



## Before I Met Him

*John Nicholl*

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## **Before I Met Him** John Nicholl

Looking for a serial killer thriller you won't be able to put down? Then discover Before I Met Him, by #1 best-selling author John Nicholl, today.

\*\*\* This book was previously published as a Mind to Kill \*\*\*

Every once in a while the hunters become the hunted...

When Rebecca's childhood abuser avoids prosecution, it sets her on a path to revenge and soon she is handing out retribution on any man who preys on the innocent.

The twenty-three-year-old poses as a child online and sets her trap, luring one predatory sex offender after another to their deaths.

When a severed head is found washed up on a windswept estuary beach, DI Gravel and his team are called in to investigate.

In what might be his toughest case yet, DI Gravel finds himself asking if vigilante justice is ever justified...

Read this chilling new psychological thriller and decide for yourself.

## **Before I Met Him Details**

Date : Published July 24th 2018 by Bloodhound Books

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Author : John Nicholl

Format : Kindle Edition 284 pages

Genre : Thriller, Fiction, Psychological Thriller, Suspense

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**Download and Read Free Online Before I Met Him John Nicholl**

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## From Reader Review Before I Met Him for online ebook

### Ann Girdharry says

I received a free copy of this book and this is my honest review.

This story packs a punch between the eyeballs that will keep you reeling all the way to the end.

Rebecca holds down a respectable job in the police technology department, where she inspects impounded computer ware to help find evidence for her colleagues.

Then there's the other side to Rebecca - a young woman who endured childhood sexual abuse and who's now hell-bent on enacting her revenge on sexual predators who target children. She stalks them in chat rooms and then leads them to their demise. There are gruesome, sadistic scenes, so hold onto something as we follow Rebecca's quest to rid the world of perpetrators - her way.

Lagging behind is the police department and Detective Grav, who was the man originally responsible for gathering evidence against Rebecca's childhood abuser. That original investigation never made it to court. Grav felt he failed and when Rebecca's identity comes to light, he's going to find it hard to pin her down as a sadistic killer of several men.

A fast read, full of gore and with an extra edge of sympathy for the main character, which makes it highly readable. I only dropped one star because of the abrupt ending (and because I'm a picky reviewer - sorry :))

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### sue says

I have had the privilege of reading all of this authors books. As soon as a new book of his comes out I finish reading the book I'm on and jump right in because I've learned to love his style of writing and the insight and ability he has to get inside the mind of his characters which then means he breathes air into them, thus, making the reader envision them as real people no matter how horrid some of them turn out to be.

We have Detective Inspector Gareth Gravel know as Grav.

It opens where he needs to impart some bad news to a couple.

Having a terrible unforgivable crime happen to your young daughter then despite all the interviewing and the going over and over of what happened, the CPS say there isn't enough evidence. And despite Grav knowing that justice hasn't been done, there isn't a single thing he can do.

We get to know the girl, the daughter who has now grown, left home, but has she got over and come to terms with her past?

Herein lays the story that is so awesomely told to us readers we will be flicking page after page.

"Just one more chapter" will be the statement of many a reader who reads this book because once you start, you can't relax.

This keeps you on the brink right the way through, well, it did me.

The chapters are quick and snappy so suddenly you are almost at the end.

Love the ending.

With this authors incredible talent, the way he can draw on his experiences in his prior work, the wheels of his ageless mind churning out such reads, I can honestly say I look eagerly to his book, after book, after book.

If you love audio I expect he will bring it out in that too as he did his previous books and with the voice of what I've heard from his other books it's so well done.

This is an author who likes to write and jump just a little over the edge sometimes to keep his readers gasping.

I love that!

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### **Kaceey - Traveling Sister says**

Wow!! An incredibly dark and gritty thriller! **4.5\***

Absolutely not for the faint of heart!! There are scenes that are markedly cringe-worthy! Very disturbing...yet I was instantly drawn in and could not pull myself away!

Rebecca was sexually abused as a young child by a pedophile that inexplicably escaped prosecution. Now as a grown woman, Rebecca is seeking her own brand of justice against these sexually deviant men.

#### **“Will you walk into my parlour? Said the spider to the fly”**

Meet Detective Inspector Gareth Gravel, known to all as Grav. The good detective is over-worked, burned-out and suffering from PTSD brought on by previous murder cases. He's on a long overdue and mandatory vacation ordered by his superiors. He's an angry, surly alcoholic who is barely functioning through life. But, as a detective there is no better! So when trouble calls and body parts start washing up on the shoreline, he is quickly called back to duty.

Grav's character was portrayed with such depth! His crass behavior could be a turnoff to some, but it absolutely works for him. And even though he's a very unlikable character, I couldn't help but feel a connection to him!!

This was an incredibly fast read. I was quickly drawn in and knew this was going to be a new favorite! I was glued to the characters and the storyline. Highly recommend this book to everyone who likes their books with a bit of a sordid, dark edge.

Thank you to John Nicholl for providing me with a copy of his book in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Svetlana says**

4.5 stars - this book was incredibly dark, disturbing and gruesome; and yet it turned out to be quite thought provoking for me.

Rebecca was sexually abused as a child by a pedophile and it left her emotionally and mentally scarred. Rather than being prosecuted, her assailant walked away freely and this broke her family apart. As a grown woman, she made it her life's mission to punish sexual predators by posing as children online. She lured them to her house where she ruthlessly tortured and eventually killed them. I somewhat sympathised with Rebecca and understood that her demeanour was a result of the abuse; but she was so bitter that I just couldn't stand her.

DI Gravel (or Grav) was another character I had a hard time liking. He suffered from PTSD and was advised to take time off work. But when a decapitated head and two arms were recovered from a beach, he was brought back in order to lead the investigation. He was a heavy drinker, smoked a lot, and had foul language. But he was also someone who found results and was one of the best detectives.

I pondered a lot after finishing this book. About how Rebecca thought her actions were completely justifiable - that she was ridding the world of evil. I was conflicted because I didn't feel bad about what she did to those people, and yet I knew it wasn't the best solution. Committing murder in order to prevent another crime - one even as vile as pedophilia - can lead to anarchy and chaos; which is why the law is put in place. I also thought about how UNSAFE the internet can be. For our kids, our younger siblings, and **ESPECIALLY** vulnerable children who have no one to look out for them. Those are the kind the predators look for. Feed off of. It's really frightening to think that our very own could fall victim to this.

The author John Nicholl, who himself worked as a police officer and social worker for the child guidance service, did not shy away from being raw and graphic in his descriptions. There were times when I couldn't read because it got too much; other times I read frantically because I was so anxious about what was to come. But despite how uncomfortable it made me, I did enjoy reading it; and I will say that it's not for everyone.

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## **Gary says**

This is the 3rd book in the DI Gravel series by author John Nicholl.

In this book we know who the killer is from the beginning of the novel, Rebecca Smith, an IT expert for the police who was sexually mistreated as a child. At the age of 6, Rebecca was abused but there was not enough evidence to convict the rapist. These disturbing events naturally affected Rebecca and having failed to come to terms with the horrors she turns to seeking her own justice against as many paedophiles as possible. Unfortunately for Rebecca a severed head is found in a bag by the river and the police are now involved. This is a dark book covering the disturbing subject of child abuse and focuses on the aftermath of the child and her family, when the legal system fails and the abuser escapes justice. This is what happened to Rebecca Smith and her life was changed forever.

DS Gareth Gravel, known as Grav was the officer in charge of the child abuse case and had to deliver the bad news to the Smith family that the case would not make it to court. Now seventeen years later there paths are destined to cross again with Grav hunting the killer and Rebecca seeking vengeance on any man who preys on innocent children.

I would like to thank Net Galley and Bloodhound Books for supplying a copy of this novel in exchange for an honest review.

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### **The Book Review Café says**

All my reviews can be found at <http://thebookreviewcafe.com>

John Nicholl isn't afraid to write stories that challenge and shock, he pushes the boundaries of what we expect, if anything A Mind To Kill is his most shocking and disturbing book yet. This book deals with a very tough subject child abuse, and for that reason I'm not sure this book will be to everyone's taste, it's definitely not one for the faint-hearted as they are some pretty detailed scenes that are grim and very violent. Rebecca's childhood is left in shatters when her abuser escapes justice. Fast forward seventeen years and Rebecca wants her revenge what follows is a dark and very disturbing tale.

A Mind To Kill is a book about vengeance and getting revenge on the worse kind of people, that commit the most abhorrent crimes. It's very clear from John Nicholl's writing that he is extremely knowledgeable in both police matters and child abuse, so although A Mind To Kill makes for a grim read, it also unfortunately makes for a very credible one in parts. The author gives an ugly insight into the minds of the predators who carry out the most heinous crimes, as a reader you can only hope these men get "their just deserts". At times I did feel the plot was a little to far fetched to be realistic, but it's a fiction book at the end of the day.

There's is a very dark psychological thriller there no doubt about that, but it's also fraught with tension and the sense of evil radiating from the pages is palatable. A Mind To Kill shows that nothing is black and white, sometimes the lines between become blurred, what happens when the justice system fails the very people it's there to protect? Is it ever acceptable for someone to take the law into their own hands to seek justice? these were questions I found myself thinking about as I read A Mind To Kill, it's a controversial story that I'm sure will raise many a debate amongst it's readers. This novel is definitely not going to be to everyone's taste It's shocking and makes for a disconcerting read, so would I recommend it? Yes but only to those with a strong disposition.

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### **Pat says**

2.5 stars.

I was a bit disappointed with this book compared to Nicholl's earlier works. A vigilante killer is brutally ridding the area of paedophiles, pretending to be a young girl online and luring them to their deaths.

We know who the killer is and are just waiting for the police to catch up. What I found annoying was DI Gravel's OTT larrakin attitude and calling all women "love" and his rampant alcoholism. I don't remember it being quite so obvious in previous books. Also, the killer's long winded and repetitive monologues became annoying after a while. There's really not much else to the story, it could have been done better.

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## Margitte says

### THE BLURB

*'I'm in here. Come on. I'm in here. Come and play with me. I've been waiting for you...'*

*When Rebecca's childhood abuser avoids prosecution, it sets her on the path to revenge, revenge on any man who preys on the innocent. Twenty-three-year-old Rebecca poses as a child online and sets her trap, luring one predatory pedophile after another to their deaths. When a man's severed head is found washed up on a windswept estuary beach, the police begin their investigation.*

*Is vigilante justice ever justified?*

A grizzly, stark, brutal, compelling thriller with a twist. When society allows innocent children to pay for its shortcomings and sins, the unthinkable waits to happen. A sad and shocking detective story that leaves the reader with thoughts of regret and shock. This was an interesting read. Chilling, gritty, brutal, disturbing, but with a bizarre realism and an expected ending, although predictable in retrospect. It was the ending that made me realize how interesting this plot was.

The focus of the book was not the 23-year-old woman's vile deeds, as much as it was the criticism of a justice system and society which allowed this to happen. That is the interesting angle of this book.

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## Vicki says

Wow! What a story. Once again John Nicholl takes the deep pain of a victim and turns it on its ear. This was Rebecca's story. The story of a lost innocence and the damage that follows year after year until it creates a monster. Rebecca is juggling, and not quite as successfully as is needed. Her story becomes disturbing. Unable to even interact with her parents after a terrible and unresolved event, Rebecca is broken.

I love the inspector detective. His mind is quick and he is out of shape but I personally find him charming. Even when he is grinding a cigar beneath his heel. Nicholl brings out the most human traits good and bad and creates a vivid and sorted tale. A tale where you question your own morality. His books remind me of the old saying. "There but by the grace of God, go I."

Chilling and written in a frank and intense manner, *A Mind to Kill*, stands out as a psychological thriller that needs sharing.

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## Miriam Smith says

Well this is exactly how I like my murder/serial killer books to be - grisly, gritty and gruesome - mixed with a brilliant cast in a superb police procedural. "*A Mind To Kill*" by John Nicholl fits this perfectly. Rebecca Smith is abused when she is six years old by her ballet instructor. Unable to secure a conviction the police are forced to let him go but Rebecca never forgets and exacts her own brutal revenge on men like him who prey on young children.

Although we know from the start who the murderer is this doesn't spoil the story, as it is about the reasons why she feels compelled to kill and how it affected her and her family when the abuser wasn't brought to justice. At times this book is quite gruesome so if you're offended or dislike that sort of thing then maybe this isn't for you but since the nature of the book is about revenge then it is wholly appropriate to the story and the author has portrayed it all brilliantly. The Detective Sergeant - Gareth Gravel - at the time of Rebecca's abuse case, is still on the force when she takes a job with the police as a computer expert. Now an Inspector, he is brought back from holiday to investigate the macabre discovery of body parts. I really liked 'Grav' and found myself relating him to one of my favourite Detectives - Inspector Jack Frost, as he had that same attitude and temperament.

With wonderfully likeable characters who fit their parts perfectly and with a well thought out plot line this makes up a fabulous book that I absolutely loved and I wouldn't hesitate to recommend it or the author John Nicholl to crime readers of all ages. I do hope in the future to read all his previous novels that have also been hugely successful.

5 stars.

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### **Sue says**

A MIND TO KILL by best-selling author John Nicholl is a fabulous psychological thriller that will have you totally absorbed from beginning until the end. I wish to thank John Nicholl for providing me with a copy of his latest book. After thoroughly enjoying his previous novels, I jumped at the chance to read and review this one. This is my overall favorite. I don't know how he does it...this talented author gets better with every book!

A Mind To Kill is a dark and disturbing book that deals with the subject of child abuse, and is not for the faint-hearted, but it is necessary to show the aftermath on a child and her family, when the legal system fails and the abuser escapes justice. This happened to six- year-old Rebecca Smith, and her life was forever changed.

DS Gareth (Grav) Gravel was the officer in charge of the child abuse case and had to deliver the bad news to the Smith family that the case would not make it to court. Fast forward seventeen years and Rebecca (Becca) wants her revenge. Revenge on any man who preys on the innocent.

“They kill innocence. She wants revenge.”

Rebecca(Becca) now twenty-three-years old has secured a supervisor tech position within the West Wales Police Force in Caerystwyth, where she inspects computers to help find evidence for her colleagues, but her true reason for living is hunting for paedophiles who lure children online. She lives alone...still coming to terms with her past.

Now seventeen years later, DI Gareth (Grav) Gravel is called home to the UK from his three-week holiday in Barbados, to head up a double murder case for two unidentified victims. Grav, overweight, a cigar smoker, heavy drinker had been through a lot at work and now suffers from PTSD. Grav is old-school who bends the rules but gets results. DS Laura Kesey finds herself working with Grav in finding the murderer. (I must comment that I loved the scenic descriptions of the island, as I have been many times to Barbados. It brought back many pleasant memories of the constant chirping of the crickets, banks beer, rum punch, aqua water and the amazing coastline.)

How appropriate that the killer's favorite poem is "The Spider and the Fly" by author Mary Howitt (1799-1888).

"Will you walk into my parlor?" said the spider to the fly;  
"Tis the prettiest little parlor that ever you did spy.  
The way into my parlor is up a winding stair,  
And I have many pretty things to show when you are there."  
"O no, no," said the little fly, "to ask me is in vain,  
For who goes up your winding stair can ne'er come down again..."

The Spider and the Fly by English author Mary Howitt is easily one of the most recognized and quoted first lines in all of English verse. But how does the age-old tale of the Spider and the Fly end.? Mary Howitt's notice, written to her own children about those who use sweet words to hide their not-so-sweet intentions.

This was one amazing read. Nicholl continues to impress me with his abilities in writing and weaving his stories based on his own first-hand knowledge and work experiences. And he is up-front and not afraid to tell it like it is. The characters are well developed, and flawed in nature which makes them more believable. My heart went out to the victim/killer Rebecca Smith and the mind-set of the victim for seeking revenge. This novel reminded me of Charlie Bronson's movie, "Death Wish".

Don't miss out on this gripping page-turner of a psychological thriller. Set with a 5 August release date. Read all his books as they are all excellent!

**"WILL YOU WALK INTO MY PARLOUR? SAID THE SPIDER TO THE FLY."**

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**Maxine (Booklover Catlady) says**

**Reviewers, readers and bloggers. I have a limited number of review copies of this great book in ebook format! Contact me via message here on Goodreads to express your interest!.**

John Nicholl straddles the genres of crime and psychological thrillers very nicely. It's a blend that works well and always proves popular with his fans and new readers. I was thrilled to get to read an advance copy of this, his latest novel.

**I really liked the plot in this one, it's suitably dark for my tastes and tackles some difficult subject matter.**John has obviously again taken his years of experience in the child protection sector and applied that to the story and characters. It gives it an authenticity and has me often wondering how dark are the things that John has dealt with in that job?

We have a serial killer on a hellbent mission. With precision focus, victims are pulled into the spiders web and trapped. Techniques and methodology are brutal and punishment of the wicked is graphic. I advise not snacking whilst reading.

**The hunter becomes the hunted...**

Tension is an undercurrent of the whole book, from early pages to the explosive finish. **I found this a really great book to get lost in and read it over a few hours in one sitting.**I was pulled in and eager to know

where the plot would take me. It's dark themes made it extra thrilling.

I'm not wanting to share any plot spoilers (a couple of reviews I've read have given nearly all of it up sadly). The book does tackle themes involving pedophiles (just in case that's a trigger for anyone) but not in a distasteful or graphic sense. John Nicholl has brought that subject matter to our table before in his great first novel *White is the Coldest Colour*.

The police are on the hunt and so is the killer. DI Gareth Gavel (Grav) is a blunt, no-nonsense cop who doesn't mind breaking the rules here and there. Nothing fluffy about his character whatsoever. He's like a dog with a bone on a case however. There are dead bodies a plenty and lots to keep you going with this one. An entertaining read that gets 4 stars from me.

My only teeny-tiny thing with this book was how many exclamation marks were used. I felt like so many characters were angry/shouting quite a lot, thus changing how I "heard" the dialogue whilst reading. A minor quibble.

If you enjoy books where you get to be in the mind of the killer then you'll enjoy this a lot. The book is written from a few different perspectives which I liked. Happy reading!

*I received an advance copy of this book from the author with thanks. All review opinions are entirely my own and completely unbiased.*

For more of my reviews and to see what upcoming book giveaways and events I have happening hop on over to visit my Facebook page [www.facebook.com/BookloverCatlady](https://www.facebook.com/BookloverCatlady) or find me on Twitter @promotethatbook

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## **Matt says**

First and foremost, thank you to John Nicholl for providing me with a copy of this book, which allows me to provide you with an unbiased review.

After thoroughly enjoying his previous work, I jumped at the opportunity to read an early copy of John Nicholl's latest work. Likely pulling on some of his past experiences in Child Protection, Nicholl tells a dark and somewhat macabre story that will pull the reader in, if only to learn whether justice is served by the end. When the Crown Prosecution Service declines to press charges after she is sexually assaulted by her ballet instructor, six year-old Rebecca Smith is left to fight with the demons that haunt her dreams. There is now a paedophile left lurking in the shadows and DS Gareth 'Grav' Gravel has no answers for the Smith family. Moving ahead seventeen years, Grav is now a DI, though some of his recent activity has left him hanging onto his job by the skin of his teeth. Fallout from his partner's apparent suicide has just about pushed Grav to the brink. Perhaps a holiday in the Bahamas will rejuvenate him and allow him to reorganize himself.

Meanwhile, little Rebecca Smith is now a grown woman, though the demons are still ever-present. She has secured a tech job within the West Wales Police Force in Caerystwyth, but her true passion is hunting for paedophiles who lure children online. Taking on various child personas, Smith is able to keep up significant banter with them, until just the right moment, when she lays a trap and has them come for a visit. Rather than an innocent child waiting for a 'special friend', Smith enacts the revenge she wished she could have done all those years ago; torturing, killing, and dismembering the bodies. When some of the body parts surface in a local body of water, new hire DS Laura Kesey must make sense of this, while Grav remains halfway around the world. Her initial investigation makes some headway, though how could she know that Smith is the fox

in the henhouse, wiping out some key evidence that could close the case in short order. As Grav is summoned back early from holiday, he is confronted with a case that is not bringing in leads as swiftly as he might have hoped. Add to that, Smith makes herself known to him, laying on significant guilt for his past failures. Will it be enough to spur Grav on to catching this paedophile killer, or has the past all but defeated him once and for all? Dark and at times shocking in its bluntness, Nicholl provides the reader a free trip into those parts of society many hope never to encounter. Perfect for those readers who are willing to venture well out of their comfort zone and never to feel the same way about the vulnerability of children again, with a powerful ending to leave a lasting residue.

My current work in Child Protection has left me a little better suited to stomach some of the atrocities found in this book, but no one can be completely prepared. Nicholl has continued to impress me with his abilities, both in writing and storytelling. He uses some of his own knowledge and experiences, weaving it into stories of the most depraved portions of society. While some might try to shy away or candy coat, Nicholl thrives on telling it 'like it is', if only to pay respect to the victims and raise a red flag with the reader. The characters used herein show the various perspectives that are present in the world of paedophilia: the vulnerable child, the helpless coppers, the destroyed family members, and even the general public. Nicholl provides a narrative that is both full of despair for the victims and yet shows how an investigation might yield effective results, given the right break. While I applaud the Rebecca Smith character and how she might seek to enact revenge after her ordeal, I am slightly troubled how her childhood trauma might turn her into such a ruthless killer. I might expect her to be withdrawn and not fuelled by such hatred to the point of plotting numerous murders. Granted, I have not been through such an experience and Nicholl is sure to have a better understanding of the mindset of such victims. If the reader is looking for a swift and happy ending, this is surely not the book for them. However, those who can handle a trip to the dark side, come join Nicholl on this unforgettable journey.

Kudos, Mr. Nicholl for this stunning piece. It chilled me to the core and I am sure many readers familiar with your work will be just as interested (dare I use the word, 'excited'?) to tuck in. Always a pleasure to see what you have to offer.

Love/hate the review? An ever-growing collection of others appears at:  
<http://pecheyponderings.wordpress.com/>

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### **Mary Beth \*Traveling Sister\* says**

**"I'm in here. Come on. I'm in here. Come and play with me. I've been waiting for you" ... "Walk into my parlor said the spider to a fly. Tis the prettiest little parlor that ever you did spy."**

Rebecca was only six years old when she was violated by a paedophile monster and he got away with it. There was not any justice that was served. D.I. Grav felt that he had failed her.

Rebecca is now 23 years old and she now puts justice in her own hands and seeks out her revenge on the internet, going to chat rooms, looking for the worst kinds of paedophiles. "Tip Tap, Tip Tap"! She hunts them down.

She acts like she is a child and lures them in and sets up a trap for them and kills them one by one.

D.I Grab and his partner are on the hunt for a serial killer.

## **My thoughts**

This is a very dark, disturbing, and gritty psychological thriller. It hooked me in straight from the beginning to the very end. It was so gripping.

It was a very tough subject matter and very graphic. It was difficult to read at times but it also was very good. It is not for the faint of heart. Its very fast paced and a very quick read. It will keep you turning the pages.

This book will give you the chills, when I was finished, I wanted more. The characters were done very well.

John Nicholl is an ex police officer, child protection social worker, so he really knows how to write a dark psychological thriller with all the experience he has. I loved his book White Is The Coldest Color. I want more and have most of his books downloaded on my kindle. So I will be reading them soon.

I want to thank John Nicholl for the copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Christine says**

A Mind To Kill is a combination dark psychological thriller and police procedural. We do know the identity of the killer from the start. She is Rebecca Smith, IT expert for the police department, who was sexually abused as a child. Unfortunately, there was not enough evidence to convict the rapist, even though 6-year-old Becca was brave enough to tell the authorities what had happened to her. Rebecca cannot come to terms with the horrors of the experience and is devoting her adult life to vengeance against as many pedophiles as possible. Rebecca gets sloppy though and the police find a severed head in a bag down by the river. It is then the cops get involved.

Enter DI Gareth “Grav” Gravel, familiar to Nicholl fans from his previous novels. Grav was lead investigator in 6 year-old Rebecca’s case. Rebecca feels the police let her down. Grav carries feelings of guilt that he was not good enough to get Rebecca’s rapist sent away. Grav’s and Rebecca’s paths are colliding again.

This is a quick, yet wrenching read. Rebecca is seriously disturbed. She is not a nice person any way you look at it. She is very unkind to her parents, who have tried to be supportive, but Rebecca cannot let things go. She has one mission in life and has willingly sacrificed everything but her day job for that endeavor. We are audience to her horrific methods, and as hardened as I am to dark graphic violence, some of these scenes were tough. Though I understood why she was the way she was, it was difficult to feel anything but sadness for this protagonist.

On the other hand, weathered DI Gravell is like an old comfy shoe to me, and I love him. He’s a crusty guy who doesn’t take care of himself, despite the frequent (imagined) whispers of encouragement from his beloved dead wife Heather. And he sure isn’t afraid to bend the rules when necessary in order to assure the right result. Though he is certainly rough around the edges, Grav is well respected by his colleagues.

John Nicoll has a wealth of experience with Child Protection services and law enforcement, lending a sense of real creditability to the story. As in all his novels, he makes his readers think. Is vigilantism acceptable? After all, as Rebecca knows, pedophiles ruin lives. Why should they get away with it? But who governs the rules of vigilantism? There have to be some guidelines and limits, right? How would that work? Or could it work at all? Should this even be considered??? Again, much to think about.

In summary, this is fast-paced and thought-provoking story with very good characterization and an ending that in my opinion could go no other way. A warning to the faint of heart: Take an anti-nausea pill before reading if you are prone to revulsion and skim the brutal parts. Or just skip this one. Otherwise, I recommend it to all readers who want a quick read that is well written and goes way below the surface.

Note to John Nicholl: John, could you please have Grav see a doctor? I don't want him dropping dead on us anytime soon. He would be sorely missed.

And thank you, Mr. Nicholl, for providing me with an ARC of your novel. The opinions in my review are mine alone and are unbiased in any way.

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