 Title: Morningside Drive

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Illustrator: Daniel J. Middleton

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## Description

It’s 1955. Eisenhower is President and the Cold War is at its height, yet life on Morningside Drive in the mid-sized city of Riverport, Illinois seems idyllic and sweet.

Much of the neighborhood’s social life centers on St. Mary’s Catholic Church, its parish school and a group of families that have known each other for generations. But then the revelation of inappropriate interactions with some of the altar boys at the church comes to light. Suddenly, they and their parents are at the center of the emerging sex abuse scandal, a drama that was unimaginable at the time. After all, the priest was seen as God’s representative on earth; the Church was believed to be incapable of harboring evil itself.

And so a story known to us all these years later began to play out, featuring the power and influence of the Catholic Church, the belief that an abuser could be safely reassigned after being sent off to be cured, and then the Church’s unparalleled effort to protect herself.

The strange and unanticipated interaction between two families on Morningside Drive provides the setting for the beginning of this story. It then grows to reveal a brilliant but eccentric neighbor, a courageous teacher at the school, a young priest who dares to look at signs that others ignore, and, of course, the clergy and church leaders who are either naïve or extremely irresponsible – or both.

## Dedication

To the courageous and resilient survivors of the sexual abuse crisis within the Catholic Church.

## Author Bio

First-time author Charlie Casper spent several years on the West Coast in California and Washington State before returning to his hometown of Louisville, Kentucky in the late 1970’s. He began his career in real estate, ultimately co-founding a not-for-profit, affordable housing partnership for low income clients. This is his first novel

## Illustrator

Daniel J. Middleton began his career in book publishing in 2001 by proofreading and copyediting galley proofs for a small Brooklyn-based press. Since that time, he has developed a love of graphic design and illustration. He has had the good fortune of working with a number of successful self-published authors and small presses with unique offerings. He is the author and illustrator of the Naomi "Redflower" children's book series, which is set in his Central New York hometown.

## Publicity

Book signing dates to come

## Awards

## Author Appearances

Coming Winter of 2020

## Distribution

Ingram, Baker & Taylor and most Internet outlets

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## Marketing Materials

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