

MAGGIE RAYNER

IN POLYGAMY'S SHADOW

From a Mormon Childhood
to a Life of Choice



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A journey filled with grief, loss, and finally, resolution.

“In Polygamy’s Shadow” draws the reader into a hidden world that few outside the Mormon faith know anything about - but want to. It is an entertaining, yet emotional and informative read that answers questions about the practices and secrets of the Mormon church.

An account of growing up in a mainstream Mormon family on the west coast of British Columbia, it details through the author’s experiences how the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) is closely aligned with polygamist Mormon communities, and how the two intersect.

Readers will be surprised to learn about the true origins of the wealthy, multi-national Mormon corporation and the real reason why polygamy was introduced into the religion.

The author was promised to the church in a blood oath sworn by her parents before she was born. Loyalty to church was at the expense of personhood and of the family. The narrative follows her journey as an unwilling participant in the faith, to the inevitable choice between family and freedom.



MAGGIE RAYNER lives in Vancouver on the West Coast of British Columbia. Sailing, creating beautiful interiors, and biking endure as passions; small indulgences include maple walnut chocolates, chai tea lattes, and live theater. She has worked as an artisan and designer, and in marketing and law.

“Maggie Rayner has produced an engaging and immediate memoir of growing up Mormon in late-20th Century British Columbia . . . a snapshot of a religious community riven by its tumultuous history, still haunted by the shadow – and occasionally the reality – of polygamy. It is also a compelling story of a strong and spirited girl caught in a world in which she could not live, and her dawning realization that she must leave.”

Craig E. Jones, Q.C., BGS, LL.B., LL.M.
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