



Banished: Surviving My Years in the Westboro Baptist Church

By Lauren Drain

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Banished: Surviving My Years in the Westboro Baptist Church By Lauren Drain

-Now a *New York Times* bestseller-

You've likely heard of the Westboro Baptist Church. Perhaps you've seen their pickets on the news, the members holding signs with messages that are too offensive to copy here, protesting at events such as the funerals of soldiers, the 9-year old victim of the recent Tucson shooting, and Elizabeth Edwards, all in front of their grieving families. The WBC is fervently anti-gay, anti-Semitic, and anti-practically everything and everyone. And they aren't going anywhere: in March, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of the WBC's right to picket funerals.

Since no organized religion will claim affiliation with the WBC, it's perhaps more accurate to think of them as a cult. Lauren Drain was thrust into that cult at the age of 15, and then spat back out again seven years later. **BANISHED** is the first look inside the organization, as well as a fascinating story of adaptation and perseverance.

Lauren spent her early years enjoying a normal life with her family in Florida. But when her formerly liberal and secular father set out to produce a documentary about the WBC, his detached interest gradually evolved into fascination, and he moved the entire family to Kansas to join the church and live on their compound. Over the next seven years, Lauren fully assimilated their extreme beliefs, and became a member of the church and an active and vocal picketer. But as she matured and began to challenge some of the church's tenets, she was unceremoniously cast out from the church and permanently cut off from her family and from everyone else she knew and loved. **BANISHED** is the story of Lauren's fight to find herself amidst dramatic changes in a world of extremists and a life in exile.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Banished is an insightful and candid testimony by a brave young woman who even now refuses to speak ill of the family who has disowned her." -*Landmark Report*

"Provides important insights into how fundamentalist movements attract and reprogram eager seekers, and the psychological effort required for survivors to adapt to life outside their reality-distortion field." -*The Daily Beast*

"Her narrative of these horrifying pickets are detailed ("we became almost possessed")" -*Publishers Weekly*

"Provides a disturbing look into the fringe group." -*USA TODAY*

"In gripping detail, [Drain] reflects on her fall from grace, how it opened her eyes and how she's built a new life filled with love, not hate. Three out of four stars."

?People

From the Author

I have dedicated this book to my siblings, whom I still hold incredibly dear to my heart and who were my inspiration for writing this book. Although I will never again hold up a sign judging another person, I want you each to know that I have not lost faith in God. I believe love of family is one of the most incredible and precious things in life and a gift from God.

I will forever miss and love you, my sweet **Faithy Marie**, who I know I will never get to know as I deserve to, being your eldest sister. To this day, I can hear your cute little voice in my head saying "I love you, Sissy," as you hugged and kissed me before bed each night, as if it were yesterday. I wish I hadn't missed a single day of you growing up, as it was such a pleasure to watch.

Boaz Abel, you are my only brother and have the sweetest little personality, always wanting to take care of young Faithy and protect her, even when you were as young as a toddler. I remember you always running around the house, dressing up in costumes, begging me to take you to fun places, and sneaking down into my room when I was studying. I will never forget the look on your face when I came back to the house after being kicked out, or that you grabbed me tightly when we both knew we wouldn't see each other again. You are such a sweet boy with tremendous potential, and I hope one day you will see that God's love is not celebrated through hate.

Taylor, you are a grown woman now, but I can honestly say I will always see you as my little sister and closest friend for six-teen years of my life. The sadness I have over our separation is beyond what words can express. The things we have been through together honestly surpass any bond I have achieved thus far in my life. I remember you sitting every day in your cute little crib always smiling at me when Mom and I came to visit you at the hospital. You have always been incredibly smart, and I remember studying in high school and college and realizing your potential was beyond mine. I wish I could have been there for you on every

special occasion, birthday, and graduation to show you how proud of you I am.

I hope you do not hold regrets against me and know I will always be here if and when you are ready to pursue the real love of God and discover the love of family. I love and miss each of you.

About the Author

LAUREN DRAIN works as a registered nurse. She lives with her fiancé in Connecticut, where she enjoys outdoor activities including endurance races, hiking, dirt biking, and camping. The two also love to travel and explore both the US and other countries together. Lauren now speaks against the WBC, posed for **NOH8 Campaign** and supports the **Wounded Warrior Project**. This is her first book. LISA PULITZER is a former correspondent for *The New York Times*. She is the author and co-author of more than a dozen non-fiction books, including the bestselling *Stolen Innocence*.

Users Review

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Michael Battle:

This Banished: Surviving My Years in the Westboro Baptist Church are usually reliable for you who want to be a successful person, why. The reason of this Banished: Surviving My Years in the Westboro Baptist Church can be one of many great books you must have is definitely giving you more than just simple examining food but feed anyone with information that perhaps will shock your before knowledge. This book is usually handy, you can bring it just about everywhere and whenever your conditions throughout the e-book and printed kinds. Beside that this Banished: Surviving My Years in the Westboro Baptist Church giving you an enormous of experience such as rich vocabulary, giving you demo of critical thinking that we all know it useful in your day activity. So , let's have it appreciate reading.

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Alvin Reed:

Often the book *Banished: Surviving My Years in the Westboro Baptist Church* has a lot details on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of help. The book was compiled by the very famous author. The writer makes some research ahead of write this book. This kind of book very easy to read you can obtain the point easily after perusing this book.

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