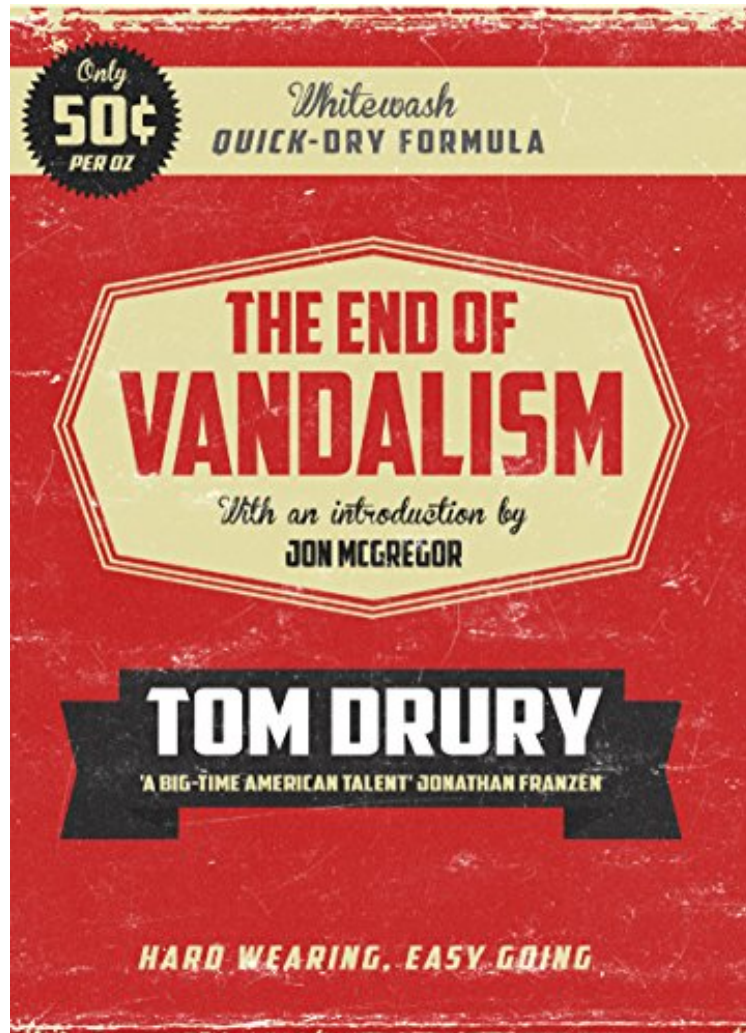


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## The End of Vandalism

Von Tom Drury

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**Von Tom Drury : The End of Vandalism** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The End of Vandalism:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Rural Ohioan Defends "Vandalism" from Suburban FloridianVon John WallaceMy enthusiasm for this novel sent me out searching a database of newspaper comments about it. A reader in Florida complained that the novel was too pointless to be any good. I am a notorious for reading a good book several times, and this novel is no exception. The deadpan humor fills me with glee whenever I pick it up. But there is more than just deadpan humor happening here. Like its literary ancestor, "Winesurg, Ohio," the running theme is the inadequacy of human communication in the face of petty meanness, true tragedy, and profound love. Before Louise marries Dan, she writes three times on a piece of paper,

"Show me love." And then she hands it to him. Her need to communicate with Dan transcends even her sleep: She sleepwalks into his insomniacal nights and interrupts his excuses for avoiding their bed. I've determined that the Florida reader who was disappointed with this novel is probably a chatty type, probably also suburban. The characters in *The End of Vandalism* are taciturn and rural, from a place "where family farming ended and no compelling idea showed any interest in taking its place." There is a wonderful economy of language in places like Grouse County and in this novel, but the dialogue and narrative are as loaded as an opening-day shotgun. So, there is a point, Mr. Florida. You just didn't get it. Boy, I feel better.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An enjoyable book with deadpan dialogue

Von Elizabeth Hendry

*The End of Vandalism* certainly is a unique, enjoyable read. Tom Drury's Grouse County and the people who inhabit it are quite a bunch. There is Dan Norman, the rather half-hearted county sheriff; his wife Louise, who must contend with Tiny, her screw-up ex-husband and her tart-tongued mother Mary; and an assortment of other oddball characters who pop in and out of the narrative. This novel does not take place in the "real world", but rather in an alternative America in a parallel universe. It's a shame that real people don't converse with the nutty, deadpan humor that Drury's characters do. The events in the novel happen to all of us, but most of us don't deal with them, or comment on them, like these Grouse County residents. It is these differences between reality and Grouse County that make this novel so enjoyable. It took me about 50 pages or so to get into the book, but once I did, I found it a completely enjoyable read. I would recommend this book to anyone and I look forward to reading Drury's latest.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Subtle brilliance

Von L. L. Moore

I met Tom Drury in April 1994 at a literary conference in Oxford, Mississippi--William Faulkner's hometown. The inevitable comparison was made between Faulkner's Yoknapatawpha County and Drury's Grouse County. While "*The End of Vandalism*" may not be as convoluted as a Faulkner novel, Drury takes ownership of his "postage stamp of native soil" and makes it ring real and true to the reader. I'd read several of the chapters as short stories in the *New Yorker* and was thrilled to find that they had been turned into a novel. Reading it as a coherent whole, I found it even more moving as I was drawn deeper into the everyday lives and personal crises of the various characters. The grief is quiet, the humor is subtle, but the effect is something much greater. This was a wonderful book, and I can't wait to read his next one!

**Kurzbeschreibung** Welcome to Grouse County, somewhere in the Midwest, where the towns are small but the people, their dreams and their eccentricities come in all sizes. When Sheriff Dan Norman arrests local troublemaker Tiny Darling for vandalising an anti-vandalism dance, he does not expect much in the way of fallout. But unseen wheels have been set in motion, and lives will be changed: Dan finds love, Tiny loses his wife Louise, and all three travel an epic journey of the heart. *The End of Vandalism* is full of small miracles of observation, compassion and humour, held together by the 'electric deadpan' of Drury's celebrated style. For readers willing to tune in, the experience will be a revelation.