

# 'The Boy Who Came Back from Heaven' Now Says He Made the Whole Thing Up

By Shane Ferro  
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["The Boy Who Came Back From Heaven"](#) never actually went.



Alex Malarkey, a young boy who coauthored a book with his father first published in 2010 about going to heaven and returning to earth, [wrote an open letter](#) to Christian publishers retracting his story.

In 2004, Malarkey and his father, who is a Christian therapist, were in a bad car accident that left the 6-year-old boy paralyzed and in a coma.

According to the book's [Amazon page](#): "When Alex awoke from a coma two months later, he had an incredible story to share. Of events at the accident scene and in the hospital while he was unconscious. Of the angels who took him through the gates of Heaven itself. And, most amazing of all ... of meeting and talking with Jesus."

The letter that Alex, who is now 16, wrote to publishers said he made the whole thing up: "I said I went to heaven because I thought it would get me attention. When I made the claims that I did, I had never read the Bible. People have profited from lies, and continue to. They should read the Bible, which is enough."

Two major Christian bookstores, [Lifeway](#) and [Tyndale House](#), have announced plans to pull the books from stores.

In April, Alex's mother, Beth Malarkey, [wrote on her blog](#) that the book was untrue. She also implied that Alex had not received the proceeds from the book sales:

It is both puzzling and painful to ...

**Note from Pastor Kevin Lea:** *It is so sad that people will trust a kid rather than the word of God. This story is similar to the [Heaven is for Real](#) book and movie. There too, we are either going to have to believe the Bible or a boy, because they can't both be true. I hope the reader will join me in believing the Bible, because God will never have a reason to write a retraction.*

To read this article in its entirety, go to:

<http://www.businessinsider.com/the-boy-who-came-back-from-heaven-recants-everything-2015-1>