

Perfect Children: Growing Up on the Religious Fringe

In **Perfect Children: Growing Up on the Religious Fringe**, journalist and author Stacey Patton tells the stories of six young people who grew up in fundamentalist religious communities. These young people share their experiences of growing up in a world where their every move was scrutinized, where they were taught to believe that their only worth came from their obedience to God, and where they were punished for any sign of individuality or independence.

Patton's book is a powerful and moving account of the challenges these young people faced, and the resilience they showed in overcoming them. It is a story of faith, family, and the search for identity.

The six young people featured in **Perfect Children** come from a variety of religious backgrounds. There is Sarah, who grew up in a strict Pentecostal community, where she was taught that women were inferior to men and that her only purpose in life was to serve her husband. There is David, who was raised in a fundamentalist Christian cult, where he was subjected to physical and emotional abuse. There is Mary, who grew up in a Jehovah's Witness community, where she was taught that the end of the world was imminent and that only those who followed the Jehovah's Witness teachings would be saved.

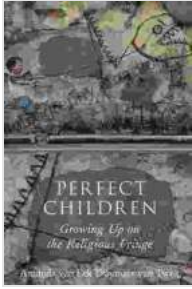
Perfect Children: Growing Up on the Religious Fringe

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 881 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled



Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting: Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 270 pages
Lending : Enabled



Despite their different backgrounds, these young people share a common experience of growing up in a world that was both suffocating and isolating. They were taught to believe that their only worth came from their obedience to God, and that any sign of individuality or independence was a sin. They were punished for questioning their beliefs, and they were cut off from the outside world.

As a result of their upbringing, these young people struggled to develop a healthy sense of self-esteem and independence. They were afraid to express their own opinions, and they were often unable to make decisions for themselves. They were also haunted by feelings of guilt and shame, and they believed that they were unworthy of love and happiness.

Despite the challenges they faced, the young people featured in **Perfect Children** eventually found a way to break free from the religious communities that had held them captive. They did this through a variety of means, including education, therapy, and support from friends and family.

Sarah, for example, was able to break free from her Pentecostal community after she went to college and met people who challenged her beliefs. David was able to break free from his fundamentalist Christian cult

after he was kicked out of the community for questioning the teachings of the cult leader. Mary was able to break free from her Jehovah's Witness community after she met a man who showed her that there was more to life than the Jehovah's Witness teachings.

The journey to freedom was not easy for these young people. They faced opposition from their families and communities, and they had to overcome their own fears and doubts. But they persevered, and they eventually found a way to create a life for themselves that was true to their own values.

Perfect Children is an important book because it sheds light on the experiences of young people who grow up in fundamentalist religious communities. These young people often face unique challenges, and they need our support.

If you know someone who is growing up in a fundamentalist religious community, please reach out to them and let them know that you care. You can also support organizations that work to help young people who are leaving fundamentalist religious communities.

Together, we can help these young people break free from the religious communities that have held them captive and create a life for themselves that is true to their own values.

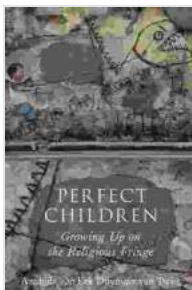
Stacey Patton is a journalist and author who has written extensively about religion and spirituality. She is the author of several books, including

Perfect Children: Growing Up on the Religious Fringe and **Rethinking Fundamentalism: The Case for a More Compassionate Approach**.

Patton is a regular contributor to The New York Times, The Washington

Post, and The Atlantic. She has also appeared on NPR, CNN, and MSNBC.

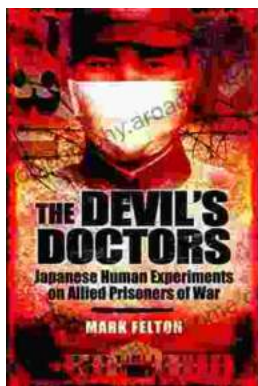
Patton's work has been praised for its insights into the lives of people who live on the fringes of society. She has been called "a gifted storyteller" and "a compassionate and thoughtful guide to the complexities of faith."



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