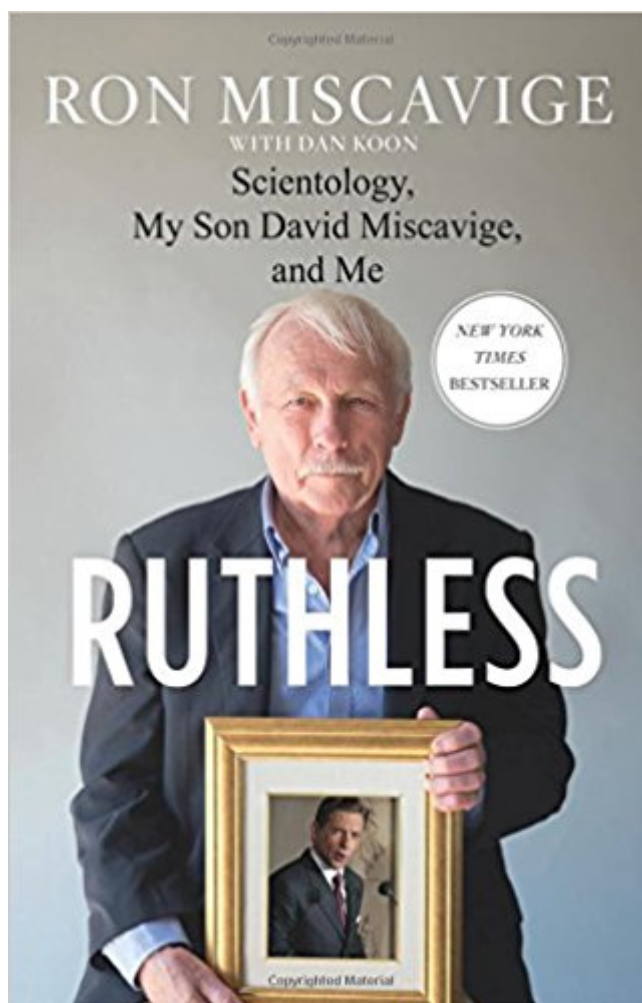


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Ruthless: Scientology, My Son David Miscavige, And Me



Synopsis

Now a #1 New York Times bestseller"Compulsively readable..." *LA Weekly* "Excoriating memoir" *Publisher's Weekly* "A sad and painful but bravely told story." *Kirkus Reviews* The only book to examine the origins of Scientology's current leader, RUTHLESS tells the revealing story of David Miscavige's childhood and his path to the head seat of the Church of Scientology told through the eyes of his father. Ron Miscavige's personal, heartfelt story is a riveting insider's look at life within the world of Scientology. Not for sale outside the U.S.

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Customer Reviews

"Compulsively readable...Feels as if it was written more in sorrow than in anger." *LA Weekly* "Books attacking Scientology are nothing new. But Ruthless...hits particularly close to home *the author's son David Miscavige has led the church since L. Ron Hubbard died in 1986.*" *The New York Times Book Review, "Inside the List"* "Recounts the Miscavige family's experience in [Scientology], which in Ron's view, 'has become a cult, pure and simple.' Since 1986 the church's leader has been his son, David." *The Boston Globe* "Excoriating memoir" *Publishers Weekly* "A sad and painful but bravely told story." *Kirkus Reviews*

Ron Miscavige is the father of David Miscavige, the leader of the Church of Scientology. He and his

family joined Scientology in 1970, and he worked for The Sea Organization for almost 27 of those years before leaving the Church entirely in 2012. He is a Marine veteran and professional musician.

The book written by David Miscavige's father rings true and is a clear presentation of the Church of Scientology. Having been exposed to the organization through my father who was heavily involved from my teenage years until a short time before his death, I appreciate learning about this manipulative, evil organization. While my dad was a "public scientology" he was definitely manipulated, used and harmed by the org. He was extremely defensive & controlling and we were not allowed to question or make disparaging statements about scientology. Since his death I feel free to tell the truth. Toward the end of his life, as an 80 year old cancer patient who was suffering from mild dementia church members visited him frequently to extract 44,000 dollars within a 6 week period of time and God only knows how many tens of thousands of dollars in the years prior. I only became aware of this when he started bouncing checks and the pharmacy refused to deliver his needed medications because all his credit cards were maxed out. He asked me to take over his finances. Dollars stopped flowing to scientology, he moved in with me, his physical and financial health improved dramatically. Still the Church continued to call to "check on how he was doing" . Without fail the 3rd w question in was a request for money. It was disgusting .

Uh. Wow. Kind of a book that is the most compassionate way to let the world know your son is a monster. Not a lot of screaming, but acknowledgement of some character flaws, like megalomania and sociopath tendencies. I get some people not carrying if their dad dies, but, the narrator doesn't seem like a total creep, not like the Kelly's Dad on Bearing Sea Gold. The most interesting point about Miscavige's story is that he is critically looking at Scientology and focusing on his son, and the beliefs that he has been imposing on other people. There is actually a lot that David's father, Miscavige (I'll just call the dad Miscavige), talks about with regards to the things that are good, or were good, or had beliefs that once spoke to him in the faith. I think that this might be one of the first books I've read on the subject that speaks highly of the belief, but condemns the leader. I know that scientology has been a hot item lately, "Going Clear" and Leah Remini's book are two of the main ones that come to mind when thinking about the church. I'd put this one up there in terms of the authority and the sincerity with which it is written, where as other ones talk about their reasons for joining as almost apologetic, whereas Miscavige isn't, he's talking

about what the good used to be in it. Miscavige tells the story like you would perceive a father to do; he pays attention to heights and weight when his kids are playing sports. He's realistic in his relationship with his wife Loretta, admits to hitting her, and doesn't make excuses about it, just describes it as a matter of fact and part of their relationship. It's kind of interesting that he acknowledges that she passed away and can't provide her perspective, it seems a bit sincerer that way. The narrative's language isn't rose colored and painted fluidly either, when David was having an asthma attack Miscavige "smacked him on the ass and he cried, which forced him to exhale and that stopped the attack," again kind of giving insight into that rough narrative. The asthma plays a big role in Miscavige's discussion of David and Scientology, as the asthma really limited David, but after Miscavige took him to see some people at the Scientology place his asthma stopped. This is what Miscavige really attributes to David's turn to Scientology, the idea that it cured him of asthma. Miscavige himself becomes involved because of his situation with his wife and admits some of the psychological remedies Scientology gave him early on. It's actually kind of neat in his transition to Scientology facets because he's talking shop about his boys and then goes into theories of Hubbard, but does so very naturally in the dialogue (yes, I know it was co-written, but the tone doesn't change). Miscavige discusses being accused of rape, acknowledges the churches help during his time of need, and eventually decides to join the church after he divorces his wife. Miscavige is pretty honest about some of the early time in the church when he became involved in 1985, he's pretty passionate when he talks about music and making music, but then things go a bit downhill. Miscavige's perspective focuses a lot on the performance aspect of Scientology and how it bilks people into thinking that it was more involved than it actually was, as well as spread further than it actually was. Miscavige admits he was never in the hole, but talks about the psychological impact David's personality has on others, comparing it to a 1980's boss, and maintaining entourages that always agreed with him wherever he went in the organization. Miscavige then talks about David's man-crush on Tom Cruise, and how David sought to woo Tom, but then quickly reflects back to David's competitive attitude. Highlighting that David didn't finish school, Miscavige even notes that David played Trivial Pursuit requiring a pop-culture person on his team so as not to lose. It's kind of interesting that Miscavige hearkens to his own background and talks about David's inefficiency as a manager and supervisor. There's a little window of this, which

I'm not entirely sure what to make of, especially since David is still the head of the church and it's been seeming to do pretty well financially. Miscavige eventually flees the church with his new wife, but a lot of it has to do with his music not being as appreciated as before, and his soul dying bit by bit every day. The last quarter of the book focuses on Miscavige's new life after leaving Scientology. In particular, he did get \$100,000 from David to buy a new house. It is a bit surprising that he talks about using the internet for the first time and learning about Hubbard and some of the truths behind him, in particular his military career. Miscavige explains his authorship of the book, being constantly followed by PI's and Scientology's denial of this, even when there are federal recordings that David knew about the PI's tracking Miscavige. Then there's some family sadness with Miscavige's children not really interacting with him, Miscavige reflects on Scientology, and then the book ends. Oh, and there's pictures, which are a nice touch.

Great book and it's hard to put down. I've personally shared some of the trials and tribulations Ron went through and they were well communicated and accurate. It is cathartic to view these experiences from his take of them. Ron is a straight shooter and tells the horrific experiences and pain without a lot of needless drama, though one can perceive what he went through. He describes how the movement devolved to a nasty attack dog cult very well. This includes the thousands of people who were drawn into the practice who got something out of it - the positive side and the insanity and rapacious entity it has become, I do agree with his analysis. Thank you Ron and Becky for having the guts to share your story!.

My aunt got involved with Scientology in the 1960's, she tried to get me to join but after hearing about Thetans, having her audit me which just annoyed me, I decided it wasn't for me. This book explains better than any I have read about the very beginnings of the movement, what the attraction was, it explains a lot. He writes honestly and from the heart. I have seen some reviewers claim the book is like all the rest but it's not. He goes into David's formative years, family life and his own marriage. The perspective can only come from him and he does an excellent job of trying to understand what happened to his son who is in fact, ruthless. I would recommend this book to anyone who has an interest in Scientology or has lost a loved one to disconnection as I have.

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