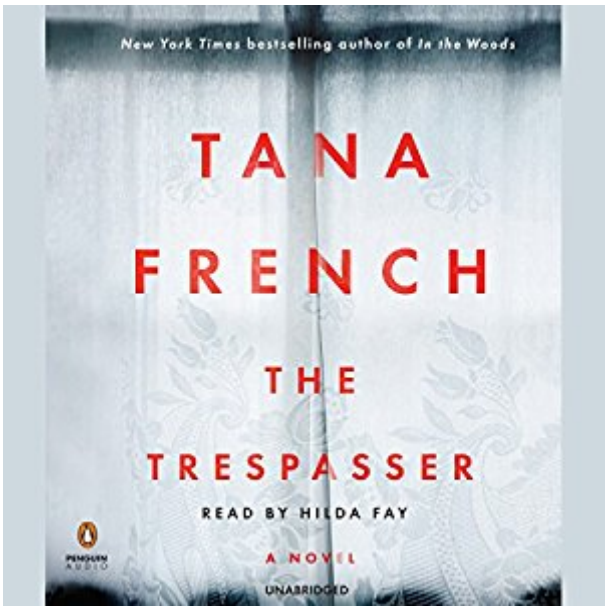
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The Trespasser: A Novel



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Synopsis

A brilliant new novel from the New York Times best-selling author whom Gillian Flynn calls "mesmerizing" and Stephen King calls "incandescent". Being on the murder squad is nothing like Detective Antoinette Conway dreamed it would be. Her partner, Stephen Moran, is the only person who seems glad she’s there. The rest of her working life is a stream of thankless cases, vicious pranks, and harassment. Antoinette is savagely tough, but she’s getting close to the breaking point. Their new case looks like yet another by-the-numbers lovers’ quarrel gone bad. Aislinn Murray is blond, pretty, groomed to a shine, and dead in her catalogue-perfect living room, next to a table set for a romantic dinner. There’s nothing unusual about her - except that Antoinette’s seen her somewhere before. And that her death won’t stay in its neat by-the-numbers box. Other detectives are trying to push Antoinette and Steve into arresting Aislinn’s boyfriend fast. There’s a shadowy figure at the end of Antoinette’s road. Aislinn’s friend is hinting that she knew Aislinn was in danger. And everything they find out about Aislinn takes her further from the glossy, passive doll she seemed to be. Antoinette knows the harassment has turned her paranoid, but she can’t tell just how far gone she is. Is this case another step in the campaign to force her off the squad, or are there darker currents flowing beneath its polished surface?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The worst part of any Tana French novel, for me, is finishing and coming to the sad realization that it will be another couple years before I am able to experience another novel that leaves the same

impression on me. In fact, if anyone has any recommendations as to authors who you feel are reminiscent of French's style of writing, pass them on! I have yet to come across one.The novel is about partners Antoinette and Stephen who are handed a case that appears easy enough to solve - a lover's tiff gone wrong. While that is the basis of the novel, there are actually several different storylines and so many moving parts to this story that you wonder how it will all weave together. French is particularly adept at writing a story that, while having many twists and turns, never comes at you like a punch in the gut. In fact, as developments occur in the novel, a part of you is left wondering how she managed to pull the wool over your eye enough that it was still a surprise, yet not such a surprise that you had to reread the novel to look for clues as to how you missed it. For this reason, there is no other author in my arsenal that I feel even comes close to her skill level as an author.Another reason that Tana French is so gifted is because she is always able to create the most complex characters. Her characters are so raw, so deep, that you feel as if you know them. You experience every shift in their case with them; you quicken your breath when they quicken theirs; you need a moment to step away from the novel when things donÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t go as planned. You want to reach through the book and tell your characters, BE CAREFUL! when you feel theyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢re taking unnecessary risks. French is an absolute genius at creating these real life characters whose presence in your life becomes bigger than just fiction.I have to mention that there is a scene towards the end of the book that I read with a quickening breath and my nerves felt fried. It was as if I was there myself and the suspense leading up to the moment absolutely took my breath away. IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve only ever experienced such emotions during real life cases I was following on the telly, or documentaries, etc.Please do yourself a favor and read all of Tana FrenchÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s books, if you have not already. DonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t start with this one but begin with her first and then continue. The reason being is because while all of them are amazing, her writing style truly develops as she writes and therefore each one becomes better than the last.I tried to read this book as slowly as I could, to make it last as long as I could, but I never stood a chance. I would like to thank Tana French for the joy of being able to experience yet another novel that left me speechless.

What makes Irish writer Tana French so engaging to me is that she combines crime fiction with literary fiction to = mainstream appeal with thematic purpose. I admit, her first two books, IN THE WOODS and The LIKENESS are still my favorites, mainly because of the haunting, elegiac atmospherics that bump up against contemporary issues and pop culture. This one, her latest with Antoinette Conway and Stephen Moran as partnered detectives, concerns a young woman, Aislinn

Murray, killed in her apartment, not far from where Conway lives. The new beau, Rory, is a prime suspect.Conway suspects that if she doesn't solve this one, she is out of the Murder squad. It's her first big case as lead detective, but, for the most part, she has been razzed and dumped on--the only female on the Dublin Murder Squad, and she's also forceful and assertive, something that doesn't go over well with some of the other detectives. She feels that this case could set things right for her. Conway's worries about her job is part of the book's suspense.As French often does, the question of family and relationships factor in to the motif and the murder case at hand, although at a remove that is handled with care. In the prologue, Conway is remembering how her mother spun quite some yarns about AntoinetteÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s absent father (an Egyptian prince! A Brazilian guitarist!), so that she never learned the truth about him. This recalled the theme about fathers in THE LIKENESS, and the pain that a daughter suffers in the fallout. In THE TRESPASSER, French explores this, and also casts characters that are willing to mold their lives around the fantasies of others.Tana Fans (including myself) do not want a review with a blow-by-blow of what happensÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •the anticipation and coming into it cold bring the warmth to our viscera as the pages turn and we get deeper and more fully into the story. In this, we are thoroughly in ConwayÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s head, and her thoughts, feelings, and actions are all happening NOW and in the present or immediate past. Usually, it works, but it also has some limiting features, such as weighing it down with exposition. I missed the atmospherics that French has done so well in the past. And there was no opportunity to infer because Conway generally beat me to the punch. Too, we know that Conway is a reliable narrator; she may have a few momentary thinking errors, or doubts, but we are privy to those. The tension, essentially, isnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t commanding. But we care about Conway, and her partnership with Moran, and we come to care about the victim, through other characters.If you are a Tana French aficionado, this is a must-read. If this is your first visit to the author, go back and read IN THE WOODS, also, for a memorable and eerie murder mystery. THE TRESPASSER may not be FrenchÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s best effort, but the provocative theme will register and resonate with anyone who is inclined to live inside the stories of others. The sense of possibility that both salvages and traps you--the frenzy for the story and all its prospects. How hard it is to beat the fantasy, to make yourself into a revision. It's lonely, exciting, impossible, and defining.

I had a professor once say that great art can only truly be great if it reaches people; no matter how powerful your message, if you create it in such a way that no one will read it or see it or understand it, you have failed. Ms French manages to express the most poignant truisms about human nature

in the guise of gripping, accessible detective novels that people actually read. In that way, she has succeeded as an artist.Each of her books has a theme: this one is all about the stories we tell ourselves and each other in order to justify our choices in life, or merely to make life worth living, and how these stories take on lives of their own and change the course of our existence and the existence of others. A great novel is one that tells you something about life that you never thought of before but you know deep down to be true. This book did this for me in a couple of different ways.On a more prosaic plane, I enjoyed reading about Stephan Moran again, and the excellent Antoinette Conway, who I can relate to on many levels. And the usual humor and wit of Ms French's writing is in full force. Highly recommended.

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