



# Secrets and Wives: The Hidden World of Mormon Polygamy

By Sanjiv Bhattacharya

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**Secrets and Wives: The Hidden World of Mormon Polygamy** By Sanjiv Bhattacharya

What do we really know about modern practicing polygamists—not fictional ones like the Henrickson family on HBO's *Big Love*? We've seen the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in the news, the underage brides in pioneer dresses on a Texas ranch. But the FLDS is just one of many groups that have broken with mainstream Mormonism to follow those parts of Joseph Smith's doctrine disavowed by the LDS Church.

Gaining unprecedented access to these communities, journalist Sanjiv Bhattacharya reveals a shadow country teeming with small town messiahs, dark secrets, and stories both heartbreaking and strange. Polygamy's dark side—incest, forced marriages, and physical abuse—is laid bare. But Bhattacharya also finds warmth in the fundamentalist diaspora and even finds himself taking an ideological stand for polygamy's legalization.

More than just an expose of Mormon polygamy, *Secrets and Wives* is the personal journey of a foreign atheist and liberal, a stranger in a strange land who grapples with hard questions about marriage, monogamy, and the very nature of faith.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

Praise for *Secrets and Wives*

"Many of us recognize the stock images of polygamy: the child brides from isolated compounds, like the Yearning for Zion ranch, and the suburban homemakers on television, yearning for their husbands. In *Secrets and Wives: The Secret World of Mormon Polygamy*, British journalist Sanjiv Bhattacharya pushes past these caricatures to show what Mormon polygamists are really like." —*Slate*

"Though fundamentalist Mormon polygamy is portrayed in a benign light on TV (e.g., *Big Love*), the reality is for the most part much grimmer . . . This is a riveting read for both Bhattacharya's wry and heartfelt style and the nature of the material." —*Library Journal*

Praise for *The Man with 80 Wives*

"Sanjiv Bhattacharya, a likable reporter who smoothed over rebuffs (there were many) with charm, tracked [Warren Jeff's] trail of destruction from Canada to Texas . . . Sanjiv seemed worried Warren might kill himself and his followers. He is, as I said, a nice young man." —*The Guardian* (U.K.)

"A compelling portrait of a sex-obsessed, racist false prophet . . . [Sanjiv] has a nice manner for a documentary TV interrogator . . . slightly bumbling, ingenuous, soft-spoken, wide-eyed, innately self-critical." —*The Sunday Herald* (Scotland)

About the Author

No Bio

No Bio

### Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Roxie Spencer:**

Book is to be different for every grade. Book for children till adult are different content. We all know that that book is very important usually. The book *Secrets and Wives: The Hidden World of Mormon Polygamy* had been making you to know about other information and of course you can take more information. It is rather advantages for you. The guide *Secrets and Wives: The Hidden World of Mormon Polygamy* is not only giving you more new information but also to get your friend when you truly feel bored. You can spend your own personal spend time to read your e-book. Try to make relationship with all the book *Secrets and Wives: The Hidden World of Mormon Polygamy*. You never experience lose out for everything in the event you read some books.

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