

# Sandy Final Draft Part 2

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

cult, children, left, husband, happened, knew, gave, mother, family, kids, people, sandy, god, eldest, life, rang, babies, household, day, thought

## SPEAKERS

Lou, Melissa, Sandy, Whitney

Melissa 00:00

We would like to offer a cautionary warning, as this podcast discusses stories of sexual assault, and abuse of children and adults. These stories are real life accounts of survivors of the children of God. The only edits made are for clarity and production quality. Discretion is Advised. If you or someone you know is a victim of abuse, please call one 800 799 safe or text the word start 288788.

Whitney 00:39

What was started by a single man on a mission to save souls for Christ quickly became an international phenomenon that recruited over 10,000 members spread to every continent, and has lasted more than 50 years.

Lou 00:52

Whitney and Melissa from cults crimes and Cabernet created this platform for the survivors of the children of God cult to share their journey in a safe environment.

Melissa 01:06

It was a crazy life for many and an abusive a nightmare for a whole generation of children disguised as so called love.

Lou 01:20

And I am one of those children. My name is Lucia mod, also known as Lou

Melissa 01:27

Lou not only survived, but she wanted to build a roadmap for this journey to help other survivors.

Lou 01:35

Every story has a beginning, a middle and an end. This is how the children of God was born.

Sandy 01:46

I am a first generation adult, I am surviving love. My name is Sandy Ellis.

Melissa 01:58

In this episode of surviving love, you will also hear from CO creator and survivor Lou. She asked questions and compares her experience to Sandy's.

Whitney 02:11

These stories are real life accounts of survivors of the children of God. This is a serialized podcast recorded across continents, there are moments when the audio may become a bit hard to hear. If you are struggling to hear, please go to the show notes where you can find the transcript. If you have not listened to the first two episodes, please go back and start at the beginning. This is where Sandy left off.

Sandy 02:39

Okay, so in September 89, I gave birth when they were my six and seven. And what happened was, I've been wanting to leave the cult for a long time. But I couldn't because my husband, and it would always be the same thing you can go but the children stay that was always you know that the teaching of the cult, it's very difficult to leave if your partner doesn't want to leave because you end up losing children. All of them, some of them. And I was never willing to do that. Because that had already happened. First husband left. And he lost me. His two little girls. We either we'd already had that experience. What country were you in? This was in Australia. So now failure. We had been in India we come we've been in India for six years for maybe 288. I had my twins in 89. And this was basically April May 1990. And so one of the twins. They gave me morphine in the hospital. And it was undiagnosed, but because I have had manic episodes since then, I think that morphine gave me a hypomanic episode. And it made me realize I wasn't sleeping. I wasn't getting any sleep for months, feeding through babies, I was under a lot of pressure because I still had to do my work and looking after my group. You know how children were put in groups. I had I had three and four year olds and two, two babies. Anyway, what happened was, I just I wasn't sleeping. I was hyper manic, and it just made me really, really assertive. And I got to it. I could not take any more criticism or bullshit at all. It was a very tumultuous time I did a lot of crying. I really was in the midst of of a breakdown and

so the day I left I had been summonsed before the leader, the leader of the area, named Aaron, and the leader of the household named Gideon, and my husband and I had been in like, the room with my little group, my little babies were already in the nursery, the nursery, another mother and a couple of jet age girls, were looking after my twins and other babies. And I knew I was in trouble because the week prior, they had a parent teacher meeting. What about this, we've all unhappy the children were getting enough schooling, and we're just getting too much indoctrination. And my daughter's in particular, [REDACTED] was not coping at all with being separated from me, and was not coping with all the pressure. And so in that meeting with the, in the parent teacher interview, I complained, I'd said, Look, you know, she still can't spell. When I was called before the leaders, I knew that it was very hazardous to symbol you will. So, you know, for the most part, people wouldn't become. But anyway, because this was so important to me, I did speak up. Anyway, I got called before these three men, my husband getting in an errand, and it was very intimidating. And I was so annoyed, I wasn't getting any sleep. I was breastfeeding to bed. I had these little children, I had to look up to every day. And I just was in no mood to be challenged. And basic. Look, you know, you're speaking to you first, you know, there were other mothers who have a lot more to say that wasn't the spirit. And no, I'm like, Well, I'm just, I basically let them know, I'm fed up. I've had enough. And the leader, he's, he came down pretty hard on me. And he said, you know, if you you know, you're gonna have to get the victory, or you're going to have to leave the family

Lou 07:32

and getting the victory. I don't think they really understand what that means.

Sandy 07:37

You're going to have to be really sorry, yeah, get over it. Like you're the one with the problem. You know, that you're the problem. There's nothing wrong with the JET Program. There's nothing to do a redo things, you know, this is the Lord's work with following. You know,

Lou 07:55

so you better get the victory when

Sandy 07:57

he said that. It was it was a light bulb moment. Because I wanted to leave family. I am trying to leave the cult for years, but I couldn't. Because my husband wouldn't. And and I just said, I want to leave, I want to lead. And, you know, they were very taken aback by that. They expected me to say, oh, no, don't you know, I'm sorry. Don't kick me out. I want to serve God. You know, they expect that but I'd have enough. I'm like I want to be and the leader, here's what you will do. You will take your babies and your your, your, your little bunch or at the time, and you will go to the household of some some people who had left the cult was sort of harping about halfway house. Yes, yeah. And he said, you go there, and you will pray and read the word meaning read all the letters. And you know, then we'll decide what to do with you. I just stood up for myself for the first time in my whole time in the Colts. And I said, I'm going I'm taking my babies, and I will take my eldest, and I will be back for the rest. And that was it. I'm like, I've done it. I've done it.

I'm, I'm leaving. And that was the morning I left. And what was keeping me there was my own mind. Your fear? Yeah, exactly. Exactly. It was my own fear. My own feeling that I couldn't trust my own. I couldn't trust my own wisdom. No. Yeah, it was a huge turning point. And that was the day I left. But do you know thought of that instance many times and I'm like, Why did I just say, I'll take my eldest or my babies? Why did you say, on every single one of my children right now? I can ascertain, but not a complete breakthrough. I reply that in my mind, because I was then faced with the difficulty of my husband, Daryl being in the cold with the rest of my children, you know, they were scattered, that my older two were in another household. And, yeah, it just didn't occur to me to say, I will take all of them up, I think, because he'd said, you take your younger one and your babies, and I thought, well, that's not good. I can't manage three little ones on my own. You know, and, you know, figure out what to do. So I said, I take my eldest because she was my appeal. Yes, she could help me, my eldest was my children's best mother. Okay, so what happened was, I was sent to the household of a couple who had been basically kicked out of the cult, because the husband of this couple was a predator. But nobody told me that, like EDA sent me and might be children. I've been molesting his daughter. And I don't know if he had molested other children, I don't know. But they knew that the leader knew. But he still sent him. And he put me in a very dangerous situation, he put my children and I in a very dangerous, and I didn't know nothing to my children, when we were in that household that could have I wasn't told, that was another thing that replays in my mind. Yeah, it's such a lack of respect for me, and for my children, to just send me to a household with, with the leading knew that that man had, was a sexual predator. When when I found out when I went there, his wife, you know, as soon as I arrived, I was very excited. Because, you know, I was on a mission to get my husband and the rest of my children out. And, you know, an interesting thing about the cult, everything. It's very what is very similar to what we hear about Catholic Church, if it comes to the attention of the hierarchy, that one of the priests is preying on children is a sexual predator, they just move them. They don't report him to the police. They, you know, they don't say, Well, that's it, you know, we're calling the police. No, they just moved them from one place to another to another. And that's what the cult you know, they're taking the law into their own hands, at the, the risks and at the expense, exactly. At the expense of their own children. God has always sacrificed its children. It's women. It's not, you know, it's people say to us what it's all about sacrificing your life. All your resources, your time, your energy your children, to this cult of David Berg. It's what it is. It's a sacrifice cult. Because that's exactly what happened. That's exactly what we did. This is the thing as being a first generation member, you know, admittedly, I was young when I was recruited. But I this is an interesting topic of, you know, why do good people do things? And, you know, so much has to do with environment, if you put a person you know, with certain morals into an environment where where the morals of different you know, they adapt, yeah, that's what happened. We, we joined and we adapted and changed our beliefs, our standards or morals or ethics. takes our worldview, attitude. We changed everything in order to fit in. But in fitting in, we were harmed. And so we're out. But we still did it.

#### Whitney 15:17

But Sandy, I was wondering, so when your parents allowed you to get into this call, and now that you're getting back out, were they there to support you when you stepped back into

#### Sandy 15:28

the real world? When when I notified them, because I have a lot of shame about, you know, I hid a lot of things from my parents, I had a lot of shame about this cult, I didn't know, I didn't see it as a fault. But I knew that. But, you know, I felt I'd been a bit to my parents for years. And they were always having to send me money and rescue me. And, you know, like, for example, when we were in India, they sent us money to return to Australia. I was in Thailand, money returned. You know, so I always felt like I was being a problem to my parents are a burden. Yes, a burden. So I didn't notify them. Until there was a big issue between my husband and I, because he he eventually came to do what the leaders did, they told when when I got the fight was on to

get my husband and my children. And so I was ringing every day, and knew that, like, a lot of people didn't know the phone number of the actual Apple they lived. I did. And I would ring. And I would take, I want to I want to have bring my kids. And, you know, I want to sit or do you know, I love Jesus, you know, you've turned your back on God, you know, like, I, I lose my temper, and I am the bone down. And then I began and bring again. So my children have told me since you know that that was very unnerving. You know, the phone would ring and there'd be this argument. And then, and then bring again, everyone was very unknown.

Lou 17:30

Did were you able to ever talk to your family members, like an aunt, or sister or brother? And kind of get their perspective on where you've been all this time? And what they felt about your life decisions?

Sandy 17:49

Yes, yeah, I have. Well, both my parents have died. But one younger brother, but yes, yes. And the older, you know, the years since I left, I would have conversations mostly with my father, about, you know, because he would basically say, you something wrong with you. Like, you know, my father was very supportive of all the years I was in, I had relatives who would say to my dad, just forget about her, just, you know, like, she's gone and done something to really harm your family. You know, just leave up, let her get on with it. Let her learn the hard way, look, see what she's done. But my father would be like, No, something's happened to her. She's different. She's not herself. My father could see that, that I wasn't thinking for myself that whatever the children of God did to me, in those very early weeks of my having met them, it set me on a completely different path, and was utterly out of character for who I was and what I was, and he could never understand that he knew was something about my mind that had been affected. So my dad, I adored my father, like, he was a very intelligent man. And he approached the whole, the whole problem with great caution. And he never, you know, there were times when he, you know, be annoyed with me, and he would tell me, so, you know, this was when I was in, in the early years when I was in the cult, you know, he'd be frustrated with me. But yeah, my father could see that I wasn't thinking for myself that I was in a relationship where I was being exploited and abused. And yet I didn't leave that relationship and that my children were suffering. You know, the consequences of me, their mother not being able to stand up for them. I was fortunate, my father. He never gave up on me. I think my mother's the same, but in a different way. My mother supported me in a different way. I come from Liverpool in the UK, and We're what you call Liverpool, Irish. And they're very clannish people. And so

Lou 20:39

you're always what are your siblings? What did your siblings think when you know, like, now? Are they you know, are you still in communication with them? Um,

Sandy 20:51

well, what happened to my siblings is, their lives and the lives of their children were all put on the back burner. Because I took center stage me, you know, like, it was hard for both of my my siblings, because when I joined the children of God, not only did my life change forever, so did that. And, you know, they have said that, you know, one or two things that, you know, we became invisible because of you. And because of all your, it was

all about, Sandy is all about Sandy's kids. And

Lou 21:32

you needed rescuing. So you became front and center? Oh,

Sandy 21:36

yes, I Yeah. And even after I left the cold, I lived very close to my children, to my parents. I knew too, that I could live close to them. And so my father could walk to my house. And he did every day, he walked up my house with his little dog. And so he was always there, my mother would always come, she was always helping with cooking and cleaning and looking after the children. And so for my parents to visit, my brother and my sister and their families, they had to go on and drive elsewhere, whereas they could walk around the corner, and I was there. So they were very, in very, very present in my children's lives. And so we're very close to them. And yeah, my it. So it's not just the person who joins the cult whose life is changed. It's the lives of parents and siblings and relatives. And it's like, you know, the story of throwing a stone in a pond. The implications of it, just go on and on and on throughout time.

Lou 22:50

The ripple effect, the ripple effect, yeah. So when you left, how long did it take for you to get the rest of your kids back?

Sandy 23:03

Okay, so it actually only took a couple, maybe two weeks, because I was, you know, I was very much on a mission. I have to get my kids I have to get my kid to every day. I would assign my eldest, my oldest daughter to look after the twins, keep them in the bedroom, feed them, there's their milk. I've got to go out but I'll be back. And yeah, I I just I didn't tell anybody. At first. One thing that did happen was I saw an advertisement for a helpline. In a strip here in Australia. It's called lifeline says if you've got a problem is something going on in your life. And I'm reading it I'm like, yes, yes.

Lou 23:52

Yeah. Jack Jack.

Sandy 23:56

And so I rang them, I'd write down the phone number, and I rang them, and I was, but I couldn't tell them about the cult. I'm saying, I put these children, my husband's are feeling sila. Yeah, like terrified, you know, to say anything. And she's saying, Well, are they your children? I might, yes. Like, we're gonna get them on like, well, I can't, because they, you know, I hung up the phone, and I'm like, oh, you know? And I'm like, No, I'm

gonna try again. So I pick the phone up, call, again, be a different person. And I'd say, look, I've got this problem. My husband has my children. He won't give them to me. He won't come to me. And no, and I'm like, and they're like, Oh, why don't you just go there and get them? And I'm like, Well, it's because it's a cult. They're in a cult. It's a group. So I said, I'm like, Oh my God. I thought this guy would fall down on my head that maybe he could go kill Boom, but it didn't. And, and I'm telling the Woman Yeah, it's a call we've been in OB was in a call to my father, my husband still with most of my children by call the police. And I'm like, yeah, so it was a process of me reaching, you know, breaking free in my mind, you know, opening a door and I'm like, Okay, I will go this far, and then opening another door and like, Okay, I'll go that far. So I was bringing the court after that saying, If you don't give me my children, I will call my dad. And he'll come down from Brisbane. And I will call the police. And give me my kids. And, yeah, so the leaders today might, where I was living. And because I gave an ultimatum, I said, If you don't, by 11 o'clock, I'm calling the police. And so next morning, just at 11 o'clock. And, you know, really angry, like, very fierce, very furious, and I'm like, You, I was furious. I was more furious. It's just insane insanity to all of this, that when people hear it, they're like, they're your children, you know, but just go and get them. Like, who do they think they are? Do you know? Like, just do it. What happened was after that, I think that was like maybe a Saturday, the next day was Mother's Day. And they said, Okay, your husband, ■, and the kids will come. And so I met them at a park. They came in a taxi. It was my husband and I we were all together. And it was a very cold wet blustery day. But it was such a wonderful day, because we were all together again. And the children were all happy to see each other and they running around. And, and very sweet with my husband, I'm like, I love you, you know, we can be a family. I want to serve God, you know, you are backslider. And like, no matter what I said it like, it was very frustrating. Because it's obvious the children want to be together, they love each other. Yeah. In the end, the the cult leaders, they said, look, go with her, but help her find somewhere to live. They gave him money from to rent your house, find somewhere to live, get her set up, and then get her to sign paperwork, giving you half the children. So you can come back and serve the board in the family. So I was excited about that. That's fantastic. And we found a beautiful house. It was very clean. It was lovely. We were so happy there. But, you know, the fight was on between him and I who was going to win? Was I going to be able to convince him. No, let's play house, let's cook and be that children and watch TV and go for walks and or, you know, a you Uganda when but so the pressure was on. And it was it was very hard because he would not give up. And he pressured me and pressured me and pressured me. I want to serve God, I want to serve the family. And he was very depressed. He became very depressed. And he would read all the MO letters and listen to the CDs and you know, the tapes and everything up. Yeah. And I'm like, oh, that's that. That's that literature that's making him miserable. So when he went out because he would go out for a few hours at a time meet up with the cult, with the leaders and you know, talk about me and what was happening. When he was gone. I get some of the material and some of the tapes, rip them up, break them, put them in the bottom of the outside rubbish bin put lots of rubbish on top of them. And when he'd come back, you'd be saying our waste such and such and I'm like, I don't know, where did you put that and went I was hiding things or getting rid of them. And yeah, but they came to the point where he really put me under pressure. And he was arguing I was cutting vegetables at the sink. And I have a knife in my hand and he and Yeah, he was very just would not stop. And yeah, I just I had that knife and I just, I had this clash of myself stabbing him with this knife to make him stop. And I heard this like voice in my head, like, you know, you do that you go to jail, and he'll take all those kids back to the cult. And I just I pulled the drawer open, I threw the knife back in it slammed the drawer, and I picked up the phone, and I called my parents. And I'm like, I can't cope. I can't manage this situation anymore by myself. And that was when I found my mother. My father was away at sea. And I called my mother and I said, Mom, we left the family. ■ wants to take half the kids, there's a lot of trouble, will you call and she said, I will come immediately. And she did. She came, she flew down from Brisbane to Melbourne arrived the next morning. And that was the beginning of us sorting it all out. But actually what happened that after that phone call, I was still so furious, that I still wanted to kill him. And you have to leave the house, I can't bear to look at you, I was murdered. So I really was and yeah, so he ended up taking the tu, tu tu the younger ones. Back to the household, where I had been staying when I first left the cult. And I said you just have to go because like, anyway, I kicked him out, basically. And my personality at that point was very angry, everyone was scared of me, my kids were terrified of me. Because that your fury and such a fear and anxiety, I could not control myself, it was really tough. Like, I was ready to kill everything else. Like I was just too much pressure what

my husband and

Lou 32:15

I like when you have a divorce, you know, you have a divorce, you kind of go through those stages of grief, where you're angry, and then you're sad, and then you're depressed, and then you're angry again. And then you're you know, you go through cycles, and you're probably going through all of those cycles and emotions all at the same time. And, and fear as well, because you don't know what you're gonna be how you're going to be able to feed your kids and you know what you're what you're gonna do to support yourself, you know, I mean, there's all these anxieties and fears that could start to percolate. And I remember being the same way whenever I was a teenager, I was always very angry and, and very resentful to my father because I didn't understand what the hell he was thinking. By staying in the group, or by, you know, giving my my brother's out, basically, in essence, because they basically told him the same thing. Go and find your children a place to stay. And then when you're done, you can come back.

Sandy 33:19

I know, it's crazy, isn't it, the things that were demanded of us as members, like, obscene it like we're being told to break up our family to, to farm our children out, you know, to, to give them up to get them up for the Lord's work. It's, it's such a travesty of justice. And

Lou 33:44

you guys went through the same almost the same things that we did just older. You know, I mean, and afterwards, your your trauma from leaving the group and trying to get your kids mean, and afterwards, your your trauma from leaving the group and trying to get your kids back. And then, you know, I mean, you were also traumatized. So once your mom came to stay with you guys for a little while. Yeah. Did she? Did you guys wind up moving back to Brisbane, or what happened from there?

Sandy 34:21

Okay, so So, so that after that phone call, I basically kicked ■ out and I sent two young ones with him. I knew where they were, they weren't going back to the clock, but I just knew I couldn't. I couldn't settle down. I was very,

Lou 34:36

couldn't handle them all.

Sandy 34:39



I couldn't, I would say I was hypomanic. And, you know. I couldn't cope. But the next morning, my mother came. And you know, she's like, Well, where are they? And I'm like, well She thought I'd sent them back to the cult. So she was very angry with me. But anyway, um, he came back with the two little ones. And when they came in, you know, it was such an upset atmosphere, you know, because anyway, it was just really hard. But basically, my mother said, she misread the situation she is she, she said, I don't care if you to meeting him and me, I don't care if you to kill each other. I'm just here to look after these kids, which is actually very Liverpool sort of thing to say, like, you know, you're crazy. But I'm just going to be these kids. And we're just going to, like, you know, I'm here to look after the kids basically. So having my mother there really helped me settle down. Because I felt I felt safer with her there. I knew we had him out numbered. Even though my mother was annoyed with me and angry with me. I, I we had two women working together to look after these children. Well, up until

Lou 36:20

then you didn't really have any support. It was the family against you.

Sandy 36:23

It was it was it was the whole family. And behind ■, against me. And also, my own indoctrination was giving me a lot of trouble because I was terrified that I was out of God's will. And that sounds very foolish to me now. Because there was no such thing in my in my worldview, you know, but the indoctrination of God will judge you, God will deal with you if you leave the family if you harm God's work. So yeah, I My mind was very, it was a lot of turmoil. But having my mother there gave me confidence. It was very grounding, who was very grounding, having her there. And what we did, I'd already started going to a local church was the same kind of church my mother went to, because even I didn't tell them in the church, what was going on in our lives, but I was going there taking my children. But ■ would never come with me, because he said, I didn't want to go to church, I want to serve the Lord in the family, blah, blah. And so my mother and I were taking the children to church, and they had a little school as part of that church. So we decided to put the kids in school. And we did it. My mom and I, we, we put all my children, my school age, children in school,

Lou 37:51

so badly felt super awesome.

Sandy 37:54

It felt so good. And we have photos of all my kids in the school uniforms. And they're so happy to be here. That was wonderful. And, yeah, my mother really helped us a lot. And after that ■ stopped trying to take the kids, he resigned himself. And, you know, another thing that happened was during the time when he was really putting the pressure on me to leave to go back to the cult, you know, we'd arguable day and then at night, he put the hard word on the parsecs be like, This is crazy, you know, you expect so much for me. And then it

occurred to me one night, ah, if I were pregnant, he he'd stay, he'd have to stay. So I did my last child was conceived in with my efforts to, to have in stay with us. And yeah, she actually was the glue that kept us together as a family. So out of all of this, I became pregnant and I was having a baby and yeah, and she and so he stayed, he did stay, he did stay. And he got a job selling insurance. He became quite happy going to this church. He liked it. I ended up having a crisis with this church, because they're very similar to the cult and they had a very hierarchical structure, though patriarchal. So even though I was the one who started as going to this church, I was the one that ended up having problems with it.

Lou 39:53

But he was probably my wife. He liked it though, because it reminded

Sandy 39:57

him Yeah, it was good for him. But it helped him reintegrate into society. And, yeah, so my children went to school and yeah. And things were going along very nicely. I was happy. He was happy. I was having a baby. We had, you know, I had eight children all under the age of 13. I was coping, I loved it. I was very happy. My children were going to school, they loved school, people were very kind to us. It was right.

Lou 40:37

And you were like the Australian version of the Von Trapp family. We were the Colombian version of the Von Trapp family. So

Sandy 40:46

Sandy 40:46

it's quite ideal. And then one morning, there's a knock on my door. And it was a former member. In fact, it was the wife of the man who, who was the sexual predator. It was his wife, who was my friend. She had brought a fellow named Daniel, that was just called name to me, because he'd been kicked out of the family. And his wife and children were still in it. And she brought him to me, because he turned up at her house, he knew where she lived. He'd been out of the family, maybe two weeks, and he was very agitated and upset, and crying. And she didn't know what to do with him. So she brought him to me. And as we sat at the table, I knew him. Well, I've known him for years and years, I knew his wife, I knew his kids, I loved his family. And, you know, he's crying. And I was so angry. I'm like, they did this to me. They did this to me, when I wanted to leave, they made my life hell. And they tried to keep my kids. And I said, they done it to me, I won't let them do it to you. Famous last words, I should never have gotten involved. Because that, yeah, that is what?

Lou 42:15

I don't think that no, I really sandy, I don't think that you really need to take the blame for this, because you

know, what you were helping. And this is something that we were trained to do, for many, many years was to reach out and help when needed. So I mean, I understand that there was a big huge revolution that happened after this. But if anything, you did make a difference in a lot of children's lives. Maybe not all for the good. But you did open our eyes to a lot of what was going on. And you made it I mean, because that's the reason why they've been getting away with what they've been getting away with for so long was because nobody knew. And now everybody was aware. And now, they had no excuse for what they were doing. So I know it's hard. But I really think that you made a difference, a good difference, even though you did struggle with it. And you know, you can tell us about that. If you you know, obviously, that's something that we want to hear too. But I I really wanted to say that to you the other day two is that you know, I mean, you are not to blame. You are just as much a victim as we were. And so go ahead, sorry.

Sandy 43:52

It's a strange thing, because I'm still quite frozen in time. In that I know the second generation have grown up, some of you are grandparents. But a part of me. Still, you're still children. There's a part of me that still struggles. Yeah, obviously I have trauma around this issue. That's not resolved. But yeah, that I'm frozen in time. At that point,

Lou 44:29

where I think a lot of us are still too early at that point. But our childhood has frozen us in a lot of sense to where some of us can't, can't let it go or can't move on or don't just don't know how to process it.

Sandy 44:48

Yeah, yeah. I guess you know, there's just so much drama that is just so much drama associated with our our experiences. With this cult born into it joined, you know, you know, just associated with our our experiences. With this cult born into it joined, you know, you know, just there are so many levels of trauma. Yeah, for so many people.

Lou 45:13

So you started helping Daniel? Yeah, help him.

Sandy 45:19

Okay, so what happened was he didn't know where his wife and children were because they had moved them. The Colt had moved them. And I didn't know at the time, I didn't realize that I knew where they were, it was sort of a ridiculous situation that happened. So prior to this, I had been given many bags of clothing from people at the church, you know, because I was like, we like the poor family with all these kids. So people are like, oh, you know, like, it's good to hand me downs. And they were like, 15 bags of them huge, you know, so I was always

going through them in my car that would fit here. And that will fit him. That's good. But there was so many bags Other than that, and I'm like, I know who could use or, you know, the family. They've got those kids. Of course, they. So I had a phone number. And I rang that number. Now. This is the second phone number that I knew. Because when, when I was trying to get ■ and my kids out of the cult, they moved him from that house where I used to, you know, I've told you about ringing. They moved into another house, it was called the mount Waverley house. And ■ had given me that number, so I could bring there rather than the regular cold house anyway, I knew the number. Just say that I knew that number. So I rang that number. And it was to give the clothes like I got all these clothes. You know, I'd like to give it to you guys. My kids don't need them. And the woman who answered was the wife of Daniel. Her name was Rachel. And she said, No, no, we don't want your clothes. And I'm like, she was really mean to me anyway. Just put it that way. You know, she's just like, not really want to do.

Lou 47:29

Evil spirit clothes. Yeah,

Sandy 47:30

we don't want your evil spirits bothering us. So I actually had spoken to his wife at the Mount Waverley home. So when he comes to me saying I don't know where they are. Well, I forgotten about that phone call because it had been a couple of months earlier. And anyway, him and I went to the cult home that we knew we had boatlift. Right. And we went and same with you know, look, he just wants to find his wife and children. That's all he wants, you know, he just wants to talk to her. And the leaders like well, you know, and I'm saying, Well, where is she, you know, he wants and then the leader, he just looked at me, he said, you know where she is? I know where she is. And I did. I knew that she was at Mount Waverley because I'd spoken to her on the phone, but I'd forgotten that. Anyway. They thought that I had boned mount Waverley to make a nuisance of myself. Because I wonder, yeah, but that that's not what happened. It was a mixup at the court will never believe me, I misspoke that this might happen.

It was it was a mixed up that I happen to call and speak to her. And it was her husband at the because they were having there was a lot of turmoil going on in their lives just after I left that I didn't know about. And he was trying to be the coat. And she didn't want to.

Lou 49:21

So there was a lot of just going kinky stuff, but they blamed you for it or something.

Sandy 49:28

Yeah, yeah, yeah. They thought I was snooping around. I wasn't I just had all these clothes, and that I was trying to get to the cult, and that's just the way it what happened. Anyway, so we didn't know where she bought. So the next day I went with him and to the mount Waverley house, and she was there and there was a big gate and she's standing on new crates behind this massive gate. And there were two men, their cult men like leaders. Yeah. And he, I'm saying, look, he just wants to talk. He just wanted to talk, you know, and I was trying to tell her, Look, we've left the family, and it's good. You know, the kids are in school, I know, you really

want your kids to have a good energy. I knew this woman I knew she was she loved her kids, and she wasn't happy with the fact that they weren't getting educated properly. And, you know, I knew that there were a lot of things she didn't like about the family. So I was just speaking to her as my friend. And I'm like, you know, it's actually not that bad. It's good. You know, we'll help you. It's great. The kids going to school, your kids are love school, you know, and I'm talking, and she just was not happy, would not would not connect with me at all. And yeah, she's just saying to him, I, you know, you're backslider you've turned your back on God, I want to serve the Lord. And you know, no, you're not seeing the children. And they wouldn't bring the children out for him to speak, speak to. And he started losing his temper, he was kicking the gate and shaking the gate. And there are people walking past and I thought, this looks like he's being a problem here and harassing this woman. And anyway, I said, Look, you don't open the gate. And I need to see the kids, I'm going to call the police. did, I went next door, and I phoned the police. And I was annoyed at the injustice of all of this. Because I've just gone through this myself. It wasn't fair. Just because you want to leave. The cult you have to do is everything. You your partner, your family, everything.

Lou 51:53

Today, their justification was in order to join the group, you had to give away everything and forsake everything. So if you didn't, if you didn't toe the line and you didn't do what they wanted you to do, then you forfeited whatever it is that you had, which was nothing other than family, you know, other than your kid or senior Catholic and your spouse's and stuff like that. So I don't know, maybe they felt like it was justified to some extent, which is conquerors.

Sandy 52:23

Yes. That's right. Anyway, the police came, and the police said Yes, bring the children out, let him see the children. And and, and it looked like Daniel and I were a couple. They assumed that I was now with him, and that she was with you or the other woman. Obviously, I'm the woman. That's what it looked like. And, and I'm pregnant. She's pregnant. I had my twins with me and my three year old, so it just looked like a domestic sort of a thing. And so the police said, Look, you too, meaning Daniel and Rachel, you too need to go to the family law courts and get this sorted out. And they walked away. And I just knew, like, they're not seeing this for what it is, you know, they've misunderstood here. And I just call it out. And I and I said, these children don't go to school. And they rang the bell. Yeah. And the policeman, he turned around, and as he turned, he took his notebook out of his like pocket. He said, What do you mean, they don't go to school? I said, this is a cult, and these kids don't go to school. And, and that was the moment. But

Lou 53:53

everything changed.

Sandy 53:54

Everything changed in everybody's lives after that. And yeah, and

Lou 54:02

I remember where I was when all this started happening. Argentina, we heard there was 200 kids that was taken out of a home you know, there was all kinds of raids going on. And I vaguely remember being excited and and almost wanting them to come and get us I was waiting for it to happen. You know, it's just waiting. And so when they started like moving everybody out of the country and shipping everybody off to the different teen homes and stuff like that, I was like, well dammit, now I gotta stay in for longer. But I I'm very proud of what you did because you made a big difference in the way the world Old saw this group, but the only reason why they succeeded at throwing you under the bus. And getting all these children back was probably because we were too afraid to speak out. Yes, yeah. Not because it was a lie. And not because you had said anything wrong. You didn't do anything wrong. But it was it was. And it's not even our fault either. But it was a very difficult situation for everybody. Everybody was scared. Yes, you were scared to say something. It took you a while to gain that courage to get above and beyond your fear. And eventually a lot of us did. We got beyond our fear, we got beyond our our trepidation, and left the group and made that transition. And a lot of it is because of you. At least for me, personally, you know, all of these other steps that happened, because of what you did open my eyes to question more things, and opened up probably 1000s of children's have eyes. Otherwise, God only knows maybe I'm still in the group. And, you know, my kids are in the group and my grandkid is in the group. And we're just perpetuating this let this cycle of abuse. So personally, from a former member and an SDA, I thank you

Sandy 56:33

for what you did. Thank you, Lou. Do you know, like, and they were, they were other people too, you know, who, who gave evidence who who spoke up like, it was it was like her. Like, things were so bad in the cold at that time that a lot of people left. There were a lot of people leaving. And, you know, just there were a lot of really bad things going on with the younger teens. And this was very disturbing to a lot of people. So, you know, the vectors,

Lou 57:18

programs and a lot of things that they were going through. Yeah, yeah. And, you know, I mean, whether you did it then or somebody else did it later, it was bound to happen. I feel like it was bound to happen.

Sandy 57:32

It's bound to happen. Yeah. Because, yeah, I, you know, had Daniel not come to my house that day. Had a Dell not brought into my house. You know,

Lou 57:52

maybe I would still be in the group.

Sandy 57:55

Or even thought about that, actually. That's big. In, I was only thinking about myself or my family, you know, where would my because?

Lou 58:11

Well, I mean, your kids. I mean, you you guys were already out. So maybe that wouldn't have affected you personally as much, but it affected all of us. Yeah. Yeah. If you hadn't done that, maybe I would still be there. Yeah, might still be there. Or maybe. You know, I mean, so take that. Take that to the bank. I can guarantee you that. A lot of the reasons why I'm out. And I made those decisions when I was 16 years old was because of all the rains.

Sandy 58:51

Yes, yeah. Yeah, I guess it was a snowball, but just gathered momentum. You know,

Lou 58:59

you didn't get the backup at the time. But I guarantee you there was a lot of us that were thinking exactly what you were thinking. The reason why it didn't work out whenever you did. It was like I said, You just didn't have the backup. There was only a handful of people dissenting. It wasn't a mass exodus, it was just like, a few little stragglers here and there. And when you know, like the minority start to complain. It's not. It's not as effective as when the majority turns around and says you're wrong. Yes. Because that's what happened  
Sandy 59:39

now, isn't it? That's what's happening now with USDA. USDA is all over the world are in your 30s and your 40s and you're saying, Oh my God, this happened to me, and my siblings and my friends when I was a child and you're all And that was wrong. And it was wrong. Yeah, like this. I don't know what to call it. But there is a massive international movement of FTAs who were saying, hang on a minute. Listen to what we have got to tell you. And it's not over. This is just beginning. We are just beginning to tell you the enormity of all of this, the world is just beginning to grasp the enormity of it.

Lou 1:00:32

We still got more to talk about right Sandy, do you have more of the story to tell?

Sandy 1:00:38

Well, it's an ongoing stories.

Whitney 1:00:43

Sandy story will continue next week on surviving love. This cult is still in operation today under the name The Family International. If you or someone you know is a victim of abuse, please call one 800 799 safe. S A F E or text the word start 288788. If you or someone you know is ready to share your story of survival from the children of God, please email surviving love at [cults.crimes.cabernet.com](mailto:cults.crimes.cabernet.com) or direct message us on any social media platform. Surviving love is produced by the creators of cults crimes and Cabernet Music provided by Cooper Allen