

***TIC-TAC-TOE* by A.J. Ciccotelli**

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Tic-Tac-Toe Info & Pitch Deck: <https://www.ajccicotelli.com/tic-tac-toe>

Log Line: Tori Wright, a True Crime Author, returns home to attend her Mother's funeral. When she begins investigating a serial killer that terrorized her hometown while she was a teenager, Tori begins to suspect that the killer may be herself.

Synopsis: The book signing event of True-Crime Author TORI WRIGHT is a lukewarm affair. Literary Manager MARION introduces Tori to the famous TV actor ANDY NESLAND who wants to option the movie rights to Tori's first and most successful book. Tori receives a phone call from her Aunt CARMEL telling her that her Mother has died. Tori convinces Andy to go with her to her hometown of Piney, NJ and pose as her boyfriend.

Tori doesn't remember much about her Father, WINSTON, except that he helped establish a psychiatric institution where he later died in a fire after being investigated for the Tic-Tac-Toe (TTT) murders – cold case serial killings where male victims have a TTT board carved on their chests. The Institution launches a new hypnotic therapy called Joyous Rapture which makes a person commit an act they usually would not do and then forget about it, like, be someone else, influence a vote, or maybe... commit murder? This “therapy” may be a proof of concept for mind control on a global scale that can be bought and sold to the highest bidder.

Through Tori's newly developed sleepwalking and Andy's conscientious help, she finds a plastic bag of past TTT victims at her family's home. Later, Tori is hypnotized and goes to a bar where she seduces a LOCAL who shows up dead with a TTT board carved across his chest. After a failed attempt to get Tori to kill a presidential candidate, she decides to go into the Institution to find out who the mastermind is.

In the Institution, she runs into a scruffy, old JANITOR who reveals himself to be her father, Winston, and that he staged his death 15 years prior. The Janitor/Winston plays a final cat and mouse game with Tori and unearths that he was the one who committed all the TTT murders. Tori is faced with killing her own father to protect Andy. With his dying breath, Winston tells Tori he won because he finally got her to kill. After Tori's successful book signing for her new book on TTT, Andy goes off to shoot a movie. Tori receives a mysterious call from someone claiming to be the real Winston Wright.