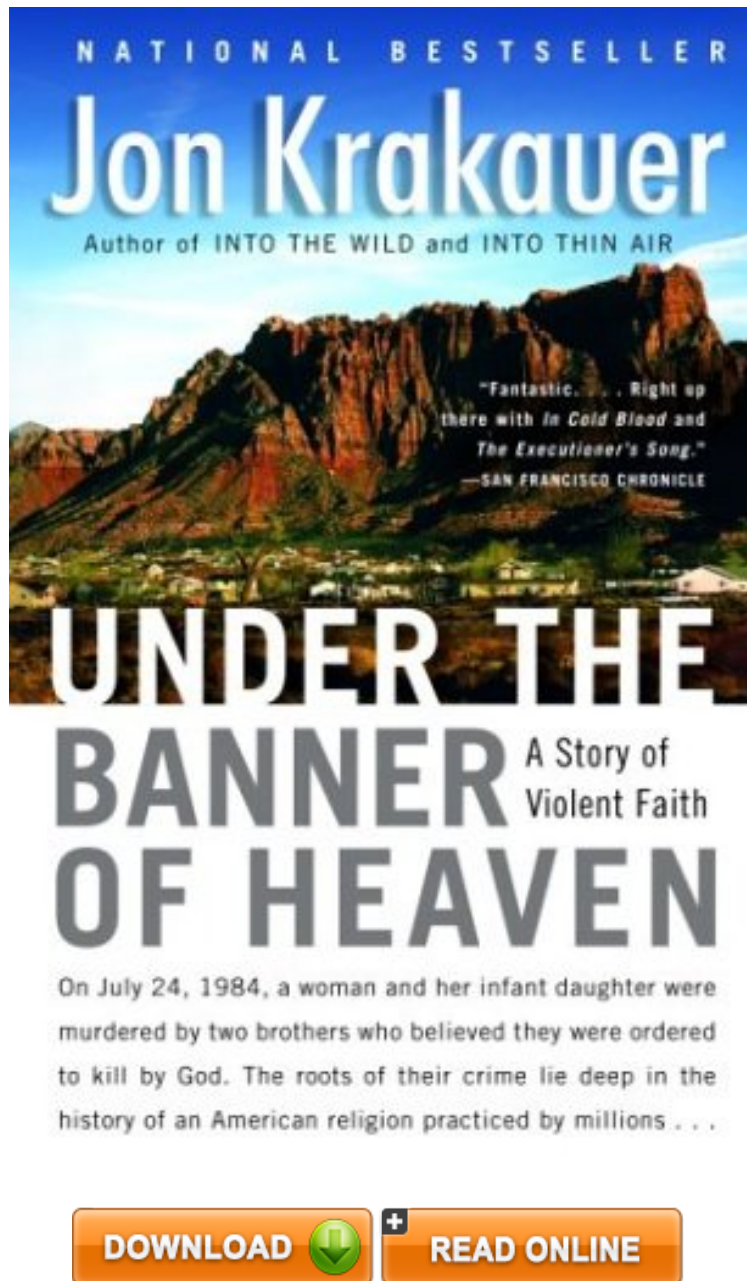


(Ebook pdf) Under the Banner of Heaven: A Story of Violent Faith

## Under the Banner of Heaven: A Story of Violent Faith

Jon Krakauer

ePub | \*DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF



#7674 in Books Jon Krakauer 2004-06-08 2004-06-08Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.01 x .88 x 5.16l, .71 #File Name: 1400032806432 pagesUnder the Banner of Heaven A Story of Violent Faith | File size: 52.Mb

**Jon Krakauer : Under the Banner of Heaven: A Story of Violent Faith** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Under the Banner of Heaven: A Story of Violent Faith:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Important Curious about FLDS or LDSBy William GabrielNot positive, uplifting subject-matter which makes it a challenging read. But the writer's language, and thoroughness are impressive, at times bordering on epic. Gives the reader a great understanding of critical LDS church history. Also

gives you insight into the fringe fundamentalist side. And you better be interested in the latter, because it is the focus. Mormonism is growing very quickly, it is important to have a basic understanding of it as an American citizen. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. sad and a multitude of other emotions By Ctaly This was an eye opener into a world I could not imagine existed, here in America. I felt frustrated, angry, sad and a multitude of other emotions. I wonder how what is described can be done in the name of God and Jesus. I'm not religious and a lot of that has to do with the kinds of things described in this book. How can a God turn a blind eye to these things. To allow children to be fed to the twisted nature of man. There is no utopia. No perfection that can't be bastardized. This is but one example of that. A poignant though emotional rollercoaster. Would recommend if only to raise awareness of this terrible thing. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book is very insightful with a lot of detail ... By Customer This book is very insightful with a lot of detail and also has a lot of information about the religion Mormonism. It does well at showing the ugly side of religion and how it can impact culture. It's also very interesting how it discusses polygamy and how Joseph Smith introduced it and also affected the American culture in other ways than one.

This extraordinary work of investigative journalism takes readers inside America's isolated Mormon Fundamentalist communities, where some 40,000 people still practice polygamy. Defying both civil authorities and the Mormon establishment in Salt Lake City, the renegade leaders of these Taliban-like theocracies are zealots who answer only to God. At the core of Krakauer's book are brothers Ron and Dan Lafferty, who insist they received a commandment from God to kill a blameless woman and her baby girl. Beginning with a meticulously researched account of this appalling double murder, Krakauer constructs a multi-layered, bone-chilling narrative of messianic delusion, polygamy, savage violence, and unyielding faith. Along the way he uncovers a shadowy offshoot of America's fastest growing religion, and raises provocative questions about the nature of religious belief.

.com In 1984, Ron and Dan Lafferty murdered the wife and infant daughter of their younger brother Allen. The crimes were noteworthy not merely for their brutality but for the brothers' claim that they were acting on direct orders from God. In *Under the Banner of Heaven*, Jon Krakauer tells the story of the killers and their crime but also explores the shadowy world of Mormon fundamentalism from which the two emerged. The Mormon Church was founded, in part, on the idea that true believers could speak directly with God. But while the mainstream church attempted to be more palatable to the general public by rejecting the controversial tenet of polygamy, fundamentalist splinter groups saw this as apostasy and took to the hills to live what they believed to be a righteous life. When their beliefs are challenged or their patriarchal, cult-like order defied, these still-active groups, according to Krakauer, are capable of fighting back with tremendous violence. While Krakauer's research into the history of the church is admirably extensive, the real power of the book comes from present-day information, notably jailhouse interviews with Dan Lafferty. Far from being the brooding maniac one might expect, Lafferty is chillingly coherent, still insisting that his motive was merely to obey God's command. Krakauer's accounts of the actual murders are graphic and disturbing, but such detail makes the brothers' claim of divine instruction all the more horrifying. In an age where Westerners have trouble comprehending what drives Islamic fundamentalists to kill, Jon Krakauer advises us to look within America's own borders. --John Moe From Publishers Weekly Using as a focal point the chilling story of offshoot Mormon fundamentalist brothers Dan and Ron Lafferty, who in 1984 brutally butchered their sister-in-law and 15-month-old niece in the name of a divine revelation, Krakauer explores what he sees as the nature of radical Mormon sects with Svengali-like leaders. Using mostly secondary historical texts and some contemporary primary sources, Krakauer compellingly details the history of the Mormon church from its early 19th-century creation by Joseph Smith (whom Krakauer describes as a convicted con man) to its violent journey from upstate New York to the Midwest and finally Utah, where, after the 1890 renunciation of the church's holy doctrine sanctioning multiple marriages, it transformed itself into one of the world's fastest-growing religions. Through interviews with family members and an unremorseful Dan Lafferty (who is currently serving a life sentence), Krakauer chronologically tracks what led to the double murder, from the brothers' theological misgivings about the Mormon church to starting their own fundamentalist sect that relies on their direct communications with God to guide their actions. According to Dan's chilling step-by-step account, when their new religion led to Ron's divorce and both men's excommunication from the Mormon church, the brothers followed divine revelations and sought to kill, starting with their sister-in-law, those who stood in the way of their new beliefs. Relying on his strong journalistic and storytelling skills, Krakauer peppers the book with an array of disturbing firsthand accounts and news stories (such as the recent kidnapping of Elizabeth Smart) of physical and sexual brutality, which he sees as an outgrowth of some fundamentalists' belief in polygamy and the notion that every male speaks to God and can do God's bidding. While Krakauer demonstrates that most nonfundamentalist Mormons are community oriented, industrious and law-abiding, he poses some striking questions about the closed-minded, closed-door policies of the religion—and many religions in general. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist On July 24, 1984, Dan and Ron Lafferty cut the throats of their brother Allan's wife, Brenda, and baby daughter, Erica, fulfilling part of a revelation Ron received from God. Ron is now on death row. Brother Dan, serving two life sentences for the murders, has never denied killing his sister-in-law and niece but has absolutely no

remorse. "I was doing God's will," he says, "which is not a crime." Krakauer, best known for his adventure writing in Outside magazine and his books Into the Wild (1995) and Into Thin Air (1997), has shifted gears to tackle issues of faith in this true-crime/religious expose, which delves deep into the heart of Mormon fundamentalism, where revelations from God are commonplace and polygamy not only still exists but is "a matter of religious duty." Alternating between the bloodier aspects of the origins of the Mormon Church (Joseph Smith Jr.'s lynching in Nauvoo, Illinois, and the Mountain Meadows Massacre in Utah) and some of the more extreme aspects of today's Fundamentalist Latter Day Saints (fraud, incest, and murder), Krakauer's account is gripping yet deeply disturbing. Not only does he interview Dan, an admitted murderer, but also he talks with former child brides and victims of incest. Debbie Palmer, raised to be an obedient wife in FLDS, married at 14 and became a stepmother to 31 kids, including her own stepmother, which made her "a stepmother to her stepmother, and thus a step grandmother to herself."

Benjamin Segedin Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved