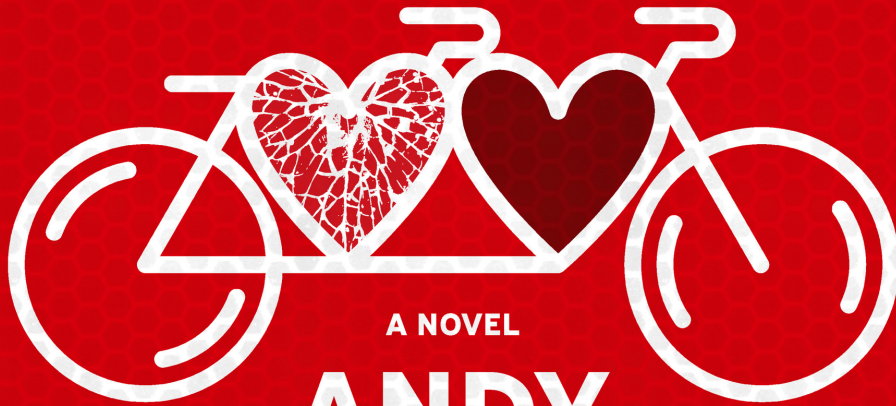


PRESS KIT

"A psychological tour de force!" - Bonnie Jo Campbell, author of *The Waters*

TANDEM



A NOVEL

**ANDY
MOZINA**



about ANDY MOZINA

about

Born and raised in Milwaukee, Andy Mozina majored in economics at Northwestern, then dropped out of Harvard Law School to study literature and write. He's published fiction in *Tin House*, *Ecotone*, *McSweeney's*, *The Southern Review*, and elsewhere. His first story collection, *The **Women Were Leaving the Men***, won the Great Lakes Colleges Association New Writers Award. ***Quality Snacks***, his second collection, was a finalist for the Flannery O'Connor Prize. His first novel, ***Contrary Motion***, was published by Spiegel & Grau/Penguin Random House. His fiction has received special citations in *Best American Short Stories*, *Pushcart Prize*, and *New Stories from the Midwest*. He's a professor of English at Kalamazoo College.

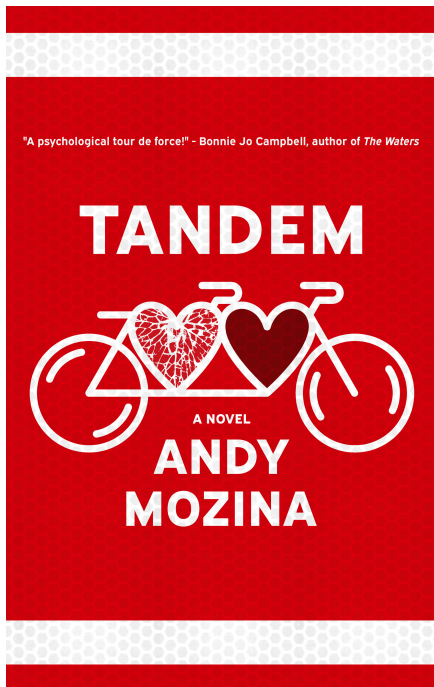
website

www.andymozina.com

social media



about *TANDEM*



Mike Kovacs is an economics professor who's trying to get over a bitter divorce. He's barely on speaking terms with his only child. And he's just killed two bicyclists in an inebriated hit-and-run at a deserted Michigan beach. (In his defense, he hadn't meant to get that drunk. And what's the use of getting caught and going to jail if it means you can no longer make positive contributions to society? Sunk costs, and all.)

Claire Boland's daughter is one of the victims. She's racked with guilt over what she might have done differently as a parent. Her marriage is buckling under the weight of the tragedy. And yet there's one person who seems to understand the magnitude of her grief—her neighbor, Mike Kovacs.

Tandem is a gripping dark comedy about two lives that intersect in the most awful way possible. Andy Mozina's exquisite novel details the absurd lengths we go to in order to avoid uncomfortable truths (and to cover up murder—although that's such a strong word, isn't it?) It's a mesmerizing book about the weight of guilt and the longing for justice—and the crazy things we do for love.

Praise for *TANDEM*

“A glimmering masterpiece about the slippery nature of truth and redemption, *Tandem* is at once **riveting and contemplative, moving and hilarious, devastating and tender**. It does what the best novels do: forever change how we see the world.”

— Erica Ferencik, bestselling author of *Girl in Ice*, *Into the Jungle* and *The River at Night*

“Reading *Tandem* is an education in crime, punishment, and the dark side of human compassion—and somehow it also manages to be hilarious. Mozina’s signature hapless characters, through their own foolish decisions, can only manage to make difficult circumstances worse as they move from guilt to grief to absurdity. **A psychological tour de force!**”

— Bonnie Jo Campbell, author of *The Waters*

“*Tandem* is gripping, propulsive literary fiction at its finest. When economics professor Mike Kovacs causes a deadly accident, leading to an unconscionable crime, we’re ushered into a morality tale of the highest order. Mozina shows expert control over a shocking range of moods and motivations. **By turns sad, frightening, disturbing, haunting, and—most surprisingly—funny, this novel wrecked me in all the best ways. *Tandem* is at times difficult to read, yet even more difficult to stop reading.**”

— Darrin Doyle, author of *The Beast in Aisle 34*

“*Tandem* is **captivating and completely original**. I read this story of spiraling consequences with a kind of spellbound horror—like watching a literal car crash—unable to look away or stop turning the pages until the very last. Mozina takes a fearless, brutally honest dive into his hero, a kind of everyman who rides the line between noble and sociopathic. Unable to dismiss his full interior conscience and logic, we are instead forced to recognize ourselves there, as his quandary unfurls into a complexly layered moral allegory that tackles timeless ethical questions. **Elegantly written, psychologically harrowing, and perversely humorous, this is a ‘Tell-Tale Heart’ for our time.**”

— Lauren Acampora, author of *The Hundred Waters*

Ask Andy

1. What is your novel about?
2. You write about a tragic and deadly accident and how a character responds. Some of the character's responses become darkly humorous. Why did you use dark humor here and what did you hope it would illuminate about the character and story?
3. Part of this novel is about marriage. Can you talk about how you see that relationship as important to the novel?
4. One could also say the novel is about parenting. How does the examination of family relationships propel the novel forward?
5. Did you have to do any research for this novel?
6. This novel is partly about lies, lies we tell ourselves, not simply those we tell others. Mike tells all kinds of lies, but let's talk about Claire, who works in an art museum. She curates shows. Yet she misses--or decides to miss--cracks in how Mike presents himself to the outside world.
7. How does Mike's being an economics professor affect his character development?
8. Does **TANDEM** share themes with your other books?
9. How do you decide if you are writing a short story or a novel?
10. What are you working on next?



From *Tandem*

He found a short MLive article about a hit-and-run at Saugatuck Dunes. His dry eyes couldn't focus. Bits came through: two fatalities, searching for the driver, call this number with information.

He thought of the car that had flashed its lights at him. But naturally the search would focus on people in Saugatuck and Douglas and Holland and even Grand Rapids before Kalamazoo. He couldn't believe he'd had the presence of mind to pick up pieces of his car, to clean the paint off the bike. He also had his dinner with Sarah and Dave as an alibi. To be involved, he would've had to drive straight to the park immediately after saying good-bye to them. That's what he had done, but what were the odds he would do such a thing?

It took a second pass to grasp the names of the victims. Jeremy Vanden Berg of Gull Lake and Emma Teague of Kalamazoo, both 19. Ryan Teague and Claire Boland lived three blocks away; they had a daughter who very possibly was named Emma, but he wasn't sure. He did not want it to be her. Under a pile of journals and newspapers on the floor, the 2007 phone book was moldering. There were only six Teague listings. Five were from neighboring towns like Paw Paw and Oshtemo. Ryan Teague was the only Teague with a Kalamazoo address.

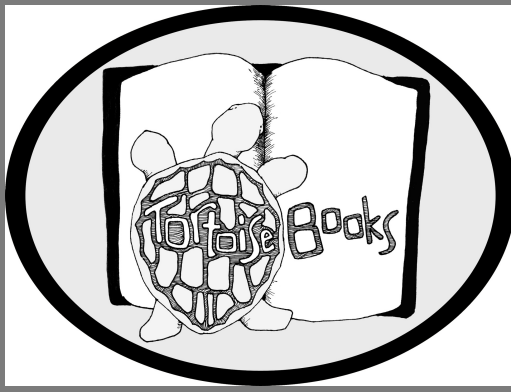
Mike threw his head back and collapsed in his chair. He'd killed a neighborhood kid. This fact was almost as stunning as hitting the tandem in the first place. He now had a vague memory of Anne once doing a favor and picking Emma up along with Connor after some K Central sports practices. He'd played poker with her father a few times, though he hadn't been invited to a game in a while. Ryan was a Bears fan, and they hadn't really clicked as friends.

Claire Boland was in Anne's old book club. In fact, in the early years after they moved to town, he had gone to some of those book club meetings himself. There were a few husbands who also sometimes showed up, but as they had fallen away and he had gotten busy, he had stopped going as well. Mike had seen Claire over the years at neighborhood parties and jogging past their house. Anne had gone to Emma's graduation party but he had not—telling her, he now remembered with a pang, that he had no intention of watching her get drunk in public for the millionth time.

Killing the daughter of people he knew reinforced both his inability to confess and his inability to deal with not confessing. These two forces leaned into each other in perfect balance, forming an extremely stable arch of emotional pain. The accident would be the talk of the neighborhood. But who would think in a million years that he was involved?

Anyone who saw the car in his garage.





about TORTOISE BOOKS

Since its founding in 2012, Tortoise Books has reached out to publish authors from across the U.S., Canada, and elsewhere, while earning recognition from major trade publications like *Kirkus* (who called Tortoise author Joseph G. Peterson “one of the Windy City's best-kept secrets”) and award-winning authors such as Rebecca Makkai (who said *Jenny in Corona* was “hilarious and devastating and profound”), and earning awards of its own from the likes of the Chicago Writers Association (which named two Tortoise titles as finalists in its 2021 Book of the Year Awards). The press is distributed by Publishers Group West, so it's poised to bring its titles to a still-wider audience while continuing its mission to publish memorable and engaging works that will stand the test of time. You can learn more at tortoisebooks.com or follow us on Twitter @TortoiseBooks —or better yet, read our books and see why Rick Kogan (of *Chicago Tribune* and WGN Radio fame) recently called us “...one of the best, most provocative, and rewarding publishing houses in the entire country.”

book clubs:

Andy is happy to meet with book clubs.

Please contact him at

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the details:

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By Andy Mozina

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