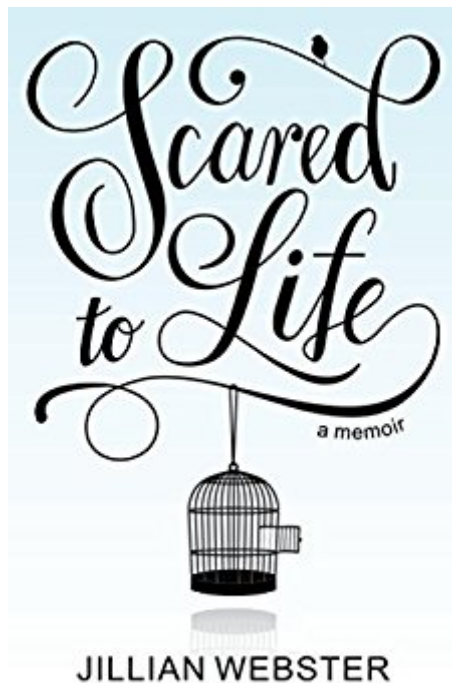


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Scared To Life: A Memoir



Synopsis

At nineteen, Jillian Webster knows she can no longer live her life crippled in fear. As a baptized Jehovah's Witness, she understands leaving the religion will have great consequences. Shunned and labeled as evil, she will also be forbidden to see or speak to her mother, stepfather, and younger siblings ever again. But Jillian is a dreamer; for years she has craved the sort of life prohibited as a Witness. She longs for higher education, big cities, adventure, and world travel. More than anything, she yearns to be free, to follow that persistent whisper in her heart that begs her to go out into the world and find the life of her dreams, a life she has been told since childhood "doesn't exist". After years of heartache, she walks away from the Jehovah's Witnesses, losing her family forever. Forging ahead with nothing but her backpack, Jillian sets out on a global journey across Europe, Africa, Southeast Asia and Australia in search of the life she risked all for. However, she soon learns the world is not what she imagined and finds herself more lost in her travels than found. Devastated, she continues to follow her heart, leading her to discover everything she's ever dreamed of in the most unexpected place. Follow Jillian's deeply vulnerable yet liberating journey as she struggles to conquer the fears that bind her as well as the questions that plague her at night. How do you know when to hold on and fight, and when to let go? How do you find the strength to forgive those who have hurt you the most? And above all, how do you keep your faith when everything seems hopeless? Scared to Life is the true story of one woman's choice to follow her heart above all else, find life after loss, and ultimately, discover her freedom by letting go.

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Customer Reviews

I have read quite a few travel memoirs in my time from Paul Theroux to more modern authors such as Peter Moore, etc, etc, etc. There is a huge market for these books and it seems an endless supply of authors trying to fill it. Jillian Webster's *Scared to Life* is up there with the best. I really enjoyed this book. It's well written and easy to read. Being an easy read doesn't take anything away from the book though, the book just seemed to flow. I would recommend this book to anyone who has travelled or plans to travel and wants some inspiration.

Three or four stars? It was a difficult choice. Jillian has written a memoir-cum-travel book which charts a rather painful ten years of her life. I was immediately drawn in by the introductory tale of her total rejection by her mother when she decided to leave the Jehovah's Witness religion. In retrospect I think all her angst-ridden confessions and her passion to "get away" stems from this cruel rejection. Mea culpa -- if you want to belong to an organised religion, be very wary of the Jehovah's Witnesses. It is an unforgiving religion. So Jillian pours out her anguish and despair at this loss of her mother's love, moves to Chicago, and becomes deeply conscious of her restlessness, unhappiness, and her wish to travel the world. Yet she is also really scared about doing such a thing, and she does go on about it. But, brave girl, she becomes a backpacker. I really liked her travel tales; she writes well. What I did not like was that the first 30 pages which serve as introduction and the explanation of the Jehovah's rules, her decision to leave them, and her mother's reaction, were too drawn out. Also, she interspersed her travel chapters with angst-ridden, bad prose poems and pre-trip writings (same fears, phobias and retrospective thoughts, basically covering the same ground with every one) I started finding these chapters intrusive and rather irritating, and skimmed over them so she could continue her travel stories! She is a very honest writer, and does not gloss over the less enjoyable parts of her trip -- and there were truly horrible times. But the trip is enriching, as all travels are. Yet, back in the States after about 6 months, the

old dissatisfaction with her life is back -- surprisingly, I thought. But then again, the loss of mother love comes into play again. I tried to imagine myself in that position -- where your own mother refuses to be in a photo if Jillian is also in it -- and it's clear that this breach between mother and daughter has scarred Jillian for life. At the end of the book, when Jillian has fled the States once more, the question remains: will she ever find peace and satisfaction anywhere? All in all, I heartily recommend this "different" memoir to anyone who likes this genre.

I rarely read True life books but was recommend this book by a dear friend. I was so surprised by how I felt wrapped in Jillian's life. I couldn't put this book down. I felt like I was dealing with Jillian's pain and excitement and all her emotions with her as I read. This is not just another travel memoir this is a life evolving and developing and finding its place and worth. I can only hope Jillian writes another book in the near future so I can continue to be a loyal fan.

An incredible journey perfectly articulated. This book is a page turner, unexpected from a written work of this Genre. This is not the type of book I normally read. I read Jillian's blogs as she opened each door on her discovery. I anticipated this book would echo those amazing writings, and it did, but delivered so much more. A roller coaster of emotion and adventure that makes most spy novels seem mundane. Read this book and set yourself free.

This book sucked me in from page one. I have never read a travel memoir and needless to say I was pleasantly surprised! The emotional journey that Jillian takes is amazingly beautiful and at times filled with fear and sorrow! Such an inspiring young women, who took a journey many will never dare to try to conquer! Read this and you will be swept away!

Wow!! Where do I begin?! This book had me roped in instantly. I cried with Jill through her pain, I laughed with her when she found herself in crazy situations and I was angry when things didn't go right for her. I felt it all in this book. So cleverly written, I felt like I got to experience the world right along with her...and what an awesome world it was through Jill's eyes! Becoming familiar with Jill's situation at the beginning of the book made you madly in love with her; what a strong, independent, loving, stubborn, indecisive, beautiful, selfless, silly, brave and creative human being. You will root for her through her journey of living her dream and be so genuinely happy for her. Jill, you are just amazing. I wish you so much love, happiness and fulfillment in life. You deserve it. I'll see you in your next book...

I have known Jillian since she was in junior high. She refers to me as her "mother unit" I have watched her cry and I have watched her grow into an amazing woman. I have always considered myself a good writer....until I read this book. The reader feels like she is right there with Jillian through every adventure. I read it in one sitting and re-read it in my head often. I wanted to hold the young girl, made an outcast by her church, yet applaud the strong woman who faced her fears around the world. Simply amazing. Every young woman facing indecision in her life MUST read this. Every woman who breathes MUST read this. Bravo daughter unit!!

I very much enjoyed reading this book. I would like to be able to do this sort of travel one of these days. The author does a great job of telling the reader how she feels when certain things happen, or don't happen as planned. Her experience with Jehovah's Witnesses is very enlightening, I had no idea they were that strict with their followers. Amazing what a group will do to keep the peeps in the flock.

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