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The Cult. They named me Roxy

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CATHRINE MOESTUE is a clinical psychologist, speaker, author and writer. Since 2015 she is committed to fighting extremism, preventing radicalisation and how best can preserve democratic values.

What makes an intelligent Norwegian teenager join a cult and let her self be seduced and brainwashed by a disturbed cult leader?

As a 19 years old teenager, Cathrine Mostue moved from her home in Oslo to Eskilstuna in Sweden to go to theater school. While she was a student there, she was recruited by their teacher into a cult – a small, isolated group that was supposed to "save the world", and that was ruled with an iron fist by a charismatic leader. At one point she even had to give up her own name and take the name the sect gave her: Roxy Lenina.

But after seven years of humiliation and indoctrination, she finally managed to escape.

How could this happen? What makes a Norwegian teenager let her self be seduced and brainwashed by a disturbed cult leader? And which mechanisms make radicalization possible?

In the book **The Cult** the author reflects on her personal story, based on her professional competence as a psychologist.

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