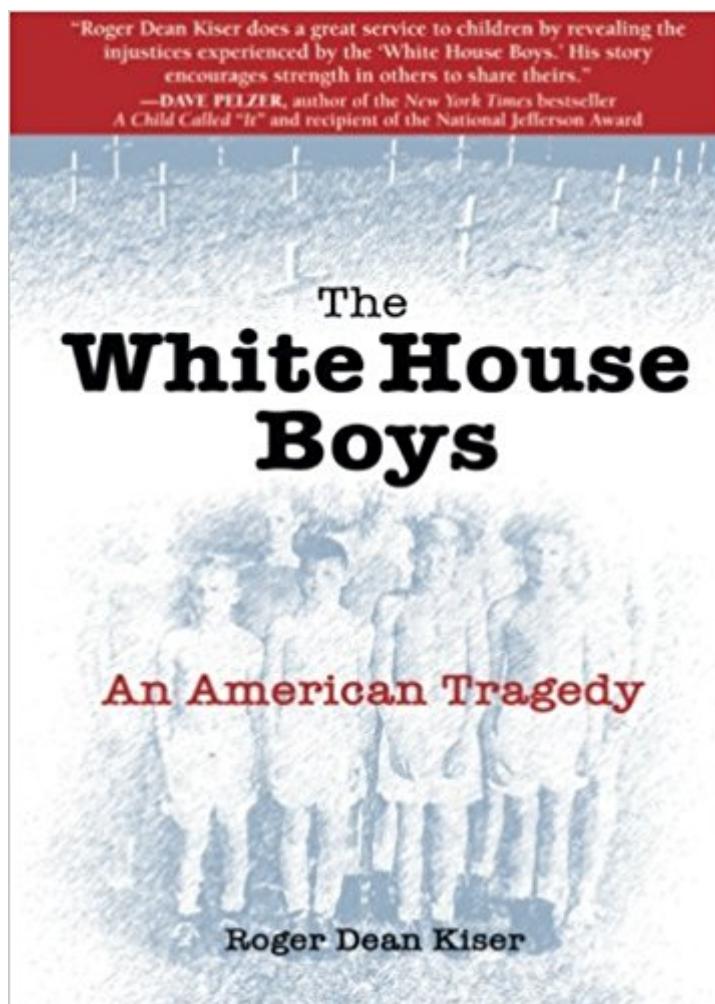


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# The White House Boys: An American Tragedy



## Synopsis

Hidden far from sight, deep in the thick underbrush of the North Florida woods are the ghostly graves of more than thirty unidentified bodies, some of which are thought to be children who were beaten to death at the old Florida Industrial School for Boys at Marianna. It is suspected that many more bodies will be found in the fields and swamplands surrounding the institution. Investigations into the unmarked graves have compelled many grown men to come forward and share their stories of the abuses they endured and the atrocities they witnessed in the 1950s and 1960s at the institution. The White House Boys: An American Tragedy is the true story of the horrors recalled by Roger Dean Kiser, one of the boys incarcerated at the facility in the late fifties for the crime of being a confused, unwanted, and wayward child. In a style reminiscent of the works of Mark Twain, Kiser recollects the horrifying verbal, sexual, and physical abuse he and other innocent young boys endured at the hands of their "caretakers." Questions remain unanswered and theories abound, but Roger and the other 'White House Boys' are determined to learn the truth and see justice served.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Roger Dean Kiser does a great service to children by revealing the injustices experienced by the 'White House Boys.' His story encourages strength in others to share theirs."--Dave Pelzer, author of the New York Times bestseller *A Child Called "It"* and recipient of the National Jefferson Award (Dave Pelzer)

Roger Dean Kiser is a Chicken Soup for the Soul contributor and respected author whose stories take you into the heart of a child abandoned by his family and abused by the system responsible for his care. Through his stories, he relives the sadness and cruelty of growing up as an orphan in the early 1950s. Today, he lives in Brunswick, Georgia, with his wife, Judy.

Unbelievable that young children could even survive this. It is utterly horrifying.. An incredibly unbelievable and sad truth, well told. It reminds me of John Grisham's "The Innocent Man" - it is his only true story, and it is the most unbelievable, whereas all his fictional novels, are extremely believable. My heart goes out to the survivors of the White House, and I just wish there could be justice for them. It is a crying shame that such inhumane crimes could have continued so relentlessly for such a long time. It would have been bad enough against criminal adults, but against children! Albeit that some were offenders of some crimes in the first place, from Coca Cola theft to car theft, but that is what a reform school was meant to be about: to help reform children who have already gone astray in some way, and help them get back onto the correct path, so that they should never stray again. This school was really hell bent on destroying everybody who came in there completely, rather than helping even one person. It is unbelievable that such a big staff could get away with it for such a long time.

Roger Dean Kiser's first person account of the chilling brutalities he suffered at the old Florida Industrial School for Boys. He's had an extremely tough life which he recounts in simple language. Having become a state ward after being found abandoned, clutching a dead sibling and trying to feed it to bring it back to life when he was a toddler to enduring sexual abuse at an orphanage he thinks things are about to improve at the School. Once there he discovers hell itself where they beat the boys severely with a leather strap reinforced with sheet metal in a plain white building which becomes known as The White House. Several of the boys were beaten to death and buried in unmarked graves. A very tough read and yet fascinating. The psychiatrist Dr Curry is one extremely sick gentleman he encounters. Kiser isn't a very eloquent writer but he tells his tale simply which makes it all the more chilling. A true survivor.

I've been following this story since it came out a yr or more ago that they were looking into the claims of children murdered at the school. I've read about the White House Boys and every time my heart breaks. I have a son I can't imagine him going through the things these boys did. This book will give you more information on what happened at the school and how these boys grew up into men

and Roger is very blunt on how he didn't trust or learn to love until his grandchildren came along. This book is a must read these boys deserve justice even if it is 50yrs later, the ones left in the ground deserve to be laid to rest proper and the men who did this deserve to get to be known to the public what they did, even if they have passed away. It is a haunting tale and will stay with you forever! I do wish the book was more in the order of the time it happened, it does jump from being in the home, to before going to the home which can get confusing, but it still gets 5 stars, as in the beginning he states he is not a real writer, just someone who needed to get the truth out

Listened to an interview with Roger Kiser on the Sword and Scale podcast and had to read his book. The horrors that occurred (and still occur) in the foster system, beneath the guise of "looking out for the best interest of the child" are heartbreakingly gut-wrenching. My thoughts are with all of the White House Boys, alive and gone, past and present. May you have found the peace and happiness that was stolen from you at such a young age.

Roger Kiser offers a compelling look into the heart of a world filled with abuse and neglect, in which children are treated less than in all respects. The environment that facilitated such horrible treatment was none other than a state-backed children's reform home, and thankfully the government has actually admitted wrongdoings with the embrace of the 21st century. The podcast entitled Sword and Scale originally introduced me to the subject matter lining the pages of "The White House Boys: An American Tragedy," and I'm thankful that I looked further into the material.

I began reading this book just before midnight on one evening and put it down at 3 o'clock the next morning after finishing the last page. It is one of the saddest most emotional reads I've ever experienced. The author is, in my belief, one of the bravest men I have ever met. (And, believe me, after finishing the book (The White House Boys: An American Tragedy) you will feel as if you truly know the author.) And you will "feel" so much because of him you will want to contact him to ask how you can help spread the word right along with him. You'll want to know how you as a human being can help in making the world a safe place for kids instead of one that harms them. Because through his story that is what he is trying to do.

What do you say when you think your kids are safe and trusted to people that are supposed to do that job? Well, in this case, the kids are abused and some murdered. It is an American Tragedy in the worse sense. Roger Dean Kiser is a great author, and he lived to tell this harrowing story. You

have to read it to understand what those poor boys went through. From hell to hell.

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