

Summary No. 2 for Amazon

Dominic Cibrario's current novel, *A Desperate Decision*, is a love story and a murder mystery, taking place in Kenosha, Wisconsin. It's a sequel to "*Secrets on the Family Farm*." The main character, Adam Montanya, was raised Catholic. He is now fifteen-years-old and madly in love with Naomi Rosenberg, a Jewish girl. The young couple find it impossible to be alone due to the constant chaperoning of their parents, who forbid them to go steady. Their budding love affair comes to a halt when the Rosenbergs send their daughter to California for the second half of the summer. This doesn't stop the lovers from writing letters and planning to meet in the future.

The novel opens during the summer of 1956 with Adam sketching on the front porch of their farmhouse on Bentz Road. He is surrounded by his oil paintings, including a portrait of Naomi. When his best friend, Neil, arrives, they decide to go swimming nude in a neighbor's pond. While treading in deep water, Neil drowns. Adam attempts to resuscitate him are futile, until he promises he'll become a priest if God brings Neil back to life.

Throughout the novel Adam is burdened by his promise. He's also tormented by being separated from Naomi and the deteriorating relationship between his mother and father. In addition Adam is haunted by an unresolved incident that occurred in the barn when he was ten-years-old, involving his cousin, Kevin.

Adam's friendship with Neil leads them to once again explore Old Lady Jacobsen's dilapidated farm on Cooper Road. They don't expect to find a mutilated corpse in the basement, which they don't report to the police. The teenagers are alarmed by being subpoenaed to appear in court for the trial of Clifford Gascoigne involving the murder of Joyce Jacobsen.

Cibrario's novel is filled with action, adventure, and suspense involving the star-crossed lovers and a murder trial during a time of domestic turmoil and strife. Numerous radio broadcasts dispersed among the chapters about the presidential election, the Civil Rights movement, and the collapse of small farms due to industrial expansion, contribute to the social unrest, along with news about controversial music, books, and movies that also threaten traditional values.