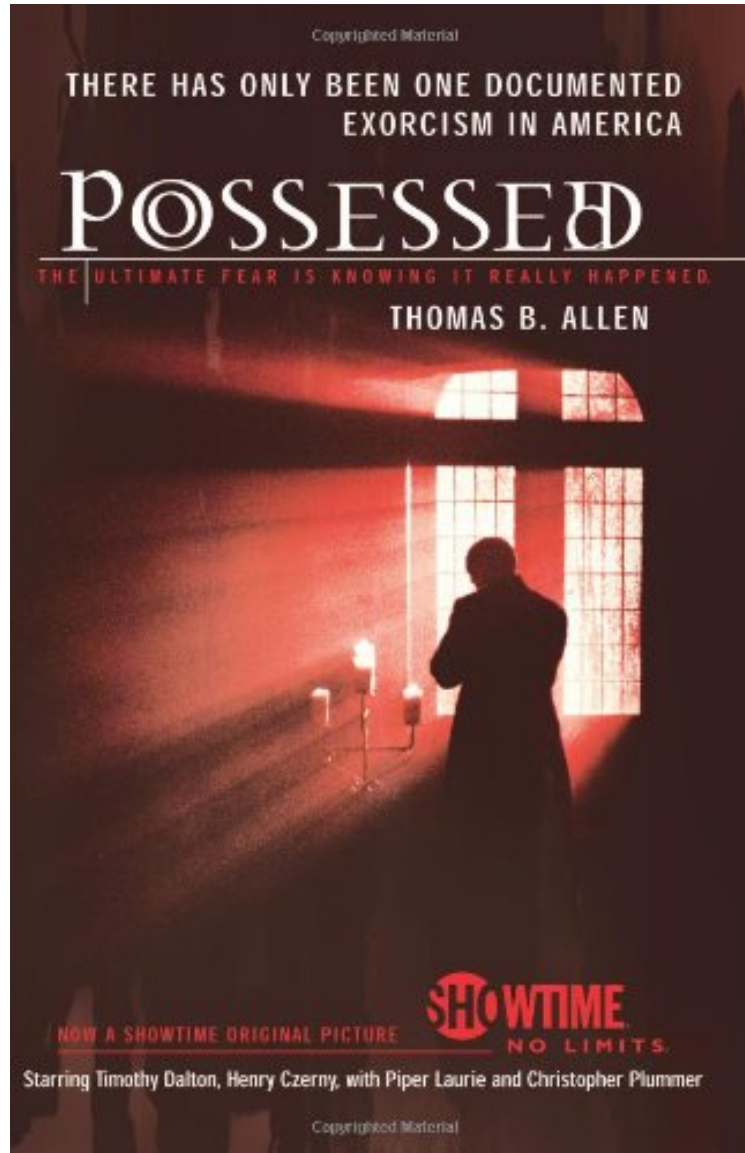


(Online library) Possessed

## Possessed

*Thomas Allen, Thomas B. Allen*

*\*Download PDF | ePub | DOC | audiobook | ebooks*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#97221 in Books iUniverse 2000-09-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x .87 x 5.501, .98 #File Name: 0595132642332 pages | File size: 35.Mb

**Thomas Allen, Thomas B. Allen : Possessed** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Possessed:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Exorcist Scary! By FoxThe Very True story that inspired William Peter Blatty's The Exorcist. which is way scarier than Blatty's book or the 1974 movie. It proves that truth is not only stranger than fiction but way scarier as well. It tells the story of a boy not a girl who became possessed during the 1940's after trying to contact his favorite aunt using what else The Ouija Board. The book gives insight into the

Catholic practices of *The Exorcist* and just why it isn't for the Novice and not anyone except for a trained expert is meant to do it. I highly recommend this, and if you're a fan of *The Exorcist* you'll love this insightful story. I also recommend it to any Christian who wants to learn more about the ongoing fight between God and the Devil. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Pretty Good Book (1993 Edition) For The Believer and Non-Believer. By Ronald E. Parsons There is much in this book to interest the reader whether he believes in diabolic possession or not. It revolves around the difficult exorcism performed on a teen-aged boy. Author Allen is honest about his own background as a Roman Catholic turned agnostic, educated by Jesuit priests. It is full of Catholicism and Jesuits. Most of the action is centered in St. Louis, Missouri in 1949, at and around Jesuit-established St. Louis University. This reviewer was born and reared in St. Louis and is a graduate of St. Louis U. (Law) and its college prep school. Since reading I have the impression that I might be the only St. Louis U. grad. not to know about the case until now, (2014). It gives the general reader a good elementary education about diabolic possession from more than one point of view. The book is easy to read and entertaining. I especially recommend it to readers unacquainted with human possession by the Devil or whatever else the phenomenon might be. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Chilling By Richard As a Roman Catholic, the subject is interesting and the author goes into much detail about the actual "Robbie Mannheim" (alias) case that started outside Wash DC and ended in St Louis. The amount of priests involved and the secrecy kept was politically motivated as the 'modern' church did not want to appear to be going back to medieval times, although those are its roots. This account was so frightening that I could not read it at night, I wound up reading it during daylight. I was surprised at some details, such as the Society of Jesus (Jesuit order) where it takes 15 yrs. to complete fully the training of a Jesuit. They are the scholastic and theological foot soldiers of the church with a rigorous training agenda. Most of the priest involved were Jesuits as well as protestant ministers. The first priest to attempt an exorcism received over 100 stitches from his shoulder to his wrist from a bed spring the boy tore loose during the opening rites. He was never the same mentally after that it seems, having stared into the face of raw evil

"*The Exorcist*", a 1973 movie about a twelve-year-old girl possessed by the Devil, frightened people more than any horror film ever did. Many moviegoers sought therapy to rid themselves of fears they could not explain. Psychiatrists coined the term "cinematic neurosis" for patients who left the movie feeling a terrifying presence of demons. At the Washington premiere, a young woman stood outside the theater, trembling. "I come out here in the sunlight," she said, "and I see people's eyes, and they frighten me." Among the few moviegoers unmoved by the horror were two priests, Father William S. Bowdern and Father Walter Halloran, members of the Jesuit community at St. Louis University. "Billy came out shaking his head about the little girl bouncing on the bed and urinating on the crucifix," Halloran remembers. "He was kind of angry. 'There is a good message that can be given by this thing,' he said. The message was the fact that evil spirits operate in our world." Bowdern and Halloran knew that the movie was fictional veneer masking a terrible reality. Night after night in March and April 1949, Bowdern had been an exorcist, with Halloran assisting. Bowdern fervently believed that he had driven a demon from a tormented soul. The victim had been a thirteen-year-old boy strangely lured to St. Louis from a Maryland suburb of Washington. Bowdern's exorcism had been the inspiration for the movie. The true story of this possession, told in *Possessed*, is based on a diary kept by a Jesuit priest assisting Father Bowdern. The diary, the most complete account of an exorcism since the Middle Ages, is published for the first time in this revised edition of *Possessed*.

From Library Journal In 1949, a teenaged boy in suburban Washington, D.C., exhibited signs of demonic possession. His desperate family moved him to a relative's home in St. Louis, where they persuaded a team of Jesuit priests to perform an exorcism (a practice unheard of at the time). William Peter Blatty noticed a news article concerning the incident, which provided him with the inspiration for his novel and screenplay *The Exorcist*. Allen, coauthor with Norman Polmar of several American histories, based his work on a secret diary of one member of the exorcism team and personal interviews with another. His account is horrific, and he will succeed in forcing even highly skeptical, worldly readers into doubting their preconceived ideas about the "medieval" notion of demonic possession. Recommended for most collections. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 3/15/93.- Richard S. Watts, San Bernardino Cty. Lib., Cal. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus s The 1949 exorcism that inspired William Blatty to write *The Exorcist*, recounted in admirably restrained and documented fashion by an unlikely source: military-expert Allen (*Merchants of Treason*, 1988, etc.). Unlike Blatty's possessed teenage girl, 14-year-old Robbie Mannheim (a pseudonym) of Mt. Ranier, Maryland, doesn't swivel his head like a top or levitate. But when fruit and then a vase fly through the air in his presence, his middle-class parents call on an M.D., a psychologist, and finally a minister for help. The minister suspects a poltergeist, but when bloody scratches appear on Robbie's body, the reverend tells the family, "You have to see a Catholic priest. The Catholics know about things like this" - advice that leads the Mannheims to a local priest whose exorcism of Robbie aborts when the boy slashes him with a mattress spring. The distraught parents take their son to St. Louis, where they meet Fr. William S. Bowdern, a 52-year-old Jesuit attached to St. Louis University. It's Bowdern who conducts the successful weeks-long exorcism, involving nightly incantations by the priest and several assistants as Robbie--who claims to be possessed--spits, urinates, writhes,

cackles, and manifests words in blood ("HELL"; "CHRIST") on his body until the "demon" departs shortly after Easter. To his credit, Allen reports the more sensational aspects of Robbie's ordeal with a poker face, focusing instead on the spiritual and emotional issues involved, providing brief histories of the Jesuits, poltergeists, and possession. In an afterword, he weighs--without judging--the likelihood of Robbie having been possessed, and he discusses his sources, including one eyewitness and, crucially, a hitherto unrevealed daily journal of the exorcism kept by one of Bowdern's assistants. One can't blame Blatty for sleazing up Robbie's plight, but it's good to have Allen's levelheaded account, which allows the apparent facts of this influential case to speak for their own--and compelling--selves. --

Copyright 1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

About the Author THOMAS B. ALLEN is author or co-author of 18 books, including *Spy Book*, which was co-authored with Norman Polmar. Formerly Associate Chief of the National Geographic Society's Book Service, he is a frequent contributor to *National Geographic Magazine*. His writings range from military subjects to natural history, including *Vanishing Wildlife of North America*, published by the National Geographic Society. He is the author of *The Blue and the Gray*, a history of the Civil War published by the Geographic, and the co-author, with Norman Polmar, of *Spy Book: The Encyclopedia of Espionage and World War II: America at War 1941-1945*.