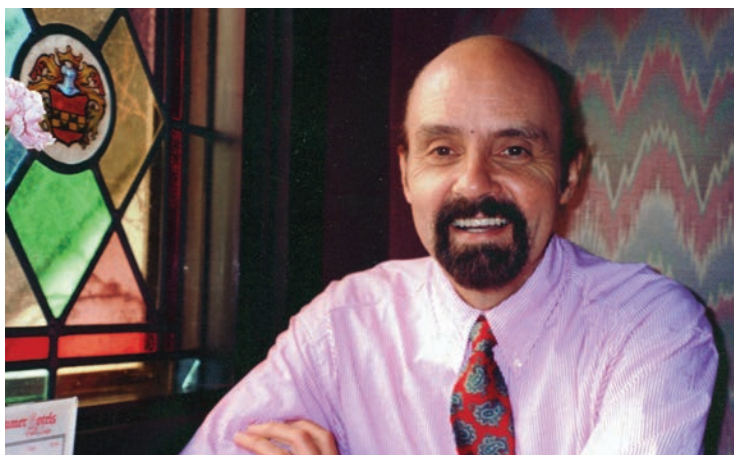


About the Author



Jack Fritscher was born in southern Illinois, in Jacksonville, raised in central Illinois in Peoria, graduated from Loyola University in Chicago, and served as a tenured associate professor at Western Michigan University where he taught American literature, creative writing, and film history. As faculty advisor in the 1960s, he helped pioneer and establish women's studies in literature and cinema disciplines. He also taught at Loyola University and at Kalamazoo College, and frequently traveled as guest-lecturer in several university series that included Bella Abzug and Adelle Davis. He has appeared on *Oprah* and with Camille Paglia on a Channel 4 London television documentary special on gender, and has been extensively quoted in her published essays.

His stories, poems, and articles have appeared in more than thirty national and international magazines and journals. He has written public-service documents specifically exploring women's issues in association with ABC-Television affiliate-programming, Channel 7, San

Francisco. He also wrote the first *Senior-Citizen and Physically-Challenged Guide* for the San Francisco Municipal Railway. He is the author of four collections of short stories, five books of nonfiction, two produced plays, two screenplays featuring female protagonists, and two novels—including the best-selling and critically acclaimed novel, *Some Dance to Remember*. He has been awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Grant (NEH), and a State of Michigan grant to the arts.

He lives in the San Francisco Bay Area and is descended, through his mother, Virginia Day Fritscher, from women whose ethnic Irish birth names are Mary Pearl Lawler, Mary Lynch, Honora Anastasia McDonough, and through his father, George Fritscher, from women whose ethnic Austrian birth names are Amelia Haberman, Theresa Hruby, and Victoria Etzler.

For author biographical & literary history:

www.JackFritscher.com

About *The Geography of Women*

Telling her story at the end of the 20th century, Laydia Spain O'Hara, untangles the past of fourteen characters' lives tied together in a small southern Illinois town from the mid-1950s of Elvis through the mid-1960s post-JFK. Her comic tale of faces unmasking—and conflicts resolving—is a human journey about coming of age and inventing one's self, despite all gossip, while keeping the torch of true love burning. In a triangle with her two best friends, Jessarose and Mizz Lulabelle, Laydia Spain outwits convention, opens her own boarding house, and discovers a solidarity in new ideas of family, home, and the human heart that mirror the vast social changes sweeping American culture during the mid-century.

In the tradition of spunky small-town girls whose vernacular descends from Huck Finn, Laydia Spain dares to take on her own father, Big Jim O'Hara, the postman and accordion champ who named her Laydia Spain; Mister Henry Apple, the prescription-eating pharmacist who marries the bleach-blond Mizz Lulabelle; and Mister Wilmer Fox, the red-headed traveling salesman whose revolving returns to the little town of Canterbury always upset everyone's plans to live happily ever after.

Ultimately, the dark-skinned cinnamon girl, Jessarose, who takes off on the road to fame and fortune as a road-house blues singer, defines the direction of love, because, while "the human face is a limitless terrain that just pulls you right in....the geography of women is where nature itself takes course homeward bound, the long route or the short, the high road or the low."

By the author of *Some Dance to Remember*

"Classic!"—*The New Republic* "Comic!"—*The Advocate* "Witty!"—*Lambda Book Report*

The Story: A fast-talking romantic comedy of three women growing up, dating, mating, and inventing themselves in a small southern town in the late 1950s where everybody minds everybody's business. The three friends switch partners and dance, sing, and discover a witty solidarity in new ideas of career, family, home, and the human heart.

The Comparisons: *The Geography of Women* keeps excellent company in the pop-culture tradition of vernacular novels like *Fried Green Tomatoes*, *Rubyfruit Jungle*, *Bastard Out of Carolina*, and *Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All*.

"Fritscher's Laydia Spain joins Rita Mae Brown's Molly and Dorothy Allison's Bone as one of the smartest, sassiest heroines in recent years." —David Van Leer, reviewer, *The New Republic* and *The Times Literary Supplement*

FRITSCHER JOINS THE LITERARY RANKS OF FANNIE FLAGG, RITA MAE BROWN, ALLAN GURGANUS, DOROTHY ALLISON, FLANNERY O'CONNOR, HARPER LEE & CARSON McCOLLERS!

"Fritscher writes with a blessed combination of ingenuity and poetic intelligence...delightfully wry, ironic, and funny!...A good-natured romp...as rife with honesty as *A Confederacy of Dunces*." —Richard Labonté, *A Different Light* Books, New York

"A fine book, a delight...funny and relaxed...a style that is part Mark Twain, William Faulkner, Rita Mae Brown, and Dorothy Allison."

—Jim Marks, Publisher, *Lambda Book Report*, Washington, DC

"This novel is Fritscher's best work. A truly touching story about why it's sometimes good to be different."

—Edward Lucie-Smith, critic and author *Race, Sex, and Gender*, London

"Fritscher writes wonderful books full of compassion, humor, lyricism, and insight."

—Geoff Mains, *The Advocate*, Los Angeles

"Fritscher so cleverly 'channels' the novel's characters that the women write themselves—as skillful a Pirandello pirouette as Tennessee Williams, but without the neuroses. Delightful!"

—Armando Aguilar, *Thrust Magazine*, Los Angeles

"...a quick-footed novel of considerable charm." —Stuart Dybek, author of *The Coast of Chicago*

"Fritscher's women glow with warmth. You feel their desires, needs, love, and—in the rhythm of the writing—the true beat of their hearts."

—Mira Schwirtz, critic whose review of

Fritscher's work appeared in *The San Francisco Review of Books*

Research this author: JackFritscher.com



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