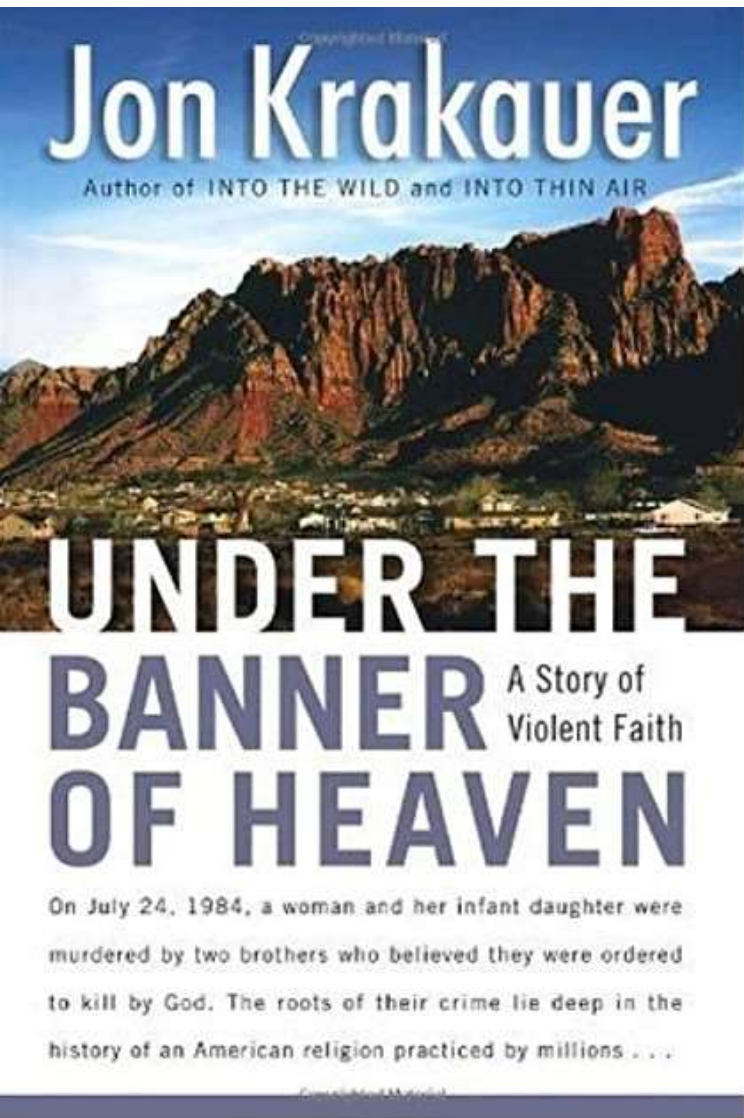




What Under the Banner of Heaven Gets Wrong

Craig L. Foster



One of the best-selling books on Mormonism in the twenty-first century.

Photo courtesy of Goodreads.com

Under the Banner of Heaven, is now the FX series that appeared on Hulu.



Photo courtesy of Wikipedia



Photo courtesy of Famousbirthdays.com

Dustin Lance Black, a former member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, spent more than a decade adapting Krakauer's book into a screenplay

“They hated my book, and I think they’re gonna go crazy about this.”

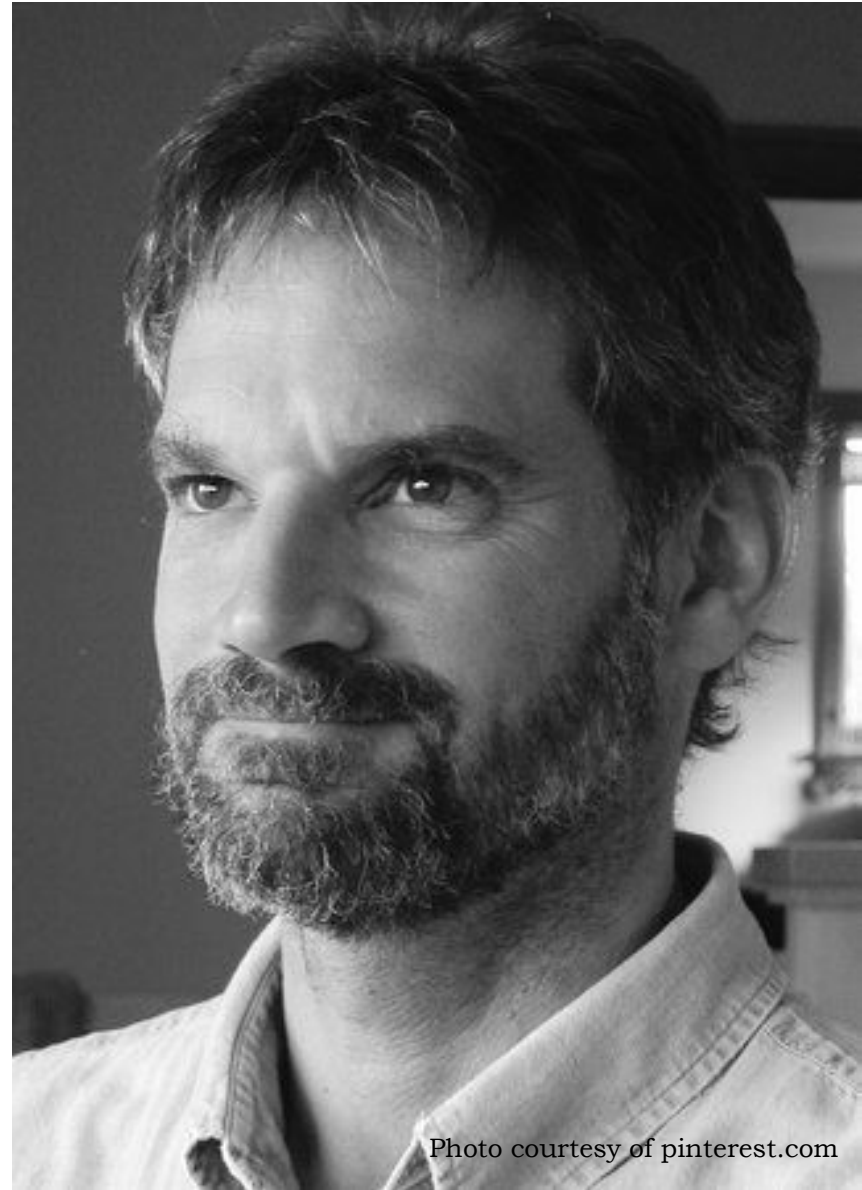


Photo courtesy of [pinterest.com](https://www.pinterest.com)

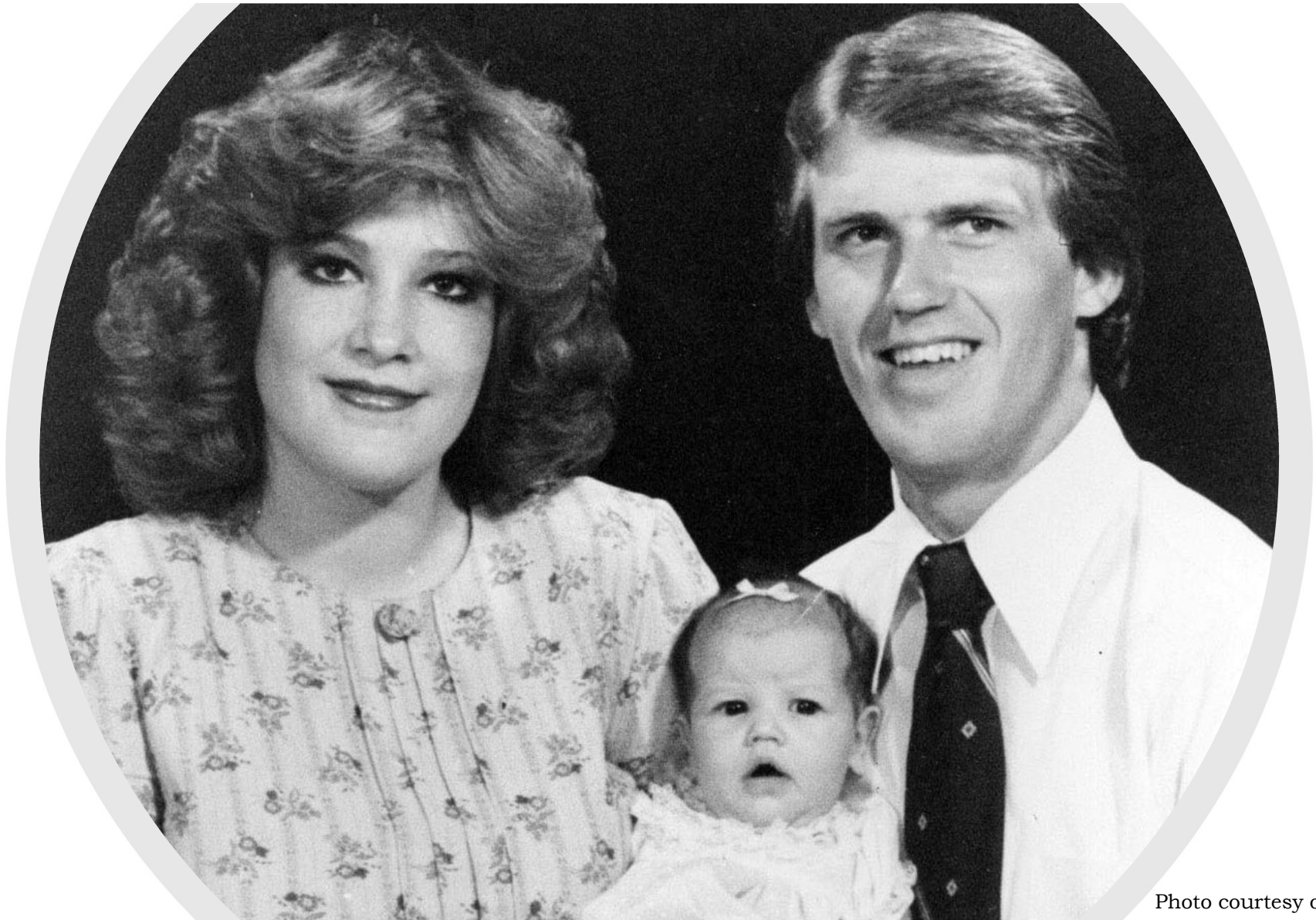


Photo courtesy of Deseret.com

“...some Mormons will dismiss the series entirely if they see a word or hair out of place.”



Photo courtesy of Wikipedia

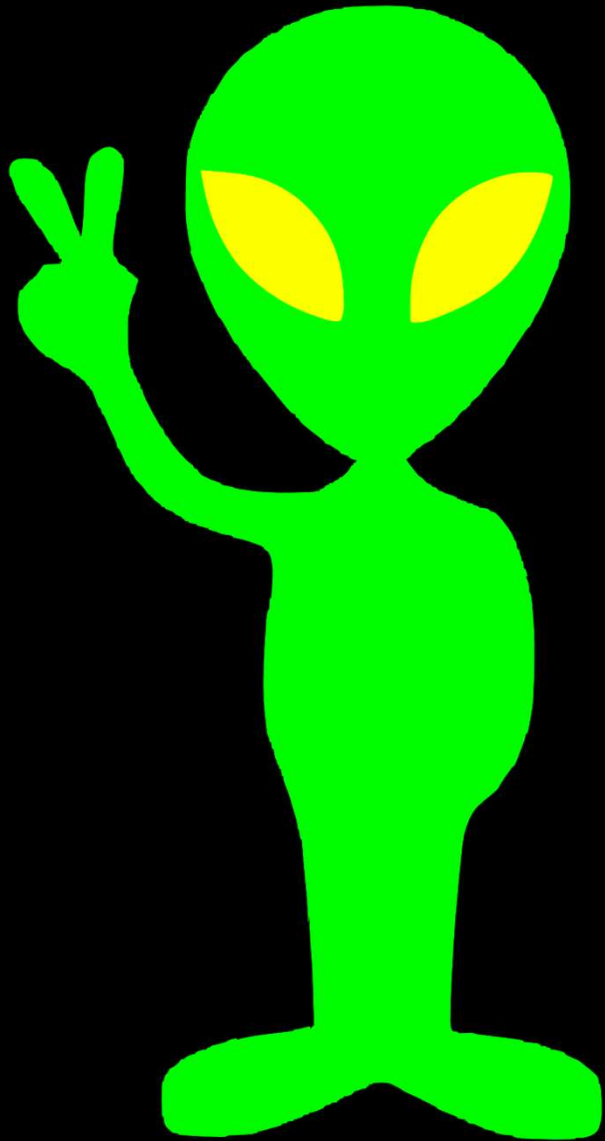
Fact and Fiction

It's fun to mix fact and fiction because the audience won't know where the facts stop, and fiction begins...

Stereotyping

A man in a dark suit and white shirt stands in a field of tall, golden-brown grass. He is looking down and to the right, with his hand resting on his forehead in a thoughtful or distressed pose. The background features a dramatic sunset with a bright sun partially obscured by dark, heavy clouds. In the distance, a small white building with a steeple and a police car with flashing lights are visible on the horizon.

Artwork courtesy of repelishd.com.ar



Hollywood portrayals of
church members



Photo courtesy of Pinterest.com



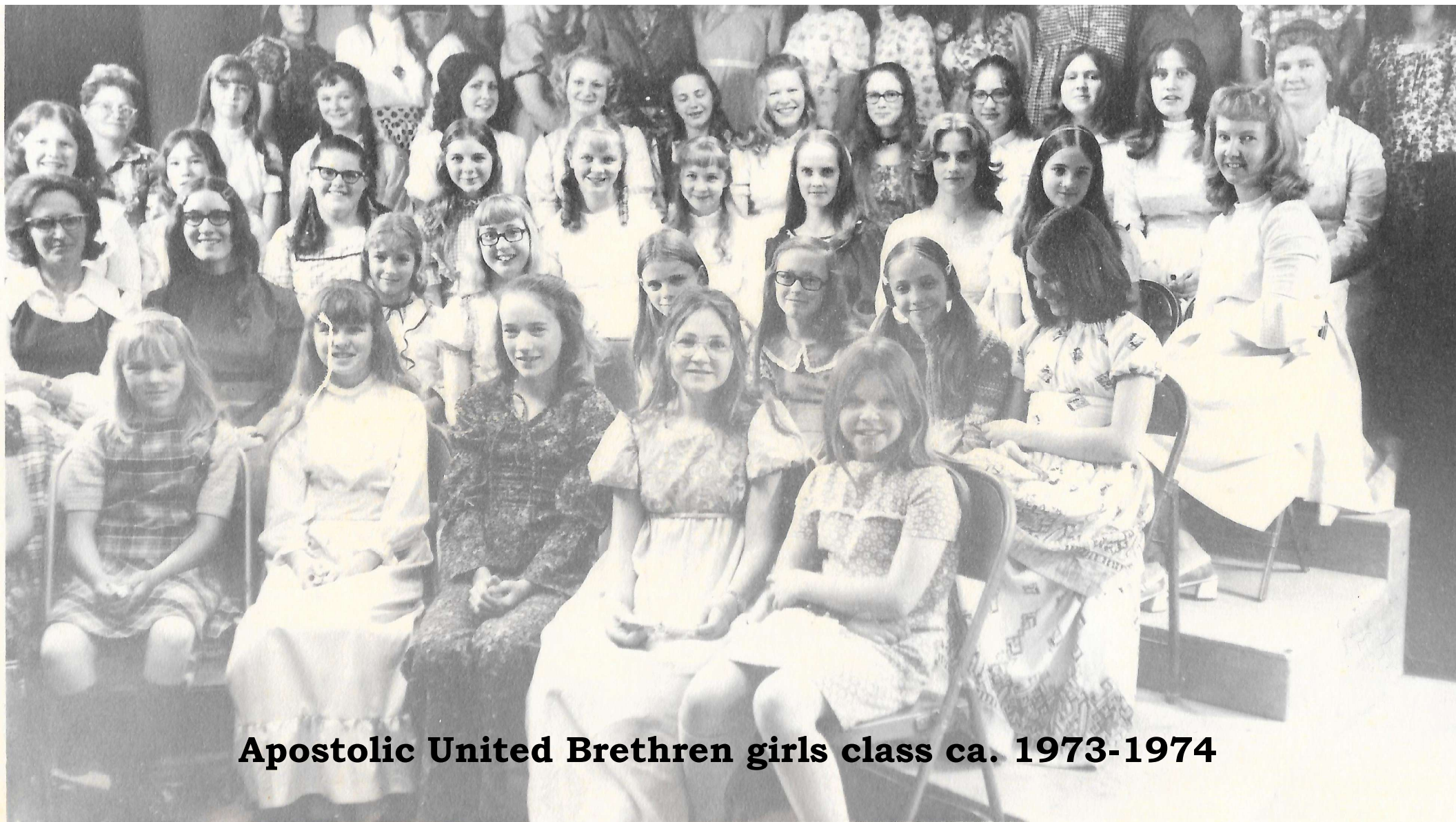
Photo courtesy of celestialhealing.blogspot.com





Daughters of Joseph Lyman Jessop, ca. 1944

*Markay, Rachel Ann, Shirley, Eula, Jane, Evelyn, Florence, Winnie Fae, Louise, Edith, Ethel, Ruth, Kathryn, Mary, Lyman
Joseph Lyman Jessop and daughters (+ granddaughter Markay)*



Apostolic United Brethren girls class ca. 1973-1974



Apostolic United Brethren dance for members of all ages, September 2019

LDS Fear of Learning/ Discussing it's History



Artwork courtesy of repelishd.com.ar



Photo courtesy of Famousbirthdays.com

Dustin Lance Black admitted he “considers the series a challenge to the dominant narrative church members are taught.”

“The idea that someone must be ‘practicing’ in order to present a fair story leads in a chilling direction: the belief that Dan Lafferty should have written the script. Warren Jeffs should have written it. Ammon Bundy and his brothers should have written it.”



Larry Foster



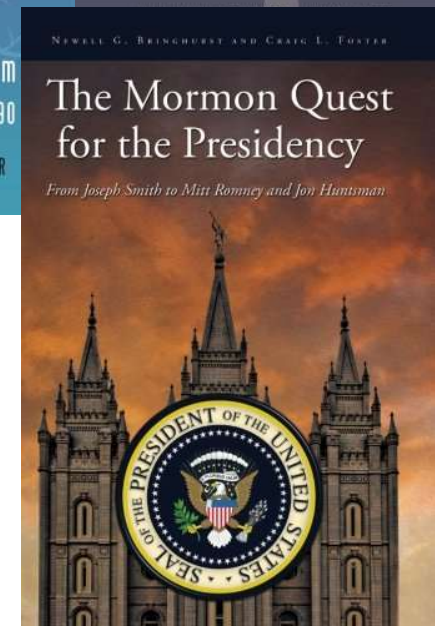
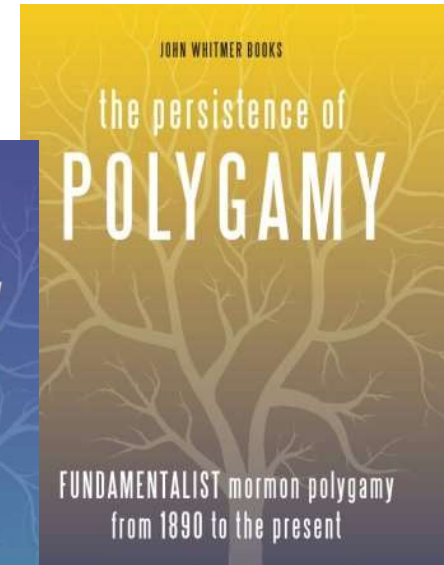
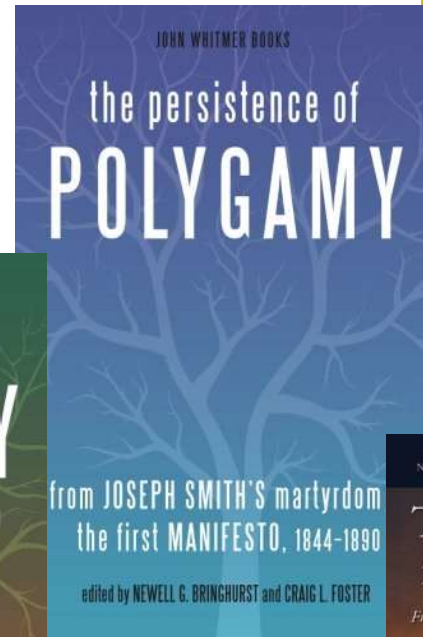
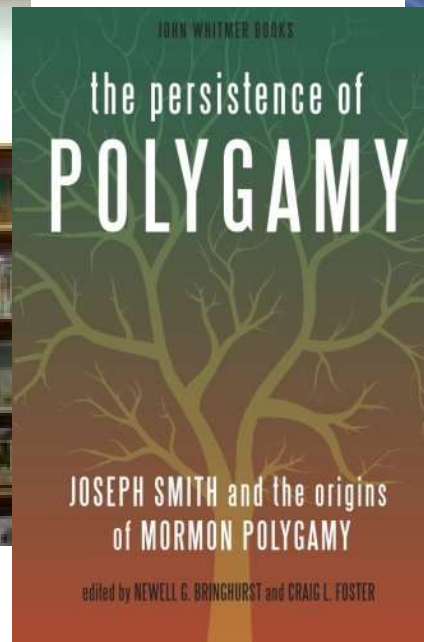
Sally Gordon



Jan Shipps



Newell G. Bringhurst



Mormon Culture of Violence



Artwork courtesy of repelishd.com.ar

“This faith, our faith, breeds dangerous men.”



Photo courtesy of Wikipedia

“... if there’s one thing to be learned from the Hulu miniseries *Under the Banner of Heaven*, it’s that the Mormon church is chock full of homicidal maniacs. ... The implication is that if you go back to the very core teachings, you’ll discover that Mormonism, and all religion in general, is inherently violent in nature. Every believer is a potential killer, a ticking time bomb just waiting for the right moment to go off.”

David Ives found the idea of a bunch of murdering Mormons to be ridiculous.

“Not every Mormon is violent, but every Mormon has participated in a system of violence whenever upholding doctrines of racism, sexism and homophobia.”

Who defines this supposed systemic patriarchalism, racism, sexism, and homophobia?

Throughout the series, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and its members are portrayed as uniquely violent.



Photo courtesy of Wikipedia

“It would be convenient in a way to say that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is uniquely violent. Unfortunately, it is not. Every religion, every political system, every ideology, and every nation-state have blood on their hands. Whatever group you identify with, I guarantee you can find your equivalent of the Lafferty brothers.”

“Mormonism was a violent subculture within a violent national culture.”

D. Michael Quinn, “The Culture of Violence in Joseph Smith’s Mormonism,” *Sunstone* 164 (October 2011), 18.



“American society, or at any rate a conspicuous part of it, has been tumultuous from the very beginning of European colonization. Seventeenth-century Virginia was a disorderly place, though the Massachusetts Bay Colony was not. Violence in America has long manifested this uneven quality. Some regions, such as the South and the frontier and urban ghettos, have experienced very high levels of violence and disorder, while others, such as rural New England or **Mormon Utah**, have been far more tranquil places.”

David T. Cartwright, *Violent Land: Single Men and Social Disorder from the Frontier to the Inner City* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1996), 1.



Peace and Violence among 19th-Century Latter-day Saints

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is founded on the teachings of Jesus Christ. The virtues of peace, love, and forgiveness are at the center of Church doctrine and practice. Latter-day Saints believe the Savior's declaration found in

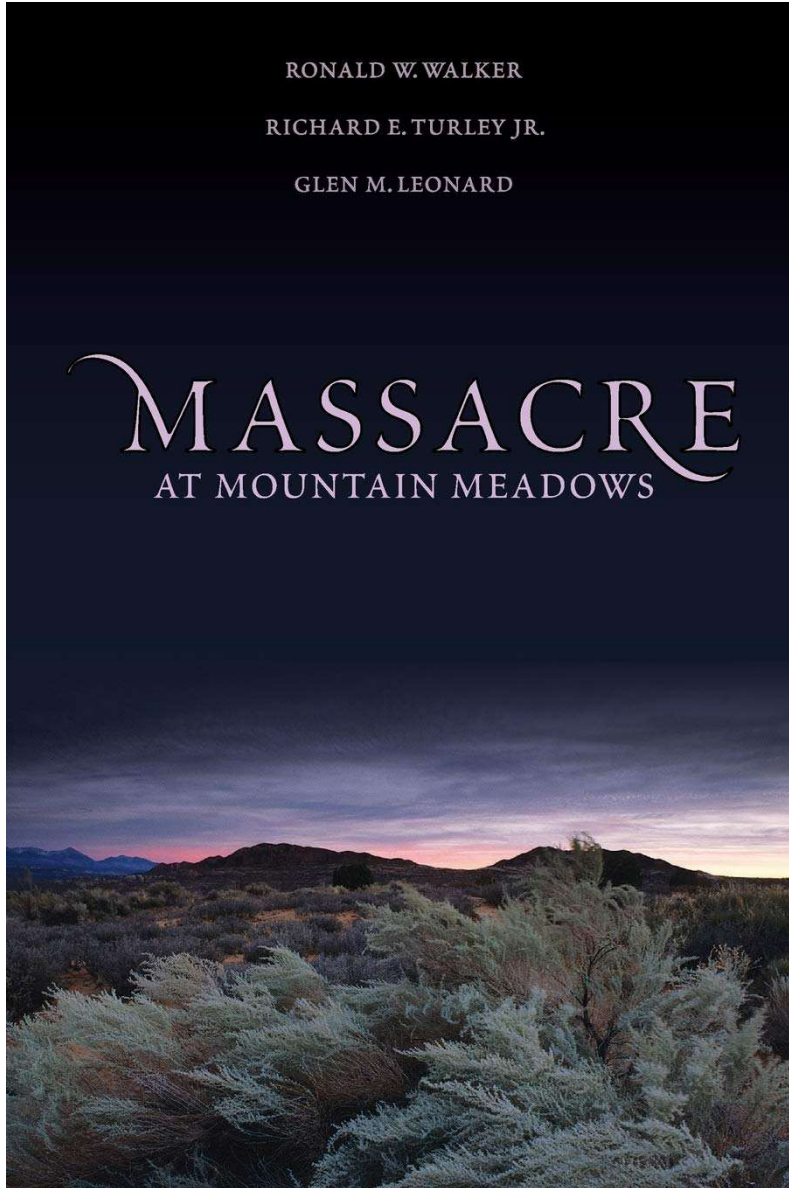


RONALD W. WALKER

RICHARD E. TURLEY JR.

GLEN M. LEONARD

MASSACRE
AT MOUNTAIN MEADOWS



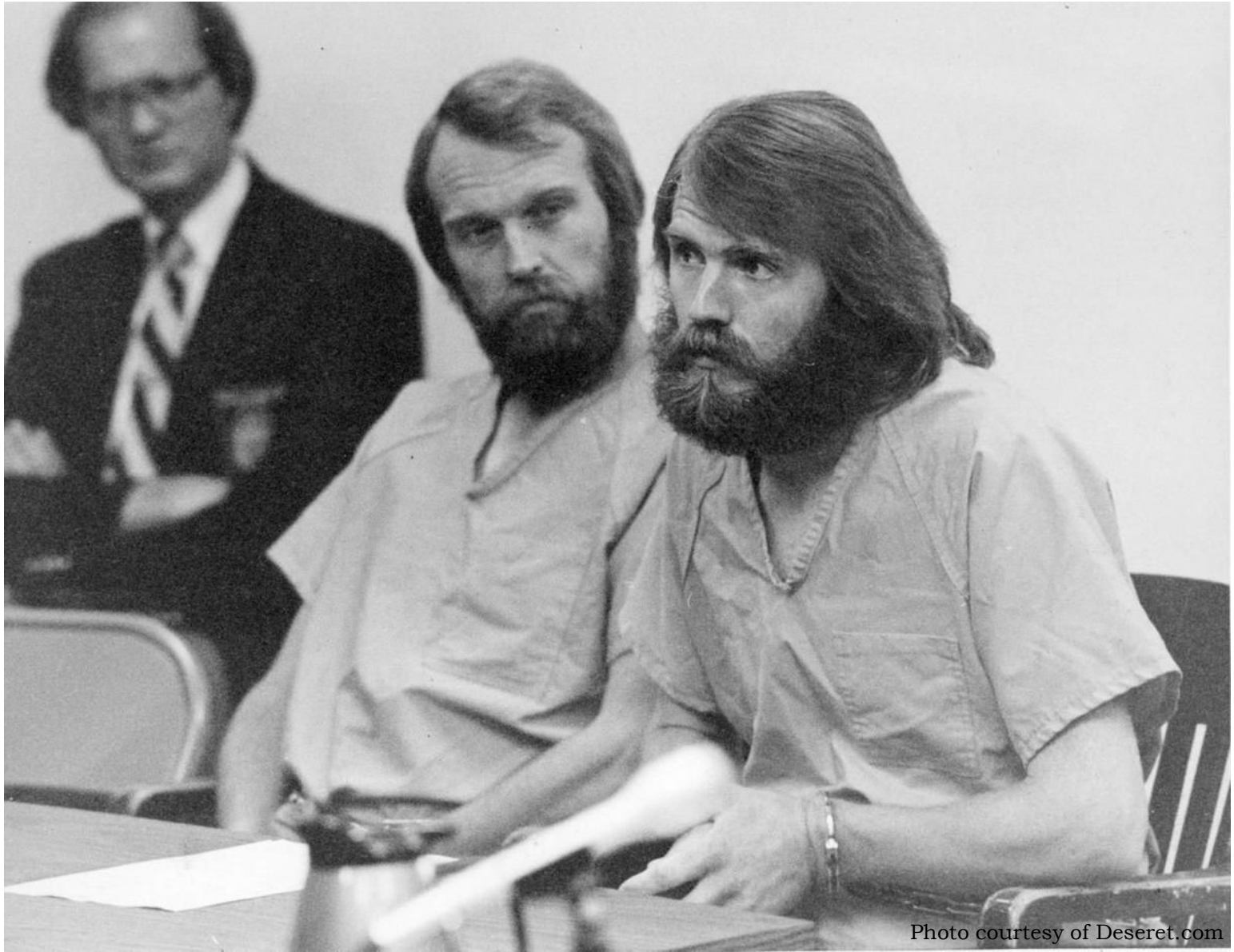


Photo courtesy of Deseret.com

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Under the Banner of Heaven: Fact vs Fiction

Conclusion

A man in a dark suit and white shirt stands in a field of tall, golden-brown grass. He is looking down and to the right, with his right hand raised to his forehead in a thoughtful or distressed gesture. The background features a dramatic sunset with a bright sun partially obscured by dark, heavy clouds. In the distance, a small white building with a steeple and a police car with flashing lights are visible on the horizon.

Artwork courtesy of repelishd.com.ar



Photo courtesy of Famousbirthdays.com

“If the Mormon Church is unhappy with me for doing this, they have themselves to blame.”



Brenda Lafferty's life story "embodied the richness and complexity of what it means to be a Mormon woman"



Photo courtesy of the Brenda Wright Lafferty Memorial

Ultimately, of the numerous things Hulu's *Under the Banner of Heaven* got wrong, perhaps the most bitterly painful and inexcusable was taking a real woman who loved life, her faith, her family, and who died in part because she refused to be a pawn in the Lafferty brothers' warped agenda, and then making her a pawn in another's warped portrayal with an agenda.



Photo courtesy of the Brenda Wright Lafferty Memorial