



Righteous Release

Richard Gardner

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David Chambers is a member of the religious group 'the Eternal Fellowship'. Their beliefs forbid any involvement with the outside world, and any temptation to embark upon a life with the 'wordlies' is considered a betrayal of the Lord. David's loyalty to the Eternal Fellowship is discovered when marriage looms ever closer; a realisation that he is not destined to wed a woman who was chosen for him and, with thoughts of exploring the big wide world, he makes a decision that will ultimately turn his entire family and friends against him. Righteous Release will capture the mind of the reader with an engrossing tale of a young man's convictions as he enters a world that is far from the life that he has been accustomed to. Outside of the Eternal Fellowship awaits the world of politics, and one that will open the door to the future he has chosen.

Righteous Release Details

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Lucinda Blanchard says

Wow, I couldn't put this book down. It is very well written and it kept me gripped throughout. It is really interesting how the protagonist David in a way went from one group to another, and how he dealt with living in the real world after being cast out by not only the religious group, but his parents and family/friends too. The way his new work colleagues perceived him was cleverly shown from both David's perspective and from their viewpoint's too. The side stories were interwoven brilliantly and I loved the political campaigning side of it. I highly recommend this book.

Gordon Bickerstaff says

David Chambers is young (early twenties) member of a strictly religious Fellowship, and engaged to be married. His life has been controlled since he was born by his Fellowship-obsessed parents. His future Fellowship wife has decided she will wear the pants in their marriage as they prepare to set up home.

David once held a torch for former school classmate Alison Johnson, a girl with long blonde hair. Alison is a committed political activist, and when they are reunited, Alison draws David into politics by canvassing for their local candidate. The story gives a great insight into world of deeply held beliefs, and also the intrigue surrounding local politics. A well written and entertaining drama with a nice romance, and good touches of light humour.

Dorothy says

This is the story of a religious cult, who do not believe in intermingling with outside people or events that is going on around them not even a TV. But as religious as they were they did believe in their wines! This is the story of one young man who did not believe in marriage without love and decided to break away from this religious group.

This is a fast pace book that will keep you reading until the end. I recommend this book to the younger generation and the young in heart.

I received this book in exchange for an honest review. This is the second book I read by Richard Gardner (Deadly Partnership was the first) and I enjoy his books very much. If I could give more stars I would.

Diana Blick says

Very good of its kind

I rarely read in this genre--contemporary fiction--but I had read another book by this author and thought I'd give it a try. I'm glad I did. It was interesting and the characters were well developed. I greatly enjoyed the

look at British life and thought, particularly the portions concerned with British politics. However, since I have seen a few Americans complain about books being "too British", I will warn you that if you are that provincial, you should give this one a miss. If you enjoy learning about other cultures, you should enjoy this one since it also gives a look inside a religious sect that is based on a real one. The writing is excellent and it is professionally edited. Good job, Mr. Gardner!

Mary Grand says

A gripping, highly enjoyable, carefully researched novel. The central character David's struggle to leave a sect and adjust to life outside is both moving and authentically told. There are fascinating subplots which cleverly link into the main story line. Excellent story writing, highly recommend.

Louise Malyan says

Jehovah witnesses have always intrigued me.

Really enjoyed the insight!

The characters were all well written and I felt like I knew them all. I liked seeing the positives of a religion I am unfamiliar with as well as the negatives. I was wary of the politics side of it! But actually found myself cheering on Jacqui

J M Shorney says

An enjoyable read. Twenty three year old David Chambers is engaged to Ruth, a member of the Fellowship, an almost fanatic religious cult, to which David also belongs. But Ruth is domineering, ordering David to paint and refurbish the house before they move in. However, David's thoughts transfer to Alison, a girl he once had a crush on. They meet again, and the politically active Alison soon embroils David into canvassing for their local candidate. Much to everyone's chagrin, including his own parents who immediately disown him,

This is a great book. and definitely worth a read.

Elizabeth Spradbery says

Thinking at first that this book, recommended to me, was going to be both religious and American, I was pleasantly surprised on both counts. Although it is about a religious sect, this is not shown in a good light, and the story is set in England. Much as I like some American books, I enjoy being able to empathize more readily with the people and places of my own country; Kent, in particular, being a place that conjures up images and experiences of my own.

Usually I have a bad habit of skimming the pages I am reading until I come across a passage that holds my attention, but here I found that I was reading and following every word, and was genuinely interested in the unfolding story of David's tribulations and triumphs, told in a lucid and logical style.

I also enjoyed the brief glimpse into the business world which I know little about, and later the world of local politics with which I am more familiar.

I have just bought "Iniquitous Lives", the sequel to this story, as I very much want to know what happens to the characters, in particular the likeable David, and his friends who stood by him when he was turned out of a sect that had until then been his life.

Jeanette says

I was so pleased when Richard Gardner asked if I would like to read Righteous Release in exchange for an honest review.

I really enjoyed this book, despite the length. Usually I get tired of reading a book when it's over 400 pages. I know of the cult, as I have seen the women on the odd occasion around the area that I live with their young ones. My nephew is married to someone who is in a cult (he converted), so can understand some of David's thoughts and thoughts of others who are unworldly.

I am so glad that David managed to decide what he wanted in life after going around in circles. I hope to read more books by this author in the near future.

Ruth Hunt says

I thoroughly enjoyed this novel. It's not that often you can truly witness a character change in response to circumstances, but when you do, you feel every jolt and every emotion. Here David was born into a strictly religious family, and separated from the rest of humanity in a cult like grip. You fear for him and his future. When he makes his break and tries to adjust to this strange new normal, you are witnessing something rather remarkable. It was all very believable and I raced through, shedding tears at the end page. Do judge for yourself and read this marvellous, thought- provoking read.

Cyndi says

I enjoyed this novel from beginning to end! I felt sorry for David (the main character) throughout much of the book and I kept pulling for him to find his way through life and to finally figure out who and what he wanted to be. To be raised in such an environment that leaves him totally ignorant of such things as politics, other religions, world or local news of any type, movies and books (other than the Bible) it's no wonder he had such a difficult time trying to act "normal" when living outside of his Religious group. Unfortunately, I did not like David much. He had work and life ethics that were certainly below the bar I set for myself, and for most other people as well (at least I hope most are more ethical than David). Having said that, I recommend this book to anyone that is curious about life in a cult/religious fanatical group and the difficulty of trying to leave such a group to join the rest of society.

Linda Miller says

An amazing read by Richard Gardner which follows a young man in a sect-type religious group. They do not interact with those outside of the church, attend church daily 5 times on Sunday. No TV, no outside

newspapers or magazines, only marry within the church, work for those from the group who own businesses. They do believe in buying the best house, cars and enjoy drinking alcohol which is allowed. Read this book and follow the life of David who was born into The Fellowship as he has questions about the outside world and the rules the Fellowship members must follow and what happens when he leaves the security of the family nest.

Simon says

I quite liked the premise behind this book, especially with religion becoming ever more polarised. Whilst not a story about religious extremism it did give me an insight into the 'cult' mindset and the influence cults have on their members. If I had one criticism and I would have liked more back story but this didn't detract from my reading pleasure.

marjorie hall-venmore says

I have got to be honest I do not normally read books like this anything to do with religion. However I have read one of Richard Gardner other books and really enjoyed it. So I thought I would give this one a go. I was not disappointed at all, I read the first chapter and I just couldn't put it down until I had finished. I was fascinated to read of a religious cult within England. Not that I really know much about cults. I think the most well known to myself is the church of scientology yet this one to me was taking things a step to far on their beliefs. I have always believed everyone is entitled to their own opinion and I for one have no rights in judging anyone's beliefs. However you can not help but feel so sorry for David w/o is the main character in this book. His turmoil of agreeing to a marriage whilst under the influence of alcohol. Then having to pluck the courage up to tell people how it was a missus understanding, how he did it and to start life afresh. I can not for the life of me understand how anyone can put their religious beliefs before the love of a child. I genuinely think what's made this book more interesting for me is the fact its a true story written as a novel. Very very well done one too. Richard has definitely caught the essence of the character and the religious outlook and written it exceedingly well. This is a brilliant true story told by a geniuses. I highly recommend this book, you will have to definitely read it to appreciate it. Brilliant Author highly recommended

sue says

I have some memoirs, I have read some honest and open books about peoples lives, abuse, marriages, breakdowns and religious "breakaways". But I have never read one like this before where it is actually written into a novel but its the authors life.

Really a brilliant way to write this and impact more on readers of fiction as well as fact.

David has been brought up in the Eternal Fellowship from a very young age. I discover that its so stringent and so strict that you wonder how people could remain in it and follow things to the letter.

Well, if anyone is wondering this, let me say. I was brought up at a Jehovah's Witness from the age of 7 years old. You are taught such things that you just believe, you do know about others lives, but hey, their life

is wrong, you are doing it God's way.

I broke away at the age of 40.

We follow David through his marriage to Ruth. Hmm that was an ordeal in itself.

We see how all outside things are shunned and looked down upon, TV, Cinema, media and such.

Certain things are not celebrated and certain things are. You are different from the "world" and so that means you are not "wordly" but you are doing this for God...right?

David starts to get his eyes opened. He starts to question things, I found that the most interesting, it reminds me of someone waking up from a very long coma.

It has its highs, it has its low moments and it also has some amusing [from my point of view] moments.

I do not look down on anyone's faith, but I am sure you know someone, someone on your street, someone in your life, even someone on your Facebook page that is religious and are totally OTT about it all. My dad used to say there were some 'religious fanatics out there' and I really do know he was right.

Don't be mistaken that this is a book just like a memoir of his life, this is infact a story.

If you love a good story knowing its based on a true account and told from the heart, this is your book.

Richard Gardner has surely written a very readable account of his life.....
but all doesn't end there.

My thanks to Richard Gardner for sending me the paperback version
