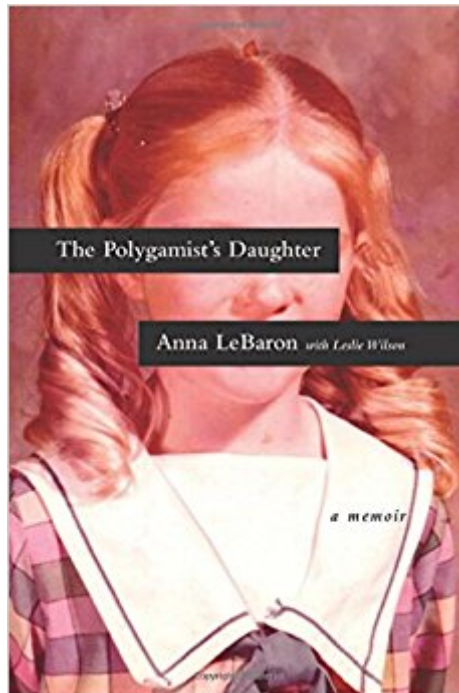




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# The Polygamist's Daughter: A Memoir



## Synopsis

My father had thirteen wives and more than fifty children . . . This is the haunting memoir of Anna LeBaron, daughter of the notorious polygamist and murderer Ervil LeBaron. Ervil's criminal activity kept Anna and her siblings constantly on the run from the FBI. Often starving, the children lived in a perpetual state of fear and despite their numbers, Anna always felt alone. Would she ever find a place she truly belonged? Would she ever be anything other than the polygamist's daughter? Filled with murder, fear, and betrayal, *The Polygamist's Daughter* is the harrowing, heart-wrenching story of a fatherless girl and her unwavering search for love, faith, and a place to call home.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"As remembered through the eyes of a child, certain aspects of *The Polygamist's Daughter* seem at times more like adventure than inhumane living situations. You will be captivated as Anna LeBaron's life circumstances weigh heavier and heavier upon her, culminating in the brave decision to escape from the grip of a horrific family situation. Carrying insurmountable grief, she eventually finds peace and wholeness in Jesus. Anna has woven a tragic yet redemptive telling of her childhood that will leave you wrought with holy emotions right up until the last page." (Julie Presley, Author of *Stones of Remembrance*) "Anna's personal story is riveting, captivating, and heart wrenching all at once. You will be startled by this true-life tale and also amazed at the profound ways Anna brings comfort and strength to so many journeying with her. You will be mesmerized by

this book and deeply touched by her ability to mount up above her challenging life. Great job, Anna!” (Sally Clarkson, Author of Own Your Life and cofounder of Whole Heart Ministries) Since I’ve met my cousin Anna, she’s been a force of inspiration. Reading her memoir, I now fully understand why. Anna’s childhood struggles could’ve been anyone’s, and were certainly similar to my own, but her brave and passionate spirit shines as a bright reminder that no matter what happens in our lives, what lies within us is stronger and more powerful than our circumstances.” (Ruth Wariner, Bestselling author of The Sound of Gravel)”The Polygamist’s Daughter is a crazy read, full of things almost unimaginable in this day and age. And yet it’s real, and Anna LeBaron went through it. The Polygamist’s Daughter is a riveting narrative, but even more, it’s a story of redemption. Read it for the ride, but settle in for the hope.” (Sarah Mae, Author of Longing for Paris)”The Polygamist’s Daughter reads like a taut suspense novel, only Anna’s story is terrifyingly real. I rooted for Anna, experiencing her unstable, uprooted, crime-laden childhood alongside her. This memoir reminds us all that no one is beyond the reach of Jesus, and He loves to pursue the broken in broken places.” (Mary DeMuth, Author of Thin Places: A Memoir)”The Polygamist’s Daughter is a heart-wrenching account of my niece Anna’s extreme neglect, fear, and abuse inflicted by the very ones meant to protect her. Readers will be astonished by her powerful testimony of surviving danger and terror while growing up in the cult of her infamous father, Ervil LeBaron. This account of Anna’s resilient spirit, strength, and courage brings hope to others -- many of whom, through fear, have remained silent for too long!” --(Irene Spencer, Author of NYT bestseller Shattered Dreams: My Life as a Polygamist’s Wife) --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

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This is a compelling story. I read it in one weekend. I could not put it down. LaBaron draws you in immediately with story of young Anna. She recounts such abuse, and as the reader you feel as though you are walking through these unimaginable situations which were everyday life for the LaBaron children. The author brings you through the bad, tells of her amazing escape, and shows the hope that she found and the strength to overcome- moving forward in a healthy, well loved, fulfilled life. This memoir is riveting. It is a story of despair and hope- such an amazing story. I highly recommend it!\*\*I was given an advanced copy by the publisher in exchange for my honest review. And, honestly, I pre-ordered my own copy because it is such a phenomenal book!\*\*

This story is a beautiful, redemptive one. The memoir tells the story of Anna's experience before and after escaping a polygamist cult. I was particularly intrigued by the narrative of her "voice" in this story. It saddened me to see how insignificant others attempted to make her feel as a young girl. An otherwise exuberant, loving child, she was starved for attention and the affection of her parents. Trauma and tragedy kept her authentic voice trapped and then searching for release. While the

reader is seldom privy to LeBaron's inner thoughts and feelings, we are escorted through the visceral experience of her life as she seeks love, identity and a way to stand up to the very man who silenced her. I found myself cheering at the end, and grateful for each person who becomes a voice for those who have no voice. I highly recommend this book as a gripping read.

In this memoir, Anna LeBaron recounts her childhood living under the oppression of a polygamist cult. As the daughter of the cult leader and one of 50 children, LeBaron shares how growing up in poverty, hunger, and confusion shaped who she was. This redemptive story also explains her escape and the freedom and healing she found later in life. Though a non-fiction memoir, this book reads much like a novel. The voice was reminiscent of the narrator of the novel *Orphan Train*, which was a fictional piece written like a memoir. The transition between young Anna, teen Anna, and adult Anna as narrator is seamless. Scenes from LeBaron's life are painted in riveting detail. I read this book in one sitting; I couldn't put it down. I've already begun researching this cult to piece together more information that happened outside the author's point of view.

I am a huge fan of memoirs and *The Polygamist's Daughter* ranks right up there as one of the best. Anna described the intricate details of her story in such a way as to make me feel that I was right there with her, without triggering any intense moments from my own past. I have always believed in the power of "me too" where a woman who has come through the fire, is brave enough to tell her story, in hopes that someone else who has faced similar circumstances, will feel less alone. Anna does this masterfully. The *Polygamist's Daughter* is an honest telling of Anna's journey through heartache and pain, but it doesn't leave you there. She shares the story of the work that Jesus has done in her life, beautifully. She offers hope, no matter what you've been through.

Anna LeBaron has bravely shared her painful, secluded, oftentimes fearful, confusing life story, with grace and hope. From the first few lines, you want to rally behind this young child and scoop her out of the horrific scenes that play out before your eyes. You are pulled along with her as she describes "life" or what most would call imprisonment, in a polygamist cult. She is able to give us a picture of what it might feel like to be under constant control with absolutely no voice. The depth of emotion the reader travels through is truly amazing but can in no way compare to what LeBaron describes for herself. The reader is transported along with the author on her own healing journey she took as

an adult. Her testimony in this memoir brings to light the atrocities the children of cults can and do endure. Thank Anna LeBaron for having the courage to bring your experience to paper!

Wow! I tend to google things as I read non-fiction and this book is especially google-able! What a difficult story to tell. Anna does a marvelous job adding her voice to the many others who have personal experience with the LeBaron cult. I'm so encouraged by the hope she finds despite a childhood full of dysfunction and neglect.

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