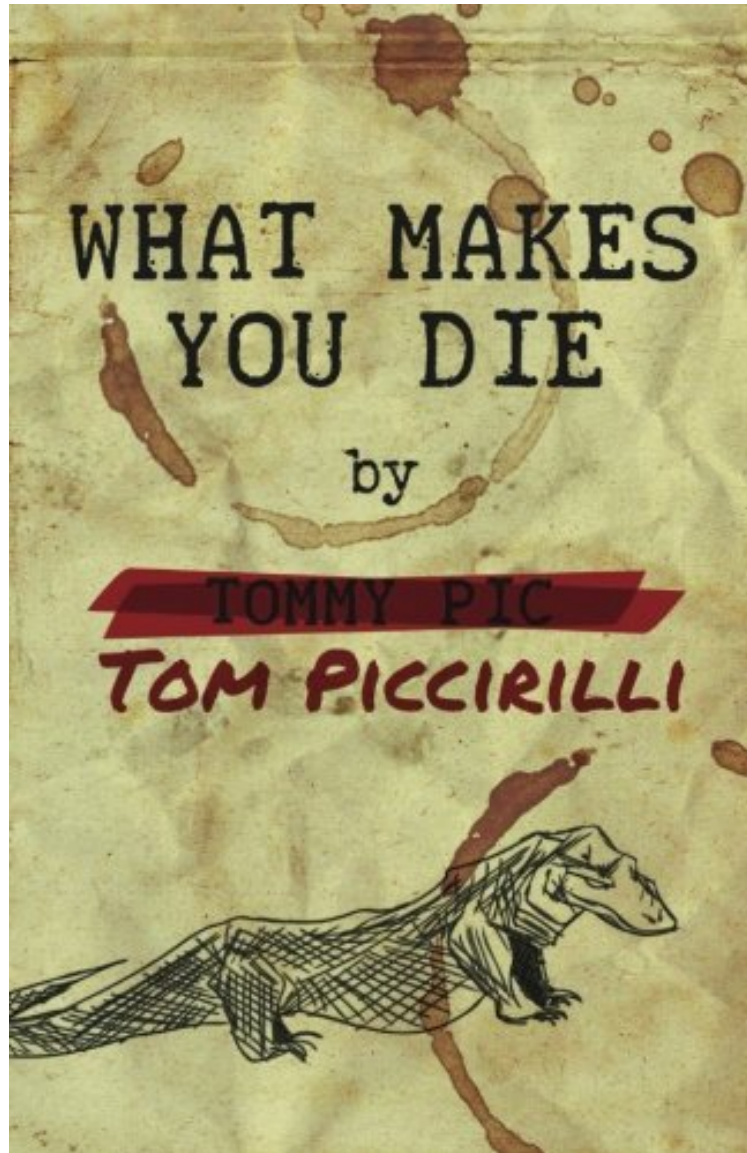


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What Makes You Die

Tom Piccirilli

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Tom Piccirilli : What Makes You Die before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What Makes You Die:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Cannot remember reading this bookBy Kindle CustomerWhich is pretty funny since the book is about a playwright who loses his memory. When I checked some reviews, to make me remember the premise, I recall thinking this book was too stream-of-consciousness for me. Not only rambling and very personal (Tom Pic?), it contains lots of uncomfortable images -- not uncomfortable for me, but extremely so for

the playwright (Piccirilli?) After reading it, I remember asking myself if the author is this tormented, why is he still with us? 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Perfect Little Semi-Autobiographical Oddity! By The Baron Von Crabcakes I had never actually read anything by Tom Piccirilli before, though I've always heard great things. Sometimes you just miss a writer. I don't know why. It's like their name floats around you, tempting you like a worm on a hook, and for whatever reason you just never chomp. Well, when I saw this in the library the other day and I thought to myself, "Perhaps this is the universe telling me to chomp already!" And so I chomped. And I'm real glad I did. Tom Piccirilli has such an amazing voice. The words he chooses and his sentence structure never get stale, the humor is on point and not forced, and scenes are engaging and move along briskly – and all of this feeling almost effortless, which speaks volumes to the talent of the writer. I know Piccirilli worked primarily in the horror genre, but this novella is certainly NOT a horror book. In fact, the story (although occasionally "weird") is deceptively simple, and underneath what would just be a straight-forward story lurks a lot of heart, pathos, neuroses, and fear, mixed up together to paint a world much bigger than the book's meager 160 pages can contain. At times it veers into self-indulgent territory - the main character is named Tommy Pic and is a writer, after all - but I think that's kinda the point. It's about the creative process, both personally and professionally, and how every piece of art you make helps you reclaim a bit of yourself (or, as the case may be, give up a piece of yourself). So OF COURSE it's going to be self-indulgent. Plus, I *believe* it's the one of the last titles the author wrote before he passed away, so were that the case, I can't think of a better swan song than this semi-autobiographical little oddity. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. What do a Komodo Dragon, a Spider Monkey, and some Witches have in Common? By Mike Kazmierczak This book isn't a typical Piccirilli novel. There's no pulp fiction or crime noir that occurs. There's no supernatural elements (though this is debatable). And there's no horror, at least in the vampires, monsters, ghouls sense of the word. Considering though that Piccirilli has said in interviews that he finds more true horror in real life, this novel has tons. The protagonist, Tommy Pic, wakes up in a mental hospital. Pic is a screenwriter with some success but not much. He also is haunted by the ghosts of his father, a girl who went missing when he was ten and a Komodo dragon. While Pic seems to be barely holding it together, he is also an old hat when it comes to dealing with a mental hospital. Waking up inside of one is not a new thing. At least not since after failing in Los Angeles and moving back home to live in his mom's basement. The story then follows Pic as he determines which ghosts to exorcise and which to accept. Initially I was a bit disappointed with the book. The story seemed disjointed and scattered. There were pieces to the story that I wasn't understanding and didn't seem to fit. However, the second half of the book aligned those disjointed pieces together until I realized that they were never quite as disconnected as I thought. It was more like real life in that there was no gun fights or car chases or other hard edges. Instead relationships reached a plateau before changing. Lives evolved in steps, not jumps. And offbeat storylines matched life where not everything makes sense. I should also point out the obvious that the book seems semi-autobiographical at times. Tommy Pic the character vs. Tom Piccirilli the author. Both are writers. However, that is pretty much it. According to IMDB, Piccirilli hasn't reach the same level of quasi-fame that the character has. And while the two might have similar ghosts to exorcise, that's what a writer always does: puts part of himself into the story. The naming did make it a tad more difficult to get connected at the start of the novel. While I do believe that new readers should start with something else by Piccirilli, regular readers or fans shouldn't miss this one.

To see more is to find oblivion... Screenwriter Tommy Pic fell hard from Hollywood success and landed in a psychiatric ward, blacked out from booze and unmedicated manic depression. This is not the first time he's come to in restraints, surrounded by friends and family who aren't there. This time, though, he also awakes to a message from his agent. The first act of his latest screenplay is their ticket back to the red carpets. If only Tommy could remember writing it. Trying to recapture the hallucinations that crafted his masterpiece, he chases his kidnapped childhood love, a witch from the magic shop downstairs, and the Komodo dragon he tried to cut out of his gut one Christmas Eve. The path to professional redemption may be more dangerous than the fall. ...This is what makes you die.

From Booklist Recalling in some ways Piccirilli's down-and-out novelist in *Every Shallow Cut* (2011), this one's about a screenwriter, Tommy Pic, whose early successes are ancient history. Alcoholic and overweight, he's been living in his mother's basement on Long Island; when we meet him, he's waking up in a mental hospital. He's haunted by the ghosts of his father, a paperboy, a girl who went missing when he was 10, and a Komodo dragon called Gideon, whom Tommy once tried to cut out of his stomach with a steak knife. Though Tommy is barely keeping it together, his agent, also on the skids, believes Tommy's new screenplay is just the thing to get them both back on top. And it might even be good—unfortunately, Tommy can't remember writing one word of it. Dreamlike and disorienting, this short book crackles with energy and displays the author's gift for voice and well-turned phrases. He doesn't quite bring it off in the end—he starts a lot that he doesn't finish—but it's still worthwhile. Prolific and versatile, Piccirilli is a true original. --Keir Graff About the Author Tom Piccirilli is the author of more than twenty novels including *THE LAST KIND WORDS*, *SHADOW SEASON*, *THE COLD SPOT*, *THE COLDEST MILE*, and *A CHOIR OF ILL CHILDREN*. He's won two International Thriller Awards and four Bram Stoker Awards, as well as having been

nominated for the Edgar, the World Fantasy Award, the Macavity, and Le Grand Prix de l'Imaginaire.