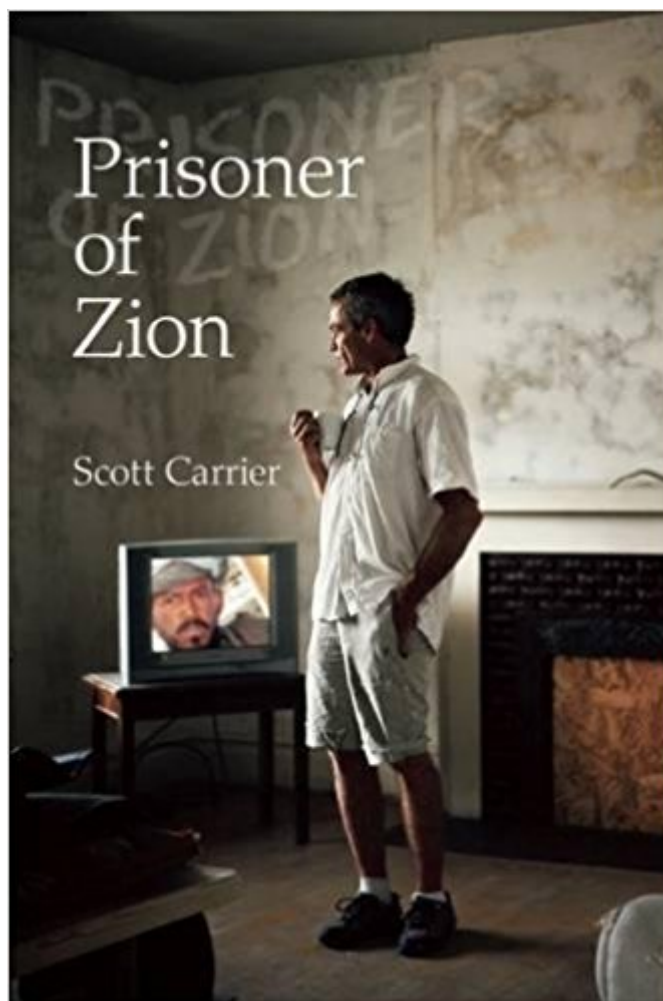


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# Prisoner Of Zion: Muslims, Mormons And Other Misadventures



## Synopsis

Soon after the World Trade Center towers fell on 9/11, it became clear the United States would invade Afghanistan. Writer and *This American Life* radio producer Scott Carrier decided to go there too. He wanted to see for himself: who are these fanatics, the fundamentalists, the Taliban and the like? What do they want? In his new book, *Prisoner of Zion*, Carrier writes about his adventures, but also about the bigger problem. Having grown up among Mormons in Salt Lake City, he argues it will never work to attack the true believers head-on. The faithful thrive on persecution. Somehow, he thinks, we need to find a way inside ourselves to rise above fear and anger. *Prisoner of Zion* is Scott Carrier's second collection of dramatic tales and essays.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Praise for *Prisoner of Zion*"In a series of remarkable essays, Carrier, raised among Mormons, noted similarities in the beliefs and practices of the Taliban and the Utah church, stressing the fundamentalist pledge of obedience to authority, and revelations and visions from God to a "Chosen people." Carrier is alternately humorous and serious about the reports from Afghanistan, its people, its culture, and the heavy fighting." *Publishers Weekly*"Engrossing stories of travel interspersed with historical vignettes and the author's private struggles to argue for a move away from persecution of believers." *Kirkus*

Scott Carrier is a writer, photographer, and radio producer. He was born, raised and still lives in Salt

Lake City, Utah, and he teaches journalism at Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah. His print articles and photos have appeared in Harper's, Esquire, GQ, Rolling Stone and Mother Jones. His radio stories have been broadcast by NPR All Things Considered, NPR Day to Day, APM The Story, Savvy Traveler, Hearing Voices from NPR, and PRI This American Life.

This book made me wonder, who is this author who writes so well and in such a unique style? A web search led me to a podcast on NPR's This American Life. I went down a bit of a rabbit hole trying to learn about the author. Scott's own story is as interesting as the events he chooses to write about. Now I listen to his podcast "Home of the Brave" as well.

A collection of great essays about Afghanistan, Cambodia and Salt Lake City, all of them very personal and truthful. I personally liked Carrier's writing about Mormonism and Salt Lake City, where he alternates between thoughtful exposition and harsh critique. There are some 5 star essays in here, and one or two 2's, so I'm giving the whole book a 4.

Having become acquainted with Scott as both a student and friend, a favorable review of this book is perhaps biased. And yet, I'm positive that I would still be as engrossed in the book even if I didn't know the author. For one, he writes candidly in regard to the situations he is in, which is not only refreshing but also makes you trust him in a way that doesn't happen with your average nonfiction writer. It's also a book that goes by so fast because Scott's attention to detail and observation makes you feel you right there with him, whether it's hitchhiking in volatile parts of the world or facing death on the slopes of the Wasatch mountains, and before you know it the journey is over. That's the mark of a good storyteller - when they can make you forget time and at the end leave you thinking "that's it? I want more!" Scott has that talent, and I highly recommend this book.

We are all prisoners to something or some things. A good writer walks us up to the ledge. Carrier and Najib give me hope to stumble on.

"She was looking for enlightenment, prone to losing herself in the moment and falling in love with whomever we met, but I had a deadline and expenses and I needed a story, not satori." "Who else in America can write like this?" This is a profound book, profound because of its simplicity, profound because of its humor, profound because of the Mormons and Afghans and Cambodians whose words and stories live here, profound because of the raw wound that is Scott Carrier's tender soul,

profound because of the simple sentences with which he tells that story. We're all prisoners of ZION. Carrier demonstrates how that's the case and recommends how we -- and how he himself -- might break down the walls.

This book is such a unique read. As a Utah native, the author's words really resonated. It leaves you wanting to read more.

I first heard Scott Carrier on NPR's This American Life. I immediately felt in tune with Carrier's style and humor and especially his humanity. This all shines through in Prisoner of Zion. I felt relief that after a story taking place in and about Afghanistan, the next story takes place in and about Utah. Even with this the stories feel connected and the book just flows. I highly recommend this book and I am glad I read it.

Love this guy. His work is a perfect blend of darkness, insight and levity. In this short read he manages to cover Afghanistan, U.S. politics, Mormons and more. Highly recommended.

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