

TV TV News Documentaries

Jehovah Witnesses taught 'non-believers are controlled by the devil' according to escapee

23:20, 24 AUGUST 2015 | BY NICOLA AGIUS

Karen Stanway, who was born into the religion, claims that during her childhood, she was advised by the church not to befriend people outside of her faith

1431 Shares | Share | Tweet | +1 | Pinterest

Enter your e-mail for our celebs newsletter

Subscribe



A former **Jehovah's Witness** has claimed the religion is a 'cult' - 12 years after breaking away.

Speaking out on **Channel 5 series Inside Scientology... and Escaping the Witnesses**, Karen Stanway insisted that was warned against befriendng those outside of the faith during her school years.

"We were taught that people who aren't Jehovah's Witnesses are evil and are controlled by Satan," she claimed. "So whenever I'd talk to people outside of our faith, I'd think, wow I had better not get too close as this person is controlled by Satan.



FREE Online Courses Get the skills you need to land the job you want.

START LEARNING NOW ▶



Recommended In TV



CELEBRITY BIG BROTHER
Celebrity Big Brother salaries revealed, guess who gets THREE times more than everyone else?



CHLOE JASMINE STEVI RITCHIE IN CELEBRITY BIG BROTHER
Bobby Davro WARNS Stevi Ritchie about Chloe-Jasmine and her insecurities on Celebrity Big Brother



BRITAIN'S GOT TALENT
Britain's Got Talent contestant who sang with Only Boys Aloud dies in mum's arms aged just 18



EASTENDERS
EastEnders spoilers: Sharon sees a GHOST and Kathy Beale actress Gillian Tavlforth explains why



CORONATION STREET
Coronation Street's Jennie McAlpine reveals why she's 'pleased' with on-screen daughter's cancer storyline

FREE Online Courses from MIT, Harvard, UC Berkeley...

edX

www.edx.org

START LEARNING NOW ▶



Karen Stanway reveals why she broke away from Jehova's Witnesses

"They used to show us these pictures of what Armageddon looks like; people getting killed, earthquakes, famine. Anytime I'd see anything like that on the news, I'd feel so anxious. I'd just hope that I'd done enough for the church to be one of the chosen saved ones.

"You're very much closed into this society. It was really difficult - especially at school.

"You just couldn't make friends. If you did, you'd have to come up with excuses as to why you couldn't go round their houses for dinner or for sleepovers. We weren't allowed on school trips which were overnight."



Karen claims the church scared her with Armageddon imagery

Karen left the church over ten years ago after being diagnosed with severe depression and anorexia.

The news overwhelmed her mother and she became suicidal shortly afterwards. According to Karen, her mum looked to the religion for help and a family meeting was organised with the church elders - but no good came of it.

"All that came out of that meeting was me and my mum being told we weren't good enough daughters and mothers.



Karen adds that she is 'messed up' because of her religious upbringing



[CHLOE JASMINE STEVE RITCHIE IN CELEBRITY BIG BROTHER](#)
[Suspicious Steve Ritchie doubts Chloe-Jasmine really wants to marry him on Celebrity Big Brother](#)



[CORONATION STREET Coronation Street fans threaten to switch off over heartbreaking childhood cancer storyline](#)



[SUE PERKINS Anna Richardson on falling for girlfriend Sue Perkins: 'There was something magical in the air'](#)



[STAR WARS New Star Wars toy that makes 100 different Lightsabers revealed during 18-hour merchandise launch](#)



[EASTENDERS EastEnders' Rakhee Thakrar retweets heartbreaking pictures as she continues to touchingly raise awareness of stillbirth](#)

Poker Promotion

"That was the first time in my life I had done anything out of anger. I got up, stormed out of the room and slammed the door behind me."

After leaving the religion, Karen never looked back. However in the documentary, she did re-visit the church she used to worship at.

"I used to feel so safe when I came here - but I wasn't," she added. "If I hadn't have been raised as a Jehovah's Witness, I don't think I'd be so messed up now."

The members of Karen's church have denied her claims.



PROMOTED STORIES



Woman Shows How Unrealistic Celeb Selfies Are
Time To Break



11 Famous Kids Who Look Just Like Their Parents
RoyalLounge



Cabin Crew Take Secret Pictures, You Wont Believe...
Time To Break



10 Bible Verses That Are Always Misunderstood
Viral Craze



15 Celebrities That You Forgot Committed Horrible...
Uber Celebrity



Celebrity Siblings Who Got All Of The Looks
Time To Break



13 Celebs Who Don't Believe In God
RoyalLounge



Bunch Of Things You Were Using Totally Wrong
Whats Buzzing Now



5 Real Life Soap Opera Couples
Fame10

Recommended by

SPONSORED LINKS



Play the 5 star fantasy football game



Get 3 days for just £1.99 with Mirror Dating!

Ads powered by plista

RECENTLY PUBLISHED

Rita Ora confirms she will perform on X Factor... while Cheryl Fernandez-Versini takes a back seat



The Crazy Stupid Love insisted she doesn't

PREVIOUS ARTICLES

Battered wife is unrecognisable after violent husband leaves her face bruised and swollen



Channel 5 documentary Robbers On A Rampage reveals

Most Read In TV



1 CELEBRITY BIG BROTHER
Celebrity Big Brother salaries revealed, guess who gets THREE times more than everyone else?

2 BRITAIN'S GOT TALENT
Britain's Got Talent contestant who sang with Only Boys Aloud dies in mum's arms aged just 18

3 CHLOE JASMINE & STEVI RITCHIE IN CELEBRITY BIG BROTHER
Bobby Davro WARNS Stevi Ritchie about Chloe-Jasmine and her insecurities on Celebrity Big Brother

4 SUE PERKINS
Anna Richardson on falling for girlfriend Sue Perkins: 'There was something magical in the air'

5 CHLOE JASMINE & STEVI RITCHIE IN CELEBRITY BIG BROTHER
Suspicious Stevi Ritchie doubts Chloe-Jasmine really wants to marry him on Celebrity Big Brother

Recommended On The Mirror



JENNIFER ANISTON
Jennifer Aniston and Justin Theroux's honeymoon bubble burst with nasty split claims



PREGNANCY