

I Became An Elementary School Outlaw

A Memoir by Frank Nappi

by Frank Nappi



Non-Fiction - Memoir

245 Pages

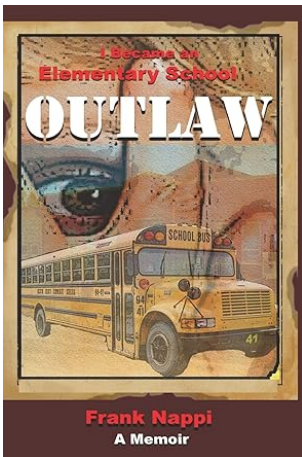
Reviewed on 07/12/2019

Book Review

Reviewed by Joel R. Dennstedt for Readers' Favorite

“You just continue to break the rules and make a mess of things.” Such are the memorable admonitions we receive in childhood. Young Frank Nappi heard this prophetic utterance from one teacher when, according to older Frank Nappi, I Became An Elementary School Outlaw. Possessing an uncanny knack for vivid recall, both Franks seem to possess a well-nurtured knack for not letting go, something he talks about in Chapter One of this deceptively funny but subversively psychological memoir. Older Frank attempts to understand himself by reliving (so vivid are his recollections) those events during elementary education when younger Frank endured his earliest defining moments. What is so remarkable about this process of excavating primary causes for unconsciously-motivated adult behavior is how quickly the reader becomes sucked in by the compelling narrative, written astonishingly well, and thus becomes intensely invested in its outcome.

Frank Nappi may seem a bit obsessive when concentrating on the often humorous, often devastating consequences resulting from his assertion: I Became An Elementary School Outlaw. As he states: “Third grade residue is everywhere.” But this incredibly tantalizing and strangely powerful memoir is neither an apology for nor a condemnation of his childhood predilections. Instead, with the mastery of a magician’s misdirection, Mr. Nappi subtly immerses the reader in his own, personally directed psychological investigation. Without immediately knowing it, we wind up sharing and comparing our own youthful experiences, coming to the somewhat troubling conviction or question: What kind of elementary school role did I play, and how does it affect me now? One admires and hopes to share Mr. Nappi’s unrelenting commitment to answering such a question. And hopefully, as he did, come just as close to finding one. This is an extraordinary book, and incredibly well written.



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Author Biography



Frank Nappi has taught high school English and Creative Writing for thirty years. His debut novel, *ECHOES FROM THE INFANTRY*, received national attention, including MWSA's silver medal for outstanding fiction. His follow-up novel, *THE LEGEND OF MICKEY TUSSLER*, garnered rave reviews as well, including a movie adaptation of the touching story "A Mile in His Shoes" starring Dean Cain and Luke Schroder. Nappi continues to produce quality work, including *SOPHOMORE CAMPAIGN*, the intriguing sequel to the much heralded original story and the thriller, *NOBODY HAS TO KNOW*, which received an endorsement from #1 New York Times bestselling author Nelson DeMille. The third installment of Nappi's Mickey Tussler series, *WELCOME TO THE SHOW*, was released in April 2016. Summer 2018 marked the announcement of Nappi's first memoir, *I BECAME AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OUTLAW*, which was released in June of 2019. Nappi makes his home on Long Island, where he has lived his entire life.