CONFESSIONS OF A HOPE FIEND

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Confessions of a Hope Fiend by Timothy Leary

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TIMOTHY LEARY

CONFESSIONS OF A HOPE FIEND



Now it can be told—the amazing story of one of the great escapes of all time!

This unbelievable—but true personal account could not have been published before now.

Dr. Timothy Leary, international Pied
Piper of the counter-culture, tells his
own hair-raising story—escape from
an American prison—underground adventures
fleeing the U.S. for sanctuary in
Algeria—imprisonment by Eldridge Cleaver
and the Panthers—flight from Africa
to temporary safety in
Switzerland, only to be caught again.

confessions of a hope fiend reads like a thriller. Here is the fully authenticated account of what happened to Timothy Leary, the headline here who dared to gamble with his life.

Editor's Note

If there are two words in the English language which set the editorial heart throbbing like no other, they are "in confidence." So when the well-known international lawyer Alan U. Schwartz, friend and representative of important authors and publishers alike, came to my door in the summer of 1972 with a manuscript purportedly written by Timothy Leary, the heart did indeed beat faster as the nerve endings began to tingle expectantly.

I read the manuscript and was completely taken by its combination of candor, poetry, adventure, sly humor, political intrigue, sex and jagged turns, twists, gaps and edges. I thought that it was a remarkable literary document, an exciting escape story and a juicy journalistic account of life with Eldridge Cleaver and crew in Algiers. With some clarification of its more mysterious connections and references, some sandpapering of the edges, I thought, the manuscript could be published to the delight of hundreds of thousands of readers. Two colleagues, one younger, one older, read the manuscript and agreed. Mr. Schwartz and I met again. Time for some questions.

Was this wild tale of escape and escapade genuine? Yes, certainly, and the fugitive could be produced if necessary to bear witness.

How did it come into your hands? Well, now, there is a business acquaintance in London, a Polish film producer, Gutowski; he was in touch with Leary and with one Monsieur Hauchard, a resident of Lausanne, Switzerland.

Why is this manuscript in confidence with a paperback publisher? Very simple—the world publication rights should be under one roof—the publication might very well be in paperback originally (there is some topical urgency here). Besides, it would seem obvious that such a headline-making man and flouter of the Law had the world literally waiting for his story every bit as much as the children, fathers and mothers of the Drugged Generation in America.

And so a contract was negotiated and drawn—the "papers" as they are called. A quick trip to Geneva was arranged. The scene shifts.

We gather in the lobby of the hotel Le Richemond, sedate, velvet-upholstered, haunt of nineteenth-century British vacationers. And a strange gathering it is. From London, the stocky young lawyer for Gutowski; from the south of France, Gutowski himself; from Lausanne nearby, Monsieur Hauchard, tall, white-haired and gilded, host and guide for the New York trio; and now the man of the hour, Leary, enthusiastic, slightly Mephisto-

phelian, ready to work, very real. The scene

shifts again.

A small private dining room, with a large rectangular table covered with green felt. Us and the papers. Talk about clauses, warranties, payments, accomplices, editorial changes, yes, no and no maybes. We know what we must have; we have what they want; the machinery purrs on. And overlooking this curious group is a picture postcard painting of Christ all aglow and the Disciples listening intently. What would such an event be without a love feast? Monsieur Hauchard has ordered-elaborately-and we are joined by friends of Leary: the famous Brian Barritt of the manuscript and a young woman, Garboesque in her beauty. And then the food and wine. Cheerful conversation rippled, ego strings plucked and soothed.

So easy then to finish the editorial part of the job in an afternoon and evening. Timothy Leary, actor, writer, teacher, priest, perched cross-legged on a side chair. Can we say this in the book? Yes. Change that? Yes, but maybe do it this way. All present, actively involved. Timothy Leary, now to settle in Switzerland, to live and write, make movies and records, wait for the signal to greet the press and talk about Confessions of a Hope Fiend. Each and every page of the manuscript was initialed with a flourish. Since that happy August day the tightly woven strands and connections have been stretched, broken, twisted, and here and there repaired. Were agreements broken-and by whom? Will the

grand plan for book and film come to pass? Leary and Switzerland just couldn't last, shall we say. The country does not lend itself to charismatic figures in search of a lost audience. And as for escape to Asia with another beautiful young woman—something snapped. The long, lazy arm of the Law must reach out from sunny California, clap on the manacles and bring the man home.

There was swift trial on the escape charge and conviction. Yes, the defendant is guilty of that crime, saith the jury (crime?). And yet the defendant Tim Leary states that he

had a fair trial. Case closed.

Now the book is here, with a life of its own. It is still a remarkable literary account. The man opens his mind. It is a wild, wandering adventure and a raw, jarring look at the reality of existence, both in our country and the world around us.

> Marc Jaffe April 1973

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