *Oh, The Things I Learned! Lessons from Seventeen Years in the Hare Krishnas*. N.p.: the Author, 2010.
- Hift, Robbie. *Escape from the California Cult*. N.p.: BookRix, 2020. Kindle edition only.

Rajneesh/Osho

- Guest, Tim. *My Life in Orange: Growing Up with the Guru*. Orlando, FL: Harcourt, Inc., 2005.
- Sheela, Ma Anand. *Don't Kill Him!: The Story of My Life with Bhagwan Rajneesh*. New Delhi, India: Fingerprint Publishing, 2013.
- Stork, Jane. *Breaking the Spell: My Life as a Rajneeshee and the Long Journey Back to Freedom*. Sydney, Aust.: Pan MacMillan, 2009; Rpt., N.p.: the Author, 2018.
- Waight, Subhuti Anand. *Wild Wild Guru: An Insider Reveals the True Story Behind Netflix's "Wild Wild Country."* London: Coronet/Hodder & Stoughton, 2019.

Transcendental Meditation

- Blakely, Richard. *The Secrets of the Mantras*. Providence, RI: the Author, 2013.
- Bourque, Judith. *Robes of Silk Feet of Clay: The True Story of a Love Affair with Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, the TM Guru followed by the Beatles, Deepak*

- Chopra, David Lynch and Millions More.* Cardiff, CA: Waterside Productions, 2018.
- Carruth, Vail. *The Kiss of God: A Journey Toward Authentic Enlightenment.* Mobile, AL: Evergreen Press, 2001.
- Crim, Donald Emerson. *Transcendental Meditation: A Personal Journey.* N.p.: the Author, 2009.
- Hoffman, Claire, *Greetings from Utopia Park: Surviving a Transcendent Childhood.* New York: HarperCollins, 2016.
- Howell, William. *Cult: A Memoir.* Sanctuary House Press, 2011.
- Kainauskas, Tony. *A Time of Innocence: My Personal Memories of Viktoras Kulvinskis and the Transcendental Meditation Community.* N.p.: Silent Word Press, 2012.
- Landing, Matt. *My Enlightenment Delusion: Experiences and Musings of a Former Transcendental Meditation Teacher.* N.p.: the Author, 2017.
- Miller, Jon Michael. *A Wave on The Ocean: Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, Transcendental Meditation, Mallory & Me.* N.p.: the Author, 2006. Rpt. as: *Maharishi, TM, Mallory & Me: The Memoir of a Once TM Superstar.* N.p.: the Author, 2016.
- Orme-Johnson, Rhoda. *Inside Maharishi's Ashram: A Personal Story.* N.p.: the Author, 2017.
- Siegel, Aryeh. *Transcendental Deception: Bogus Science, Hidden Agendas, and David Lynch's Campaign to Push a Million Kids into Transcendental Meditation.* Los Angeles: Janreg Press, 2018.

C. Sikhism/Sant Mat

Sikh Dharma/3HO (Yogi Bhajan)

- Blachly, Peter Macdonald. *The Inner Circle. Book One: My Seventeen Years in the Cult of the American Sikhs.* N.p.: Sheep Island Press, 2021.
- Dyson, Pamela Saharah. *Premka: White Bird in a Golden Cage: My Life with Yogi Bhajan.* Maui, HI: Eyes Wide Publishing, 2020.

ECKANKAR

Sykes, Joe. *Abused in the ECKANKAR Cult: Mental Emotional and Physical Abuse*. N.p.: Freedom from Cult Abuse, 2020.

Sykes, Joe. *Testament: True Story of an ECKANKAR Cult Victim*. Ser.: The Library of Truth, Book 5. N.p.: Freedom from Cult Abuse, 2020.

Sykes, Joe. *The Truth About ECKANKAR*. N.p.: Freedom from Cult Abuse, 2020.

Sykes, Joe. *Victims and Survivors: Escapees from the ECKANKAR Cult*. Ser.: The Library of Truth, Book 7. N.p.: Freedom from Cult Abuse, 2020.

D. Various Hindu-Inspired groups

Barbosa, Robin. *I AM REVEALED: Behind the Ashram Door*. N.p.: Full Court Press, 2016.

[Barbosa, raised in a traditional Jewish home, joined a Hindu group, and has more recently become a Messianic Jew (i.e., a Jew who believes Jesus, or Yahshua, is the Messiah). See also a review of the book by Gina Catena, *ICSA Today* 10/3(2019):22–3.]

Finch, Michael. *Without the Guru: How I Took My Life Back After Thirty Years*. N.p.: Babbling Brook Press, 2009.

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Garden, Mary. *Serpent Rising: A Journey of Spiritual Seduction*. Victoria, Australia: Sid Harta Publications, 2020.

Re: various gurus.

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Re: Jagadguru Kripalu Parishat.

Kapur, Akash. *Better to Have Gone: Love, Death, and the Quest for Utopia in Auroville*. New York: Scribner, 2021.

Low, Marsha Goluboff. *The Orange Robe: My Eighteen Years as a Yogic Nun*. Bloomington, IN: iUniverse.com, 2011.

Re: Ananda Marga.

Rose, Sarah. *Escape Through the Window: A Cult Survivor's Story*. N.p.: the Author, 2013.

Re: Robert Martin Lloyd (aka Master David), Essence Church of the Fields. [Lloyd led a small short-lived group that dissolved after his conviction on charges of rape in 2000.]

Tamm, Jayanti. *Cartwheels in a Sari: A Memory of Growing Up Cult*. New York: Harmony Books, 2009.

Re: Sri Chinmoy.

Tredwell, Gail. *Holy Hell: A Memoir of Faith, Devotion, and Pure Madness*. Maui, HI: Wattle Tree Press, 2013.

Re: Amma "The Hugging Saint."

Part II. Western Esotericism

Christian Science

Hunter, Lauren. *Leaving Christian Science: 10 Stories of New Faith in Jesus Christ*. Roseville, CA: Veritable Books, 2020.

Satanism

[Note: The memoirs of life in a Satanic cult exist as a special case in cult memoirs. While some relatively small Satanic churches exist, the controversy over the accounts of Satanic ritual abuse in the 1980s and 1990s called into question the existence of a national Satanic movement. There were over 12,000 accusations nationwide of widespread cultic sexual abuses involving Satanic ritual, but investigating police were not able to substantiate any allegations of organized cult abuse.]

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- Bennett, Beth M. *Return to Innocence: My Journey to Claim Wholeness from Ancestral Ritual Abuse*. N.p.: Tom Bird Retreats, Inc., 2020.
- Canton, Sarah. *The Land of Dark Forgetting: My Story of Healing from Satanic Ritual Abuse*. N.p.: the Author, 2019.
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- Daymore, Rosie. *Blessed: Reclaiming My Life from the Hidden Horror of Ritual Abuse*. Life Path Publishing House, 2001.
- Johnson-Davis, Anne A. *Hell Minus One—My Story of Deliverance from Satanic Ritual Abuse and My Journey to Freedom*. Tooele, UT: Transcript Bulletin Publishing, 2008.
- “Katie.” *Satanic Ritual Abuse Exposed: Recovery of a Christian Survivor*. Beaverton, OR: Revelation Gateway Publications, 2013.
- Koppes, Samuel. *A Sinful Mind: A Memoir of Surviving Satanic Ritualistic Child Abuse*. N.p.: Katsilean Publishing, 2019.
- Meister, Lisa. *Only God Rescued Me: My Journey from Satanic Ritual Abuse*. Indianapolis, IN: There Is a Line Publishing, 2016.
- Reynolds, Nathan. *Snatched from the Flames: One Man’s Journey to Uncover the Family Secrets Buried in His Blood-Stained Past*. N.p.: Snatched from the flames Publishing, 2018.
- Schaeffer, C.J. *My Life in Pieces: Shattered by Satanic Ritual Abuse, Splintered by Dissociative Identity Disorder, Redeemed and Restored*. N.p.: the Author, 2020.
- Shortridge, Eric T. *Landon’s Cry: A True Story of Satanic Ritual Abuse*. N.p.: the Author, 2019.
- Shurter, David. *Rabbit Hole: A Satanic Ritual Abuse Survivor’s Story*. Council Bluff, IA: Consider It Creative LLC, 2012.
- The Trailer Park Angel. *This is a True Story*. N.p.: the Author, 2019.

Scientology, Church of

- Bonyai, Peter. *Money, Power, Servitude: Adventures in the Wonderland of Scientology*. N.p.: the Author, 2014.
- Boorstein, Kate. *A Queer and Pleasant Danger: A Memoir*. Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 2012.
- Carson, Karen. *Scientology. . . The Destruction of a Family*. N.p.: the Author, 2017.
- Catton, Lucas. *Have You Told All?: Inside My Time with Narconon and Scientology*. N.p.: Catton Communications, 2013.
- D'Aigle, Michael C. *Out of the Darkness: My Escape from Sin*. N.p.: the Author, 2020.
- Dam, Robert. *The DEFECTOR: After 20 years in Scientology*. N.p.: the Author, 2017.
- Dudas, Diana. *My Scientology Story: The True Story of an ex-Scientologist*. N.p.: the Author, 2020.
- Duignan, John, with Nicola Tallant. *The Complex: An Insider Exposes the Covert World of the Church of Scientology*. Ireland: Merlin Publishing, 2008.
- Es, Carol. *Shrapnel in the San Fernando Valley*. Los Angeles: Desert Dog Books, 2019.
- Forest, David. *Psychotic Memoirs (Escaping Scientology)*. N.p.: the Author, 2012.
- Gillham-Grady, Janis. *Commodore's Messenger. One. A Child Adrift in the Scientology Sea Organization. Book One: 1953–October 1970*. N.p.: Outback Publishing, 2017.
- Gillham-Grady, Janis. *Commodore's Messenger. Riding Out the Storms with L. Ron Hubbard. Book Two: October 1970–October 1975*. N.p.: Outback Publishing, 2018.
- Gottfried, Aaron David. *The Psychiatrist Who Cured the Scientologist*. Kitchener, ON, Canada: Pandora Press, 2020.

- Hall, Sands. *Reclaiming My Decade Lost in Scientology: A Memoir*. Berkeley, CA: Counterpoint Press, 2018.
- Halsted Burroughs, Lauren. *Blown*. San Diego, CA: lhbbooks, 2016.
- Hawkins, Jefferson. *Counterfeit Dreams: One Man's Journey Into and Out of the World of Scientology*. Portland, OR: Hawkeye Publishing Co., 2010.
- Headley, Marc. *Blown for Good: Behind the Iron Curtain of Scientology*. Burbank, CA: BFG Books, 2010.
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- Hodgson, Lori. *A Mother's Heartbreak: How Scientology Destroyed My Family*. Bothell, WA: Book Publishers Network, 2018.
- Holtz, Athena Dean. *Full Circle: Coming Home to the Faithfulness of God*. Enumclaw, WA: Redemption Press, 2017.
- Janicello, Mark. *Naked in the Spotlight: My Life with Sex, Singing and Scientology*. Berlin, Germany: Flying Finelli Publishers, 2016.
- Kay, Sandra. *The Thunderstorms of Eden: The Odyssey of a Second-Generation Cult Survivor and Her Recovery from Child Abuse*. N.p.: the Author, 2018.
- LeClair, Michelle, and Robin Gaby Fisher. *Perfectly Clear: Escaping Scientology and Fighting for the Woman I Love*. New York: Berkley, 2018.
- Many, Nancy. *My Billion Year Contract: Memoir of a Former Scientologist*. N.p.: CNM Publishing, 2009.
- Miscavige, Ron. *Ruthless: Scientology, My Son David Miscavige, and Me*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2016.
- Ottenstein, Jonathan. *The Road to Truth: One Man's Journey from a Cult to Torah*. N.p.: the Author, 2017.
- Prescott, Ryan. *The Truth About Apostates: The Scientology Story (Exposing Crimes)*. N.p.: the author, 2019.
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- Rathburn, Mark Marty. *Memoirs of a Scientology Warrior*. N.p.: the Author, 2013.
- Remini, Leah, and Rebecca Paley. *Troublemaker: Surviving Hollywood and Scientology*. New York: Ballantine Books, 2016.
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- Rowe, Kay. *Over the Edge: A Pawn in the Scientology Money Machine*. N.p.: Embrace Life Enterprises, 2017.
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- Wakefield, Margery. *I Survived!: Overcoming Abuse, Scientology and Life in General*. N.p.: the author, 2019.

Synanon

[Little discussed today, Synanon began as a therapeutic group for drug addicts in 1958 and gradually mutated into a full-blown religion. Controversial in the best of time, it imploded in the late 1970s.]

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- Jordan, Nanette. *On Painting On: A Gilded Memoir*. San Francisco: Refunct Design Press, 2020.
- Rost, Alice. *Designated Dancers: Why I Did Synanon*. San Diego, CA: Night Star Publisher, 2020.
- Wittman, C.A. *Synanon Kid: A Memoir of Growing Up in the Synanon Cult*. N.p.: the Author, 2018.
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Part III. Judaism

Ultraorthodox/Hassidic Judaism

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- Brown, Judy. *This Is Not a Love Story: A Memoir*. Boston, MA: Little, Brown and Company, 2015.
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- Davidman, Lynn. *Becoming Un-Orthodox: Stories of Ex-Hasidic Jews*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014.
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- Deitsch, Chaya. *Here and There: Leaving Hasidism, Keeping My Family*. New York: Schocken, 2015.
- Feldman, Deborah. *Exodus: A Memoir*. New York: Blue Rider Press/Penguin, 2014.

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Feldman, Deborah. *Unorthodox: The Scandalous Rejection of My Hasidic Roots*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2020.

Lax, Leah. *Uncovered: How I Left Hasidic Life and Finally Came Home*. Berkeley, CA: She Writes Press, 2015.

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Mirvis, Tova. *The Book of Separation: A Memoir*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017.

Newfield, Schneur Zalman. *Degrees of Separation: Identity Formation While Leaving Ultra-Orthodox Judaism*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2020.

Re: Lubavitcher, Satmar.

Stein, Abby. *Becoming Eve: My Journey from Ultra-Orthodox Rabbi to Transgender Woman*. New York: Seal Press, 2019.

Re: Hassidism.

Vincent, Leah. *Cut Me Loose: Sin and Salvation After My Ultra-Orthodox Girlhood*. New York: Penguin, 2014.

Waks, Manny. *Who Gave You Permission? The Memoir of a Child Sexual-Abuse Survivor Who Fought Back*. Victoria, Aust.: Scribe, 2016.

Black Judaism

Goodman, Mahaleyah. *Israel's Secret Cult: The Incredible Story of a Former Member of the African Hebrew Israelites of Jerusalem*. N.p.: the Author, 2013.

Part IV: Christianity

Amish

[Note: Unlike most other “ex” memoirs, when it comes to the Amish, the ex-

Amish memoirs must compete with a large number of pro-Amish memoirs, in which the authors have largely intact, non-abusive childhoods. Because Amish life reminds many of Americana—the classic small town, church-centered life that many today look back to with nostalgia—ex-Amish memoirs have a special challenge that other categories of “ex” memoirs do not. For example, it is rare for someone who was in Scientology for a long time to write a memoir about how wonderful their life was in Scientology, and to get some sort of cultural affirmation of that story because it resembles something nostalgic in American cultural memory. It is also to be noted that there are a variety of distinct Amish groups.]

Bontrager, Torah. *An Amish Girl in Manhattan: Escaping at Age 15, Breaking All the Rules, and Feeling Safe Again*. New York: Amish Heritage Press/Know-T Publishing, 2019.

Botner, Vicki M. *Letting Go of the Reins: The True Story of a Man Who Left the Amish and the Woman Who Helped Him*. Little Rock, AR: Mekan River Press, 2013.

Dell, Emma. *Daring Destiny*. N.p.: Special Delivery Books, 2006.

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[See also Voelz, Sabrina, “Writing Life, Writing Back, and Writing Through: Saloma Miller Furlong’s *Why I Left the Amish: A Memoir* and *Bonnet Strings: An Amish Woman’s Ties to Two Worlds*,” *Journal of Amish and Plain Anabaptist Studies* 4,2 (2016): 201-19 (review article).]

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Polygamy-Practicing (Mormon) Groups

[While the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (FLDS) is the best known of the several LDS polygamy-practicing groups, it is by no means the only one, and the current literature has been written by former members from different splinter groups.]

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Re: Church of the Lamb of God.

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Roman Catholic Church (related)

Through the 19th and 20th century, at least until Vatican II, among the most popular segments of ex-member literature consisted of accounts by former priests, monks, and nuns who left their calling. This literature, which dropped in popularity after Vatican II, was often cited in the 1970s and 1980s to counter the impact of members leaving high demand groups that were organized similarly to Catholic orders. Simultaneously, accounts appeared of nuns who left the ordered life amid the feminist movement and the post-Vatican changes in church life.

In the 21st century, a new set of material was generated by several traditionalist Catholic groups that resisted the changes introduced by Vatican II, most notably the Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, a fringe traditionalist group based in Boston, Massachusetts; and the Congregation of Mary Immaculate Queen, a

traditionalist order based in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; the Society of Saint Pius X, an international traditionalist group; and the Order of St. Charbel, an Australian order founded by William Kamm. All of the aforementioned groups are organizationally independent of the Roman Catholic Church. They stand in contrast to the Legion of Christ, a popular Latin American ordered community, founded in Mexico City in 1941. After disclosures of abuse within the Legion of Christ, its leader was removed, and the order underwent a renovation under papal scrutiny. In the new century, Paul Lennon, a former member of the Legion of Christ wrote and published a useful guide to the various Roman Catholic groups accused of cult-like tendencies: *Catholic Orders & Movements Accused of Being Cult-like: Intra-Ecclesial Sects?* (n.p.: the Author, 2020).

There is a large body of autobiographical Roman Catholic literature written by former priests, monks, and nuns who have left their vocation, some of whom also left church membership, and an even larger body of literature of or concerning lay members who have left. That literature has in turn generated a body of literature that attempts to analyze the many who have drifted away from faith, and the church has itself published books seeking to woo lapse members back into the church. This large body of material is far beyond the scope of this bibliography, which centers upon new religions and other groups popularly labeled as “cults.”

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Re: Two by Twos.

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