

# FORTHCOMING DECEMBER 2017

An “engrossing, surprising, and psychologically astute novel...Romano is a masterful storyteller, unfolding a captivating and imaginative tale.” —*Foreword Reviews*

## WHERE MY BODY ENDS AND THE WORLD BEGINS



TONY ROMANO

On December 1, 1958, a devastating blaze at Our Lady of the Angels School in Chicago took the lives of ninety-two children, shattering a close-knit Italian neighborhood. In this eloquent novel, set nearly a decade later, twenty-year-old Anthony Lazzeri struggles with survivor's guilt, which is manifested through conflicted feelings about his own body. Complicating his life is a retired detective's dogged belief that Anthony was involved in the setting of the fire.

Tony Romano's delicate handling of Anthony's journey is deeply moving, exploring the complex psychological toll such an event has on those involved, including families...and an entire community. This multi-faceted tale follows Anthony's struggles to come to terms with how the events of that day continue to affect him and those around him. Aided by a sometime girlfriend, a former teacher, and later his parents—after long buried family secrets are brought into the open—he attempts to piece together a life for himself as an adult.

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Tony Romano was born in San Salvatore Telesino, Italy, and moved to Chicago when he was eleven months old. His collection of short stories *If You Eat, You Never Die* (Harper, 2008), and his novel *When the World was Young* (Harper, 2007), were both finalists in the Society of Midland Authors awards in the Adult Fiction category. His fiction has appeared in the *Chicago Tribune*, *Sou'wester*, *Whetstone*, and *Italian Americana*. He lives in the Chicago area with his wife and three daughters.

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### Praise for Tony Romano's previous work

“Romano is a careful and evocative writer who takes time with his descriptions to give his fictional world depth and texture...a most-accomplished first novel, rich in characterization, setting and psychological acuity.”

—*Chicago Tribune*

“[This novel] refuses to sentimentalize the Italian immigrant life that it explores. It pulls you deeper and deeper into this life through a series of wonderfully disturbing surprises that will make your heart ache.”

—Robert Hellenga, author of *The Sixteen Pleasures*

“The overwhelming themes of love, loss, grief, struggle and isolation are expressed in unsentimental and sometimes even desperate prose. Dreams, and the failure to reach those dreams, choices, risks and settling (or not settling) permeate this moving collection of tales that will stay with the reader long after the book is shut.”

—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

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