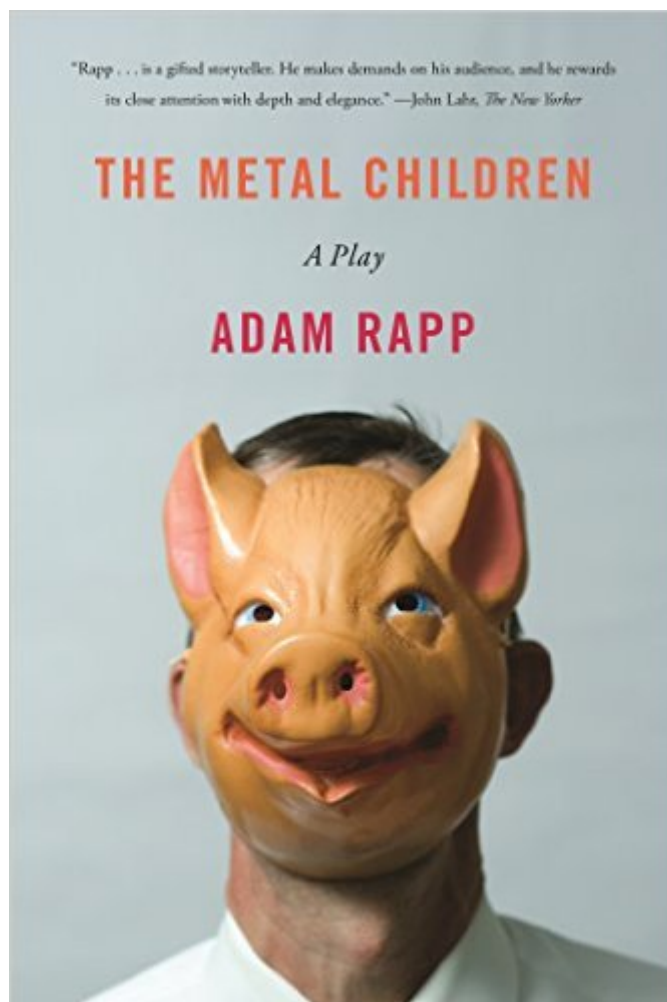


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The Metal Children: A Play



Synopsis

In small-town America, a young adult novel about teen pregnancy is banned by the local school board, igniting a fierce and violent debate over abortion, religious beliefs, and modern feminism. Its directionless New York City author arrives in town to defend the book and finds that it has inspired a group of local teens to rebel in strange and unexpected ways. A timely and unforgettable drama about the failure of urban and heartland America to understand each other, *The Metal Children* explores what happens when fiction becomes a matter of life and death.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I love this book, I was quickly taken in and swallowed whole by the story line and soon found myself imagining this created world. The author is very talented and on top of that, this book was in pristine condition!

A drama plays out in small town America, the reaction of a school board to a coming-of-age novel that is indicative of the extremes of our times. Once certain selections are quoted out of context, the reaction is swift: remove the book from the school library. Keep it out of the hands of impressionable youth. The author, Tobin Falmouth, had no particular intention when writing the novel. Now called on to defend his work years later, he can barely recall the inspiration that fueled his writing, let alone defend what he has written. The result is a predictable, a local outcry to protect the innocence of youth, hypocritical adults blustering, the dissent of one girl barely heard above the volume of moral

outrage. Meanwhile, a sympathetic teacher is subjected to harassment and a vandal strikes with impunity, tearing through the story, his face obscured by the mask of a pig. There is a bizarre reaction among a group of young women, a social with grim implications for the future. This is a painfully familiar story in play form, the characters strange and varied as any random sampling of personalities and ideals, but with a violent twist, the reactions of those who seek to control the minds of the young and the weaker voices of opposition. Most troubling is the escalation of violence, the license to terrorize randomly. No hero, Falmouth is a writer caught in the vortex of public opinion, his feet of clay leaving deep tracks in a landscape where teenagers indulge in their own interpretation of events. Perhaps I am too cynical to appreciate the irony of this play, the author's intentions as much a mystery at the end as the beginning. Luan Gaines/2010.

Being a giant fan of Rapp's earlier theatre work (Nocturne, Red Light Winter), I was a little let down by this effort. It has an extremely interesting backstory: if for no other reason, read the play to compare to the true-to-life story it is based on. It is still an Adam Rapp play, so the story is very unique, the dialogue colloquial and sharp, the protagonist probably more anti than pro. However, I felt Rapp just kind of went through the motions with this one. I was actually more interested in the novel detailed within the play than I was the actual play. The main character, Tobin, is an author who writes very graphic young adult novels. That's about all the interesting things we get to know about him. Overall, this is a mediocre effort from a very talented young playwright/novelist. It can be fun, it can be interesting. But in my opinion, if you haven't taken a peak at Rapp's 2006 play Red Light Winter, make a stop there before you purchase this one.

This is a play about a book, a book that is called "The Metal Children". I spent the entire play wishing I was reading the book the story is about instead of this junk. The characters spend most of the story talking about how "the metal children" is "180 pages that will rock your world." In the instances where the book was mentioned and read from the text was mediocre at best. The entire story was the author complementing himself. There was no substance, no underlying point, no ending. The Metal Children is a love letter to an imaginary novel. The characters were stereotyped. I found myself grasping for buried themes of the southern heartland and religious taken to extremes only to find those were as null as the play itself. The play has grand potential but never follows through. These ideas are suppressed under a bad story about an adult getting a 17 year old pregnant and some protesting you never get to see. The main plot is offstage. The Metal Children should have been told from someone else's point of view. The Metal Children is a side plot some

little story a writer tells you at book signing it asks no questions and gives us no answers.

not worth the money I spent on it, the book wasn't all it was hyped up to be

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