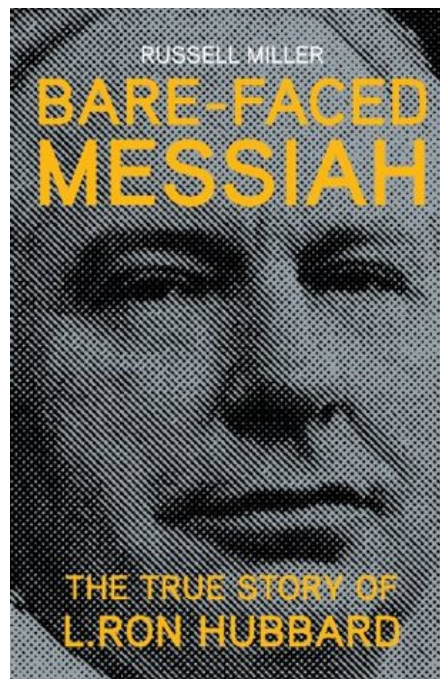




Bare-Faced Messiah: The True Story of L. Ron Hubbard

Russell Miller

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The founder and leader of the Church of Scientology, L. Ron Hubbard was promoted for over 30 years as a romantic adventurer and philosopher with a mission to save the world. Miller has carefully researched Hubbard's life, and provides a biography unlike any of those the church has produced and interwoven with lies. 8 pages of photos.

Bare-Faced Messiah: The True Story of L. Ron Hubbard Details

Date : Published March 4th 2014 by Silvertail Books (first published October 1st 1987)

ISBN :

Author : Russell Miller

Format : Kindle Edition 462 pages

Genre : Biography, Nonfiction, Religion, History, Cults, Crime, True Crime

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From Reader Review Bare-Faced Messiah: The True Story of L. Ron Hubbard for online ebook

Jessica Bauer says

Such a great book! He does an excellent job of taking the lies and putting them next to the truths. It was so hard to put down.

Tina says

If you are in the least bit curious about the founder of Scientology...and about how nutty he really was, I would highly recommend. It's not the best writing I have seen, but the content won out.

By reading this book, you could learn new skills like, how to best start your own cult and what is the best way to ingratiate yourself into a black magic circle. And don't forget about the invaluable skill of forging your own bio.

praise xenu.

The NotsoSuperMom says

EXTREMELY detailed and thick with facts. L. Ron Hubbard was a con, a thief and a CULT Leader and sadly all of his mentally disturbed policies and practices are still upheld and carried out today by his worshipers.

notgettingenough says

You know those times when being happy makes you vulnerable. I was wandering around town, happy as, one day and a Dianetics person caught me. Would I do a survey....well, yes, why not?

And then that made me curious.

If this were fiction, you'd probably call it trash. A ludicrous storyline that defies any concept of reality. Ah, but it is reality. Most depressingly for me, when the guy was at his most psychotic he was behaving exactly like the person I was living with at the time. So, mundane commonplace reality, even.

Aaron says

Anyone that knows me can attest to the fact that I've lived a rather vigorous life. However, it seems tame, normal, humble, innocent and boring to compared to LRH. Hubbard was a childhood hero of mine thanks to Battlefield Earth which was somehow the second epic I read after The Lord of the Rings. I had no idea that he was more well known for starting a strange, sadistic and nefarious cult. And while most of us hide a

demon or two behind the thin Facebook veneer we present to the public, Lafayette was a true monster whom FBI agents, judges and whole countries made sadistic Hitlerian comparisons. Many family and close friends swore that he had paranoid schizophrenia but I would guess it was more like schizoaffective. He definitely had delusions of grandeur, paranoia, pathological lying and wrote, talked, worked and did everything with intense mania. It is hard to tell though if he believed everything he fabricated including his biography, beliefs and philosophy or if he knew it was all a big scam to make money and increase his power. I feel any adult who knowingly buys into this or any cult gets what they deserve for being so naive and lazy. I do feel sorry though for the children raised in this and any cult who did not get a choice. Fortunately, unlike the Mormons, very few people actually buy into Dianetics. I'm kind of glad people do though and hope they all keep writing books about it because for some reason I don't know how to quit you, LRH.

Buck says

If you liked "Under the Banner of Heaven"...

Lyn Stapleton says

Excellent book on the life of L. Ron Hubbard, the founder of Scientology. He was a self-absorbed, narcissistic, pathological liar. He was certainly border line schizophrenic if not insane. It was a fascinating read and one has to wonder how one of the largest "churches" in the world can still defend him. The "church" tried many times to stop publication of this book, and no wonder. It reveals exactly what their founder was like.

The author focuses on Hubbard's life from childhood until death and not the Church of Scientology. I recommend this to anyone interested in the life of the founder of what is probably the largest cult in the world.

Valerie Bowman says

A bit bloated but a fascinating look at a narcissist and possible schizophrenic who began a cult.

Benito says

This is the amazing tale of the world's most deluded, and most posthumously successful, con-man and really gets inside the machinations of his strangely mendacious imagination. You almost admire Hubbard as he streams off one ridiculous lie after another from adolescence onwards so as to make his place in the world with his few other talents - a fact he never faces by creating an ever greater history of himself which often you wonder if even he believes. You can see then just how, sporadically between the 1930s and 1950s, he was able to pump out a several thousand word sci-fi, western or fantasy adventure story nightly by just going out to the shed, often accompanied by a bottle of rum to aid his already overactive imagination, and typing away till dawn when the first of his three wives would send it off (inferring he somehow made very few typos or mistakes in 1st drafts) to whichever magazine he left instructions while he slept till 3pm that afternoon when he would wake up, have a big breakfast, perhaps go fishing and drinking with one of his

buddies, to whom he would invent more hole-ridden and stupendous lies about his [in reality:] very flawed military record, and then stumble out to the shed and do it all over again. This would make a fantastic film if it wasn't for the fact that the Dianeticians/Scientologists would sue your ass off. I've heard of one British producer who did attempt to get such a project green-lighted in the 1980s only to have the studio chicken out. I would love to make a film just from the chapter in which Hubbard teams up with a black magician in California under the tutelage of an obviously close-to-death Alistair Crowley back in the UK. This Satanic trio rope in red-headed prostitutes to create a "Moon Child", (envisaged as some kind of Black-Magik Jesus with great powers and under their command.) The whole episode ends with Hubbard running off with the warlock's wife and a whole lot of his money which he uses to buy a yacht and sail away from the cops who have him, even back then a good ten years before he invents Dianetics, as a suspect on fraud charges. This echoes his later life in which he is pursued across the world on his large ship The Flying Scot Man (sic) attended by his followers who are thrown overboard if they disobey, and his nubile teenage "messengers." Even to the end, his cover blown in the press when some of his followers, including his third wife, are caught are caught and tried after attempting to destroy all Hubbard's government records, despite the fact that he sent many of them in himself (constantly denouncing his enemies, including his second wife and her suspected lover, as Communists in letters to J. Edgar Hoover throughout the 50s and 60s, causing the FBI to write him off as someone suspected to be highly mentally unstable and not to be trusted in his official file) Hubbard still believed he would persevere, and on the verge of his death created a film production company in the desert, directing the actors himself and sending those who he deemed unworthy of his direction off to his own feared re-education and punishment corps where they were treated as less than human - as opposed to MORE than human as they had been before, i.e. Thetans, but that's a whole other shtick we don't have time or space to get into here. You can discover the rest for yourself by buying the book online as it's apparently out of print for legal reasons in Australia. (I found this hardback US First Edition for only \$US20 on Amazon.) Russell Miller is a former journalist for the Sunday Times in England and importantly lends a strong sense of journalistic integrity to his style. Hence while the first couple of chapters concerning the Hubbard family history and LRH as a child may seem a bit dry and superfluous they are there for a reason which becomes readily apparent in both humanising this weird anti-hero with whom it would otherwise be impossible to empathise with, and as exposition for the later ever-increasing action of the story as it really starts to rise, making the majority of the twenty-two chapters an action packed and hilarious ride, made frightening by the obvious veracity of the Russell Miller's well-researched revelations and anecdotes from those who knew and worked with Hubbard throughout his long, strange life.

Dave Newton says

A charismatic, pathological liar with boundless imagination, the truth of L. Ron Hubbard's life is almost stranger than the fictional one he dreamed up and eventually came to believe himself.

Miller did his research carefully, and tried to go back to primary or verifiable sources wherever possible. The story is both fascinating and disturbing.

The author has a free copy available for download on his website (you'll need a copy of winzip, 7-zip or similar to 'unzip' the file), as well as additional material such as original interview transcripts and details of the attempts to prevent the book's publication.

<http://www.spaink.net/cos/rmiller/ind...>

Thoroughly recommended.

Timothy Hallinan says

This is a fitting biography of one of the world's great rats.

Certiifiably evil if not certiifiably insane, Hubbard appealed to the worst in the American character to found an empire that's made billions on empty promises and the egregious misuse of material the deluded faithful entrusted to the "church" during the auditing sessions that were supposed to help them clear their issues and banish their, ahem, engrams. Instead, their confessions are sometimes used against them when they decide to sto contributing their hard-earned money to this gigantic quasi-spiritual con game.

Hubbard was an inveterate liar, a shameless self-promoter, a borderline sociopath, and a really wretched writer. An appalling excuse for a human being who let his own wife take a federal rap for him and ended up a sort of Howard Hughes figure, squirreled away in hiding and trapped in grandiose fever dreams of persecution. What a beast.

Miller does a great job on him, as do Hubbard's own son and Bent Corydon in their book, "L. Ron Hubbard: Messiah or Madman?" I'll let you guess which side they came down on.

Dave G. says

Marcus Aurelius

Just now ·

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Finished read Bare-Faced Messiah.This is the book that Scientologists dont want you to read.This is the real biography of L.Ron hubbard,not one edited by The Church of Scientology.Hubbard was an only child,spoiled and a habutial liar through out his whole life.In his last years he admitted to a doctor he did everything for power and money.A very good book of the life of L.Ron Hubbard.After reading this I'm sure most people will come to veiw him as nothing more than a scammer through out his whole life.

Wanda says

Let's begin at the beginning, with the DSM-5 criteria for narcissistic personality disorder:

1. Having an exaggerated sense of self-importance
2. Expecting to be recognized as superior even without achievements that warrant it
3. Exaggerating your achievements and talents

4. Being preoccupied with fantasies about success, power, brilliance, beauty or the perfect mate
5. Believing that you are superior and can only be understood by or associate with equally special people
6. Requiring constant admiration
7. Expecting special favors and unquestioning compliance with your expectations
8. Taking advantage of others to get what you want
9. Having an inability or unwillingness to recognize the needs and feelings of others
10. Being envious of others and believing others envy you
11. Behaving in an arrogant or haughty manner

L. Ron Hubbard is a classic example of these criteria. In every area of his life, he expected to be acknowledged as a master, despite proof of the opposite. In the navy, he aspired to command, but his fellow officers recognized his incompetence early and he rarely got a chance to cause too much mayhem before being removed from that capacity. Every single university or job application that he wrote contained what might be kindly called “exaggerations,” more realistically called fabrications. He truly felt entitled to do whatever he pleased, including marrying his second wife without divorcing the first one. When socializing with other science fiction writers, he told fabulous stories—the others did the same of course, but it was acknowledged that they were stretching the truth or improving the story. Hubbard would get really angry if anyone questioned the veracity of his tales—he expected to be believed unconditionally. He could take a tiny incident (he took a picture somewhere) and turn it into a major event (he was a National Geographic photographer) without blinking.

The rest of us, those who have consciences and who care about the people around us, can’t conceive of living life this way—this is why we are so slow to respond to a narcissist. For the first while that we are dealing with the person, we just can’t compute what is going on. It seems stranger than fiction. I had an assistant for a while who just about drove me to drink, until I realized that I was dealing with a narcissist. He just wanted a job listing on his resumé—he didn’t care if he did a good job and really didn’t listen to any instructions that he was given. He spent a lot of time telling me that his professors just didn’t realize what a genius he was, hence a C+ average. And of course there were lots of awesome projects and fabulous travel that he had done (note, he came from a wealthy family, so some of it was actually possible). But I have to wonder how much of the story was fiction.

Hubbard had a good dose of paranoia to go along with the personality disorder. But his is one case where just because you are paranoid doesn’t mean that someone isn’t out to get you! His habit of viewing international laws as tedious rules that someone as special as he shouldn’t have to worry about made him persona non grata around the world.

I think that since Hubbard considered himself far superior to everyone else, he expected that he would be able to do everything excellently. “After all,” he could tell himself, “if that guy can skipper an ocean liner and I’m better than him, then running an ocean liner will be a piece of cake for me.” No acknowledgement that training or talent had any bearing on success.

Long story short: Thankfully, LRH has moved on to the next level of research (i.e. died). Less happy is the fact that another control freak was waiting to take over the reins of Scientology and is still taking advantage of thousands of people. For an insider’s perspective, I would recommend *Beyond Belief: My Secret Life Inside Scientology and My Harrowing Escape* by Jenna Miscavige Hill (niece of the current leader).

Erin says

This was a fascinating read. Though I've read several books on the organization of Scientology, there's not a lot of reliable information on the founder himself. I frequently was aghast at the stories in this book. Hubbard was clearly a very disturbed and mentally unhealthy person. He died a multi-millionaire, but he also died alone, in seclusion, paranoid, sick, and afraid.

I highly recommend Bare-Faced Messiah to anyone who enjoys biographies or histories. You'll never be bored, and will learn a lot.

Molly says

i don't take the decision to give up on a book lightly. i may come back to it later and try again, but i honestly just can't be bothered with it anymore. I think that's the main problem I have with this book; it's not that it's bad, it's just so incredibly detailed that it's tiring. i applaud the author for going to so much effort with the detail; he obviously spent a long time and a lot of effort researching this. And at some times it does really benefit the story, but at other times it's totally unnecessary. it's almost like he did so much research that he just wanted to shove it all in there just because he spent so much time on it and didn't want to waste any of it. i think it could have been edited down more.

L. Ron Hubbard is a fascinating character and the author does a really good job of portraying just how messed up he was. This book is not bad, I have just run out of patience for it. It's too long and drawn out for me. I think too, this book focuses a lot on Ron's family and his early life, and I am more interested the actual Scientology side of things, and it takes a long time to get to that. I feel that I could go and read another more succinct book to find out about that. So that's what I might do!

Also p.s. the Kindle edition is horribly edited. so many spelling and grammatical errors!!
