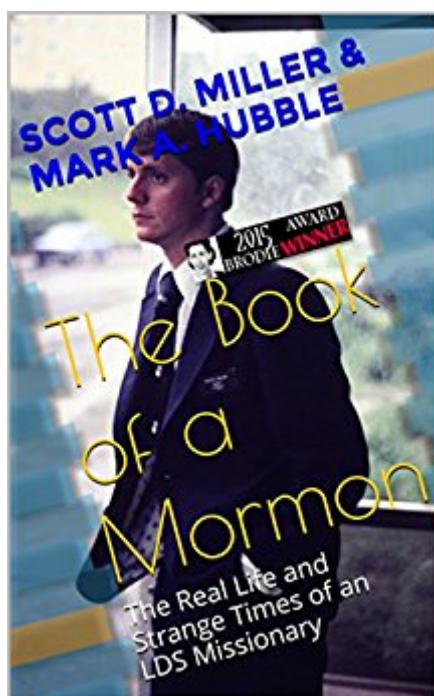


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The Book Of A Mormon: The Real Life And Strange Times Of An LDS Missionary



Synopsis

WINNER OF THE 2015 BRODIE AWARD FOR BEST LDS NON-FICTION One day I was surfing the sunny shores of Southern California. The next, I was marching in lockstep through the dark, snow-strewn streets of Sweden. Clad in an ill-fitting cheap blue suit I carried a Book of Mormon in my pocket. I was tasked with nothing less than saving the country of "godless fornicators from certain moral destruction." You've seen us. We are impossible to miss. We are iconic, and now even celebrated in a nine times over, Tony Award winning Broadway musical, The Book of Mormon. Most are boys, some girls. We always travel in pairs. Impeccably groomed, always smiling and polite, you can't mistake us for anyone else. And, if you haven't met us already, we will soon be coming to knock on a door near you. I know. I was one of them. This is my story. Although raised in the LDS faith, nothing could have prepared me for what I experienced. My world was turned upside down. Nothing was as I expected: the country, the work, my fellow missionaries, and most of all, the Church. Had I not gone through the experience myself, I honestly would not believe a word of what follows. And yet, it's true. Every last bit.

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Customer Reviews

My sister recommended this book to me once she realized the author served his mission in Sweden about the same time you were there. In reading the author's excellent memoir I was transported back to this same time and place. I went from a "normal" college freshman to a wearing a blue suit on an old bike with a 30's style "Dick Tracy" fedora in the middle of a Swedish winter. Talk about culture shock. Scott and I didn't cross paths in Sweden either literally (never in the same city) or metaphorically. I dedicated myself to being "on the program," spending countless hours going door-to-door (with little success) and moving up the ranks of mission leadership. I now have very ambivalent feelings about the experience. I have great respect for the dogged determination and commitment of my younger self doing the best he could with what he understood to be true at the time. Valued friendships were formed with companions, leaders and LDS Swedish members. However, I now recognize that emotional zeal can deceive us more often than it informs us and that blind obedience isn't a virtue. I then feared exercising independence and sovereignty over my own thinking and now consider this among my highest values. Thanks again Scott for so openly and bravely sharing your story about this time in our lives. Amazing that with such different paths we ultimately ended up at the same destination. Tack so mycket.

I read Scott's book riveted to each page, re-living my own mission experience with all too familiar pangs of "feeling homesick, pushed around, bored, bullied, beaten down, deprived, ignored, forgotten, judged, (and) condemned." Scott's emotionally captivating book will enlighten those unaware of a troubling side of a being a Mormon missionary and give validation to those missionaries who experienced an abusive mission culture. I enjoyed Scott's candid and explicit language and his real world view of a distorted and archaic way of proselytizing. I laughed, I cried. I related. I entered the MTC June 9, 1978 the day after the priesthood revelation. I thought that would solve some issues I had. Little did I know that my positive views on Mormonism would be forever tarnished. Thank you Scott for helping me feel better after 35+ years!

Thoroughly enjoyed the book. Scott does an excellent job in candidly explaining how LDS missions

work and the possible effects they can have on the individuals that serve them. My favorite part of the book was the realization that came upon Scott when he meets Stefan Petersson and he's taught a lesson in humility and the true value of serving others during missions (spoiler: it has nothing to do with teaching them the "true" gospel). It was also very interesting and fun to read about the Swedish culture and why it was particularly difficult for the LDS church to make any inroads to convert anyone to the religion. It also made a lot of sense to me why Sweden was hit so hard when members began to question church history and a "Swedish Rescue" was necessary. Thanks Dr. Miller for publishing this book and I can only hope others will follow your footsteps to bring more light to what is truly important in our relationship with others and God.

When have missionaries not gone through the bubble of finding out there is a real world out there that does not feel a need for religion? This 19 year old took us along in real time...the raw truth, the good, the bad & the ugly of what a Mormon mission experience accomplishes for all concerned....He evokes questions on all levels for everyone contemplating on going on a mission as well as those who are in charge in management of missions. In all aspects, This was pure enlightenment, the Swedish element was mesmerizing...My "bookie" lover devoured his prose...I visualized being in the momentum of being right there as he was experiencing all the dynamics of emotions, interpersonal relationships, trials, humiliations, as well as poignant moments....funny as well... I highly recommend this insight into The Book of a Mormon.

As the mother of two former Mormon missionaries, I found this book compelling and heart-breaking. Scott Miller was there - he lived it, and he describes his experience in captivating detail. It was a quick read for me because once I started reading, I couldn't put the book down. It's a riveting story filled with hope, despair, heroes and villains. I hope Scott's missionary experience isn't typical. I fear, however, the cognitive dissonance, loneliness and humiliation he experienced is more common than we would like to admit. I wish this book could be read by every potential missionary and by their parents as well. It is an important documentation of what "the best two years" might actually entail. This is a revealing account of one missionary's experience along with a fascinating glimpse into mormon history and doctrine. I recommend it without reservation.

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