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**Indiana Native Author Phil Stephens!**

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**Book: At The Edge Of The Stairs.**  
Supernatural-Psychological-Suspense Thriller.

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**Book: The Altar Boy.**  
Dark Humor-Catholicism-Coming of Age Fiction.

**Awards: 2016 Gold Medal Winner.**  
(The International Publisher Awards For Best Contemporary Novel).

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**2024 New Edition Release!**

At The Edge Of The Stairs is a gripping tale of a young woman's love that is so strong it transcends the barrier between this dimension and the next. It is the incredible story of Crystal Mikalya Arabella and Abraham Gallagher. It follows Mikalya's paranormal reincarnated journey to reunite with her lover almost twenty-three years after her death.

Crystal Mikalya, or Mikalya as she is called, is caught in a deadly house fire with no way out. The first fire department responder on the scene is a rookie named Abraham Gallagher. With no hesitation he and fellow firefighter plow through the dangerous fiery maze of the first floor. There, at the edge of the stairs, he finds Mikalya injured and unconscious, but alive. As he carries her out of the house to safety and lays her on the ground, a strong emotion immediately takes hold of him. Over the next several days he visits her in the hospital and falls deeply in love, as does Mikalya with him. Once Mikalya has recovered, they plan to get married, but their plans take a tragic turn as Mikalya is killed in a car crash two weeks prior to the wedding. As she lay dying in Abraham's arms she vows she will reincarnate herself and come back to him and she does.

Author Phil Stephens resides in Southern Indiana At The Edge Of The Stairs is his second book. His first book, The Altar Boy, has been a critically acclaimed novel.

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PHIL STEPHENS

At The Edge  
Of The Stairs

AN EPIC SAGA OF PARANORMAL ROMANCE

At The Edge Of The Stairs

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**At The Edge Of The Stairs by Phil Stephens.**

**Supernatural-Psychological-Suspense Thriller!**

At The Edge of the Stairs is a gripping tale of a young woman's love that is so strong it transcends the barrier between this dimension and the next. It is the incredible story of Crystal Maiden Arabella and Abraham Gallagher. It follows Maiden's paranormal reincarnated journey to reunite with her lover almost twenty-three years after her death.

Crystal Maiden, or Maiden as she is called, is caught in a deadly house fire with no way out. The first fire department responder on the scene is a rookie named Abraham Gallagher. With no hesitation he and fellow firefighter plow through the dangerous fiery maze of the first floor. There, at the edge of the stairs, he finds Maiden injured and unconscious, but alive. As he carries her out of the house to safety and lays her on the ground, a strong emotion immediately takes hold of him.

Over the next several days he visits her in the hospital and falls deeply in love, as does Maiden with him. Once Maiden has recovered, they plan to get married, but their plans take a tragic turn as Maiden is killed in a car crash two weeks prior to the wedding. As she lay dying in Abraham's arms, she vows she will reincarnate herself and come back to him...and she does.

**Product Details:**

Paperback: 551 Pages

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Publisher: Independently Published (January 29, 2024)

Language: English

ISBN-13: 979-8877577411

Romance (Paranormal)

Mystery (Paranormal)

Thriller (Supernatural)

Thriller (Psychological)

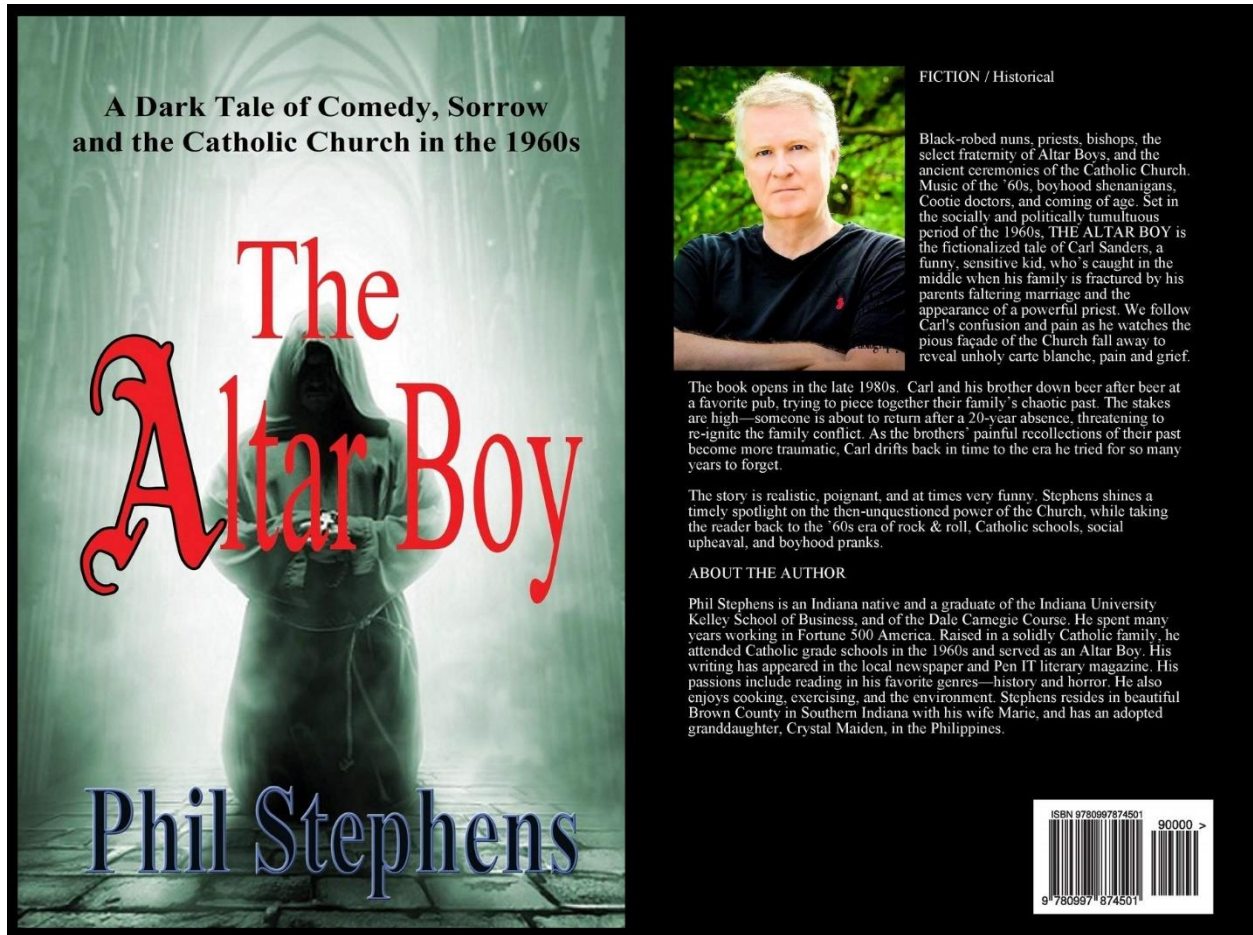
Thriller (Suspense)

**Amazon Print:**

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FICTION / Historical

Black-robed nuns, priests, bishops, the select fraternity of Altar Boys, and the ancient ceremonies of the Catholic Church. Music of the '60s, boyhood shenanigans, Cootie doctors, and coming of age. Set in the socially and politically tumultuous period of the 1960s, *THE ALTAR BOY* is the fictionalized tale of Carl Sanders, a funny, sensitive kid, who's caught in the middle when his family is fractured by his parents' faltering marriage and the appearance of a powerful priest. We follow Carl's confusion and pain as he watches the pious façade of the Church fall away to reveal unholy carte blanche, pain and grief.

The book opens in the late 1980s. Carl and his brother down beer after beer at a favorite pub, trying to piece together their family's chaotic past. The stakes are high—someone is about to return after a 20-year absence, threatening to re-ignite the family conflict. As the brothers' painful recollections of their past become more traumatic, Carl drifts back in time to the era he tried for so many years to forget.

The story is realistic, poignant, and at times very funny. Stephens shines a timely spotlight on the then-unquestioned power of the Church, while taking the reader back to the '60s era of rock & roll, Catholic schools, social upheaval, and boyhood pranks.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Phil Stephens is an Indiana native and a graduate of the Indiana University Kelley School of Business, and of the Dale Carnegie Course. He spent many years working in Fortune 500 America. Raised in a solidly Catholic family, he attended Catholic grade schools in the 1960s and served as an Altar Boy. His writing has appeared in the local newspaper and Pen IT literary magazine. His passions include reading in his favorite genres—history and horror. He also enjoys cooking, exercising, and the environment. Stephens resides in beautiful Brown County in Southern Indiana with his wife Marie, and has an adopted granddaughter, Crystal Maiden, in the Philippines.



**The Altar Boy by Phil Stephens.**

**Dark Humor-Catholicism-Coming of Age Fiction!**

It starts with black-robed nuns, priests, bishops, the select fraternity of Altar Boys, and the ancient ceremonies of the Catholic Church.

Music of the '60s, boyhood shenanigans, Cootie doctors, and coming of age. Set in the socially and politically tumultuous period of the 1960s, *The Altar Boy* is the fictionalized memoir of Carl Sanders, a funny, sensitive kid, who's caught in the middle when his family is fractured by the intrusions of a priest. We follow Carl's confusion and pain as he watches the pious façade of the Church fall away to reveal unholy carte blanche, cover-ups, and collusion.

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**Rave Reviews Book Club February Book of the Month read.** Also named the gold medal winner in the 2016 International Publisher Awards for Best Contemporary Novel, *The Altar Boy* is garnering positive reviews from readers everywhere. In the video on the Phil Stephens author page, the author is interviewed by popular talk radio host Jordan Rich about the book -- and the real-life story behind it.

**From Enos Book Reviews April 2018:** Honest, believable, and relentlessly gripping. A fascinating historical backdrop with an authentic period feel that manages to enliven and enhance a rambunctious era of 1960's governed by the power of catholic church, 'The Altar Boy' is a fictionalized memoir of a young compelling character of a boy -Carl Sanders.

Author Phil Stephen capably sketches a proactive well documented and powerful narrative that flips back and forth in time revealing the complexities of Carl Sanders childhood and teenage days as he navigates through some emotionally memorable long-gone moments and some flawed, persistent family issues evoked by the appearance of a powerful catholic priest. After 20 years, Carl and his elder brother Mike struggle to deal with the upcoming tension that is sure to torment the family peace and flare up the complicated days.

Thoroughly entertaining and captivating plot with hard to foresee twists, 'The Altar Boy' is an engrossing family saga that tackles an ambitious re-imagining of history with intricate details that are honest, believable, and relentlessly gripping.

Definitely a-not-to-be-missed historical fiction for those who care for well-rounded work with dramatic twists and a charming sense of humor and vulnerability cherished in one setting, author Phil Stephen's novel 'The Altar Boy' is a 5-star read worth recommending.

**Review by Amazon Customer: 5.0 out of 5 Stars. Artistic Transformation.** Reviewed in the United States on December 19, 2021. Verified Purchase. *The Altar Boy* is a painful confession by the religion whose main mission is distorted by its own religious leaders. Just like 2000 years ago when Jesus was dealing with himself the same issues with the Judaism, we can see a modernized, yet very similar pattern of hypocrisy and dilemma humans create against its own conscience and principles. The author Phil, through the lens of Carl patiently and gracefully displays every aspect of emotions a child and family can go through when facing the fundamental complexity and agony caused by the religion. We can definitely blame Carl's mother, not alone Father Jacobson, for her choice of behaviors but the fingers should rather be pointed toward the religious system that is compromised on its own fundamentals. The consequence is an outright destruction of one's life and morality and its own faith. It's the evil that lives in the very heart of human history. Yet, the author Phil accomplishes the ultimate victory of revenge on those fundamental flaws through the honest, loving, and brave journey by a child that could not hate anyone yet had to absorb all the pains being caught among the dilemmas. I do hope this book will bring much vindication and catharsis of healings to those who have been victimized by similar experiences. It's an excellent and artistic archive



of all seemingly scattered stories toward one goal-neither human spirit nor God die by the evil. I give my standing ovation to this gigantic triumph of resurrection that has been achieved by the art of literature.

**Review by Charles Jones: 5.0 out of 5 Stars. A great coming of age tale.** Reviewed in the United States on August 6, 2021. Verified Purchase. The Altar Boy is one of those stories that I had difficulty putting down as I wanted to know what would happen next. I related to Carl with his fears of the dark field and creepy people in his hometown and a few of his other experiences.

Phil did a fantastic job taking me back in time to an era that I've heard so much about but not experienced because I wasn't born yet. I loved the music references. They gave an extra dimension to the story, making me enjoy it more. And I swear, at one point, I smelled a hint of patchouli.

The Altar Boy is one of the most chaotic tales of growing up that I have ever read, and I am happy to have spent time with Carl and his family.

**Review by Joy M. Lilley: 5.0 out of 5 Stars. Splendid read.** Reviewed in the United Kingdom on December 22, 2019. Verified Purchase. I loved the stories of Carl as a boy. The kind of antics and fears we all experience to some extent. His mother's character I disliked. How could she let an animal in her care die. She led her children and herself into a poverty lashed and troubled life, leading to unsettled adolescent boys. The Catholic church was shown in a bad light and Father Jacobson's character left a great deal to be desired.

**Review by Mark N. 5.0 out of 5 Stars. Hilarious and Tragic.** Reviewed in the United States on August 19, 2021. Verified Purchase. An excellent read.... especially for one who was raised in a strict Catholic family during this period of time, and who himself was an altar boy. It's both very funny and very sad. I love how the author takes subtle digs at the church in calling upon patron saints in time of trouble - hilarious! The first half is more light-hearted with the second half being more dark and tragic. The author did an excellent job of bringing to light the seamy side of the church hierarchy, its utter failure to practice what it preaches, and the anachronistic rules and regulations that have not only negatively impacted the author's life, but thousands of others as well.

**Product Details:**

Paperback: 272 Pages

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Dark Humor

Catholicism

Fiction (Coming of Age)

**Amazon Print:**

[https://www.amazon.com/Altar-Boy-Phil-Stephens/dp/0997874503/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crid=2PUWFTA8Z8RGX&keywords=The+Altar+Boy%3A+Stephens&qid=1677632823&srefix=the+altar+boy+stephens%2Caps%2C356&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Altar-Boy-Phil-Stephens/dp/0997874503/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2PUWFTA8Z8RGX&keywords=The+Altar+Boy%3A+Stephens&qid=1677632823&srefix=the+altar+boy+stephens%2Caps%2C356&sr=8-1)

**Kindle:**

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**Customer Ratings:**

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**About The Author:** Phil Stephens is an Indiana native and a graduate of the Indiana University Kelley School of Business, and of the Dale Carnegie Course. He spent many years working in Fortune 500 America. Raised in a solidly Catholic family, he attended Catholic grade schools in the 1960s and served as an Altar Boy. His writing has appeared in the local newspaper and Pen IT literary magazine. His passions include reading in his favorite genres—history and horror. He also enjoys cooking, exercising, and the environment.

Phil's book, *The Altar Boy*, was named the 2016 gold medal winner in the International Publisher Awards for Best Contemporary Novel. In the video on this page, Phil is interviewed by popular talk radio host Jordan Rich about book -- and what's behind it.

His second novel, *At The Edge Of The Stairs*, is a paranormal romance that tells of a love story of a woman who has died in the arms of her fiancé. As she lay dying, she vows to come back to him and please wait for her which he does. One night, years later, she does return to him as he sits at the bar where their first date took place. She puts money in the juke box playing the very first song they danced to. That is how he knows it was her.

**Amazon Author's Page:**

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