

# The Last Word

James Casey

Those pesky Scientologists really do need to help Tom Cruise. I mean, there he was, doing all this hard study and progressing up the slippery slope only, dang it, to find that all the yakka only led to finding the whole shebang is about space aliens.

Well, at least that's what Andrew Morton says. Not that we'll read his full account here, apparently, because the fanatics got cranky and through threats had Morton's book about Tommy banned everywhere but the US.

Morton, who made a pile with a book on the sacrificial Lady Di, then went on to Monica Lewinsky, writes Tom 'progressed to what Scientologists call 'the Wall of Fire,' or Operating Thetan (roughly, the soul) III, where the secrets of the universe according to its founder, science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard, are revealed. 'Tom found the knowledge he had just received disturbing and alarming, as he struggled to reconcile the creationist myth with the more practical teachings contained in the lower levels of Scientology...'

Then came the aliens revelation.

A mere 11 years rolled by, writes Morton, before little Tom 'reached the exalted level of Operating Thetan VII, where Hubbard promised that man would become his own god.' What's level VII like? According to a former Scientologist, Peter Alexander, 'You believe that all your problems are due to these thetans. So when you come back into reality, you're like, "Wow, this is a nice day, my dog's been killed but that doesn't matter, I realise that I am a being who has lived endlessly contacting all those long-lost body thetans. So nothing is really a problem".'

Of course, the fact that this book compares Cruise's daughter Suri to *Rosemary's Baby* is naturally upsetting for all concerned.

Then there is the claim that Cruise's latest missus, Katie Holmes, signed a Scientology contract that fundamentally changed her human rights and those of her future children, requiring that if she or any of her children were ever to suffer from mental or terminal illness, they must turn only to Scientology's treatments. She must never use psychiatric care or psychiatric drugs.

'Some [Scientology] sect members sincerely believed that Katie Holmes was carrying the baby who would be the vessel for L. Ron Hubbard's spirit when he returned from his trip around the galaxy. True believers were convinced that Tom's spawn would be the reincarnation of L. Ron Hubbard. Some Sea Org fanatics even wondered if the actress had been impregnated with Hubbard's frozen sperm.'

Mind you, some of the book sounds true: 'When Tom accepted an invitation to the Scientology Gold Base in the California desert, head honcho David Miscavige allegedly announced to his staff: "The most important recruit ever is in the process of being secured. His arrival will change the face of Scientology forever".'

It's so lovely to learn that Tom and Nicole shared a 'fantasy of running through a meadow of wildflowers together.' Eager to please his recruit, Miscavige 'decided to make this dream come true'. Twenty Sea Org disciples was set to work digging, hoeing, and planting wheat grass and wildflower seed near the Cruises' bungalow. Former Scientologist Maureen Bolstad recalled working until early in the morning in mud and pouring rain. Morton quotes another former Scientologist, Karen Pressley, as saying: 'the story of the meadow for Tom and Nicole is absolutely true. I was there.'

Tip: if you do come across a Scientologist, do a *Rosemary's Baby* imitation. Or ask for sunflower seeds.

