

For anyone who has ever had to make a choice of self-esteem...

# What they did to the **KID**

CONFESSIONS OF AN ALTAR BOY



A Comic Novel Based on a True Memoir

## Jack Fritscher

“Jack Fritscher reads gloriously...”

—Bill English, *San Francisco Chronicle*

Jack Fritscher’s work: “...a classic on a par with Gore Vidal...James Baldwin...”

—David Van Leer, *The New Republic*

## What They Did to the Kid

A Comic Novel

Based on a True Memoir by

## Jack Fritscher

Diverse cultural memoir spins into comic novel for general-fiction readers intrigued by boys’ school antics. Ryan O’Hara, coming-of-age from 14 to 24, is the wise adolescent narrating readers’ entry into the secret ritual world of 1950’s altar boys who go to the seminary, meet priests, and must decide their own identities.

This American story reveals the 1950’s roots of 21st-century “recovering Catholic” panic and angst. **Survivors of Catholic education will die laughing. Fashionably anti-Catholic campers will scream, “But, of course!”**

“...an extraordinary American writer...”

—Nancy Sundstrom

*Independent Publisher Magazine*

The Catholic Church recruited 200,000 boys into seminaries in the 1950’s. This is the story of those boys and their families. Strong characters and snappy dialog propel character-driven plot. At Misericordia Seminary, Ryan O’Hara exposes his lively story of 500 boys trapped by imperial

Rector Karg, disciplinarian Father Gunn, tart Father Polistina, and rebel-priest Father Chris Dryden “who knows Fellini and JFK.” Black civil rights of the 60’s and three interesting women characters open story out of the seminary and on to the hot streets of Chicago.

**AUTHOR FINALIST 1999 Independent Publisher Book Awards: Fiction**



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