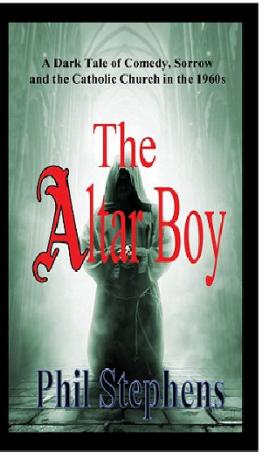


PHIL STEPHENS

At The Edge Of The Stairs

AN EPIC SAGA OF PARANORMAL ROMANCE



A Dark Tale of Comedy, Sorrow and the Catholic Church in the 1960s

The Altar Boy

Phil Stephens

Author Phil Stephens!

Book:
At The Edge Of The Stairs

5 Stars:

A Love That Transcends Physical Limitations
Supernatural Psychological Suspense Thriller

Book: The Altar Boy

Fiction: Dark Humor/Coming of Age

Awards: 2016 Gold Medal Winner

Available In Print and E-Book At
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Endorsement
5 Stars
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Indiana Author Phil Stephens.



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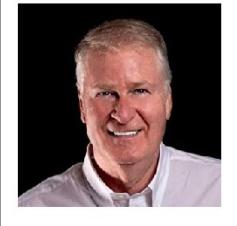
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5 Stars: A Love That Transcends Physical Limitations!

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 fighter fighters 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.



At The Edge Of The Stairs

PHIL STEPHENS



At The Edge Of The Stairs

AN EPIC SAGA OF PARANORMAL ROMANCE

At The Edge Of The Stairs by Phil Stephens.

Supernatural-Psychological-Suspense Thriller!

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5 Stars: A Love That Transcends Physical Limitations.

'At The Edge Of The Stairs' by Phil Stephens will take you to the edge and beyond this world's physical boundaries. This story and the personable characters will capture your imagination from the first page. You will not want to put the book down. The surprise ending will keep your mind pondering their lives, romance, and human bonds for hours and days later.

Crystal Mikalya Arabella and Abraham Gallagher find each other through an amazing turn of events. Their friends, family, work acquaintances, and strangers will play a miraculous role in the daily lives that surround these two soul mates. Crystal's experience brings amazing clarity to life and death, that will make you stop and take inventory of your own immortality. Their story will keep you on the edge of your seat because their love transcends physical limitations

Below is a quote from the story. This experience brings Abraham Gallagher to a pivotal point in his life.

...A strong feeling of helplessness washed over Abe. No one there had the proper equipment to get the people out of the truck.

...A lone police car and a fire truck arrived on the scene. The fire was now spreading rapidly through the cab. Just to stand by and watch helplessly made Abraham physically ill.

...The woman motioned Abe to come as close to the truck as he could. "Come here! Come here!" she screamed, waving her hand.

...Abe ran as close to the vehicle as he could. He could see that the woman was trying to force something through the broken window; it was a child.

... "Take her! Take her! Get her out of here!" the woman screamed.

...As Abe reached for the little girl, another man ran up to help him pull her from the woman's arms. The look on the woman's face would haunt him for the rest of his life. He would never find the words to describe it.

...Both men quickly backed away as far as they could with the little girl. As the firemen approached the cab with a fire extinguisher, a small explosion could be heard underneath the truck. Smoke was pouring out of the broken window, and the hideous screams coming from inside the truck were deafening.

If you like action/drama, combined with a cozy romance, woven with paranormal overtones, you have come to the right book. I encourage you to purchase and read 'At The Edge Of The Stairs'.

It has been a pleasure to read and review 'At The Edge Of The Stairs' by Phil Stephens. I wait with anticipation for Phil Stephens next suspense thriller.

Editorial Review and Endorsement by Book Marketing Global Network.

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ISBN-13: 979-8877577411

Romance (Paranormal)

Mystery (Paranormal)

Thriller (Supernatural)

Thriller (Psychological)

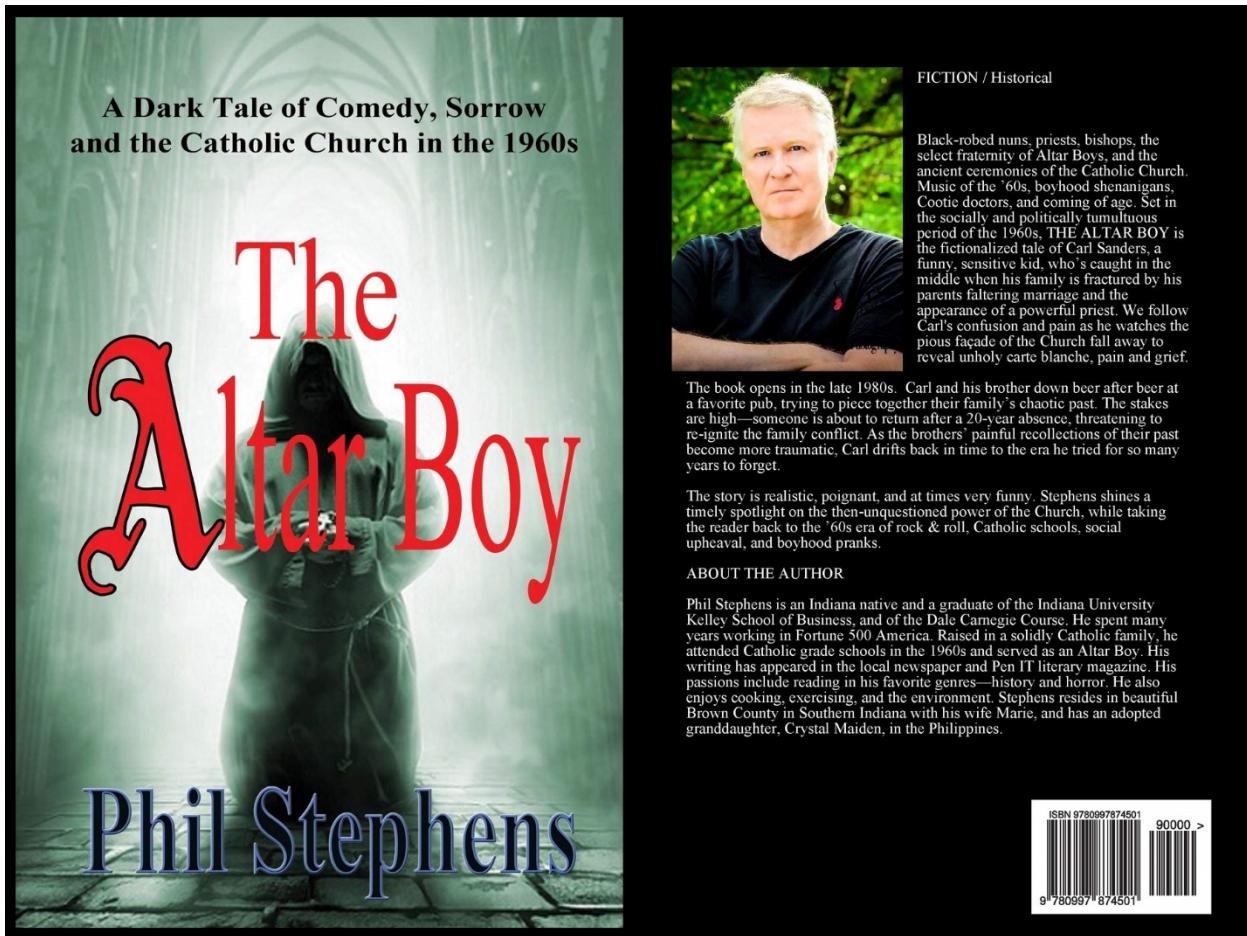
Thriller (Suspense)

Amazon Print:

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Kindle:

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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-imaging 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

Publisher: Phil Stephens; 1st Edition (September 8, 2016)

Language: English

Dark Humor

Catholicism

Fiction (Coming of Age)

Amazon Print:

https://www.amazon.com/Altar-Boy-Phil-Stephens/dp/0997874503/ref=sr_1_1?qid=2PUWFTA8Z8RGX&keywords=The+Altar+Boy%3A+Stephens&qid=1677632823&sprefix=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:

https://www.amazon.com/stores/Phil-Stephens/author/B01H64J8KU?ref=ap_rdr&isDramIntegrated=true&shoppingPortalEnabled=true

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