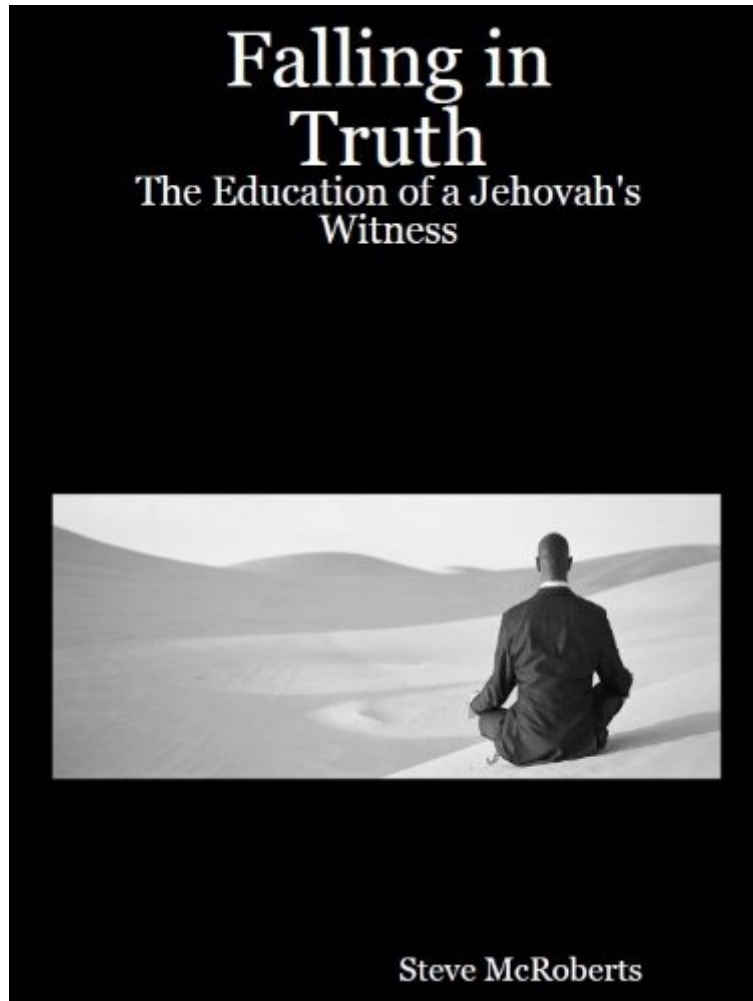


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Falling In Truth: The Education Of A Jehovah's Witness



Synopsis

A young man falls headlong into religious zeal at an age when he should be falling in love. He meets a wise old elder and falls deeper into the truth about religion. But he also meets a young woman and falls in love. When tragedy strikes he discovers a fatal conflict between his religion and his love, and he is forced to make a life-altering choice. This is a book that will help people understand the lifestyle and thinking of Jehovah's Witnesses. It also gives practicing Witnesses a great deal to ponder. Although this is a novel, it is based on real-life experiences and delves more deeply and objectively into religious beliefs than many non-fiction works on the subject.

Book Information

File Size: 1605 KB

Print Length: 472 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publication Date: June 3, 2011

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00548AJJO

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #771,149 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #33

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Customer Reviews

I thought I knew how to debate the Bible until I read this book. Steve McRoberts completely humbled me with the Scriptural debates that take place between brilliant, wise, patient Brother Olsen and the two--pardon me--well-informed jackasses seeking elder status. Some parts of the debates went over my head! But that only means I'll have the pleasure of re-reading the story, and then reading it again, until I can follow the argumentation. Both sides were so well-presented, in

each debate, that I sometimes felt my belief system wobbling on shaky legs at the end of a reading. Brilliantly done, in that respect. I loved the characterization, as well, especially the passion of Cyn Rose, and the accurate portrayal of sincere blind devotion and constant state of self-delusion that form the mentality of a Witness. Problems (which prevented me from giving the book five stars): The genre-mismatched title, which misleads one into thinking one is buying a non-fiction book when, in fact, the content is packaged in fictional form; and the grammatical mistakes that could have been eliminated if McRoberts had secured the eye of an expert grammar editor before publication. (As a writer, I understand how the brain plays tricks on us as we self-edit; we see right when wrong is on the page, and vice-versa, even when we know what ought to be there.) McRoberts's mistakes include, but are not limited to, his repeatedly writing "the Johnson's" when it should be "the Johnsons," or including parenthetical scriptural citations inside quoted comments--you can't do that; it's not a Watchtower article (smile). These little things are annoying to those of us who know.

First off I should temper my 5 stars by saying that parts of this book may be tedious for people who aren't actively questioning their faith, as certain chapters go very in depth with theological debates. However, these sections are also a large part of what makes this book so valuable to what I presume is its intended audience. This book is a stunning combination of personal narrative and theological debate. I don't know how much of it actually happened- I presume most of it, from the author's introduction- but the personal story is incredibly moving and very well told. The debates over religious doctrine and related beliefs are even more valuable, as it lays out several key areas of doctrine and discusses them thoroughly and logically in an informed way, with both sides of the debate well represented in most cases. It demonstrates really well how and why very intelligent and well informed people can hold contrasting views. I also appreciated how no particular conclusion was 'pushed', although the arguments against the bible and creation were not given the same equal treatment as earlier issues. This was a downside for me- I wish proper responses to the questions regarding the Bible's inconsistencies had been covered. However, since it's an autobiography, I guess that's fair enough if they weren't given in real life. One book can't necessarily answer all the questions it raises, and it was not in the scope of the story to do so. Major food for thought, though. I had mixed feelings about its' being a 'fictionalized account'- the author says in the introduction that everything of significance really happened, and no doctrines etc have been misrepresented- which is fine, but I found myself wondering to what extent it was fact or fiction.

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