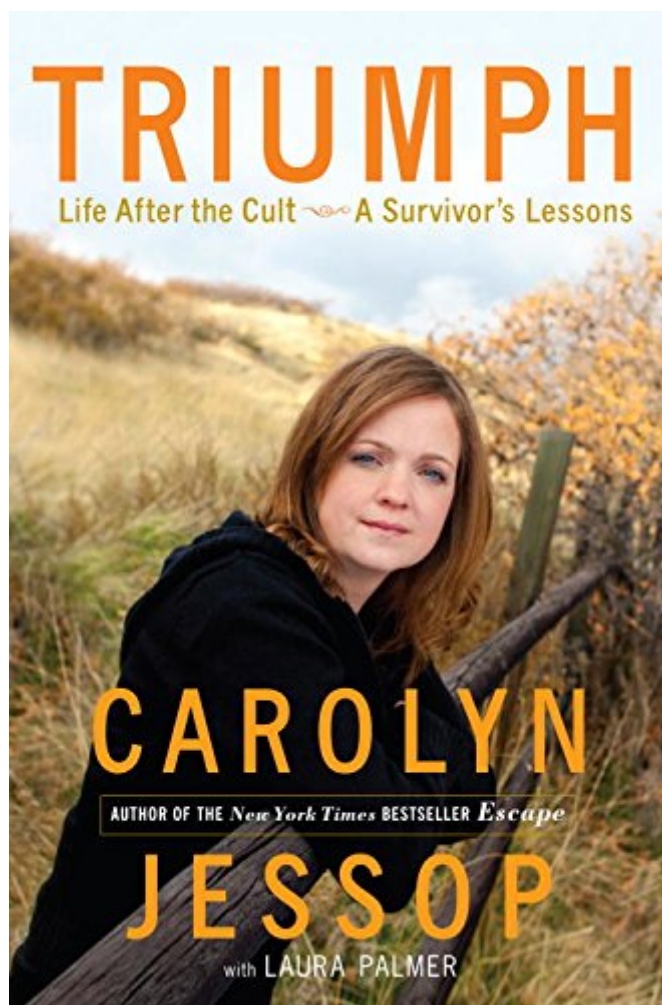




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Triumph: Life After The Cult--A Survivor's Lessons



Synopsis

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.

Book Information

File Size: 5141 KB

Print Length: 290 pages

Publisher: Crown Archetype; 1 edition (April 26, 2010)

Publication Date: May 4, 2010

Sold by: Amazon.com Random House LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B0036S4C34

Text-to-Speech: Not enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #165,630 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #39

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Customer Reviews

A book that is hard to put down. While some of it was a little repetitive from her first book, nevertheless I found it riveting. Since Ms Jessop was raised in polygamy, it took years for her to understand that her deep unhappiness with the system was not an evil reflection on her own character, as she had been taught. Here she describes the big and little things that opened her eyes

to the truth, also giving encouragement and practical advice to others who may be dealing with polygamy or other forms of sanctioned evil. There are many. One of her grandmothers was also a teacher, who lived in polygamy before it became so extreme. Although she was allowed to keep a part of her small teaching salary, this was inadequate to ensure her security. In a stroke of genius and perseverance, she saved for and purchased a back hoe for use on the weekends, which neighbors clamored for and were willing to pay. Thus Ms Jessop had a role model from a previous generation for the independence she began to discover in fleeing the cult and writing her book "Escape" I wish Ms Jessop the very best and would love an update on her family!

Obviously this book is the sequel to "Escape" and as such, serves as a much needed follow-up to the eye-opening story of Cult mentality that couldn't help but leave the reader hanging. This second part provides encouragement and instruction to any of the other 10,000 members of the FLDS society that may be doubting themselves, or Carolyn, or the rest of us. The author is destined to go down in history as one of this Nation's most courageous Human Right's activists of all time. Her confessions and counsel are surprisingly easy to comprehend. Written so as to compensate the reader who may have discovered this book first, the background sometimes gets somewhat repetitive in certain areas, but the message is clear: Neither Polygamy nor the Priesthoodlums who promote it are good for the soul. From the evidence presented in this book, it becomes even more apparent to me that there is no quick-fix to the problems that stem from the doctrine of plural wifery, so to me, the practice of polygamy (polygyny) cannot be an eternal principle of happiness, no matter how much anyone wants it to be. The actions and attitude of powerful men like Merrill Jessop and Warren Jeffs never cease to amaze me, as they continue to practice their own form of godhood upon others who share the same earth. I can only imagine how long and loud either of these two religious perverts would howl if the tables were ever turned and they found themselves on the receiving end of their own endless cruelty. I was absolutely relieved to hear that Barbara Jessop is dead and gone. Rare is the report that there are women in polygamy that have lived their whole lives as vindictive bitches with a flare for unbridled torture of the most innocent, but alas here we have it on record from an eye-witness who was living on the inside. I only hope that as we consider the claims of the highly touted fruits of Fundamentalist partnerships, that the works of Barbara and her legacy (as recorded in this saga) are never to be forgotten. In like manner I was thrilled to hear that the FLDS Church has zero power over the justice system of Texas, and that somebody somewhere was finally able to nail Merrill Jessop and his high-priced attorneys with back child support fines. Then too, it was certainly a happily-ever-after thought that young Harrison's child

support will continue well after he turns 18. Without a doubt, the States of Utah and Arizona should feel responsible for the millions of dollars (20+) that have been spent convicting these white supremacist men (the exact same men that should have been arrested and convicted by Utah and Arizona years ago), and these two states should offer to share in the expense and on-going burden that has been placed upon the neighboring communities of the YFZ Ranch for refusing to do what has needed to be done to protect their women and children from a lifetime of tyranny and decades of child labor abuse. Carolyn Jessop did not have to look back after she "escaped" with all 8 of her children from the burning building that was on the verge of collapse, but she certainly has. She did not have to write any book or return to the bleeding grounds of her degrading past life, but she did, and speaking as an advocate for wellness, we are grateful to her for sharing her experience and we (as a concerned society) are so very fortunate that she still has it in her to speak up. It's always the simplest of words coming from the simplest of hearts that are the most profound.

Carolyn Jessop's book entitled *Escape* was an interesting look at life in a polygamous cult in the middle of the United States. Her daring escape with eight children in tow was amazing and hard to believe in our culture today. *Triumph* is about her activities during the Texas rescue of the FLDS children, her lessons in life that carried her into the free world and some entertaining anecdotes during her life as the FLDS Texas Bishop's youngest wife. My favorite was about Carolyn and her friends sneaking off to work out at Curves. In *Triumph*, Carolyn details what it took to succeed and break away from the FLDS, how she found true love with an extraordinary man, how each of her children developed into their own person and the heartbreak of her eldest daughter returning to the cult after her eighteenth birthday. She doesn't sugar coat her struggles, but really gives readers concrete tools that anyone can use to overcome adversity in their lives. A truly enjoyable well written book with grace and charm.

I enjoyed this sequel to Caroline Jessop's autobiography, *Escape*. This book tells of her difficult life after leaving the FLDS and her abusive husband Merrill Jessop. Caroline worked very hard to provide for her eight children, and acclimatize them to normal life outside The Church. Her eldest daughter Betty wanted to return to her father and eventually did so and refuted Caroline's statements. Caroline became a political consultant on this sect, especially during the raid of the YFZ ranch in Texas where the group had built a new temple. She also spoke out against Warren Jeffs who had taken over as the living Prophet of the sect. Her ex-husband Merrill sued for custody which he lost and also owed thousands in child support which he did not pay. He was imprisoned with

Jeffs for his crimes. Caroline is an amazingly strong selfless woman who sought a better life for her own children and all the victims of the sect. She eventually found a true romance and a man who could properly love her children. She richly deserves a happy life. This is an excellent book both on a personal level but about the FLDS as well.

A great overview of the faith and its practices. So glad Carolyn was determined enough to use her 'own mind' and decipher good from evil. I truly appreciate her ability to share with others the very real indignities that were attributed to her and am glad that I know a little more about this blasphemous 'religion.' Some opinions are that 'all' religions are 'good' as long as they point to a loving God. Hmm.... this reminds me to think with my whole mind and spirit - not just follow blindly the beliefs held by others. Thanks, Carolyn.

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