

Inside Scientology: The Story of America's Most Secretive Religion Study Guide

**Inside Scientology: The Story of America's Most
Secretive Religion by Janet Reitman**

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Plot Summary

"Inside Scientology" is an in depth, albeit critical, look at the religious movement known as Scientology. Journalist Janet Reitman follows the religion throughout history to discover the inner workings of a controversial faith from its humble beginnings to its rise in power, slow breach with reality, and its near ending.

The author begins with an examination of the founder, L. Ron Hubbard, a science fiction writer who first found fame through his Dianetics therapy alternative to psychoanalysis. When he lost the rights to Dianetics, he reinvented it as a religion known as Scientology. From its beginnings, Scientology was designed as a tool for individuals to achieve higher self worth, more self-confidence, and an overall happier life. This was done through a series of audit sessions that helped the person overcome their weaknesses. At first, the movement was successful, but over time, L. Ron Hubbard began to seemingly lose his grip on reality. Feeling persecuted, he moved his base to ships on the ocean, creating his own world. He believed others were spying on him and were out to see the downfall of Scientology. Anxious for more followers, Hubbard "researched" and eventually discovered higher OT levels or higher levels of being where he claimed the secrets to the universe existed.

Scientology combated the IRS, the psychiatric systems, journalists, all government, many religions, and almost all other institutions both here and abroad. Hubbard arranged infiltration schemes where his own people would be inserted into almost every branch of government, where they would steal documents, and attempt to cover up any negative views of Scientology or any investigations into its finances. As a tax-exempt non-profit organization, Hubbard was always concerned that someone would show his own profit from his "church." Always seeking acceptance in the world, Hubbard continued his decline to the point where he no longer communicated with others, but instead used a series of messengers who spoke for him. One such messenger was David Miscavige, who eventually became one of the few people who had any access to Hubbard as he went into isolation. Over time, nearly all matters related to Scientology went through Miscavige prior to reaching Hubbard. It was no surprise, then, that after Hubbard's death, Miscavige took over. Unlike Hubbard, Miscavige cared little for public opinion. Although both men were prone to paranoia, Miscavige was also prone to violence and cruelty. Under his reign, Scientology became military like in its order, and prison like in its day to day operations. Miscavige cared little for the science of Scientology or the human aspect of the church, but focused solely on income. His elevation of celebrities over life long members of the church, his constant shifting of power among his staff, his inhumane treatment of staff members, and his complete lack of regard for anyone led many in the church to abandon the institution and escape the long arm of Miscavige and his leaders. Many of those who escaped still believe in Hubbard's teachings and many have launched their own Scientology networks, bypassing Miscavige, and bringing the focus back to Hubbard's original ideas.

"Inside Scientology" provides an in depth look at the religion from its origins to its near collapse and examines the forces that made and broke the church. Although somewhat

critical in nature, the book does shed light on one of the most controversial religions in the world today.



Introduction

Introduction Summary and Analysis

In the Introduction, author Janet Reitman discusses her own brief encounter with Scientology. She was shown an introductory video to Scientology and interviewed by a church member. Reitman agreed to attend the introductory auditing course and afterwards, she began her research into the church of Scientology.

L. Ron Hubbard created Scientology in 1954 and the church now claims millions of members in over 165 countries. Its real estate holdings alone are worth billions. Whereas some hail it as one of the most important religious movements of all time, others classify it as a cult and a danger to society. In the United States, where it was born, Scientology has protection as a religion, but is generally seen as a spiritual philosophy, whose primary tenant is that the human self can be perfect and that in finding this perfection, one can obtain immortality, supernatural powers, and attain a godlike status. Members are charged for each step on their way to finding their perfect self. Many of the current members in the church are second or third generation, as their parents and grandparents helped found the church. Some are famous, such as Tom Cruise, while most are simply everyday people. They all believe in Hubbard's "tech" or his technology to discover spiritual perfection.

Although the church claims they are growing, studies show that Scientology is rapidly declining. Given tax exempt status as a church in 1993, Scientology is protected by the federal government in terms of releasing information about its finances or membership. However, a rise in the number of outspoken ex-Scientologists suggest a church that is not only declining, but one that is guilty of civil rights crimes.

Janet Reitman notes her interest in Scientology began as an assignment for her position at Rolling Stone magazine. She continued to research it as she found its mysteries and hidden operations fascinating. Only high ranking members are given the deep truths of Scientology, as members must attain the knowledge through their auditing process, which can take years and thousands of dollars. Reitman admits she seeks to write a non-biased account of the church and lists her various sources for information. She closes the introduction by noting that Scientology is a marginal society, insulated and protected from the outside world, and that its subculture, while seemingly harmless, is authoritarian in nature on the inside.



The Founder and Dianetics

The Founder and Dianetics Summary and Analysis

In "The Founder," Reitman discusses Lafayette Ron Hubbard, the inventor of Dianetics and Scientology. Born in Tilden Nebraska, Hubbard was an imaginative son of a navy officer. He longed for adventure and often embellished his real life with fantastical tales of his achievements. At twenty-seven, Hubbard began writing western and adventure novels, but by 1939, Hubbard, now married with children, began writing science fiction and with the help of John W. Campbell, editor of Astounding Science Fiction magazine, he became a huge success. In his private life, Hubbard continued to dream of joining the military, and eventually convinced them to accept him. At the end of WWII, Hubbard followed other science fiction writers to the home of Jack Parsons, leader of the rocket program at CalTech. Parsons was an occultist, with a strong belief in the Thelema belief system of Aleister Crowley. Soon, Parsons and Hubbard became close, although Hubbard stole Parson's mistress, Sara Northrup (called Betty), even though he himself was still married.

Following an illness which forced Hubbard out of military service, Hubbard claimed to go through a time of intense research on the human mind at the Oak Knoll Naval Hospital. When he returned to Parsons' ranch, the two went into the yacht business. However, Hubbard took the money and ran. While Parsons recovered most of it, he was financially and emotionally drained. Parson sold his ranch, and Hubbard requested increases in his disability pensions to cover his and Betty's living expenses. Hubbard wrote a series of affirmations during this time, where he admitted a struggle with impotence, lying, and exaggeration. He also admitted a belief that he was an adept, an ethereal being who only communicated through a human body.

In "Dianetics," Hubbard began working on a book that would help society erase painful memories. In "sessions," Hubbard used hypnosis to help the patient through their own memories. The core concept of Dianetics is that the analytical mind deals with day to day life, but the reactive mind functions like a glitch in the system, bringing about fear, anxieties, and emotions. Through auditing, a person could call up these reactive mind glitches, and work through them, freeing themselves. Hubbard quickly developed training academies for new licensed Dianeticists, charging \$500 for each person who wished to practice. Auditing sessions cost anywhere from \$50 to \$1000, depending on the auditor and the situation. Hubbard also lectured across the states to promote his new science. Helen O'Brian, a young housewife, soon began following Dianetics with her husband, while others began to question Hubbard's techniques, after several "clear" patients or those deemed free of all reactive issues, had nervous breakdowns. O'Brian, unaware of these situations, began auditing and experienced her birth, her time in her mother's womb, and her time in other lives. She admits now that she felt newly awakened.



Dianetics began earning Hubbard millions, but he quickly spent everything that he made. Hubbard became highly paranoid and angry, accusing his staff of spying, as the New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners began investigating the foundation. Several key proponents began to drop their support, and Hubbard responding by claiming they were Communist sympathizers. Hubbard even accused his wife of the same, as he was now having an affair with Barbara Klowden. Soon, Hubbard had Sara kidnapped by his personal aides and escaped to Cuba with his daughter, Alexis. Months later, Sara gained custody, and the two divorced. Hubbard had nothing to do with either again.

Offered a position on the board of a new Dianetics foundation by Don Purcell, Hubbard returned to the states, but soon resigned, after the board tried to push him into volunteer bankruptcy to save the foundation. To pay the debts, the court ordered the foundations assets auctioned and Purcell was the lead buyer. Hubbard had lost all rights to Dianetics.



The Franchised Faith

The Franchised Faith Summary and Analysis

Within a month, Hubbard had begun his comeback after introducing the E-Meter that could read galvanic skin responses, which he claimed would be used in his new practice called Scientology. Hubbard introduced the human soul as the thetan, which was separate from the human mind, body, or physical world. Thetans had lived for eons but had become trapped in the bodies they inhabited. After a while, they lost their powers and simply became theta beings. Scientology, through auditing, could restore those powers.

Hubbard, now remarried to Mary Sue Whipp, began traveling again. Helen O'Brian and her husband continued to follow Hubbard, opening their own Scientology center. Hubbard admitted in a letter to O'Brian that in order to succeed this time, they needed to convert the concepts of Scientology into religious practice. This would gain them respect, avoid the need for certification as psychological counselors, and grant them tax exempt status. In 1954, the Church of Scientology was incorporated in Los Angeles. Franchises or orgs would open and give 10 percent of their profit to the larger organization called the Hubbard Association of Scientologists International (HASI), which resided in England. This church was controlled by Hubbard, and as a result, so was every franchise. He created the Hubbard Communication Office, which handled the marketing and advertising for the church, and Hubbard profited greatly from his new enterprise. Using Hubbard's top down business model, the church thrived, although critics still thought of Hubbard as a con man.

Hubbard explained in his new Scientology books that man's engrams came from their evolution, and that many were from ancient times. Thetans, upon their bodies death, arrived at implant stations where they underwent a forgetting process, so they could move to the new body. Auditing helped to purge these ideas, thereby freeing the person to move up a spiritual ladder of enlightenment. During this time, Hubbard also wrote to the FBI about the LSD attacks on Scientologists by psychiatrists who wanted to stop the movement. In addition, he wrote a pamphlet purportedly from a nuclear physicist who supported Dianazene for radiation sickness, and then sold the drug in his churches. When the FBI confiscated these drugs, the CIA began investigating the church. Feeling under siege, Hubbard moved the HASI and communications offices to England, to a mansion called Saint Hill Manor. Hand picking an elite audit staff, Hubbard began working on new techniques to help auditors clear their patients, or treat their hidden engrams. Hubbard designed an entire language that supported Scientology, which, ex members note, helped Hubbard to slowly gain control over them. Helen O'Brian and many Dianetics followers, seeing the new religion as a shift from the theories of Dianetics, resigned, and noticed a change in Hubbard as he became irritable and quick tempered. Nibs, his son from his first marriage, also left the church, and in his wake, a new "security check" procedure, or sec, was put into place, where every staff member would undergo a long and extensive audit.



Scientology continued to flourish in the postwar era, and Hubbard was a charismatic, positive leader. However, an interview with the Saturday Evening Post that led to a scathingly negative article, combined with the FDA's seizure of a shipment of E-Meters as dangerous equipment, and with several countries attempts to ban the religion, all served to severely depress and anger Hubbard. In the weeks following these events, Hubbard issued directives to staff to crush all philosophies that completed with Scientology. He claimed he was the sole source of information for Scientology, although clearly most ideas were taken from Crowley, Freud, and others, and many at Saint Hill left, sensing the change in climate. Scientology shifted from a spiritual movement to a "highly regimented parallel universe" (pg. 62) with Hubbard as king.



The Bridge to Total Freedom and Travels with the Commodore

The Bridge to Total Freedom and Travels with the Commodore Summary and Analysis

In "The Bridge to Total Freedom," Jeff Hawkins, the son of a wealthy advertising executive, joined the Scientology movement, as did celebrities such as Leonard Cohen, Jim Morrison, and others. Hawkins himself signed on for communications courses, where he participated in Training Routines designed to help him be more comfortable in social situations. When Hawkins' girlfriend talked of Scientology as a cult, Hawkins left her, as one of Scientology's points showed that those who were against the church were Suppressive Persons, or SPs. Hawkins took a position as a designer in the church's Publications Org in Edinburgh, Scotland. He received auditing for free, but worked every day and most nights, without time off, for little pay. Hawkins learned the ethics of Scientology, as those who were in line with teachings were "in-ethics" and those who were not were "out-ethics". Hubbard soon developed "ethics techs" or formulas to measure one's ethical level. Months after Jeff arrived, a new officer was dispatched to the Publications Org named Doreen Casey. Hubbard had, for months, been trying to find a permanent home for Scientology, and he had discovered that the only safe place was the ocean. As a result, he had purchased a fleet of ships, called the Sea Organization, which for the next ten years, sailed the oceans, and served as Hubbard's base command. Casey had come from the Sea Org, with a directive from Hubbard to increase production. The new regime was military in nature.

Hubbard revealed, in a message to his followers, that he had found a new level of existence, known as Operating Thetan or OT. Hubbard claimed his research had led him through the "Wall of Fire", and the information he gained revealed a band of opponents that Scientology was now at war with. The church employed private investigators to research the lives of bankers, journalists, and politicians Hubbard felt threatened by, and finally, Hubbard included the Federation of Mental Health as an enemy group. All over the world, Scientologists began picketing psychiatric centers. Hubbard's wife, Mary Sue, was made leader of the Guardian's Office, which enforced church policy and safeguarded all things and people related to Scientology. The Guardian's Office became a legal outlet, suing anyone who was contrary to Scientology.

In "Travels with the Commodore," Hawkins travels to Hubbard's flagship, Flag, in order to take a special training course for elite executive prospects. Hawkins and the other students on board eventually signed billion year contracts, and became officers in Sea Org. The church was now promoting the OT levels, of which the most important was OT3. One could not achieve OT3 without extensive auditing, the signing of a waver, and an intensive security check. Hawkins finally reached OT3, and learned that the immense secret was that Xenu, a tyrant who existed 95 million years ago, captured his



enemies on various planets, and banished them in the volcanoes of Earth. He then bombed Earth, killing all life, and leaving only the souls, or thetans, of the deceased. When life appeared on the planet again later, these thetans attached themselves to human bodies. These thetans, Hubbard argued, were the cause of one's problems, and to free the world, each person had to free the body thetans through auditing and the purging of engrams.

To parents of teens in the society, Hubbard was seen as a cult leader, and he fled from port to port, fearing various governments. Arriving back in the states, Hubbard spent nearly a year sequestered in an apartment watching news of the day to see what was going on in modern culture. After a motorcycle accident in 1974, Hubbard returned to the Flag to heal. He created the Rehabilitation Project Force (RPF) and anyone thought to be out of ethics was sent to the detail. On RPF, no one could speak to anyone outside RPF, the crew lived in roach-infested, dirty rooms on mattresses covered in urine stains. Made to clean toilets and the ducts, the staff was often forced to wear boiler suits, even in summer.

By 1975, Hawkins was living in Copenhagen with his wife and was summoned back to the Flag for another training session. Hawkins was in awe at the changes on ship. The military life had gone and had been replaced with a bohemian atmosphere. At the center of power were the Commodore's Messengers, a group of young girls who were children of Scientologists. These messengers were not only Hubbard's personal staff, but also his eyes and ears on ship. These children received little education, and were subjected to Hubbard's now frequent bouts of rage. Many of the girls were sexually active with several members of the ship and in response, Hubbard instituted a no-sex-until-marriage policy. Hawkins was surprised at these changes, but still determined. Hubbard created the Photo Shoot Org to take photos for new publications, aimed at the younger audiences. At the end of 1975, Hubbard and the Sea Org moved to land, settling in the Florida community of Clearwater.



Over the Rainbow and DM

Over the Rainbow and DM Summary and Analysis

In "Over the Rainbow," Reitman discusses the criminal activity of the Scientology organization, in particular, "Operation Snow White." Covert operatives Gerald Wolfe and Michael Meisner were caught attempting to steal documents from a government official's office, leading to an FBI investigation. After Meisner's testimony to the grand jury, FBI agents raided the Church of Scientology's headquarters. At the same time, Hubbard, again paranoid, had moved to a ranch near LA, called simply "W". His staff, particularly the Guardian Office, began keeping internal files of all "enemies" of the church. Over time, Operation Snow White developed, where Branch One sought to plant Scientologists inside the FBI, US Justice Department, Better Business Bureau, the AMA, and other agencies. Once inside, the members were to copy any references to Sociology from the files, bug offices, and launch inside smear campaigns.

Following the Snow White discovery, Hubbard fled to Sparks, Nevada to avoid interrogation. Messengers carried money, supplies, and orders back and forth from "W" to Hubbard and back. Hubbard, several months later, became homesick and forced Mary Sue and the Messengers away from "W," knowing the FBI was watching her. As Hubbard became more restless and paranoid, his staff secured a summer hideout, named "S", in Palm Springs, and another, called "X" in nearby Hemet. Meanwhile, Mary Sue and ten others were federally indicted on charges of burglary, theft, conspiracy, and obstruction of justice. On a plea bargain, Mary Sue and three others received fines of \$10,000 and five years of imprisonment. Hubbard fled Hemet and went into six years of hiding, never to be seen publicly again.

In "DM", Reitman introduces David Miscavige, the man who would eventually take control of Scientology. David Miscavige, or DM for short, was a young Messenger, a crucial aide to Broeker, Hubbard's aide. Born in Philadelphia to Catholic parents, Ron's father was eventually drawn to Scientology to cure Miscavige's asthma and allergies. Miscavige learned to audit when he was twelve, and by sixteen, he was a member of Sea Org. Originally assigned to "W" as a Messenger, Miscavige quickly climbed the ranks. During reorganization to protect Hubbard, the Commodore's Messenger Organization was given full control over Scientology, putting Miscavige at the forefront of power. Hubbard became even more paranoid, believing SPs had infiltrated the Guardians, and he tasked the Messengers to stop the infiltration. As a first action, Miscavige visited Mary Sue and fired her as Controller of the Guardians, dismantling the group. Soon after, a long time Messenger and now Commanding Officer of the Commodore's Messengers, DeDe Voegeding, was removed from her post, supposedly for breaching security. Several other officers with ties to Mary Sue were soon let go while other endured hours of "gang bang" interrogations by several Messengers at once. Those who refused to answer were often physically abused, or held captive until they confessed. Gale Irwin, DeDe's sister, was given DeDe's post, but soon was removed by Miscavige and declared an SP.



Although frightening for long time members of the Sea Org, this disorganized chaos was not seen by members of Scientology in the field. However, in October of 1982, Miscavige announced that all the mission franchises of Scientology would now be owned and operated by the mother church, thereby reducing their ability to generate income for themselves, and increasing income for the group as a whole. All groups were now controlled by the RTC, or Religious Technology Center. In addition, Miscavige began to run the ASI, or Author Services inc, which funneled funds for Hubbard, and took sole control over all communications to and from Hubbard.

In January of 1986, L. Ron Hubbard died at his ranch in California. Surrounded only by the Broekers and a few caretakers, Hubbard spent much of his later life alone. According to the attending Scientologist physician, Hubbard died of a stroke. Miscavige and Broeker assured the public that Hubbard had merely discarded his body, having risen to a state where it was no longer needed. At the time, his successor was not mentioned.



Power is Assumed

Power is Assumed Summary and Analysis

Hubbard failed to name a successor, but many already accepted Miscavige as their leader. Although Broeker had a valid claim to succeed Hubbard, he instead wanted only to pursue raising horses, which he had done during the last several months of Hubbard's life. Quickly, Miscavige took over, demoting anyone with sympathies toward the Broekers and elevating anyone who supported him. Mark "Marty" Rathbun, a friend of Miscavige's, soon rose to the top, helping Miscavige investigate and demote those he saw as unloyal. Miscavige soon began attempts to oust Broeker, demanding that he submit the handwritten documents for OT levels 9-15 that he possessed from Hubbard. When Broeker refused, Miscavige fooled him into thinking the FBI was coming in for a raid, and he and many others secured the documents, and moved them to a "safe" location. Broeker, realizing he was finished, quit Scientology and moved east. For his part, Miscavige made himself Chairman of the Board, the highest position possible, and appointed Rathbun head of the RTC. Miscavige was passionate, like Hubbard, but he lacked the personality, skill, and experience of the previous leader. Having grown up in Scientology, Miscavige knew nothing else. He was not seeking approval, but sought power and obedience.

Although those in the public knew little of this takeover, there were plenty of defectors from the church, many of whom began to sue Scientology by the mid 1980s. Some of these defectors formed the "Free Zone", which was a group of previous Scientologists who began practicing independently. David Mayo, one of the most prominent of the Free Zone, was quickly targeted by Miscavige. The church began a newsletter campaign against him, picketed his center, hired investigators, and harassed him, finally suing him and winning an injunction against him, preventing him from selling Scientology services. But just as thousands fled the church, thousands more stayed, and accepted the new order. To portray the church as a major religion, Miscavige began several new campaigns, and began sponsoring seminars that invited leaders of other major churches, and while this helped them gather mainstream support, the court cases continued. Miscavige succeeded in paying many of the litigants off, but the IRS continued to harass the church, deeming them unqualified to receive tax-free status. Rathbun was given the task to overwhelm the IRS and he succeeded in launching hundreds of lawsuits against the IRS, while simultaneously filing hundreds of requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act. Further, the church created the National Coalition of IRS Whistleblowers to encourage IRS employees to report abuses by their superiors. By 1989, congressional hearings were called to investigate IRS abuses. Eventually, Fred Goldberg, IRS Commissioner, agreed to work personally with Miscavige to work out a deal. A secret settlement was reached, and Scientology was not required to pay back taxes, and all 150 U.S entities of the church were given tax exempt status, as well as all international entities for the church, and all betterment programs. Miscavige had won, and Scientologists now flocked to followed him.



Lisa and Flag

Lisa and Flag Summary and Analysis

In "Lisa," Jeff Hawkins found himself needing to reinvent Scientology, as the battles in court had tarnished its image. He repackaged Dianetics, and thousands began to flock back to the church, including a young housewife named Lisa McPherson. Strong and confident, McPherson still harbored insecurities due to childhood experiences. McPherson married Don Boss, who was violent and abusive, and she was struggling with this when she entered Scientology. She rapidly rose on the Bride to Freedom, and the church encouraged her to leave Boss. Soon, she began working for Barbara Slaughter and her husband, wealthy Scientologists, as a loan officer and she and her new husband Gene Skonetski began amassing wealth. Gene, however, made little money as a registrar for the church, and this soon caused marital problems. When the real estate market crashed, the Slaughter's left town, and McPherson was left single and \$40,000 in debt to the church for auditing sessions. She began working for a local dentist during the day, and for the church at night. Now \$45,000 in debt, she was forced from the church after she quit the Sea Org due to the obedience requirements. In 1990, the Slaughters returned to the area, and rehired McPherson, and within a year, she had her debts paid off and was back in auditing sessions. When the Slaughter's relocated the business to Clearwater Florida, McPherson relocated with them.

In "Flag," Reitman explains that the church choose Clearwater because it was a "city that could be owned" (pg.192). The church bought property in the 1970s under the name of the United Churches of Florida. According to FBI files, the church was running a project named Operation Goldmine, where key media and political leaders were identified as either for or against the church, and then handled accordingly. The people of Clearwater saw the group as a cult, while community leaders held protests, but to no avail. By 1980, the church owned over \$8.9 million in property, and thousands of members came to the city to bask at Fort Harrison, a renovated hotel that served as an elite auditing center. When Slaughter moved to Clearwater, Miscavige, seeing her abilities, asked her to be an ambassador of sorts, and she agreed. As she busied herself in town, McPherson worked tirelessly, pulling in thousands for the church, and donating huge sums herself toward her own auditing. McPherson was plagued by a series of problems, ranging from relationships to work pressures, and her auditing seemed to stall, while her productivity began to falter. Suicidal, McPherson took a leave of absence and checked into Fort Harrison for an intensive audit. She seemed to improve, and she was even declared clear. However, several weeks later, she regressed, and friends in Dallas claimed she talked of leaving the church for good. After a minor car accident, McPherson stripped off her clothes in the street, claiming to be an OT. When taken by ambulance, she claimed she pretended to be crazy because she just needed someone to talk to. McPherson was taken to a local hospital and evaluated, but church officials soon arrived, and asked to take McPherson. Hospital officials had no choice but to let her go.



Seventeen Days and The Greatest Good

Seventeen Days and The Greatest Good Summary and Analysis

In "Seventeen Days," Reitman explains that the McPherson case was certainly not the first where someone became psychotic during auditing. In fact, Hubbard had introduced the "Introspective Rundown" as a way to treat these breaks with reality. What was concerning in McPherson's case was that she was a high ranking person in the church, and that Miscavige himself had declared her a clear. In 1995, Miscavige had taken control of auditing at Flag, directing how auditors should handle their cases, even though Miscavige had limited experience. Instead of handing McPherson over to a hospital or her family, she was taken back to Fort Harrison, and treated by Scientologists with no medical or psychological training. She was given food, water, and vitamins, and left in isolation to "recover". Several of her caretakers noted her condition to higher ups in the church, but no one changed the course of treatment. McPherson was restless, refused to eat, and soon became delirious. She became violent, with foul breath and a fever. Soon after, she regressed to an infantile state, and began wetting the bed. Finally, she stopped moving on her own, and began defecating herself. At this point, McPherson was taken to a hospital, forty-five minutes away. When McPherson arrived, she was pronounced dead.

In "The Greatest Good," Miscavige and his staff quickly emptied the office of the medical liaison for the church, following McPherson's death, knowing police would be coming. Simultaneously, another group quickly cleaned out McPherson's room, and her apartment. The following day, police began their investigation, but find little cooperation as officials continued to try to cover up the situation. The same day, McPherson's mother was phoned by Slaughter, although she was told Lisa died of meningitis. On December 16th, Mrs. McPherson flew to Clearwater, but found nearly all of Lisa's belongings missing and that the Scientologists knew she was coming. The family found little support in Clearwater and the police advised the family to go home.

Nearly a year later, an article in a newspaper caught the attention of a Florida detective with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Allan Strobe. He began helping the Clearwater police and discovered that eight deaths had occurred at Fort Harrison since it opened. However, there was no body. All the bodies had been cremated and there was no signs of a crime scene nor any witnesses or records of what had occurred. The county medical examiner had declared her death the result of an embolism caused by severe dehydration and bed rest, and she strongly implicated church members as responsible parties. The police and detectives submitted their findings to the state prosecutor, and suggested charges of manslaughter. When charges were filed in the case, however, in 1998, the charges were merely neglect of a disabled adult, and practicing medicine without a license. Police and detectives were furious, but prosecutors knew they did not have enough evidence for more charges. During the



case, the medical examiner was bullied into retracting her statements, and the charges were dropped on lack of evidence. In the months to follow, more Scientologists committed suicide following auditing sessions at Fort Harrison, and the church developed a policy to make members sign waivers, noting that psychological problems can happen, and absolving the church of any responsibility. Several ex-Scientologists have now opened their door to current members who are having psychotic episodes.



The Celebrity Strategy and The Seduction of Tome Cruise

The Celebrity Strategy and The Seduction of Tome Cruise Summary and Analysis

In "The Celebrity Strategy," Reitman admits that Project Celebrity, as Hubbard called it in 1955, seeks to gain celebrities as members in the hopes of shining a positive light on the church, thereby increasing membership further. In Hubbard's time, Hemingway, Picasso, Garbo, and Gleason, among others were all targeted. Celebrity centers opened with the express purpose of drawing in high class clientele. Several celebrities dabbled in Scientology, but some, like John Travolta, joined full force. But Travolta was cautious about promoting Scientology in the way Hubbard wanted him to. These same people, however, were vital in spreading the messages of the social causes of Scientology like Narconon, a program to treat drug addiction. Several celebrity members of Narconon swore by its premises, and the program was instituted into several state prisons. Several ad campaigns were completed, using various celebrities that had been convicted of criminal offenses, and the runners during the shoots were also Scientologists. This meant that the celebrities involved had almost constant contact with the Scientology world. The Scientologists would soft sell their religion to these individuals after working with them for several months.

Miscavige, like Hubbard, used similar techniques in recruiting celebrity members. Unlike Hubbard, however, Miscavige demanded that celebrities sell Scientology to others. In return, celebrities were often elevated higher on the Bridge than even the most loyal of Sea Org staff, angering many lifetime Scientology members. However, when members like Travolta began to drift from the church, claiming a disagreement with "management", Miscavige began actively seeking them again, in an effort called the Celebrity Recovery Project. Up and coming stars were lured with auditing sessions about how to obtain an agent, how to effectively communicate, and other skills. Several celebrity members began to feel pressure to endorse the social programs, while others were to campaign against psychiatry. Pressure was placed by celebrities on the government to pressure other governments to accept Scientology as a religion. Travolta even met with Clinton to promote Scientology's Applied Scholastic program.

In "Seduction of Tom Cruise," Reitman describes Cruise in the beginning as a confident movie star. Introduced to Scientology by his first wife, Cruise was private. He was given a personal auditor and many of those he worked with were heavyweight Scientologists. Cruise met Miscavige and the two hit it off. The church even helped Cruise with his divorce of his first wife and in his pursuit of his second wife, Nichole Kidman. Miscavige spent millions to keep Cruise happy, and to make sure nothing ever went wrong with his program. When Cruise reached OT3, however, he was shocked to learn of the sci-fi nature of the level. For some time, he stopped attending the church and Miscavige



blamed Kidman. Miscavige needed Cruise to repair the church's image and members were dispatched to find a way to bring him back in. By 1992, Cruise was again auditing and was even supporting the educational programs of Scientology, and the detoxification program he helped start for first responders of the 9/11 tragedy. Cruise was extremely vocal with his support. He was raised above all other Scientologists by Miscavige and the church even assisted Cruise, according to reports, in choosing a new young wife, Katie Holmes, which helped draw a younger crowd into the church. Cruise's vocal behaviors were not always good, however, in that at times, his comments against other non-Scientologists landed him into trouble and his enthusiasm for the church above all things soon rendered him a risk for movie producers. By the end of 2007, many Scientologists noted the PR of the church was the worst in history due to Cruise and Miscavige's mishandling and due to the insular nature of Scientology.



The Bubble and Int

The Bubble and Int Summary and Analysis

In "The Bubble," Reitman examines the insular nature of Scientology. Natalie Walet is a second generation member of the church. She, like many others, attended a private Scientologist school for grade school where she learned Study technology that she used later in public high school. But when her family moved to Clearwater, Walet learned that the locals despised her religion, and her as a result. She was quickly told about OT3 by locals, which Scientologists are forbidden to read about prior to reaching the level. She began hanging out with the wrong crowd and using drugs, unhappy with her life. At sixteen, she admitted to her parents that she had a drug problem, realizing this wasn't the life she wanted, and they helped her through the Purification Rundown audit. Walet continued to audit, and on graduating high school, she attended college, and lived the life of a normal young adult while still practicing Scientology. She notes now that she can see where the bubble of Scientology could be harmful, but that she herself had lived outside the bubble.

Kendra Wiseman is the opposite of Walet. Wiseman grew up completely isolated from anything not related to Scientology. While her childhood was normal, it existed only in a Scientology world, where everyone she knew and every business she saw was run by Scientology. Her school, like Walet's, was Scientology based, and she thrived in school. She took auditing, and courses to be an auditor herself. By 1997, however, when Wiseman was fourteen, she began visiting a bookstore locally that was owned by a non-Scientologist, and she and a friend began learning about other religions. They began practicing Wicca, and when the church found out, she began being punished. Others were told not to speak with her, and she endured countless abusive sessions with Sea Org members, who had once tried to recruit her, as they do all teenagers. Her parents supported this, fearing Wiseman was losing her faith. Kendra eventually left the church.

Claire Headley, however, not only grew up in Scientology, but was one who succumbed to the Sea Org, of which her mother was a member. Claire grew up at Saint Hill, where she saw her mother for only an hour a day. All children of Sea Org members lived apart from their parents in Cadet Org, where they had little education or supervision. At fourteen, Claire joined the Sea Org, but her stepfather, the leader of a Scientology mission, pushed to have her enrollment postponed until she was sixteen. Then, she was sent to Sea Org, where she remained for fourteen years.

In "Int," Reitman explains that the Sea Org training begins with a boot camp where recruits do physical labor and standard military drills. After graduating, inductees are assigned to a post at a Scientology organization. Claire Headley was posted to Int., or "Gold", the church's film studio. On arrival, Claire learned the base was also the hub of all things Scientology, including all legal matters and ad campaigns. All mail was screened, and no phone calls were allowed, as everything on the base was top secret. Miscavige was also at Int. and Claire was in awe of his control. She was given five



privilege cards for meals, bonuses, paychecks, berthing, and social activities and these were taken away as punishment. Anyone higher up could pull a card, resulting in most staffers being in a constant state of punishment.

In 1992, Claire Headley met Marc and the two soon married. But Claire regretted joining Sea Org as Sea Org members were often prompted to terminate any unplanned pregnancies and Claire herself terminated two. Claire soon rose up the ranks, becoming one of the elite members of management. Tanja Castle, another woman on base, was also a member of the elite, and she and her husband began having problems as Stefan was not part of the higher class on base. After one altercation, Stefan was audited and eventually sent to serve time on the Rehabilitation Project Force. He was there for over two years, while his wife remained at Int. being pressured to divorce Stefan. On his release, Stefan was given a phone by Tanja's mother, and was able to have a phone conversation with his wife, where she admitted she had never signed divorce papers. Tanja had witnessed Miscavige's physical abuse of staffers, and the overall corruption on base, and she urged her husband to come for her. After Tanja's call was discovered, she was sent to a mild version of RPC, and was told that Stefan had defected the Church. When Tanja stated her own decision to leave, they urged to change her mind. After ten hours of auditing and berating, Tanja wrote a disconnection letter to Stefan and signed the divorce papers.



Exodus and What is True For You

Exodus and What is True For You Summary and Analysis

In "Exodus," Miscavige fired all but one of his high ranking staffers by using a game of musical chairs and then decided not to fire them, showing his increasing love of power. For staffers like Marty Rathbun, such behaviors had become common place, as did mass purges of staff members later on. Several key members, like Rathbun, decided to leave on their own. While Tanja was put back on Int., Stefan was offered \$25,000 to keep silent. Months later, Stefan met with the Headleys who had escaped from Int base as well. With their help, Stefan was able to smuggle a letter to Tanja. She called him, and the two arranged an escape plan. One evening, Tanja jumped the fence, was picked up by Stefan, leaving Scientology behind. The Scientologists who have escaped have joined together for support and encouragement. But Scientology continues to flourish, as their real estate holdings increase dramatically. The church buys property, and then leases the property to the local orgs. The local orgs are then responsible for raising money for rent and any renovations needed. Unfortunately, many of these churches fail, and completely lose the money they have invested. Members eventually tire of donating endless funds to the church, and leave.

In "What is True For You," Reitman explains that Scientology is still booming and the church has introduced new rundowns to promote the church. Additionally, a Super Power building has been added at Clearwater, where clients will be able to experience these new rundowns. Membership is difficult to estimate, since the church counts even those who received a single audit session ten years ago as members, but they are now beginning to try and recruit African Americans, thanks to Issac Hayes' influence. In addition, Scientology has forged relationships with groups such as the National Foundation of Women Legislators, and many schools incorporate the study technology. The Purification Rundown was used in first responders to 9/11. Some of these organizations are not even aware that they are in relations with Scientology.

While many of those who left the church have wandered away, many like Rathbun joined a movement called Independent Scientology, where those who disagreed with Miscavige but who supported Scientology were able to come together. Rathbun himself started his own church online, and has been outspoken about Miscavige, but this comes at a price, as his family is harassed by Scientologists. Kendra Wiseman, who left the church years ago, spent much time trying to find something to fill the void. She went to college in Beijing, and began posting on anti-Scientology web sites. She was blacklisted by the church, and her parents abandoned her as a result. She and several others began the "Ex-Scientology Kids" organization, which focuses on helping those who grew up in Scientology leave the church. When she got married, her parents attended the wedding, and although they have mended relationships, they do not speak about Scientology.



Reitman notes that if Scientology is to survive, it must find a way to reconcile with people like Wiseman. There are likely more practicing outside of the church right now than inside, showing that Miscavige is a large part of the problem. Others, however, like Natalie Walet, have remained true to the church and although they admit there are problems, they also note their firm faith. She, like others, points out to defectors that they should have fought for what was right in the church instead of fleeing. Her generation, she notes, can help others see the power of Scientology and can help overcome the negative image the public holds. She notes that it is her personal responsibility to help the cause, as it is for all Scientologists.



Characters

Lafayette Ron. Hubbard

Lafayette Ron Hubbard was born in 1911 in Tilden Nebraska, the only son of a naval officer. From the beginning, Hubbard was prone to excitement and exaggeration and loved to have adventures and tell stories of his amazing deeds, which were often highly embellished. After attending school, he attempted to join the military, but was nearsighted and attended college instead. He led several unsuccessful expeditions to find treasure in the Caribbean, but he did get a pilot's license and spent much time studying aviation. Following college, Hubbard began writing western and adventure novels, but by 1939, Hubbard, now married with children, began writing science fiction, which made him well known. During this time, he convinced the military to let him in, but although he claimed to be a war hero, records show he was only positioned at a desk job. Following the war, Hubbard dabbled in the occult with Jack Parsons, leader of the rocket program at CalTech. However, after a falling out, Hubbard and his new girlfriend, Sara, were left without much money. Hubbard had never divorced his first wife, but eventually did so, and never took care of his four children again.

Hubbard then wrote a book called "Dianetics," which served as a foundation for a philosophical movement to help people heal their own psyches. Hubbard quickly grew Dianetics to a multimillion dollar empire, but he became increasingly paranoid and violent. He also spent as much as he earned and within a year, he was bankrupt. Fearing Sara was planning to have him committed, Hubbard had her kidnapped. They divorced soon after and Hubbard abandoned another family. Returning to the states, Hubbard was forced to declare bankruptcy and he lost the rights to Dianetics.

Not to be kept down however, Hubbard soon developed Scientology, a spin off from Dianetics that claimed to be a religion. Hubbard explained that man's engrams or problems came from their evolution and that many were from ancient times. Thetans, or the original spirits on earth, upon their bodies death, arrived at implant stations where they underwent a forgetting process, so they could move to the new body. Auditing helped to purge these negative ideas, thereby freeing the person to move up a spiritual ladder of enlightenment. Hubbard sold this idea to millions, developing new and improved auditing to help people and even developing a concept where alien beings were responsible for the lack of power of the thetan.

Over the course of Scientology, however, Hubbard became more and more paranoid and aloof. Alienating almost everyone he knew, Hubbard eventually stopped communicating altogether, instead preferring to have Messengers delivering his word and preferring to hide out in obscurity. He became nearly a recluse, and eventually stopped trusting anyone but his two primary aides and David Miscavige, a young Messenger. By the time Hubbard died in 1986, he had not been seen for over six years in public.



Hubbard grew a huge industry, and was successful in marketing an entirely new religion to the world. However, his own suspicious nature and his inability to tell the truth about anything would keep Hubbard from ever being taken seriously by the world at large. Although his religion continues today, Hubbard is seen both as a genius and a con man by the greater public.

David Miscavige

David Miscavige was raised in the world of Scientology. Born in Philadelphia in 1960, he was plagued with allergies and asthma, and his father attempted to use Scientology to help his ailing son. As a result, Miscavige was a Scientologist almost from birth. He grew up at the Scientologist hub of Saint Hill in England and was auditing others by the time he was twelve years old. As a teenager, Miscavige was one of Hubbard's top Messengers and he soon rose up the ranks. Miscavige often placed himself in positions where power would naturally come his way, and he was good at manipulating situations so that he was always in control. When Hubbard effectively went into hiding and began fearing traitors, Miscavige naturally took control and began ousting anyone who could get in his way of control.

When Hubbard died, Miscavige again purged management and got rid of anyone who stood to take over Scientology. As a result, he was immediately in control of the organization and named himself Chairman of the Board of the Religious Technology center, the hub of Scientology. During his reign, Miscavige has successfully negotiated with the IRS to gain tax exempt status and has drawn several key celebrities into Scientology, helping to boost attractiveness for members. Critics, however, note that Miscavige is also power hungry and abusive. He has been accused of several crimes against members, and has been implicated as an accessory to several deaths. Many long time members of the church have left as a result of his mismanagement and his temper.

Marty Rathbun

Marty Rathbun is the former inspector general of the Church of Scientology. Originally a part of Miscavige's team, Rathbun was considered Miscavige's enforcer for many years. He joined Scientology in 1977 as a way to try and help his brother, who suffered from schizophrenia. Rathbun helped Miscavige dismantle the Guardian's Office, and he often played the role of investigator for Miscavige. He was also instrumental in the settlement of the case against Scientology by the IRS, and in the McPherson case. Rathbun was also highly involved in making sure Tom Cruise remained with the church and that he was continuously happy and successful in his auditing.

In 2004, however, Rathbun realized that although he still loved Scientology, he no longer agreed with Miscavige's handling of the organization. Admitting to several news outlets that Miscavige had begun beating his staff, Rathbun decided it was time to part



from the organization, and he escaped. Since then, Rathbun has been a vocal critic of Miscavige, even starting his own independent Scientology network online.

Jack Parsons

Jack Parsons was a self-taught chemist and explosives expert, and the leader of the rocket program for Cal Tech in 1944. Parsons was a genius, but also an eccentric with a passion for the occult. He was good friends with black magician Aleister Crowley and followed his Thelema religion seriously. It was Parsons who first introduced Hubbard to the idea of alternate religion, and it was Parsons who gave Hubbard several of the ideas he later used to develop Dianetics and Scientology. Parsons opened his house to Hubbard, along with a host of other genius eccentrics. It was Hubbard, however, who proceeded to steal his girlfriend and much of his money. When Parsons went into business with Hubbard, it was his undoing and Hubbard conned him. Parsons sold his ranch home and the two never spoke again.

Helen O'Brian

Helen O'Brian was a housewife in Philadelphia who became involved in Scientology after reading an article about it in the New York Times. She attended a local presentation about Scientology and soon began auditing sessions. O'Brian reports that it helped her immensely and she felt clearer and more focused than ever in her life. O'Brian and her husband soon opened their own branch of the Hubbard Association of Scientologists and in letters she received from Hubbard, he informed her that he was moving the organization in a religious direction, in order to gain tax exempt status. O'Brian, as a result, began to see the holes in the fabric of Scientology and began to see that the theories of Dianetics she held so dear were being sold out for cash profit. In addition, Hubbard himself had become volatile and suspicious about everyone he knew. O'Brian officially left the organization in 1953.

Mary Sue Whipp

Mary Sue Whipp was Hubbard's third wife and the most influential to Scientology. She met Hubbard while still a student at the University of Texas and she soon became an auditor. By 1952, she and Hubbard were married and they had created the Association of Scientologists, the precursor for the Church of Scientology. Placed at the head of the Guardian's Office, the most powerful office of Scientology in the late 1970s, Mary Sue had vast control over what happened in the field, and over almost all aspects of Scientology. She and the others in the Guardian's Office investigated those who were against the church, and often participated in questionable activities. In 1978, Mary Sue was part of a criminal investigation by the FBI that revealed a plan by the Guardian's Office to infiltrate nearly all governmental bodies. Those working for these agencies would then copy any and all Scientology records and would report them back to Mary Sue. Convicted in 1979, she was sentenced to five years, but only served one. By 1981,



Miscavige had forced Mary Sue to leave her position with the Guardian Office and she died in 2002 of breast cancer.

Jeff Hawkins

Jeff Hawkins joined Scientology as an alternative to the drug culture of the 1960s. He quickly gave up his girlfriend and his life and took a position working for the publications office for Scientology in Scotland. His hours were long and his pay was terrible, but he felt he was helping the cause. Soon, however, the laid back atmosphere of the organization changed, and shifted to a more military style. Hawkins continued his work, however, and eventually was called to Flag, Hubbard's ship, to take a series of management courses. Hawkins signed a billion year contract, and joined the Sea org, Hubbard's elite management team. Hawkins quickly went up the ranks of the Bridge to Freedom, eventually reaching OT3, which he took as gospel. However, after Hubbard's death, and with Miscavige's rise to power, Hawkins left Scientology, disagreeing with their procedures. He has helped to start a foundation called Leaving Scientology, focusing on helping those who have left the church. He has also become an outspoken critic against Miscavige.

Pat and Annie Broeker

Pat and Annie Broeker were the aides to Hubbard for much of the final years of his life. Broeker was Hubbard's most trusted ally, and many say that a letter Hubbard wrote shortly before his death clearly indicated that Broeker was to take over Scientology. Miscavige, however, after Hubbard's death, declared the document a forgery, and fired Broeker and demoted his wife. Broeker continued on with his life, raising horses and falling off the Scientology radar.

Marc Headley

Marc Headley was originally a Messenger in the organization and was the first preclear that Tom Cruise audited. To keep Cruise's auditing on track, Headley was given priority treatment so that nothing could go wrong with the audits of Cruise. Later, Marc joined the Sea org and married Claire, another Sea Org member. However, the two had marital trouble, because they were prevented from having children by the Sea Org and because Claire was higher on the chain than Marc. Claire had two abortions, as part of the common policy for Sea Org members, and the two suffered Miscavige's anger and violence for many years. Clare and Marc escaped Scientology and brought a suit against the church for violations of labor laws and human trafficking, but the suit was dismissed.



Lisa McPherson

Lisa McPherson was a housewife with a broken past who joined Scientology in 1982. After a troubled childhood and a violent marriage, McPherson was relieved to have a positive purpose in her life. Over time, she became more involved in the church, as was an astounding worker who was extremely successful. But a series of issues led to her being extremely in debt, and on her own. She struggled to maintain herself, and eventually worked her way back to the top, but a series of bad relationships led her again to depression. After going through an intensive auditing, McPherson appeared to be better, but relapsed while at a convention, seeming to have a break with reality. Back in Clearwater the next day, McPherson was involved in a minor car accident, after which she removed all her clothes, claiming that as a thetan, she didn't need a body. She was taken to a local hospital, but was released after Scientology members arrived to get her. She was taken by Scientologists to "recover" and given daily food, water, and rest in isolation. However, her health plummeted, and she was soon dehydrated, unmoving, and defecating on herself, along with ranting and raving incomprehensibly. When her caretakers finally took her for medical help, she died on route to the hospital. Although her death was investigated and lawsuits were filed against the church, none of the allegations stuck and the church was not held criminally accountable.

Tom Cruise

Tom Cruise is one of Scientology's biggest names. A loud proponent of Scientology, Cruise has a long history with the church and with David Miscavige, as the two are dear friends. Miscavige reportedly has spent millions of dollars over the years keeping Cruise happy, as his participation in Scientology alone has generated membership. However, critics point out that Cruise's overwhelming passion for the church at times seems odd, and actually gives Scientology a bad image. Although Cruise has had issue with the church, at times, he is still the most visible supporter, even helping the organization implement their study technologies and detox programs nation wide.

Natalie Walet

Natalie Walet is a second generation member of the church as her parents are high ranking members. She, like many others, grew up around Scientology, surrounded almost constantly with other Scientologists. As a teenager, though, Walet experimented outside her church with drugs and non-Scientologist friends, but found that this lifestyle was not what she wanted. After rehabilitation, Natalie went to high school and then college, and she has led a normal life as a Scientologist. Her story shows that not all Scientologists are as odd as the most neurotic members, and Walet points out that people should get to know the organization before passing judgment.



Kendra Wiseman

Kendra Wiseman grew up around Scientology, where all her friends, outside activities, and even the businesses she supported were Scientology-based. She took auditing, like others, and learned to audit others as well. But experimenting in high school with the occult made her an outcast to the Church. She fought their influence, but with her parents supporting them, the Sea Org eventually talked Wisemen into remaining with the church, at least momentarily. After high school, however, Wisemen went to college in Beijing. When she began posting on anti-Scientology web sites, her parents stopped all communication, effectively abandoning her. Wiseman continued on regardless and although she and her parents eventually made amends, they still do not discuss Scientology.

Tanja and Stefan Castle

Tanja and Stefan Castle were two members of the Sea Org. They were married, but after Stefan had a problem with David Miscavige, he was sent to rehabilitation off base. Tanja was pushed daily to divorce him, but refused. When Tanja threatened to leave the organization, they effectively held her hostage and berated her until she agreed to stay and divorced her husband. Meanwhile, Stefan, finally gaining freedom, believed Tanja had left him, but still held out hope. After help from the Headleys, Stefan was able to smuggle a letter into his wife and the two planned an escape. One evening, Tanja jumped the fence of the base and the two fled to freedom.



Objects/Places

Intensive

An intensive is another term for an auditing session in Scientology that help a member rid themselves of problems that keep them from advancing in life. Members are expected to go through hundreds of intensives to obtain the highest spiritual levels possible.

Scientology

Scientology, a term meaning the study of truth, is a philosophical movement started in 1954 by L. Ron Hubbard designed to help people achieve higher states of being.

Thelema

Thelema is a school of esoteric thought conceived of by black magician Aleister Crowley. Jack Parsons, introduced Hubbard to this school of thought and many aspects of Thelema found their way into Dianetics and later into Scientology.

Adept

An adept is an enlightened, ethereal being who communicates through the human body. Hubbard believed himself to be an adept as he began his work in Dianetics.

Engrams

Lasting imprints on the reactive mind that serve to hinder the person through lasting trauma.

Dianetics

Dianetics was Hubbard's first attempt to save humanity through the power of the mind. He sought, through auditing sessions, to purge reactive memories, thereby freeing the patient.

Denyer

An engram command that makes a patient believe the engram doesn't exist.



Saint Hill Manor

Saint Hill Manor, a mansion in the Sussex countryside, was the first base for HASI (Hubbard Association of Scientists International) and the Hubbard Communications Office.

Security Check

A security check, or sec, was a process by which new staff members were evaluated to be sure they had no anti-Hubbard or anti-Scientology thoughts or behaviors.

Suppressive Persons (SP)

A suppressive person is one who openly opposes Scientology.

Wog

A wog, in Scientology, is one who is not involved in Scientology.

Sea Organization

The Sea Organization was the group of individuals who traveled with Hubbard on his fleet of ships, acting as the base for Scientology.

Operating Thetan

An operating thetan, or OT, is the most enlightened being in the universe, operating completely independently from the body.

Guardian's Office

The Guardian's Office, under the command of Mary Sue Hubbard, was responsible for protecting all things and people related to Scientology and to enforce church policy.

Chinese School

Chinese School referred to a learning method that relied on using sing song type lyrics to remember facts. Hubbard claimed the method could be used to learn anything.



Rehabilitation Project Force

The Rehabilitation Project Force was instituted by Hubbard to deal with serious infractions on the ship. Anyone assigned to RPF was made to sleep in dirty, infested quarters, do manual labor, and be sequestered from the rest of society.

Operation Snow White

Operation Snow White was a Scientology masterminded scheme to plant Scientologists into all major government offices in an effort to remove all negative information from the files of those offices and to be able to plot and plan, based on information gathered by the informants.

Free Zone

The Free Zone was an organization of ex-Scientologists who left the church because of problems with Miscavige's handling of affairs and started their own Scientology centers.

Purification Rundown

The Purification Rundown is Scientology's holistic detoxification program, designed to help church members cleanse the body of impurities.

Type Three

A "Type Three" in Scientology is a person who has lost their sense of reality, or one who is in a psychotic state.

Narconon

Narconon is a Scientology group that treats drug addiction through holistic detoxification.



Themes

Scientology as a Religion

One of the primary themes in "Inside Scientology" is the status of the organization as a religion. The author, Reitman, makes it clear from the beginning of the novel that she believes, based on the testimony of several ex-members, that Scientology is merely a cash cow version of Dianetics. Since Dianetics was not a religion, it is questionable as to whether Scientology is either. It is clear from the battle of the IRS and the organization that it too struggled with calling Scientology a religion, but at the same time, if the book is to be believed, the IRS succumbed to pressure and gave the church its tax exemption status. However, this does not necessarily make the organization a religion, according to some, but simply shows its power through harassment and intimidation.

Some argue that Scientology is more of a cult than a religion since it urges people to break from non-Scientologist friends, encourages a total alliance with all things Scientology, and promotes a program where money spent in the church equals a higher church standing. Members, on the other hand, would argue that all churches require funding and that their structure is no different. If one is to believe Hubbard's story of the evolution of the soul, it could be argued that Scientology is just as religious as any other church organization.

As it stands now, with a tax exempt status in the United States, the church of Scientology is protected under the laws of the government against persecution. In other countries, however, Scientology is not only not classified as a religion, it is even banned. This banishment along with frequent reexamination of the status in the United States, suggests that despite many years of existence, the church still struggles with its image as a church today.

The Power of Leaders

Power is another theme that is used in the novel. L. Ron Hubbard, the original founder of the movement, seems to have originally started Dianetics as a way for human beings to help heal themselves. His power struggle only began as his mind seems to have begun to slip. He became paranoid and struggled with depression, and this may have led to his ideas of losing power to suppressive persons in his own establishment. However, Hubbard never appeared to openly seek power over others, even though he did seek power over his establishment.

David Miscavige, on the other hand, sought power from the very beginning. Before Hubbard even died, Miscavige was busy positioning himself to take over from Hubbard as soon as he was able. He used his influence to fire all those loyal to the opposition, and to make himself the leader of key organizations. From this post, Miscavige could



then control all things, and all people. His power, however, led invariable to his abuse of such power. He began bullying his staff, showing that his power struggle was not only for the organization, but for his own personal gains. Unlike Hubbard, Miscavige used church funds to support his lavish lifestyle, and used his position of power to win high ranking friends such as Tom Cruise. Instead of looking to free people, Miscavige sought to control them, and have them do his bidding at will. It was this power hunger that led many to leave the church, and to begin speaking openly about Miscavige and his treatment of members of his elite staff, and that has led to the decline of the Church of Scientology.

Criminal Activities of Scientology

Another theme in the book is that of the criminal activities of Scientology. From the beginning, Reitman expresses a concern about the legality of many of Scientology's actions. Operation Snow White, the attempt to infiltrate government offices in order to hide sensitive material, is just one mention of the criminal actions of those in the church. The constant harassment of those who oppose Scientology, the attempts to frame those against the organization, and the illegal fact finding missions are some of the more minor infractions of the church. The cover up of the death of Lisa McPherson, among other members of the church who die during auditing, are some of the more pronounced illegal activities. These are interspersed with reports of illegally selling drugs through the church, real estate fraud, tax fraud, and money laundering.

In addition to these accusations are many accusations of civil rights abuses. The book tells of many who were beaten, abused, both verbally and mentally, worked for less than minimum wage, left to live in unclean conditions, kept against their will, and threatened or coerced into staying with the church. The tales of over boarding and other hazing type punishments add to the concept that some church officials are likely guilty of a number of crimes against members. The fact that the church has a tendency to settle these cases out of court does suggest a desire on their part to keep these incidents out of the public eye.



Style

Perspective

"Inside Scientology" is written in the first and third person perspectives, as the author tells of accounts of others within the Scientology organization. The book is highly biased against Scientology and although the author claims to attempt to be unbiased, this does not come across in her work. Part of this is likely to due to the lack of Scientologists who were willing to speak with Reitman, as journalists are generally viewed as suppressive persons. Simultaneously, the structure of the organization is such that any information about the church, its holdings, its members, or its subsidiaries is carefully guarding, making an unbiased account difficult. Reitman, as a journalist and an outsider of Scientology, does have a wealth of information at her fingertips from ex-Scientologists, however, which may explain the slanted view of the book.

On the other hand, Reitman does attempt to incorporate several Scientologists who believe in Scientology in and of itself and simply disagree with Miscavige's management. By doing this, she does help to support Scientology as a religion or organization, but simply shines a negative light on its current leader. The current members she does speak with are vocal of their support for Scientology, but simply negative against Miscavige, suggesting that while Scientology may not be a problem, Miscavige is.

Tone

The tone of the novel changes as those interviewed have highly varied opinions of the current state of the church. In some cases, the tone of the novel is combative, as ex-Scientology members speak openly against the abuses of Miscavige and the church in general. Others are simply objective, as Reitman attempts to show an unbiased opinion of the church and its leaders. In some cases, the tone is supportive of Scientology, as current members and ex-members both speak of the powers of Scientology as a healing technique for the human psyche. Although the tones shift throughout the novel based on the story being told, there is a tone of dislike for the organization of Scientology, although it appears to be unintentional. The stories told, even those that are positive, are often tainted with at least marginal negative aspects, leaving an overall negative sense to the reader. The negative tales of Scientology, including the story of Lisa McPherson, Tanja, and Stefan Castle, and several others portrays the current church not only as a cult, but as a dangerous one who commit acts of brutality and civil right abuses on a daily basis. These stories are told by those involved, but no alternative view is given by the church or church members, making the tone of the book completely one-sided.

Structure

The novel is constructed of an Introduction, four individual sections, and epilogue, notes, a bibliography, acknowledgments, and an index. Within each section, which are numbered, there are several chapters of unequal length. Each chapter, of which there are seventeen total, is named, indicating the event or topic being discussed within the chapter. There is a total of 444 pages within the book. The language used in the novel is generally informal. However, Scientology as a whole uses a language that is unique where there are several areas of the book where words and concepts are explained in detail. While this does help understand the novel, these sections are highly technical in nature and one does have to go back and reread those sections often, as the concepts are mentioned, without description, later in the novel. In addition, these areas tend to be science fictional in nature, and thus, an interest in science fiction may help the reader adjust to the concepts of Scientology. The stories within the novel, while somewhat biased, are entertaining, making the novel an easy, but lengthy read. The author's vocabulary is advanced and some of the subjects are difficult to grasp, making the book more suitable for an older audience.



Quotes

"Scientology, as its critics point out, is unlike any other Western religion in that it withholds key aspects of its central theology from all but its most exalted followers. This would be akin to the Catholic Church telling only a select number of the faithful that Jesus Christ died for their sins." (Introduction, pg. xiii).

"And, unique among modern religions, Scientology charges members for every service, book, and course offered, promising greater and greater spiritual enlightenment with every dollar spent. people don't "believe" in Scientology; they buy into it." (Introduction, pg xiv).

"The ability to spin a setback as a triumph was a quality that would define Hubbard throughout his life. He was an immensely charming young man whose stories, while sometimes dubious, were often, by virtue of his own salesmanship, utterly convincing." (Chapter 1, pg. 6).

"Scientology simultaneously reflected the postwar era's optimism and its darkest and most profound anxieties. The same, perhaps could be said for Hubbard himself, who often seemed to embody two distinct individuals: the kind and benevolent "Friend of Man" as Scientologists would later call him, and the paranoid and increasingly reclusive narcissist." (Chapter 3, pg. 59).

"Messengers washed and ironed Hubbard's clothes, laid out his pajamas, prepared his bath, helped him dress, attended him while he ate, and took careful notes on every minute of his day...Messengers lit his cigarettes, and when he walked around on deck, two would accompany him at all times; one person carrying his ever present pack of Kools, the other holding an ashtray to catch the droppings." (Chapter 5, pg. 107).

"Hubbard had neither known Miscavige particularly well, nor did he ever see him personally while he was in hiding. But Miscavige, it would become eminently clear, was a uniquely determined young man. In due course, he would make himself Hubbard's inheritor through sheer force of will." (Chapter 7. pg. 125).

"To call David pugnacious would be one of the nicest things anyone has ever said about his...You will never be as intimidated in your life as you are when you are confronted by David Miscavige." (Chapter 8, pg. 157).

"[Study technology] was based on three principles: students learn at their own pace, use physical examples - pictures, marbles, or clay models - to help work out complex concepts, and need to focus intensely on vocabulary, never skipping an unfamiliar work without looking it up in the dictionary." (Chapter 9, pg. 181).

"Insanity...is the overt or covert but always complex and continuous determination to harm or destroy. Possibly the only frightening thing about it...is the cleverness with which it can be hidden." (Chapter 11, pg. 208).



"Most people today do not think of scandal when they think of Scientology; they think of celebrities, and this is the fruit of a carefully plotted marketing and PR strategy."
(Chapter 13, pg. 253).

"Children who grow up in Scientology have a limited worldview; they are integrated into mainstream society, yet in many ways are totally isolated from its standard and norms."
(Chapter 15, pg 295).

"Maybe at some point in human evolution, people will be able to do somethings we can't do now, but you're not going to have the ability to use every ounce of your intelligence, and develop psychic powers, and be able to leave your body at will. And that's what we thought when we got into Scientology." (Chapter 17, pg. 354).

"Scientology, like all religions, accepts even grave imperfection as part of the human condition and, like all religions, seeks to transcend it. In Judaism, this is called Justice. In Buddhism, it is called seeking Nirvana. In Christianity, it is absolution from sin."
(Epilogue, pg. 369).



Topics for Discussion

Do you think Scientology should be able to claim tax exempt status as a church organization? Why or why not? What aspects of the organization resemble a church? Which aspects do not? What does the tax exempt status mean for the church?

L. Ron Hubbard introduced the concept of OT3 during his life as a key part of Scientology. What is this level? What does it mean? Why is it important to Scientology? Do you think Hubbard meant this as a literal story or a metaphorical story? Why?

There are many who believe Scientology is a cult, while others believe that it is merely a new age religion. What do you think? Do you think the premise of Scientology could be helpful, or dangerous? Why? Do you think auditors should be able to practice without some form of psychiatric training? Why or why not?

Tom Cruise is likely the most well known Scientologist. Do you feel his enthusiasm for the religion is genuine or do you think he promotes the church because they ask him to do so? Why? Does his enthusiasm for the church make you more apt to investigate it, as Miscavige hopes, or more apt to dismiss both the religion and Cruise as some critics propose? Why?

Some would argue that Miscavige cares only about his power over others and not about the organization as a whole. Based on the information in the book, which do you think is accurate? How does Miscavige abuse his power in the book? What do his staff say about his leadership abilities?

After Hubbard's unsuccessful interview with the Saturday Evening Post, his demeanor and goals seemed to shift, according to ex-Scientologists. Some believe he became more concerned with revenge than about the organization. Do you agree or disagree? Why? What actions support your thoughts?

Compare and contrast David Miscavige with L. Ron. Hubbard. What are their similarities? What are their differences? How do these contribute to their different ways of managing the church? Which do you think was more successful?