

Have you ever wondered how smart, normal people end up enmeshed in extreme cults? Weird history expert J. W. Ocker strives to answer that question in *Cult Following*. Everything you've ever wanted to know about history's most notorious cults—and the psychology of the people who join them—is packed into this accessible, engaging volume. Walk in the footsteps of the followers who were lured into these sinister groups, including:

- **Branch Davidians:** Led by David Koresh, this cult was waiting out the apocalypse in 1993 when the FBI infamously raided their compound in Waco, Texas.
- **Narcosatanists:** This cult of drug traffickers in 1980s Mexico was led by Adolfo de Jesús Constanzo, who believed he had magic powers and committed human sacrifice.
- **Brotherhood of the Seven Rays:** The earliest known UFO cult, the infiltration and study of the Brotherhood by psychologists inspired the term “cognitive dissonance.”
- **Ho No Hana Sanpogyo:** The founder, Hogen Fukunaga, claimed to be able to tell someone's fortune by examining their feet.
- **Breatherianism:** Breatherians believe that humans can live on air alone. Their founder, Wiley Brooks, claimed to have gone without food for nineteen years.
- **NXIVM:** This twenty-first century cult attracted several members of Hollywood and engaged in sex trafficking, forced labor, and racketeering under the guise of personal development seminars.

In *Cult Following*, Ocker sheds light on the terrifying attraction of cults, demonstrating the elasticity of belief, the desperateness of belonging, and the tragedy of trust.

**J. W. OCKER** is an Edgar Award-winning travel writer, horror novelist, and blogger. His previous nonfiction books include *Poe-Land*, *The New England Grimpendium*, *The New York Grimpendium*, *A Season with the Witch*, the *New York Times*-reviewed *Cursed Objects*, and *The United States of Cryptids*. He is the creator of the blog and podcast *OTIS: Odd Things I've Seen* ([oddtthingsiveseen.com](http://oddtthingsiveseen.com)).

READ BY KIMBERLY M. WETHERELL

**BLACKSTONE**  
PUBLISHING

Runtime: 8h. 30m. • Unabridged

© 2024 by BLACKSTONE PUBLISHING / © 2024 by J.W. Ocker / Published by arrangement with Quirk Books / Cover design by Elissa Flanigan / Cover illustration by Joshua Noom. [www.BlackstoneLibrary.com](http://www.BlackstoneLibrary.com).

**playaway**  
PRODUCTS

© 2024 Playaway. Patented.  
All rights reserved.  
31999 Aurora Road, Solon, OH 44139 USA  
Designed in Ohio. Made in China.  
[www.playaway.com](http://www.playaway.com)

The Playaway format is recommended for children ages 5 and up.



AUDIO

OCKER

CULT FOLLOWING

Adult



PLAYAWAY  
THE ALL-IN-ONE AUDIOBOOK

