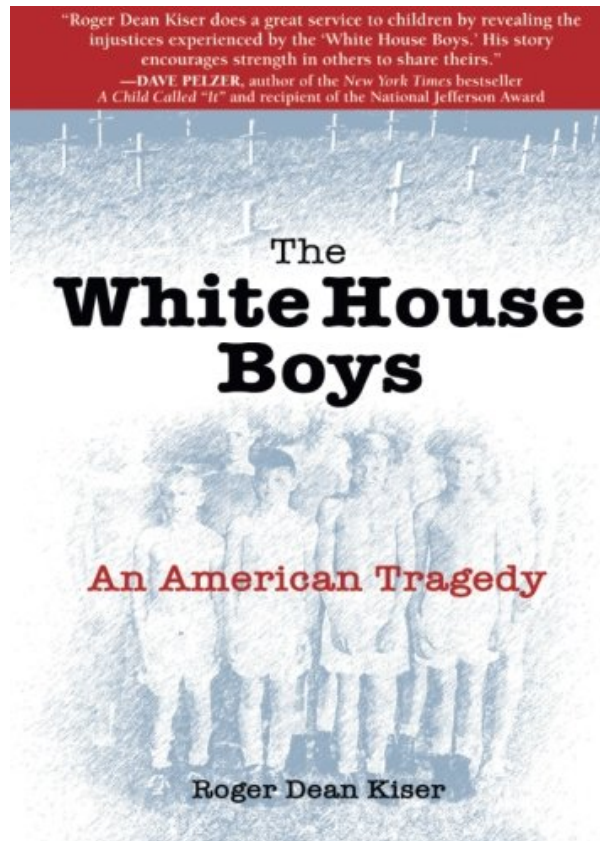


# THE WHITE HOUSE BOYS: AN AMERICAN TRAGEDY BY ROGER DEAN KISER



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The  
**White House  
Boys**

**An American Tragedy**

Roger Dean Kiser

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## Review

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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.

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## Most helpful customer reviews

33 of 33 people found the following review helpful.

**Exposing Cruelty To Children! The Real Story Finally Told!!**

By HelenDella

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.

51 of 57 people found the following review helpful.

White House Boys

By R. Mitchell

I guess it is prejudice that inspired me to buy this book because I was sent to Marjane Florida, The Florida School for Boys my first time in 1965. I spent ten months there the first time. I went "down" to the White House once in those ten months. After leaving after ten months, I returned again two or three months later and spent fourteen months there. I went "down" to the White House three times in this period. So I can speak with authority about Mr. Tidwell, Mr. White, Mr. Hatten, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Ellis and Mr. Crockett because of those men, three of them administered the punishment to me. Was it bad? Yes it was, but not as bad as what happened to the author or to any of the others.

There are many other aspects of the story that he either left out by mistake or he had forgotten. I have certain memories that were not related in his story and it was during the state of Florida's integration period in 1966. That is a story in itself. There are other aspects that should have been included, again either by mistake or forgotten.

If the one thing that should come from this book is two things. 1) Healing and 2) that those in the graves are identified and justice sought for them.

After leaving FSB my last time in 1967 I was fifteen and never returned. The impact of that experience is still with me till this day, but it did not affect like the others. My experiences at home were far worse and though the punishment I received was severe, it was nothing compared to what I and my brother endured at home.

So, purchase the book to learn and hope those who were hurt will heal and those who died by the violence inflicted in the White House should have justice.

29 of 32 people found the following review helpful.

A Must-Read Story of Abuse and Hope

By Kimberly Ripley

The atrocities author Roger Kiser suffered at the hands of his "caretakers" in this Florida institution will make your toes curl. The depravity of the people running this home for boys will sicken you. The triumph and hope that Mr. Kiser offers as a result of his broken life will make your life's troubles pale to trivialities, and cause you to question what right you've ever had to complain.

As Mr. Kiser continues his work with the state of Florida and even the FBI, in an effort to ensure that heinous crimes like the ones committed upon him and other young boys are a thing of the past, he has put his personal life back together, setting an example for all of mankind that nothing is greater than the human spirit.

Written with the strength of a survivor and the compassion of one who knows severe physical and emotional pain, Mr. Kiser's book is a well-scripted look into a childhood of hell.

While the subject matter is difficult, the book is exceptional. It flows from fact to feeling in an effortless,



plain-spoken manner and is interspersed with photos as well. *The White House Boys...An American Tragedy* is a must-read true story of abuse and hope.

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