



The Polygamist's Daughter

Anna LeBaron , Leslie Wilson (Contributor)

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“My father had more than fifty children.”

So begins the haunting memoir of Anna LeBaron, daughter of the notorious polygamist and murderer Ervil LeBaron. With her father wanted by the FBI for killing anyone who tried to leave his cult—a radical branch of Mormonism—Anna and her siblings were constantly on the run with the other sister-wives. Often starving and always desperate, the children lived in terror. Even though there were dozens of them together, Anna always felt alone.

She escaped when she was thirteen . . . but the nightmare was far from over.

A shocking true story of murder, fear, and betrayal, *The Polygamist's Daughter* is also the heart-cry of a fatherless girl and her search for love, faith, and a safe place to call home.

The Polygamist's Daughter Details

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Author : Anna LeBaron , Leslie Wilson (Contributor)

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From Reader Review The Polygamist's Daughter for online ebook

Gail Alexander says

I finished this book in two sittings. It would have been one sitting, but I had to go to work. This book has it all: part autobiography, part scandal, part murder mystery, part history. Above all, it is a story of redemption and triumph of the human spirit through the grace of God. A must-read.

NOTE: I received an Advance Reader Copy from Tyndale Momentum in exchange for my honest review.

Yibbie says

Anna did an excellent job putting incredibly painful memories down for everyone to see. The terror, confusion, and abandonment that characterized her childhood are heartbreakingly real. It's a very personal narrative written solely from Anna's perspective. She walks you through her life only revealing the events going on in the group as she learned about them even if it was years after they happened. Imagine finding out that you someone you love and respect is on the run for murder.

This is a fascinating read. Despite some of the wickedness that must be described, it's a fairly clean read. She handles those situations very delicately, but it is still for a mature audience.

This book doesn't explore doctrine. There is no comparison made between what her family believed and the Truth. While it was wonderful to read the conversion accounts of Anna and others in the family, and I rejoice to know they are saved, the Gospel isn't explained. Anyone reading this would learn only that Jesus loves them and accepts them as they are. Sin is mentioned only in passing and the Bible reading only once. She mentions many other books that she found helpful in her spiritual growth, but that's all. There is more psychology than doctrine.

Thanks to NetGalley and Tyndale House Publishers for the free ARC. It was a pleasure to read and provide an honest review.

Kim says

I'm not a huge fan of non-fiction. I prefer getting lost in other worlds and living vicariously through those characters. Yesterday, with chocolates and coffee by my side and kitty curled up sleeping on my lap I sat down to read the Anna LeBaron's memoir, "The Polygamist's Daughter." I could NOT PUT IT DOWN. It's THAT good. I mean it when I say that you won't regret reading her book.

Her story of being the daughter of the infamous Evril LeBaron, and the polygamist cult she grew up in, will take you on a powerful and wild emotional ride. LeBaron tells her story of walking through what many would deem as hell to rise and overcome circumstances and situations that would cause many to break. But not LeBaron. Her story is inspiring and motivating and will make you realize that you have the power within yourself, should you choose to do the work, to find your path to a healthy, blessed and fulfilled life. You just have to be brave enough to take that first step.

*I was provided with a complimentary advanced copy from Tyndale House Publisher's, Inc. in exchange for

an honest review.

Amanda says

I read this book in about 4 1/2 hours. I could not put it down. It definitely captures your attention and your heart! You will definitely have a roller coaster of emotions as you read these real life events. Go preorder it now! AnnaLeBaron.com

I received an Advanced Reader copy from Tyndale publishing in exchange for my honest review.

Julie Presley says

An powerful telling of such an incredible life's journey. This book will WRECK you in the best way, and then will put you right back together again. If you've ever wondered what could become of the struggle you've lived through, LeBaron's story will give you incredible hope for a beautiful and redeemed future. I received an ARC from the publisher, this review is my honest opinion.

Jana Craft says

Anna LeBaron, daughter of polygamist cult leader Ervil LeBaron, shares her remarkable upbringing in a poignant new memoir releasing March 21, 2017.

LeBaron writes from an adult perspective looking back, which gives the story a unique flavor compared to her cousin, Ruth Wariner, and her child-told perspective of escaping a different branch of the same polygamist family in 2016's *The Sound of Gravel*. Both women tell heart-wrenching tales of hunger, abandonment, transient lifestyles, child labor and emotional abuse. However, LeBaron's memoir takes a darker turn when murders, ordered by her father from prison and conducted as a "blood atonement for sinners", are carried out by family members loyal to the patriarch cult leader.

[I found myself at my desk at work, reading the book, and my colleagues suddenly concerned about my sharp intake of breath and loud string of inappropriate exclamations at certain critical parts of the book. It was an interesting day, to say the least.]

First time author, LeBaron, focuses hard on sticking to her story even though there's more to be told. Whole books and even a movie were released in prior decades about her father and his crimes. However, LeBaron merely states the facts behind the cases and spares the reader the gory details. I found myself wanting to know more of the crime story, but to Anna's credit, that's not her job. She sticks to what she knows from her vantage point, allowing others in her massive family tree to tell their story if they so choose.

The focus of LeBaron's story shifts from chronological childhood stories and turns inward when she starts working with a counselor to unravel her past in order to create a better future for herself and her family. The tone of the book deepens to include Anna's realization that Ervil was not her "father", but merely her "dad". A true father nurtures, protects, encourages and loves unconditionally. She discovers Jesus as her true father. This realization brings the book full-circle and will leave the reader wanting to know more about Jesus as a true father.

Note: I received an advanced reader copy in exchange for an honest review of this book.

Rebecca says

I received an Advance Reader Copy from Tyndale Momentum in exchange for my honest review.

Wow! I tend to google things as I read non-fiction and this book is especially google-able! What a difficult story to tell. Anna does a marvelous job adding her voice to the many others who have personal experience with the LeBaron cult. I'm so encouraged by the hope she finds despite a childhood full of dysfunction and neglect.

Ticcoa Leister says

Heart-rending.

Haunting.

Hopeful.

The Polygamist's Daughter embodies all three of those words.

Anna LeBaron is telling her story of escape from her father, Ervil LeBaron's, violent polygamist cult. I don't want to give away any spoilers here. This is a story that can only be told (justifiably so) by those who lived it. I'll just say this: If LeBaron's objective was to tell her story from the perspective of herself as a child, she and her contributing writer, Leslie Wilson, have accomplished that beautifully. Anna LeBaron has skillfully told her story in a way that invites readers into her experience from an innocent child's point of view and guides them alongside herself as she becomes more aware of the haunting reality of her family history as a young adult.

For a book whose subject matter is so weighty and extraordinary, The Polygamist's Daughter reads like a novel. With the simple yet powerful language of a child's perspective, the story gives its reader a glimpse of the heart of a child who desperately sought acceptance and stability in the face of chaos and negligence. Yet, by the end of the book, LeBaron's journey takes a turn toward the hopeful, as she seeks the heart of her true Father—the One who brings healing. She has overcome.

The Polygamist's Daughter is one of the most striking memoirs I have read to date. Highly recommended!

Disclosure: This review is based on the manuscript version I was given access to as a beta reader. Upon issuance of an Advanced Reader Copy, I will edit the review if necessary.

Carolyn says

I received an Advanced Reader Copy in exchange for an honest review.

There are no good words to describe the childhood that Anna LeBaron endured. I mean, while I was worried about getting strawberry instead of chocolate ice cream, Anna worried about her next meal, and middle of the night moves, and who her father may or may not have promised her to as a child bride. She survived escape from her father's polygamist cult, not unscarred, but also not completely broken. A true testament to her strength and perseverance.

But through all of the pain and suffering, you see her find her voice and self worth not in a father who neglected her but in her Father who called her His beloved daughter.

You will not be able to put this book down. Every step along the way brings a new twist and turn leaving you wondering if reality really is crazier than fiction. (By the way- the answer is yes.)

Meg says

A heartbreak but life affirming page turner! You'll be cheering for young Anna as she grows up in the clutches of polygamy, but totally untethered from the adults in her life--until she makes a dramatic decision to escape and redefine what life, love, and faith mean on her own terms. If you loved THE SOUND OF GRAVEL, this one should be next up on your list!

Robin Andrews says

An amazing story beautifully written. I was familiar with the LeBaron saga from reading Irene Spencer's books, as well as Ruth Wariner's Sound of Gravel. I wondered how and what Ervil LeBaron's family members went through as he was on the run. Anna tells her story and it is disturbing at times to read. She takes the reader with her as the struggles to simply survive. Abandoned and forgotten for the most part, she resiliently finds herself and is able to forgive those that threw her away. Her life is an impressive story of pain and healing. The fact that she survived intact and keep her sanity is miraculous to me.

Note: I received an Advance Reader Copy from Tyndale Momentum in exchange for my honest review.

Ruth Wariner says

I felt a profound sense of hope as I read THE POLYGAMIST'S DAUGHTER, a raw, captivating and powerful book that I couldn't put down until I reached the very last page. Anna LeBaron is a survivor. Her story is heartbreak, but her determination, perseverance and love for her family will touch your heart and inspire you again and again. I was especially moved by Anna's relationships with her siblings, in the way they looked out for and took care of each other in the midst of extreme poverty and neglect. Ultimately, Anna's story is a testament to the human spirit: a tale of hope and courage.

I met Anna a year ago when she was still writing her book, and I couldn't wait to read her story. Back then; in a curious twist of fate, she happened to find me on Twitter when I was getting ready to release my memoir, THE SOUND OF GRAVEL. I was recording my audio book at a studio in New Your City when she tweeted me. At the time, I knew we were connected in some way because her last name is LeBaron, but neither of us had any idea we were cousins, that our fathers were brothers or that she shared a childhood that

was very much like my own. But we both knew that it was her father, Ervil LeBaron, that had my father murdered in the early seventies when Anna and I were both too young to remember that part of our family's violent history.

As I read Anna's gripping and deeply personal story, my childhood memories and fears came flooding back to me. When I was a girl having nightmares about my uncle Ervil and the terror he had inflicted on our small polygamous community, I never considered what a heartbreakingly life he might be inflicting on his wives and children. That part of my family had broken away from our community and church before I was even born. When they left, they took the same cultural and cult mentality with them, one that impacted both Anna and I in very similar and very different ways.

Since I met Anna, she has been a source of inspiration. As my book was being launched, she introduced me to an extraordinary group of readers and online friends who I will be forever grateful to, #the4500launches. They all became part of my social media launch team and helped make it an instant New York Times bestseller.

After reading her powerful memoir, I now fully understand why Anna's childhood struggles could've been anyone's, and were certainly similar to my own, but her brave, generous and passionate spirit shines as a bright reminder that no matter what happens in our lives, what lies within us is stronger and more powerful than our circumstances.

Rachel Bruce says

Few stories have captured my interest so thoroughly that I read them all the way through into the wee hours of the morning, but from the very first words, I was heavily invested in Anna LeBaron's story and its outcome...more so because it is a true story.

The vignettes of LeBaron's young life in a polygamist cult were both difficult to read and awe inspiring. I myself have a school age son. Over and over, I kept picturing him in the same circumstances that LeBaron describes as her life, and my mom heart simply could not fathom the idea of any child alone, in the squalor and scarcity and, yes, suffering that was life in a polygamist cult.

The Polygamist's Daughter is not your typical memoir. It is rich with description of the conditions under which LeBaron lived. Several times, I found myself putting the book down because I felt as though I were there, as if it was happening to me. The realism was overwhelming. I kept reminding myself of LeBaron's age during the events she describes, and wept several times at the stark depiction of life in the cult.

While heartbreakingly heavy, LeBaron's story is even more compelling because of its redemptive nature. The news media is no stranger to the stories of those who either met their end in or escaped from fundamentalist and polygamist cults, but the difference between many of those stories and The Polygamist's Daughter is the hope and healing that LeBaron finds after life in the cult.

The repeated rejection by the adults in LeBaron's life in this memoir is necessarily and skillfully recounted, as is LeBaron's response to the relentless pursuit of her Heavenly Father. LeBaron's acceptance and acknowledgement of God's redemptive and profound love is perhaps the single most powerful moment in the book.

I gladly recommend LeBaron's book to everyone, but especially to anyone who has felt lost, abandoned, alone, or rejected. The Polygamist's Daughter provides hope that true healing and freedom is freely available, and is a shining and intimate testimonial to the life-changing power of God's unconditional love for His children.

April says

I started this book this morning, thinking I could read a few chapters before my daily routine began-- and had to tear myself away before I started chapter 25! You will NOT want to put this down... and you may want to re-read it immediately after!

Anna LeBaron (with help of Leslie Wilson) beautifully crafts her true story of growing up in a violent, polygamous cult. This is non-fiction, but it reads rich and vibrant, better than many fiction novels I've read! It's hard to write about it without revealing spoilers, but I can say that the book is riveting. It draws you in and makes you gasp, but you also revel in the child's view perspective and you truly see it from her eyes. It makes you want to research and piece together the bigger picture.

I was so impressed by the author's natural optimism in the book. She takes situations that seem impossible and writes them in a way that gives hope. By the end, you really see passion shine through. This is her story, but she is much more than just the story. You'll root for her!

I received this as an Advance Reader Copy from Tyndale Momentum. All opinions are my own.

Xamayta says

Made for TV!

From the first sentence in the Prologue, I was hooked!

"At age nine, I had forty-nine siblings."

This story held my attention from the very start. The web of lies, FBI raids, abuse, neglect, murders and redemption...it was hard to process the fact that I WAS NOT READING FICTION!

It reads like a novel, so for those of you that prefer fiction, I would dare to assert that you will not be disappointed.

Anna LeBaron, masterfully takes us on a journey through her life and draws you in, to the point where you can feel her pain, her fear and her joy. Each chapter takes you through events that no child should ever go through. How does one function as an adult in society when the love you are given as a child is actually abuse and you don't know any better? The author shares about that too!

I gasped for air at times. I shed tears, both of pain and joy. I fell in love with some of the members of her family and felt such disdain for others. I was in awe from beginning to end.

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