

Undertow: My Escape from the Fundamentalism and Cult Control of The Way International

Author: Charlene L. Edge. Memoir. Paperback \$24.95. e-book \$9.99. At major booksellers & indie bookstores

Gold medal winner - Florida Authors and Publishers Association, 2017

“... A frank, in-depth account of one woman’s struggles in a controlling organization.” — ***Kirkus Reviews***

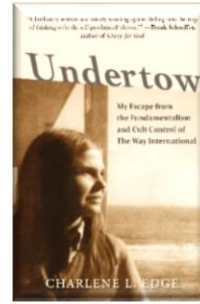
#78 on BookRiot’s list: “100 Must-Read Books About Life in Cults and Oppressive Religious Sects”

What it’s about: Charlene rejected Catholicism, family, and friends when recruited into one of the largest fundamentalist cults in America: The Way International led by Victor Paul Wierwille. Charlene was a leader and worked in the inner-circle of biblical researchers where she discovered secrets: Wierwille’s plagiarism, misuse of Scripture, and his sex abuse. Amid chaos at Way headquarters in New Knoxville, Ohio, she escaped.

Why *Undertow* matters: “...about one percent of the U.S. population (three million persons) have been involved in cultic groups at some time in their lives.” (data: [The International Cultic Studies Association](#)). Movies like *The Handmaid’s Tale* have captured the nation’s attention. In 2018, the A&E television special, “Cults and Extreme Beliefs,” focused on the destructive nature of cults. *Undertow* is a personal story about cult recruitment and fear-based manipulation by an authoritarian, charismatic leader. It shows that post-cult healing is possible.

A taste of *Undertow*: “I gulped down Doug’s words without doing any critical thinking, not pressing him to prove what he said. He was so sincere that I clung to his assertions, like ‘believing equals receiving,’ as if they were heaven-sent.”

CHARLENE L. EDGE spent 17 years in The Way (1970–1987). Later she earned a B.A. in English Literature from Rollins College and worked for more than a decade as a writer in the software industry. She is a published poet and fiction writer, and blogs monthly for the Florida Writers Association. She’s a member of the Authors Guild and the International Cultic Studies Association. Charlene lives in Florida with her husband, Dr. Hoyt L. Edge, and writes blogs about their world travels and other topics at: <https://charleneedge.com>



Undertow: My Escape from the Fundamentalism and Cult Control of The Way International

Author: Charlene L. Edge. Memoir. Paperback \$24.95. e-book \$9.99. At major booksellers & indie bookstores

Gold medal winner - Florida Authors and Publishers Association, 2017

“... A frank, in-depth account of one woman’s struggles in a controlling organization.” — ***Kirkus Reviews***

#78 on BookRiot’s list: “100 Must-Read Books About Life in Cults and Oppressive Religious Sects”

What it’s about: Charlene rejected Catholicism, family, and friends when recruited into one of the largest fundamentalist cults in America: The Way International led by Victor Paul Wierwille. Charlene was a leader and worked in the inner-circle of biblical researchers where she discovered secrets: Wierwille’s plagiarism, misuse of Scripture, and his sex abuse. Amid chaos at Way headquarters in New Knoxville, Ohio, she escaped.

Why *Undertow* matters: “...about one percent of the U.S. population (three million persons) have been involved in cultic groups at some time in their lives.” (data: [The International Cultic Studies Association](#)). Movies like *The Handmaid’s Tale* have captured the nation’s attention. In 2018, the A&E television special, “Cults and Extreme Beliefs,” focused on the destructive nature of cults. *Undertow* is a personal story about cult recruitment and fear-based manipulation by an authoritarian, charismatic leader. It shows that post-cult healing is possible.

A taste of *Undertow*: “I gulped down Doug’s words without doing any critical thinking, not pressing him to prove what he said. He was so sincere that I clung to his assertions, like ‘believing equals receiving,’ as if they were heaven-sent.”

CHARLENE L. EDGE spent 17 years in The Way (1970–1987). Later she earned a B.A. in English Literature from Rollins College and worked for more than a decade as a writer in the software industry. She is a published poet and fiction writer, and blogs monthly for the Florida Writers Association. She’s a member of the Authors Guild and the International Cultic Studies Association. Charlene lives in Florida with her husband, Dr. Hoyt L. Edge, and writes blogs about their world travels and other topics at: <https://charleneedge.com>