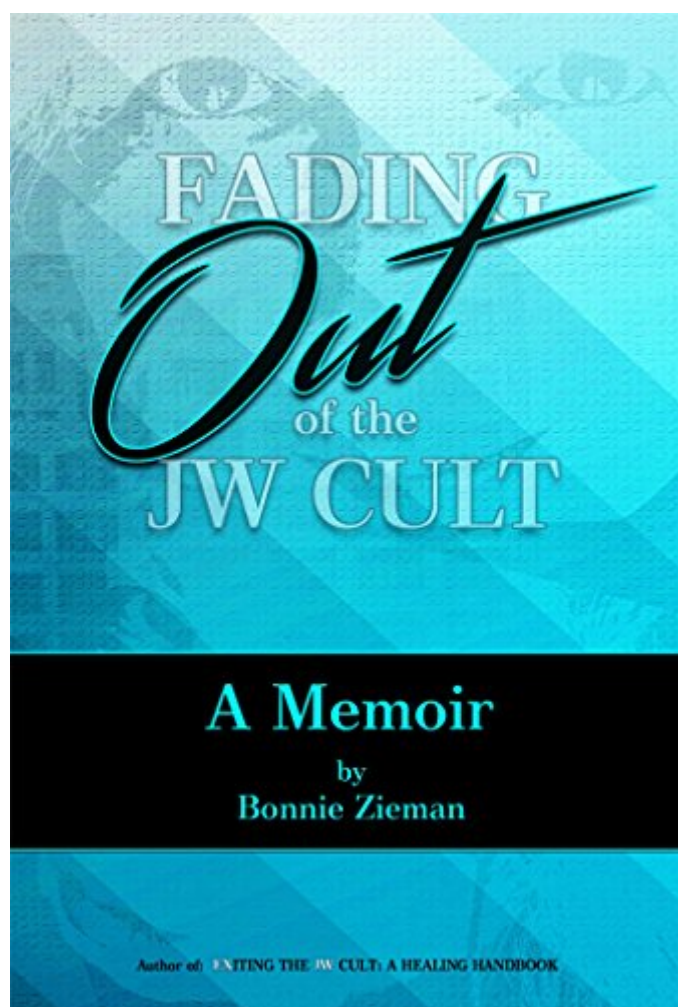


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# Fading Out Of The JW Cult: A Memoir



## Synopsis

Bonnie Zieman was raised to believe she would live forever in an earthly paradise as a survivor of the impending Battle of Armageddon, but when a Jehovah's Witness childhood friend died at the age of ten, that belief was irrevocably shattered. So began Bonnie's long journey to break free of the Jehovah's Witnesses. In this engrossing memoir, the retired psychotherapist chronicles her many years of indoctrination as a repressed and unhappy Witness trying to find a way out without tearing her whole life apart. Her experiences provide vital insights for those attempting to understand what it's like to live under the destructive influence of an all-controlling cult, despite having doubts. Bonnie Zieman goes on to describe her process of creating a life outside the Jehovah's Witness cult, dealing with the enforced separation from her birth family, getting an education, and building her private practice as she and her husband raise three children. Enhanced by her perspective as a psychotherapist, *Fading Out of the JW Cult* discusses the effects of groupthink, undue influence, mind control, cognitive dissonance, family dynamics, and social isolation, and will empower anyone struggling to exit or recover from an abusive situation.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I just finished reading Bonnie Zieman's memoir, *Fading Out of the JW Cult*, and I would highly recommend this book. What makes her story so special is that the protagonist is an experienced psychotherapist. While sharing her story, she explains the psychological manipulation at play in trying to shape her personality. In my opinion, Bonnie's 2016 memoir is a must-read book for anyone who wants to understand how the Watchtower (intentionally) and family (mostly well-intentioned) manipulates children and teenagers of Jehovah's Witnesses. If David Letterman was reviewing Bonnie's memoir on his *Late Night Show*, he would normally present ten reasons for why the public should read her book. But because we have familial and non-familial (a cult) at play unduly influencing Bonnie, I have decided to enlarge the list to fifteen, which are from 15 to one: 15. You will get to meet Bonnie's paternal grandfather, who was the epitome of a true believer, putting his three young sons in an orphanage so he could proselytize the teachings of Charles Taze Russell in eastern Canada. Not a good omen for Bonnie's father (familial) and his potential parenting skills<sup>14</sup>. If you did not already know it, Canadian Watchtower executives do love their body massages as Bonnie's young, naïve massage therapist mother discovered.<sup>13</sup>. Believe it or not, Armageddon was just around the corner in 1941, but Bonnie's parents ignored Judge Rutherford's warnings not to marry or have children because the end was so close. You will be delighted to learn how they chose to spend their time, instead of preaching doom-and-gloom for non-JW believers at Armageddon.<sup>12</sup>.

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