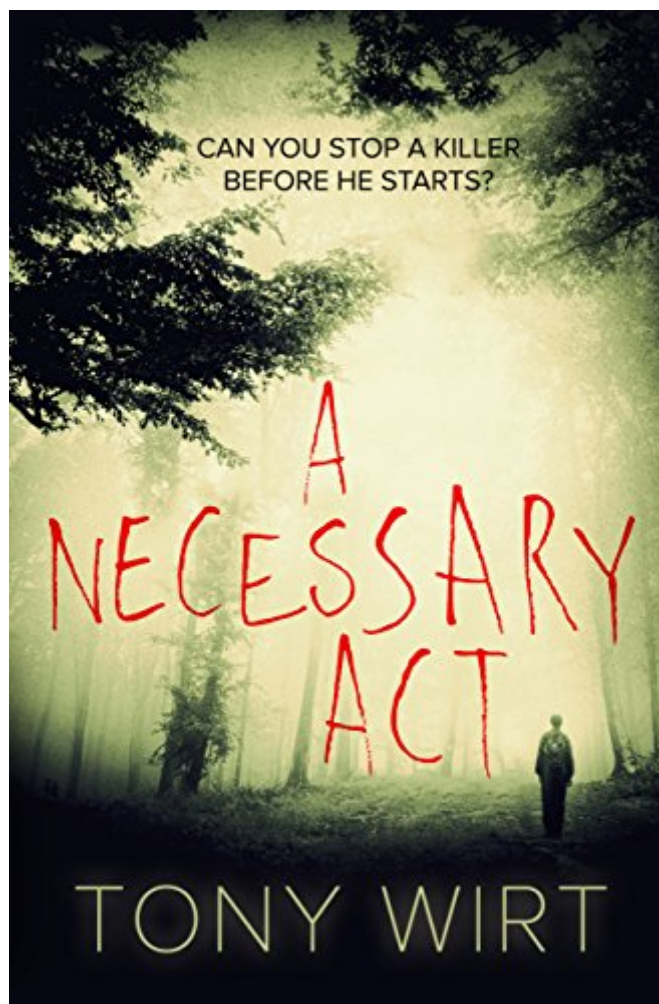


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A Necessary Act



Synopsis

Can you stop a serial killer before he starts? If so, should you? How far would you go? The students at Lake Mills Community High School knew there was something wrong with Scott – but what David saw firsthand was more than they could ever imagine. He and his best (only) friend Matt were content to keep their suspicions to themselves until a simple trip to the library sets them on parallel trajectories where even the most careful plans have unexpected consequences that can rock a community and reverberate long after they're gone. Fifteen years later, Matt loses his high-profile reporter gig and is forced to return to the town he did everything he could to leave behind. He gets a shot at redemption with the small-town weekly where he started and quickly discovers a community that has moved on from the past. Well, everybody but David. He remembers everything and doesn't buy a thirty-something Scott's "normal" act. There's a madman hovering inside. After all, some people never change, right? Something the entire town is reminded of when the first dead girl turns up.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

What can I say? I originally bought the book out of a sense of community spirit (sorry I could only afford the kindle version and not hardcover, Tony! :P). I'm about half way through and I just hope that Mr. Wirt keeps writing! I'm really enjoying this book and cannot wait to see not only how the rest of this book goes, but the next book... and the next!

I downloaded this book because of the amount of stars. I didn't find it an awesome read, just an OK one for me. I had it figured out before the ending, but then the author did one of those weird endings which leaves you up in the air. You could feel the down home writing from this book.

I finished the book a couple of days ago, but can't stop thinking about the characters and events in it. Sometimes it was so intense, I had to stop reading for awhile, but I enjoyed the book very much. Looking forward to more from this author!

It was interesting but just kept going I and on. It was a beating. Then the end was ambiguous. I call this one a total loser. I want the ending to give me the real killer, etc. all that time was wasted on this crappy book!

This debut novel was absolutely fantastic! I was on the edge of my seat up until the unpredictable conclusion. The exciting twists left me unable to put the book down. A Necessary Act is chilling, unexpected, and thought-provoking. I would highly recommend this book to anyone!

Great plot, good characterization. Whatever happened to elementary school English? Grammar, punctuation, parts of speech, and diagramming a sentence? Nobody is taught this stuff anymore, and it really hurts the writing. You don't even get the slang idioms right, the language you hear every day. Don't you listen to people talk? I don't want to be overly negative. You have a great feel for story; good plotting, interesting people, and a lot of intrigue there in the ending. I look forward to reading more of your work.

A Necessary Act is one of those books that brings back memories of childhood friends and memories, and the complexities of childhood. The very term "childhood" evokes a sense of simplicity and innocence, but in the actual day-to-day existence of childhood, there are usually dark and disturbing incidents that are purposely erased from memory over the years. This book involves just that type of incident. Matt arrives in town and feels fortunate that he finds David as a friend in

the high school society that feels closed off to him as an outsider. A nasty bullying incident brings David to tell Matt about a brief childhood friendship he had with Scott, the bully - the periods of fun in building a fort together, shattered by several horrifying acts. Several things happen subsequently that convince David that Scott is a dangerous and unstable person who needs to be stopped before he inflicts further damage. Matt basically agrees in theory, but is reluctant to take any action. David isn't, and his actions have unforeseen and tragic results. After school, Matt moves away and becomes a reporter. When he loses his job, he returns to the old town and re-connects with David, whose life has taken a downward spiral. Scott is back in the picture and then a murder occurs that brings all three of them back into a reluctant circle. The book moves inexorably toward finality, but the final twists take your breath away. I could hardly put the book down until the end. The characters are well-developed and the depictions of elementary school and high school, with all their friendships, quash-friendships and cruelty, are sure to bring back memories of some of the less-than-golden days of "childhood". This is a story of how childhood incidents and acquaintances can carry over into adulthood and transform into something we wish we had left behind. I look forward to reading more by Tony Wirt.

Kept me hooked, and though it was about a small town in Iowa, I kept imagining it in my own hometown. Lots of twists, and it'll keep you guessing. Just enough of an opening that there might be a sequel--I'll hope for that!

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