



THE FORGOTTEN CHILDREN
Growing up in a sectarian community
Lorraine Derocher

There are children who have grown up in closed religious groups. Some have stayed there, others have risked leaving...

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This book gives a voice to people who have lived in sectarian groups and who have left the group to choose freedom. It presents the stories of those who have had the courage to leave everything (friends, family, community) with, as their only horizon, a very vague idea of the outside world. Speaking to their parents, children's aid agencies, lawmakers, etc., these "forgotten children" recount in moving letters and hard-hitting interviews the extent to which they have been abandoned by society as a whole.

What do we know about this closed-off universe? What do we know about the reality of these children who have grown up in so-called sectarian groups? What can we learn from their experience? This book reminds us that it's high time we listened to what they have to say.

Strong points

- A book for a general audience written by a specialist in the field.
- Forceful personal stories from Quebec, Canada, the United States and France.
- The unveiling of a little-known reality.

Subjects: religious sects, child psychology, religious zealots parents, closed communities, cult movement, isolated children

Lorraine Derocher is a doctor of contemporary religious studies and the sociology of religions, an associate professor at the Université de Sherbrooke, and a member of the Centre for Research on Children and Families at McGill University. For several years, she has been exploring the challenges that those who spent their early childhood within a sectarian group must face. In addition to teaching, she has developed expertise that has led her to give lectures and training on the subject.