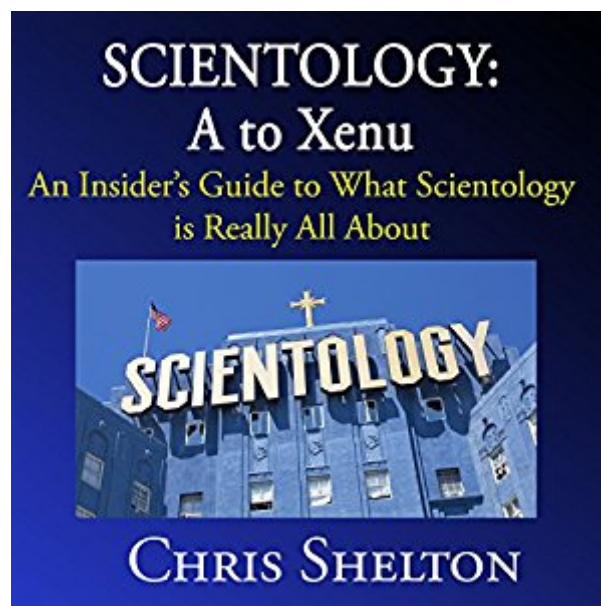




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Scientology: A To Xenu: An Insider's Guide To What Scientology Is All About



Synopsis

What is Scientology really? Behind the glossy logos and sleek advertisements and South Park parodies, what do Scientologists really believe and practice? Is it really a religion? Who was L. Ron Hubbard, and why did he start it in the first place? Is their technology for real or just so much New Age pseudoscience? Former insider Chris Shelton grew up in Scientology and worked for it for 25 years. This critical analysis covers the key aspects of its beliefs, practices, and structure from the bottom to the top, including not just the confidential Xenu story but details of all of the upper-level scriptures. Chris goes into detail about what goes on inside Scientology churches, why its members get involved in the first place, and what it takes to get out should someone decide to leave. An informative guide for anyone who has been involved with Scientology in the past as well as anyone who wants to understand what it's really all about.

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Customer Reviews

Factual, very readable. As a fellow former insider I found very little to quibble with on his factual presentation. It has enough detail to convey the facts without getting bogged down too much in unnecessary side excursions. As a fellow recovering Scientologist I found his chapter on getting free from Scientology to be invaluable. It is hard to get outside myself and imagine what someone completely new to the subject might experience reading this book, but I think they would find it very valuable. There is even a brief section on how to help your friends or relatives that are trapped in the cult. If you read that, and follow up with reading some of the references you could help someone quite a lot. Finally, why Scientology? Why not read about warm puppies or sunsets instead?

Factually Scientology is a tiny footnote in the history of obscure religious excesses and would not be long for the world if the criminal justice system was a little more active. Next year it may be even less. But the flaws in the human psyche that made Scientology possible, and which also drive far more active and dangerous movements, are still with us and will probably always be with us. We can read about the silly things Scientologists believe and laugh, but belief in silly things is not what makes them dangerous. It is what they do, the damage they cause in their ignorance and fanaticism, the terrible cost in human lives and sanity, that makes them worthy of study. Chris has done a good job of making it understandable, and showing how intelligent and successful people can get sucked in along with the hopeless losers.

Chris does excellent current work defining Scientology. He reached only continental management staff positions though. But his communication skills and understanding and ability to relay simply the world of Scientology are excellent, the best there are currently. He gives countless really helpful recent interviews for this 21st century staffers of Scientology on his YouTube channel. Some of Chris' videos on YouTube are the best simplest explanations of the various management echelons of current Scientology. All I wish would have happened, is Chris rose higher and that Chris knew more history of the evolution of Scientology, but there are other books for covering the high points of Scientology's and Hubbard's history. This is a good current reference book, although highly critical of Scientology, but Scientology being a bogus subject that is parading as a religion, that makes Chris' conclusions all very accurate. Chuck Beattyex dupe longer term Sea Org member of a tiny earlier generation than Chris' tenure as Sea Org member was 1975-2003 (Flag Service Org, Flag Command Bu (middle management), INCOMM (computer branch), ASI (fake literary agency serving dead Hubbard's estate), RPF - the thought reform program when you inevitably realize Scientology's a futile loser cult)

GREAT READ. Chris really did some investigation on areas that need a light shone on them. He really tackled them. A good read for those who have been in. Explained a lot. If you spent any time with this group, you need to read this. A must read for anyone considering getting involved.

Very informative book! I became interested in learning about Scientology when Katie Holmes started dating Tom Cruise and people in LA were wearing "Free Katie" shirts. I didn't get the joke and looked into it and was really fascinated by how many people considered "science and aliens" a real religion. After South Park, Scientology was again in the news and I was again gripped by the

HOW of this religion. I have a great deal of empathy for people who were in Scientology like Chris Shelton and having worked in nonprofit for many years I can almost relate to the "give yourself up for a cause" way of life. I thought this book was really interesting and laid out very well. I would have liked a little more emotion and personal story in this book but after reading to the end I can now see how Scientologists are continually taught to not show or even feel emotions. I cannot even fathom how strange and dysfunctional interpersonal relationships within this cult must be without the ability to feel and talk openly! This was a really good book that flowed well and kept my interest throughout. This is a great read for non Scientologists like me that never run out of questions and fascination with this cult! I will continue to have great respect for the courageous folks that cut ties with Scientology and reclaim their freedom to think for themselves and move on with real life again like Chris Shelton has!

Chris has emerged as a unique and much needed relatively new--and supremely articulate--voice among scientology watchers and activists. Those of us familiar with the cult have seen the stories of the ones who fled the organization, the histories of the "church" as well as the exposes of various aspects of it. As a former cult member of almost 3 decades, he has certainly lived it. And he has spent his recovery from the experience wisely, consciously and highly intelligently. What makes Chris' book unique is the fact that he actually educates about various aspects of this commercial enterprise disguised as a church. In addition to this book, Chris continues to provide a slew of videos (in the expected places online) providing education, discussing destructive cults in general, doing Q&A and educating about critical thinking in general. They are well worth following online.

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