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Uncovered: How I Left Hasidic Life And Finally Came Home



Synopsis

In *Uncovered*, Leah Lax tells her story - beginning as a young teen who left her liberal, secular home for life as a Hasidic Jew and ending as a 40-something woman who has to abandon the only world she's known for 30 years in order to achieve personal freedom. In understated, crystalline prose, Lax details her experiences with arranged marriage, fundamentalist faith, and motherhood during her years with the Hasidim and explores how her creative, sexual, and spiritual longings simmered beneath the surface throughout her time there. The first memoir to tell of a gay woman who spent years in the Hasidic fold, *Uncovered* is the moving story of Lax's journey toward finding a home where she truly belongs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Well, I'm a bit biased, but I thought the book was a great read. I was there for most of these stories and grew up hearing the ones that happened before I was born or old enough to remember. But, hearing these from the lense of a person with emotion and internal struggles - the struggles and emotions that my mother never dared to impart to me when I was growing up - resurrects these stories, painting them in a brand new light I've never seen before. Realizing that my mother is a human being complete with emotions and desires - that all of those stories I witnessed and heard growing up came packaged with personal conflict and feelings - was a powerful experience..The book is written in a sort of poetic prose that is both emotionally honest and beautiful; and tells a fascinating, emotionally honest story. I highly recommend it.

OK, who is looking for a smart, powerful, deeply satisfying read? This is it. Gay or straight, orthodox or atheist, you will identify with Leah's search for her self. It's too difficult for me to put into words how affecting Leah Lax's courageous journey is. You just have to read it for yourself. Be prepared to be speechless for a time afterwards -- you will be mulling over life's Big Questions and marveling at her courage and integrity. Lax is not one to stand on sidelines; she "goes there" throughout this book, with respect and passion -- and doubts, too. And to top it all off, she happens to be a stunning writer. I had the pleasure of meeting Leah at the Vermont Studio Center at some point in the last decade and heard her read a portion of what has become *Uncovered*. Those of us who heard her read that night have been waiting eagerly for the finished book to appear. It has been well worth the wait!

I am sitting out the inferno that is Houston this week in Telluride, Colorado where I have just spent the last few hours in The High Alpine Cafe finishing Leah Lax's newly published memoir **Uncovered: How I Left Hasidic Life and Finally Came Home**. I am blown away. This a brave, beautifully written, life-saving work which is dedicated to "covered women everywhere" but resonated deeply with me as an uncovered woman whose voice has sometimes been silenced in other ways. I just loved it, and hope it reaches the wide audience it deserves. I mostly read on a Kindle these days, but when I pre-ordered it the book was only available in a high quality trade paperback version published by She Writes Press. As I read it over these last couple of days, I was approached by several passers by who upon seeing the gorgeous cover design (and observing me obviously engrossed in the book) asked to write down the title and author. The book is now available for Kindle (8/28) but I am glad that I was able to help spread the word with my hard copy.

It's a busy time of year. I thought, I'll just read a few pages then put it down until I have more time. Okay, maybe I'll just read another chapter, maybe two. Well, I couldn't put it down. Every time I put it down it called to me, saying "More! More!" This book is about discovering and then telling the truth about ourselves. It is about becoming authentic. The title and summary focuses on leaving the Hasidic life and coming out as a lesbian. But my summation is that it's about listening to that inner voice who knows our genuine yearnings and passions and responding to it. One more thing, I usually only "read" audibles because I have a daily long commute. I couldn't wait for an audible version so I bought this in hardback. But the author is so genuine in this telling that it is like an audible; one hears her voice telling the story. I highly recommend this for book clubs!

A magnificent journey into a very private world, Leah takes us deep, very deep, into the "black hat/wig world" of Hassidism. We accompany Leah into this insular, fundamentalist Jewish community, a high contrast to her secular Dallas Jewish upbringing. But it all makes sense, how she came to it, why it had such appeal and such holding power. Hints of her discovery of her sexuality surface at unlikely times but ultimately contribute to the unraveling of a 25+ year marriage of 7 children as Leah discovers or rediscovers the "outside world" and ultimately her authentic self and ultimate happiness. The language is often poetic as the reader is taken on this voyage like watching a movie or being in a dream. For anyone who is considering entering this world, this is a cautionary tale. For anyone who can't possibly understand how an intelligent, modern day woman could subject herself to the stringencies of strict orthodoxy, the story is compelling. For the questioning "covered" out there, this is your ticket out, your passageway to the "other side" where you can think and act freely. And for everyone else who feels trapped, in mind or body, this is a story of hope.

I just finished reading @Leah Lax's book Uncovered. I am still reeling from shock by how close to home this book felt for me. This book is a must read for anyone but especially for my Chabad and formerly Chabad friends. Leah takes her readers on her emotional journey into religion and how it formed the basis for the first half of her life. The book is full of surprises in a good and bad way. She is so brutally honest about every detail that she includes in this story. From her feelings about going to the mikvah, to her secret desires that she could share with no one, to her relationship with her husband and children. What was most inspiring was Leah's ability to find her strength despite everything that was going against her. As an ex orthodox Chabad person who experienced being gay in a society where I felt this would never be accepted, this book offered me another glimpse inside a world that I know well but from the lens of someone in completely different circumstances. It is a story of hope, survival and the ability to adapt to the most stressful and difficult situations. There's so much more that I can say about this but I know it will spoil some of the mystery of a well told story so if you're reading this and need a good tearjerker, buy her book NOW!

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