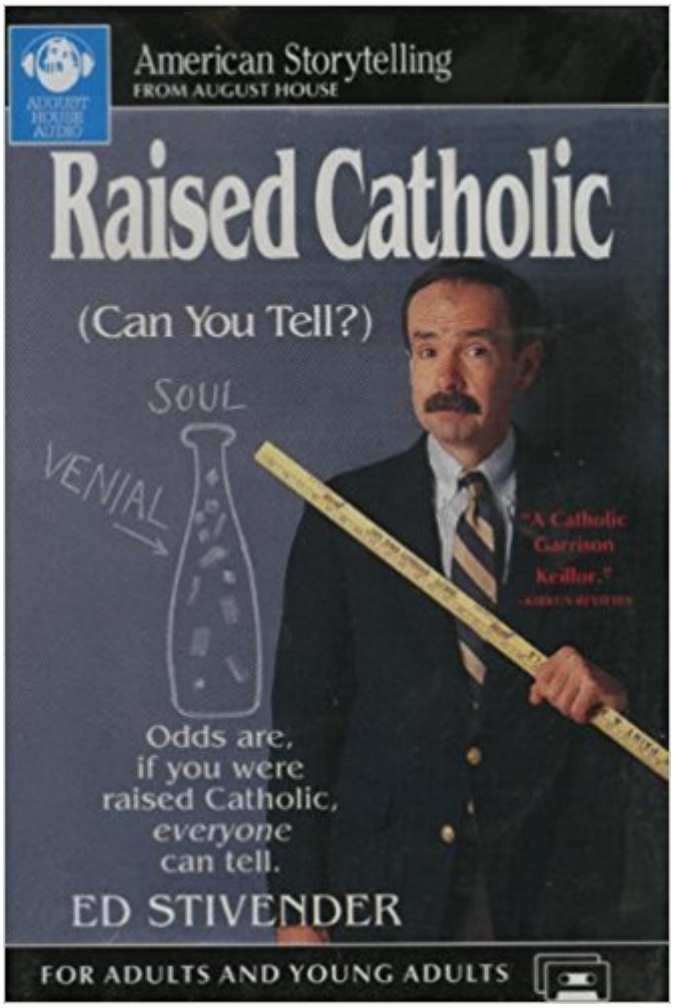
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Raised Catholic: Can You Tell? (American Storytelling)



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Synopsis

He was the only son of an Irish Catholic mother and a Protestant Navy man. His mother frequently prayed for him to become a priest. But his father warned him, Son, never get a job where you have to wear a dress to work.

Book Information

Age Range: 12 and up

Series: American Storytelling

Audio Cassette

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Customer Reviews

A professional jongleur (storyteller), Stivender offers rich material here in anecdotes based on growing up Catholic in Philadelphia in the 1950s. The first-born of an Irish Catholic mother and a Lutheran father, he missed the "call" to priestly vocation that his parochial school teachers envisioned for their prize pupil. Instead, his inquisitive imagination wrestled merrily with the pseudo-military nature of his Catholic education; with what he calls the game of "doctrinal tennis" played in the classroom by teacher and students; and with his all-too-literal interpretations of pious conventions, such as accommodating one's guardian angel. Stivender's storytelling emanates from a warm familial setting and resonates with affectionate humor while he takes swipes at the rites of passage of a more innocent time. These tales of Catholic culture amuse while they recall a history shared by many. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Audible Audio Edition edition.

Twentieth-century Catholicism was radically changed by the Second Vatican Council, and professional storyteller Stivender provides a delightful trip down pre-Vatican II's memory lane with stories from his own Catholic boyhood in the 1950s. This abridged release includes five tales, beginning with a piece on his first-grade introduction to Catholic school etiquette (e.g., one left room between seats for the guardian angels) and concluding with a paean to his fifth-grade love. Stivender's approach is consistently gentle, poking amiable fun at a long-lost era. The author narrates with a deadpan voice that accentuates his low-key humor. Recommended for public library collections.Sister M. Anna Falbo, Villa Maria Coll. Lib., Buffalo, N.Y.Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Very enjoyable book. Brings back a lot of memories. I was able to relive much of my childhood by reading this book. I highly recommend it.

If you were raised Catholic, but after Vatican II (1965), this book will provide you with the humorous side of being raised Catholic in the 1950s-1965. The chapter titled Altar Boy was my favorite and so true.

A gifted storyteller, Ed Stivender lights a candle with humor for all children who were "Raised Catholic" in the 1950's, but also for the rest of us who grew up with Catholic friends. Friends who wanted to commit a small mortal sin on Saturday after confession. A sin just big enough to make them stay home and play on Sunday, since they were too impure to go Mass before going to confession again, but a sin small enough so that they could still get into Heaven.Times change, but fortunately Ed Stivender has captured and preserved in amber an innocent's view of an age of doctrine. Enjoy it yourself before sending it on as a gift to your Catholic friends.

Gave a clear look into Catholic upbringing and the church life of my friends and neighbors - grew up with Catholics but not one myself - they say it's perfect, and very funny. A girlfriend said it brought her back to childhood, sometimes painful memories. This book is old but still perfect and timeless.CC

As a graduate of "Holy Cross" where Stivender went to school, I could clearly relate to every word in this book. His story telling talents certainly entertained this reader (actually listener, I got the book on tape and listened on a recent car trip). Stivender certainly has a way with words and the events

that he experienced and recollects can be clearly imagined and remembered by anyone who entered a Catholic grade school at that time. Unfortunately our own children of the next generation will not be able to share these experiences. I laughed for 2 hours and then laughed again as I listened to the book a second time with my 18 and 20 year olds! They too enjoyed every word. If by chance Stivender reads this review, I "was" Kathi Reiner and my feelings were hurt (only teasing) that you did not mention me in your trip down memory lane.

This collection of Mr. Stivender's memories from his first year in Catholic school all the way up to his prom was very funny. I have never been to a parochial school myself, but from what my father has told me about his memories, these stories give a taste of what Catholic schools were like in the 1950's, but in a hilarious manner.

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