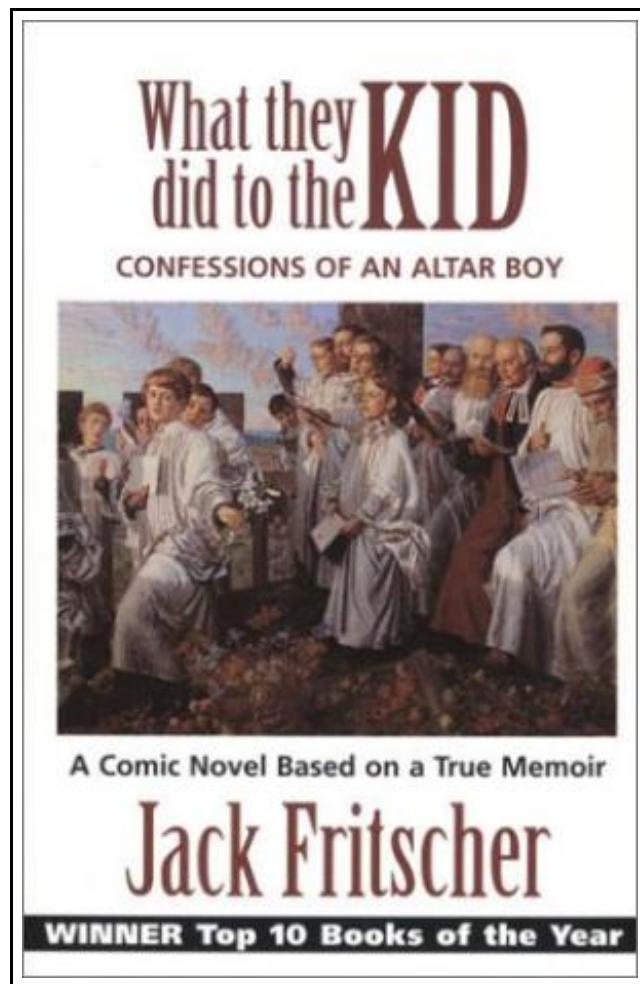


## What They Did to the Kid: Confessions of an Altar Boy



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## WHAT THEY DID TO THE KID: CONFESSIONS OF AN ALTAR BOY

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Palm Drive Publishing, U.S., United States, 2011. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 213 x 140 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*. What They Did to the Kid is a memoir spinning as a comic novel for general-fiction readers intrigued by boys school tales, and baby boomers who survived Catholic school. Ryan O Hara, coming of age from 14 to 24, is the wise adolescent narrating readers entry into the secret culture of 1950 s altar boys who go to the seminary, meet priests, and must decide their own identities. The novel s interior ticking covers the clock and calendar of boys emerging consciences and edgy consciousness. The San Francisco Chronicle says, Jack Fritscher reads gloriously. Strong characters and snappy dialog propel the character-driven plot of male-dominant pecking order. At Misericordia Seminary (aptly nicknamed Misery ), Ryan O Hara exposes his own story. He s trapped for oxygen-with 500 other boys-by the imperial Rector Karg, the disciplinarian Father Gunn of the USMC, the tart Father Polistina, and the rebel-priest Chris Dryden who knows Fellini and JFK. The storytelling Irish-American author gives each ensemble character-hero or villain, student or priest, man or woman-a rich back story. Black civil rights of the 60 s as well as three interesting women characters open this tale out of the suffocating seminary and on to the hot streets of Chicago s South Side and Old Town. The compelling psychological drama hinges on the very source and aspirations of priestly vocation versus self-esteem. Is God calling me-and what about chastity? Or is it just the Bali Hai of blind ambition and social climbing-and what about sex? Fritscher makes deeper than usual sense of soulful coming-of-age material. The hearty supply of boarding school episodes cumulatively reveals the dueling dynamic between the boyish protagonist, Ryan O...

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