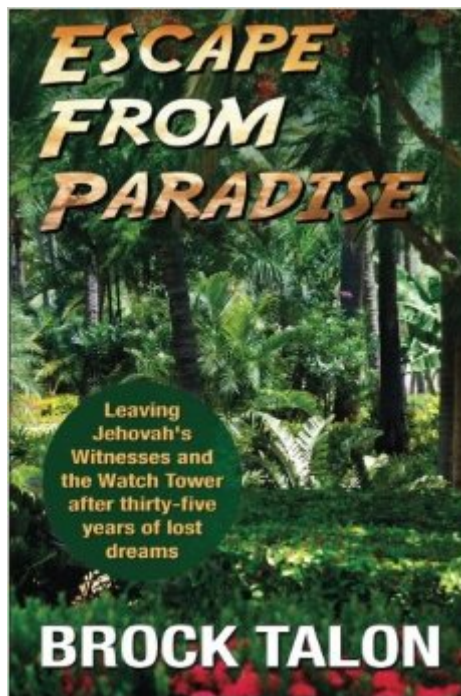


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# Escape From Paradise: Leaving Jehovah's Witnesses And The Watch Tower After Thirty-five Years Of Lost Dreams



## Synopsis

An innocent child named Brock Talon longs for the Jehovah's Witness paradise, but in time finds it isn't all it's cracked up to be. With Armageddon ever looming, his life becomes an endless stream of restrictions and mandated works, harsh discipline and conditional relationships. Join Brock's struggle with apostasy and persecution, sanctioned abuse and God-like elders. Learn with him about his faith's built-in sexual dysfunction and an eerily business-like design, as well as its dubious origin, repeated failed prophecy, fixation on demons, and the curious "anointed ones." Will Brock ignore his eye-opening discoveries, or will he act and lose everything? This story, both humorous and tragic, is about one man's personal pilgrimage through the dystopian world of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society. Along with millions like him, will Brock be able to safely make his escape from paradise?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Reading this was so insightful and I appreciated the author's honesty. At times I thought I was reading excerpts of my own life, it is amazing how accurately he paints this picture of life as a JW. Quick read and hard to put it down! Nice to know I'm not alone in my feelings, yet even better to know one CAN have a happy life beyond the JW years. :)

I had a similar parallel life as Brock, going to Bethel. In fact I knew exactly who he was talking about at Bethel. Same upbringing, although I was a 3rd generation Witness on both parents' side. He deals with the horrid and wastefulness of being raised a JoHo with a refreshing original sense of humor. It

is a sad, crushing waste of time, this nasty religion. Many of us including myself gave up great scholarships at college, we weren't allowed to take. Reading this was a little therapy, and very much "the truth."

Brock I enjoyed your second book in a much different way than the first. Your first book was funny in the way you depicted your experience in New York. The humor told the story in a way that a serious approach would just not have been as effective. *Escape from Paradise* is more a story of your first 40 years of dealing with the Watchtower poison. Junk food is your description and it is apt. Comfortable and familiar and deadly. I cried when your first marriage ended in divorce, as did my own, thanks in large part to being instructed by the Watchtower on how to be a good husband. Hogwash!! I am so glad glad you found your soul mate and life's partner in the end. I was fortunate in that my father was not a witness and my mother was fairly liberal in raising us. It seems common that so many Witness parents are such terrible examples of fatherhood and motherhood. Scott Terry's book *Cowboys, Armageddon and the Truth* told much the same story. I am so happy you found out the Truth about The Truth while you still had a life to live. I would highly recommend this book to any ex JW looking for answers. I would also recommend it for those wanting to know what a life as a JW is like in reality. Good Job Brock!!

I borrowed the paperback from a friend and loved the book so much I purchased my own Kindle copy. But my reader went on the fritz before I could finish it again. Still, I am halfway through it this second time and it simply amazes me. *Escape from Paradise* is one of the most interesting and unique pieces of literature I've ever read. Brock Talon has re-written the rules for personal memoirs, maybe for non-fiction in general. It certainly is in a class all its own for an ex Jehovah's Witness book, that is for sure. This book has pop culture and classical references. It has humor and horror. It has literary and historical analogies. It has psychological thoughts and personal cathartic confessions. It also contains a love story and a short play. Amazingly, all of these things seemed to be directly aimed at me... as if they came from my own thoughts and my own life. This book will haunt me for quite some time. I don't know how any ex or current JW could read this book and not be affected by it. Perhaps the non JW will not totally understand it, but the rich layers this book has might escape many people. I read it too fast the first time, so I'm going to read it slower this next time through. *Escape from Paradise* is a masterpiece of storytelling, that in the end left me elated... and thinking.

This book is beautifully written and the reader can certainly feel the heart and soul of the author in his writings. If you have ever grown up in a highly controlled religious group, then you will relate so well to what this young man experienced. It is a book that will make you and laugh and cry.

This was a great book and I would definitely recommend it to anyone JW or not. Although I've never have been or wan to be in that sect my in laws have been practicing that faith for more than 20 years. Fortunately after being married to my husband for 19 years I have remained a Catholic, but my in laws have constantly tried to convert us. I read this book with the intention of understanding my in laws more and why they do the things they do. I have many opportunities to ask them questions but I choose not to because religion is NOT a topic I choose to discuss with them. One time I was at McDonald's when 4 ladies walked in I knew right off the back that they were JW and I knew they would approach me. At that time and moment I was reading *Escape from Paradise* when I was approached by one of them who introduced herself and wanted to share the good news and a WT magazine or *Awake*. I told her before you share your news with me I want to share with you the book I am reading and she said oh sure. When I showed her the book and told her what it was about. She was kind and said she understood and told me to have a good day. I have read many books on different religions and I am happy to be a Catholic. I know there many wrongs in the catholic regions too but it's the one of the few religions that DO NOT CONTROL your life

This was an interesting book. I'd had a "bible study" with Jehovah's witnesses in my early 20's, and even attended the kingdom hall a few times and gone to book studies. I tried to keep an open mind, but eventually the teachings didn't resonate with me and I stopped. I had also met a woman within the group who was not allowed to speak to 2 of her own sons, who had been disfellowshipped, and it had left me with a negative opinion of the religion. After reading this book, I am so glad I was not further involved, nor caught in this sort of trap. I'm sure it took courage to write this very revealing book, which had me just shaking my head at times.

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