



## The Trespasser

*Tana French*

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# The Trespasser

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**The Trespasser** Tana French

**A brilliant new novel from the *New York Times* bestselling 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-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?

## The Trespasser Details

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## From Reader Review The Trespasser for online ebook

### **Kristin (KC) - Traveling Sister says**

Finally! Hearing so much greatness about this author, and from what I've read so far it's easy to see why!  
\*fingers X'd\*

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### **Luffy says**

I liked this book somewhat despite the usual hard-boiled approach to writing that French takes. I guess my rating is 3.5. This book is like the window pane to a chic shop. An ultra-cleaned pane where you can see through very well, but you're aware of the glass all the time.

I guess the author's take on death is what drove me to read this book quickly. I paused reading for some days, but still it's a page turner. I loved the ability of the book to be readable despite the fact that I didn't read any of the prequels.

There are multiple investigations by different people. The cops are slow to reach the truth. The path taken by the protagonists was fraught with suspense. I really must read as many units of the series as I can.

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### **L.A. Starks says**

Tana French is so much at the top of her game I could rate this book six or seven stars. The Trespasser is her best yet, in a career of superb books.

Her ear for dialogue is pitch-perfect. Her protagonist is a tough, unapologetic detective to whom we could listen forever.

The case illustrates loyalty, joy in job (way too rare in books), suspense, the need for and danger of living inside one's head, and character trajectory scenes that sparkle in unexpected ways.

The Trespasser will make readers hope to be stuck in lines or at doctors' offices or at airports--any place that allows an excuse to dive back into the book.

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### **Brenda says**

I've enjoyed all of Tana French's previous books, and I enjoyed this one, too! This book stars Antoinette Conway and her partner Steve Moran, who were previously featured in The Secret Place. This time, Conway is the lead detective.

A young woman is found dead in her home. Evidence isn't really pointing in any particular direction.

Conway and Moran come up with multiple theories, and it seems like they are being pushed toward one by a third detective, Breslin, who was also assigned to the case.

Conway is the only female in the Murder squad, and she is paranoid that the men are trying to make her quit. Except for Steve. He "gets" Conway. They are on the same wavelength. Steve is super with coming up with ideas and theories, and this drives Conway crazy sometimes, but she listens to him. I'm so glad there is not the slightest hint of romance between them!

There was a point in the book where I felt impatient with the investigation. I started to think things were becoming a bit improbable. It soon straightened out, and then I was in awe of Tana French's writing skills. Her characters are so real! The conclusion of the case was so sensitively written that I felt I was a fly on the wall. That lifted this book to 5 stars for me.

I think fans of Tana French will really enjoy this book. For anyone who hasn't read her books yet, pick up any one of them. The reading order doesn't matter because the lead detective is different in each book.

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### **Elyse says**

In Tana French's very first book, "In The Woods", one of my favorite characters was named Rob Ryan. I'm clear I'm not alone with a special soft spot for Ryan. For one thing...he was the narrator. His partner was a woman named Cassie Maddox. They were a great duo --- but what was so impressive was that Tana was so good at writing a 'male voice' --you'd swear a man wrote it. In her next book, "The Likeness", Cassie Maddox becomes the narrator-( it took me several pages to get use to a female narrator after Tana was so good at writing from a male's voice). Rob Ryan has never 'yet' returned to any of her books. :( I admit .....if I 'must' pick favorite characters - having read all her books --- my 3 top favorites are in this order: #1- Rob Ryan, from "In the Woods", #2 Cassie Maddox, from - both "In the Woods"....and the narrator in "The Likeness". I had to forgive Cassie Maddox though for picking Sam O'Neill over Rob Ryan....and #3 Antoinette Conway, from "The Secret Place", and now the narrator of this recent book, "The Trespasser".

Antoinette Conway lives inside our heads starting with the prologue when she tells us about the stories her ma made up about her da. She never did get the truth about her absent father -- only "squirted Fairy liquid". Her birth certificate says Unknown. .....

To.... the very last page when she's kibitzing with her partner Steve Moran....off to drink some pints together!

Antoinette Conway stands out much stronger for me in THIS BOOK than she did in "The Secret Palace"....'because' I couldn't stand all the teenage gibberish. The detective parts of the story were good--( Tana French's forte)... but those kids and their gossip- just gag me! --- So... the BEST of "The Secret Palace" has returned: Conway and Moran in "The Trespasser". They are the Murder Squad newbies. Both are single - They have the night shift, and even though most murders take place at night they usually don't show up till morning....so they usually are stuck with "shitty domestic" cases.

However, all nights are not the same. At the end of Conway and Moran's nightshift, their superintendent, O'Kelly, gives them a new case. A woman named Aislinn Murray is dead in her home in Stoneybatter....( an old area of Dublin where many artists and yuppies live).

If Moran and Conway are not careful - the daytime, more experienced detectives in the murder squad, will take over their case. No way will Conway and Moran let this - MURDER- case slip through their fingers into

the 'better-than-thou' hands, indispensable, ha- detective Breslin. So.. with 'luck'?/!....it turns out NOT to be a quick shut & closed case as originally thought. A 'slow-burn' begins.....

I read this book slow...BECAUSE the DIALOGUE is juicy--REAL and engrossing!!! I didn't want to miss a thing!!!

When Conway felt 'pissed off'... I often felt pissed off 'with her'. Being the a natural pessimist that she is, ...I felt I understood her. Yes she was often defensive - ready to slit your throat..as if you-be-mean-to-her-she-will-kick-you-in-the-balls --- BUT....

I loved this woman. It's clear she is protecting past pain. She's self absorbed, and self conscious. She's tough - but also touchy! Smart, callous...and shhhhh 'sensitive'...

but she won't let anyone see that part of her. She's also a damn great detective. She has a photogenic memory which is a handy talent to have in her line of work.

Steve Moran is everything Conway isn't --- he optimistic, idealistic, happy to please people. He's also a smart cookie. He knows what type of partner he's working with -

Yes.... Conway 'must' always drive the car when they are together. Yes... she can be verbally bossy...but he knows what he's doing. I wouldn't be to quick to think of him as a pushover. As I said... he's clear of who he is... he knows how to deal with people including his complex partner: Conway.

GREAT police procedural -- TERRIFIC DIALOGUE and INTERROGATION...JUST ENOUGH SUSPENSE TO KEEP OUR INTEREST. The side themes are good too!

Characters -- even the minor ones become a 'community-of-friends' in your head.

Lots of BEEF for your BUCK with any Tana French book....

Fans will be delighted! Newbies will be delighted! I was delighted!!!!!!

Awwwww, nothing like a REALLY GOOD BOOK....( double whammy if you add "Desperation Road", by Michael Farris Smith!!!!

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## **Matt says**

While my February binge-read of Tana French has reached its end, these mysteries remain some of the best novels I have read in a long while. They pull key aspects of police procedurals with a dash of Irish charm and leave the reader with a sense of completion, after a drawn-out story and systematic solution. Picking up a few months after *The Secret Place*, French turns the focus onto Detective Antoinette Conway, who came from a single-parent home and whose mixed-race background left her feeling out of place. Working the night shift with partner Stephen Moran, Conway joins him as they investigate an apparent domestic disturbance gone wrong. As they arrive to begin their investigation, Conway and Moran learn a little more about Aislinn Murray. Living alone, she appeared to have been expecting someone, with the table set for a nice meal.

Conway soon learns that Aislinn had a new boyfriend, Rory Fallon, who had plans to meet her around the time of her murder. Fallon proves less than sinister during his initial interview, though his timeline for the night of the murder is flimsy enough that he could have turned up and committed the crime before following through with date night story. Turning up the pressure, in hopes of having Fallon spill, Conway gets nowhere and is forced to keep her options open. New avenues turn up potential leads, including that Aislinn apparently become fixated on her father, who disappeared from his family twenty years before. After being encouraged to forge onwards, Conway is left to chase down a gang angle. There is the additional angle as to

why Aislinn changed her image a few years ago, dolling herself up and becoming more sociable. As she struggles to piece this case together, Conway receives a visit from her own father, who disappeared when she was little. This interaction is nothing short of a disaster and only serves to exacerbate a sense of being unwanted. Sensing parallels in her own life and Aislinn's past, Conway takes a new approach and revisits all the information that have on hand. It is only then that the case takes an interesting turn and turns up ideas that were previously hidden from her investigation. Filled with wonderful storytelling and an evolving narrative, French remains on the top of her game in this explosive novel, perfect for series fans and curious folk alike.

All six Dublin Murder Squad novels have proven to be a delight to read, with their winding narratives and strong cast of characters. The dedicated reader will see a loose formula to them, but this is not to say that it presents anything close to 'cookie cutter' in nature. Pulling the reader in to learn more about Antoinette Conway was the perfect approach for this novel, as she played a minor role previously and might have left some readers wondering about this slightly abrupt detective who allowed Stephen Moran into her case at St. Kilda's (see *The Secret Place*). French develops a number of other great characters, whose banter and placement in the story help push the narrative along, sometimes in ways the reader might not expect. Choice of the murder victim as well as the motive are also important to an effective story, which French has kept unique and yet timely as the series gained momentum. French is always keen on adding themes, which helps add new flavour to the story and keeps me entertained as I gather the threads together. The title proves to be the strongest theme for me, showing the various forms of trespassers that emerge. One could easily see that the murderer proved to be the most apparent trespasser that invaded Aislinn Murray's home, entering and leaving her body strewn on the floor after a struggle. Fathers to both Aislinn and Antoinette could also be seen as trespassers, having left their homes but invaded these women's minds at various points in the story's development. Antoinette herself may feel like a trespasser in the Squad, as she is vilified and treated poorly by her fellow detectives, turning against the only woman investigating murders. This trespasser sensation could lead her to depart, which would only fuel the rumours that Conway cannot handle the intensity of murder and the "boys' club" that it seems to be. The conscientious reader may see others, which are left to germinate for those who want a little more out of the mystery. These well-crafted tales are surely not for everyone, as the story takes time to evolve and the narrative offers slow and paced growth, but that is perhaps one of the greatest features, as the reader is forced to investigate alongside the Murder Squad. While I am caught up on the series, the binge complete, I cannot wait to see where else this series takes fans.

Kudos, Madam French for leaving me needing more, which only goes to show how effective you are at writing. I hope that many who read this and other reviews will find the time to at least try one of your mysteries and see for themselves that Ireland holds many gems, not all of which require a rainbow.

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

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### **Meredith says**

4.5 stars

"Dozens and dozens of people, they just keep coming, and every single one of their heads is crammed with stories they believe and stories they want to believe and stories someone else has made them believe..."

The Trespasser is about the stories that we create. We sometimes believe in these stories so much that they

become our truths. When we get wrapped up in these stories, we fail to see the cracks and dangers, blurring the lines between fantasy and reality.

When she was a child, Antoinette Conway's mother told her that her father was an Egyptian Prince, a medical student from Saudi Arabia, a Brazilian guitarist. Her mother never told her the truth, and Antoinette grew up and stopped believing in stories. However, what she doesn't realize is that she turned the idea of being a Detective on the Murder Squad into a fantasy.

Two years on the Murder Squad, and the cracks are showing; sick of being constantly harassed and tired of working cases that require little skill, Antoinette is on her way to resigning. Once again, Antoinette and her partner, Stephen Moran, are assigned a murder case that seems cut and dry. The victim, Aislinn Murray, appears to have been killed by her boyfriend. As Conway and Moran, start to digging into Aislinn's life, they begin to create stories about whom she was and the intrigue that she got wrapped up in. Aislinn too expertly wove stories, trapping victims in her fantasyland. Conway needs to work through all of these stories in order to not only bring Aislinn's case to justice, but also to come to terms with her own reality.

Everyone seems to have their favorite Tana French book; some of French's books have resonated with me more than others. My favorite up to this point has been *Faithful Place*, as Frank Mackey's story and character got under my skin. I have to say that the *Trespasser* is not far behind due to the gritty, compelling narrative that Antoinette Conway weaves. I highly recommend!

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### **Carol. says**

What does a star rating mean? Does it mean this is a work of greatness, that deserves to be read by every generation? That each word is empathetically *chosen*,\* each sentence *crafted*, each paragraph placed with an eye to flow? That through metaphor, symbolism and theme it exposes the reader to some kind of *truth*? That it inspires a passionate response? That at this moment, I *loved* it? That it made me *happy*?

At the end of the day, it doesn't matter how many stars I give *The Trespasser*. It wrung me out like a three-day fight, playing me like an old lover, an old enemy, hinting in exactly the right ways, saying the right words, pausing at the best movement, to achieve their ends. I found myself reading every word, but forcing myself to occasionally pause, to ~breathe~ to consciously unclench the tense muscles in my neck and arms. I found myself becoming generally, non-specifically *angry*, just like Antionette striding through the squad room, defensive, irritable, ready to lash out at annoyances. Did I enjoy the experience? Not particularly. It was not *pleasurable* to be in such an angry person's head. Was I able to break free? Not particularly. Common sense was able kick in, three hours into reading and only an hour or two to go before bed. I knew there was no way on earth I'd be able to sleep with rage like that simmering below the the surface.

Does evoking strong emotion make it a *good* book?

The second evening I read, I had more time, a little less anxiety; I knew I'd be finishing far before bed. And I might of peeked at the ending, because French is one of the authors I can't quite trust; she plays by different authorial rules. I haven't forgotten her first book, *In the Woods*.

Does unpredictability make it a *good* book?

I did notice--as I often do in a French book--that I stuttered on her mechanisms, the details of her plotting. I realized--even as I read it--that a particular device was used to allow the plot to go the direction it did. It felt a little obvious, maybe even a little cheap, but like the old, old lover/friend/enemy who knows where each button is and how to best employ it, it didn't matter. I still finished the story exhausted, relieved, drained.

Does *obvious* make it a bad book? Less good? I can't even think answer these questions of scale. What am I comparing it to? The greatest books that exist? French's best work? That paint-by-numbers mystery I read last week and said I '*liked*'? The words 'like,' 'love,' seem ridiculously weak. Did it pull me out of the world, move me to black and blue, into a night-long, bleary-eyed wheel of emotion?

All the stars.

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\*You can assume all italicized words are said with emphasis, hand-waving drama and occasionally some irritable sarcasm. Sometimes the hand-waving may come close to the side of your head if you are especially obstinate.

### **James Thane says**

This is an excellent police procedural and, to my mind, Tana French's best book yet. At its center is Detective Antoinette Conway who is new to the Dublin Murder Squad and who has gotten a very cool reception. Many of her new mates actively dislike her; she's subjected to continued harassment, and she's assigned a lot of crap cases.

The pattern seems to be continuing one morning when she and her partner, Stephen Moran, are assigned a new case that appears to be open and shut. An attractive young woman named Aislinn Murray is found dead in her home, apparently the victim of a lovers' quarrel that has spun out of control. The two detectives bring in Aislinn's new boyfriend, Rory Fallon, and question him under the watchful eye of a senior detective who's inserted himself into the case. Fallon is obviously nervous, and there are problems with the story he tells. To the senior detective, the case seems a slam dunk and he presses Conway and Moran to charge Fallon and move on to new business.

Conway, who is the lead detective on the case, balks and insists on clearing up loose ends. As she does, she further alienates many other members of the squad and seems to be committing career suicide. But she and Moran persist and gradually become convinced that maybe this case isn't as simple and straightforward as it appears on the surface.

Like all of French's characters, Antoinette Conway is a complex bundle of ambition, hopes, fears, dreams and doubts. She carries a lot of personal baggage, and at times, she's not very likeable. But she is smart and persistent and determined to follow her own course, irrespective of where it might lead, who it might offend, and what it might portend for her personally.

The principal strength of the book for me is the way French, through her protagonist, follows this case from beginning to end. The Author has clearly done her homework, and the police procedure here, most especially

the scenes in the interview rooms, rings truer than that in almost any other crime novel I've ever read. The book is very well-plotted; the characters and the action are compelling, and it's a book that's almost impossible to put down. 4.5 stars for now, reserving the right to go to 5 after a second reading.

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### **karen says**

[it was the first time she de

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### **Julie says**

The Trespasser by Tana French is a 2016 Viking publication.

Sophisticated, breathlessly paced, and absolutely riveting!

Antoinette Conway and her partner Steve Moran are tossed a case involving a young woman named Aislinn, whose body was found after a punch to the face caused her to fall and hit her head, killing her.

Initially believing they've been assigned yet another routine case, they soon find themselves burdened with another, more seasoned detective, called in to help them work the case.

If that weren't frustrating enough, they are also hounded by dirty journalist who will stop at nothing to get the lowdown on their case.

As the pair begin to investigate, Aislinn's boyfriend, Rory, soon becomes their prime suspect. However, Conway and Moran have a few alternate theories, they are batting around and want to hold off on arresting 'lover boy', to see what falls to earth after they 'shake a few trees.'

However, the murder squad seems to be in an all fired hurry to lock Rory up and throw away the key, which raises Conway's suspicions, but then again, she is normally suspicious and paranoid, due to the chronic harassment she is subjected to.

The only way to survive this will be to get the case solved and find out why the brass is so keen on pinning the murder on Rory, but with Rory falling right into their hands, and the powers that be riding their tale and playing psychological games, it will take all the interrogating skills Conway has in her whole body to uncover the truth.

When I read 'In the Woods' I became an instant fan of Tana French. I had never encountered a crime novel written with such a profound literary prose. From that point on, I couldn't wait for the next book in the series to come out. Every single one has been amazing, except maybe for 'The Secret Place', which ironically, also features Conway and Moran. While, still a very solid novel, it didn't have that same pull as previous installments and I admit I had a sliver of concern about that, but this latest installment in the Dublin Murder Squad series immediately erased all those doubts.

The plot is tightly woven and tense, with some of the best interrogation scenes I've encountered in crime fiction. I think the partnership between Conway and Moran is interesting and they seem to have a certain uneasy chemistry between them, that adds an element of tension and sizzle to the story.

" We sit there, drinking, while the stuff we should probably be saying out loud get itself done in the silence."

Conway's internal monologues are dark and edgy, the dialogue is razor sharp, as Conway's paranoia literally leaps off the page, but she is also darkly humorous at times, and I came away with a few chuckles and some terrific phrases and colorful metaphors to try out.

" It was about the same thing as everything else humans have done to each other since before history began: power. It was about deciding who would be the alpha dogs and who would be at the bottom of the pile."

The pacing is one of the biggest assets in this novel, which was little longer than most thrillers, but trust me, that is a good thing! The way French baited me in, time and again, toyed with my mind, slowly luring me in, until I eventually I finally took the bait – hook, line and sinker, was like a cat and mouse game between author and reader.

The characters are so well drawn, and are given ample time to flourish, to think things out, as the case is worked like a true procedural with lots of interviews and leg work, plus the added pressure of abnormal office politics, which we all know plays a big part in police work, with everyone jockeying for position or trying to cover their own butt.

I absolutely loved this book and rank it right up there with the first novel, which has remained my personal favorite. I love gritty, hard as nails characters and deep, twisty plots, with a climactic ending in which the irony is just divine. Simply amazing!!

After reading a Tana French novel I always feel like I've ingested a highly addictive drug because I immediately begin to feel withdrawal symptoms. French does not chuck out novels at the speed of light and sound, so the wait times in between releases can feel like an eternity, so be sure to enjoy and slowly savor every last drop of this novel... I know I did!!

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## Emily May says

Tana French is just fantastic.

You know, I actually have very little author loyalty. By that I mean I can easily dislike a book by an author I have previously loved, and vice versa - a second or third chance can lead to a new favourite. But at this point, I feel completely safe going into Tana French's novels. I settle down to read them with such faith in the author because **she is so consistently good**. For me, I don't have to wonder whether this one will be good, or that one will be good, because the author just *is* that good.

**I loved this book.** You may notice that this review is lacking in quotes, but that was another thing I picked up on while reading this: French's fantastic scenes and little pieces of dialogue are all about the context.

A certain line is snort-out-loud funny because you know the characters so well; you can just picture Detective Conway delivering it. Another scene is creepy because French has built the story up to that moment so well. And I can't quote the whole book to you... so I guess you'll just have to read it!

As always, the characterization is **absolutely perfect**. These characters come to life and they are complex, hilarious, stubborn and so damn likable, even when they shouldn't be. The Trespasser is told from the perspective of Antoinette Conway and anyone who read the last book knew this was going to be freaking awesome. Her narrative voice is bitchy as fuck - goddamn, her sarcasm is *biting*. I love her.

Her unlikable attributes become likable as French peels back the layers. I think it's great how her books are about the detectives as much - if not more than - the murder mystery. It's extremely compelling to read a thriller where you care *so much* about the narrator. Conway's hilarious dynamic with Steve Moran is also perfect.

I won't detail the mystery - you can read the blurb if you want and you'll find out soon enough if you read it - but I will say that TF knows exactly how to weave **lots of intertwining little mysteries and surprises** throughout, so even those readers who work out one reveal will be shocked by others, or at least be shocked by the hows and whys (which are the most interesting mysteries of all, right?)

The question I always get about this series is: "Do I have to read them in order?" You don't, but I think you should. Here's why. The mysteries all stand on their own and you don't need knowledge of the previous books to understand them. However, French introduces each narrator in the previous book. Just gives us a glimpse of them to pique our curiosity, and I think that's important. We see them from the outside, we wonder about them, and then we get their story. I think it works incredibly well. So that's my suggestion.

But if you want to jump straight to this book, you probably won't be disappointed either.

The Trespasser is so **well plotted**, the characters are **memorable**, the atmosphere is **creepy** when it suits, there's a **lingering melancholy** after the book ends, and I literally **laughed out loud** several times. What more could I want?

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### **Linda says**

All you Tana French fans out there, I'm late to the party. Yes, "The Trespasser" is my introduction to The Dublin Murder Squad Series.

The Sue Grafton alphabet series is as close to a detective novel as I've gotten. Actually, you could say that "The Trespasser" does not fit into any genre that I usually read. So, in many ways, reading it has been an adventure for me. Am I glad I journeyed down a new road? Yes.

Ms. French's plot was very well written. It was like sitting in front of my TV, seeing everything that was going on, but also, being privy to every thought and feeling that Detective Antoinette Conway was having. The book was narrated by Detective Conway who I found to be unlikable; however, I thought her partner, Detective Stephen Moran, to be somewhat of a saint for putting up with her negativity. (What a guy.) I don't need to like the characters in a book to enjoy it, and in this case, Detective Conway's attitude was pertinent to the storyline. After knowing I had it all figured out, many twists and surprises started happening, and the ending came together extremely well!

I've had input from friends who love this series. Some of them thought this book was the best, while others

favorited the first book. I enjoyed this author's writing style enough to read another book by her. Perhaps I'll read the first book and decide which I like best.

I must thank one of my dearest friends, Kris, for "persuading" me to read this enjoyable book. Without Kris, I would have not experienced this gifted author.

Highly recommend this book to all the lovers of detective stories.

4.5 stars.

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### **Frances says**

2.5\* The Trespasser is an in depth story with considerable detail on police procedural while attempting to solve a murder. Detective Antoinette Conway has been assigned a case along with her partner Steve, which could easily be just a domestic dispute or as Conway is hoping, a full blown serial killer on the loose; something she can really sink her teeth into. She has become quite paranoid lately in the department as other squad members pull mean pranks and are leaking sensitive case details she has been working on to the local paper. Detective Conway is a complex character with a lofty chip on her shoulder, a right mouthy gob that gets her in additional hot water, and is extremely reluctant to take any direction or suggestions from senior members. With the lengthy, thorough and detailed interviews with a suspect and witnesses throughout the book, it demonstrates how painfully slow it can be for detectives to take a small step in the right direction to solve a case. Conway at some point will have to decide to continue to gather enough evidence to convict who she believes is the killer or back off and roll with the best scenario she feels everyone in the squad including the superintendent wants her to take. Lots of dialogue and drawn out scenes will either keep the reader well entertained or put one to sleep.

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### **Chelsea Humphrey says**

So pleased with my reread of this one! I definitely appreciated it more the second time around, and it satiated my police procedural need for the moment. I'm left wondering if she'll come back to the series; based on the ending of this one it could go either way, but I'm unsure who the focus would be on moving forward... All in all, another fab read from Tana French!

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### **Diane S ? says**

Back to the Dublin murder squad and a second showing of Detective Antoinette Conway. It seems, however, that I somehow or another neglected to read The Secret Place, so for me this was my introduction to this character. Convinced the entire murder squad is out to do her in, force her out, she has a giant chip on her shoulder. Her partner, seems for most of the book to be a milquetoast, happy to support and follow. A young woman is found dead and the easiest solution doesn't sit well with the two partners.

This story has more bumps and dings than an automobile in a crash. Things look one way and then another. The more evidence they find the more complicated they get. The interrogation scenes are masterfully done.

This is an combination of a character driven novel and a police procedural. Not easy to do, may account for the length of the book, but French does these type of things very well.

It is said patience is a virtue, and one needs patience here for sure because the pacing is very slow. The depth of the portrayals also seemed to me to alter the suspense value, but the excellent police procedural makes up for this, at least for me. Exciting story, not so much, but I found it fulfilling nonetheless. Loved how it all came together in the end, in a very plausible and reasonable way. Need to go back and read the one I miss but as always look forward to French's next.

ARC from publisher.

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### **Dan Schwent says**

When a pretty young woman winds up murdered, detectives Conway and Moran catch the case. Her boyfriend looks like a slam-dunk for it but why are they being rushed to book him? And why does Conway think she's met the vic before? Can Conway and Moran get the killer behind bars before the case eats them alive?

Antoinette Conway, second banana from The Secret Place takes center stage in this one. Conway, the odd (wo)man out on the Dublin Murder Squad, trusts no one and suspects everyone. From her tortured past to her tortured present, she may be one of the most complex French leads yet. Her relationship with Stephen Moran, her partner, Detective Breslin, the senior D shadowing them, and her absent father drive the tale.

Tana French's writing is as rich as every but flows really well. Unlike a lot of literary-leaning works, I never once thought the writing didn't serve the story. The style was accessible and went down like moderately-priced wine.

The plot seemed straight-forward. While I knew it couldn't be as simple as it initially appeared, French had me doubting myself quite a bit. Every twist exposed new wrinkles in the case, making the book really hard to set aside. There was one twist I should have seen coming half a mile away but I ran into it like a station wagon plowing a deer.

The last 25% was maddening! I looked around at my co-workers wondering how in the hell they could be so calm with all the shit going down! The last fifty pages or so were pure torture. Everyone was in shit up to his or her neck and I thought the whole squad might go up in flames.

The ending was the dog's breakfast I knew it would be, just like most Tana French books. While it wasn't happily ever after, life goes on with the Dublin Murder Squad. Five out of five stars.

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### **Taryn says**

Antoinette Conway had always dreamed of being on the murder squad, but she's burnt out after two years of unchallenging domestic cases and merciless harassment from her own squad mates. One morning, the gaffer hands her and her partner Stephen Moran the case of twenty-six-year-old murder victim Aislinn Murray. There's outside pressure to charge the victim's boyfriend and wrap up the case quickly, but not all the pieces

are fitting together. It has all the attributes of a lover's spat gone wrong, but there is very little physical evidence, the victim's best friend alludes to the possibility secret relationship, and Conway recognizes the victim from somewhere. Could this be the big case Conway and Moran have been waiting for?

*What-if-maybe crap is for weak people. It belongs to the ones who don't have the strength to make actual situations go their way, so they have to hide away in daydreams where they can play at controlling what comes next. And that makes them even weaker. Every what-if is a gift to anyone who's looking for a hold on you, and that means us. If a guy's whole head is in reality, then reality is the only route we can take to get to him. If he's letting his mind prance off down dozens of twisty hypothetical fairy tales, every one of those is a crack we can use to prize him open.*

The Trespasser, the sixth in the Dublin Murder Squad series, is my first Tana French novel. It's probably not ideal to read them out of order and I know that detectives Conway and Moran also appear in The Secret Place. However, **it worked as a standalone**. I didn't ever feel lost or like I'd missed out on anything. Now I need to go back and read these in order for an even richer experience! This book felt **more on the literary side than many of the mysteries I've read lately**. There are no wasted characters and everyone has a complete personality. Even the less important characters have little quirks that make them easy to remember; one floater has an annoying (and slightly hilarious) habit of recording every single detail during an interview. I did have to take more breaks than usual while reading. It's so dense with detail and it felt like I was following the case in real-time. When Conway and Moran weren't making progress, neither was I! **It's the kind of mystery that you settle into and enjoy the ride, rather than a page turner**. The pace did pick up around the 2/3s of the way through.

*The truth is, if you don't exist without someone else, you don't exist at all.*

It was a bit of a relief to read a book with **one perspective and a linear timeline!** This story is **told from the perspective of Detective Antoinette Conway**. She's **sarcastic and jaded**. She's always on the defensive because she's so used to putting up with abuse from her squad. She's convinced they're trying to drive her off the squad and she remains hyper-vigilant, always ready for the next attack. Conway's paranoia, plus the history with her dad, add an interesting layer to this mystery. Conway has a hardened shell, but every once and a while she lets us see a glimpse of the wide-eyed detective she once was. There's a part where she reveals her daydreams about her and her partner's future: *"Once or twice— more— I caught myself daydreaming like a sappy teenager about our future together: about someday when we would get the decent cases, the genius plans we'd dream up to trap the cunning psychos, the interrogations that would go down in squad history. Big tough Conway going all misty-eyed; how the lads would have laughed."* It's such a simple dream and in the context of all her tough talk, it made me develop a real soft spot for her. She still has a spark of love for her job and I really wanted her to get her big break and some relief from the bullying!

*You can knock down a genuine belief, if you load up with enough facts that contradict it; but a belief that's built on nothing except who the person wants to be, nothing can crumble that.*

**Conway's partner Stephen Moran is a likable people-pleaser who is still able to dream big.**

Unsurprisingly, his interrogation technique is "Nice Boy Next Door." While Conway is resigned to the Aislinn Murray case being like one of their usual domestic cases, Moran convinces her that there may be more to the case. The partnership between Conway and Moran works because they have completely opposite personalities and they balance each other out so well. Their non-verbal communication makes it seem like they have their own secret language. My favorite parts were the suspect interviews, because I loved the back and forth between the detectives as they tried to manipulate the suspects into submission. As much as I loved the partnership between Conway and Moran, the interviews Conway did with Detective Breslin were my favorites. I loved the dynamic between their "Cool Girl" and "Chief Jock" techniques.

*The thing about daydreams is that they don't last. One brush up against reality, and that's the end of them.*

**This book is about the consequences of manipulating other people's lives by creating scripts for them to live through and getting caught up in stories we create for ourselves.** Even Conway, who despises people who live in a fantasy world, has conjured up stories of her own and tries to uphold a certain image. The Trespasser is an interesting story from beginning to end with fascinating characters. It's detailed in a way that made me feel like part of the squad and like I was invested in the outcome. I regret putting off this series for so long, but I'm so happy I have five more of these to read!

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**I received this book for free from Penguin Random House First to Read in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review. The publication date is October 4, 2016.**

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**Joe Valdez says**

*The Trespasser* is the sixth novel by Tana French and the sixth in her vivid, beguiling and compulsively thrilling "Dublin Murder Squad" series, which follows a contemporary Irish homicide investigation from the point of view a detective who played a supporting role in the previous book. Published in October 2016, this is the first novel whose publication date I've anticipated, reserving the first hold at my favorite library and racing over to pick it up like a zombie-eyed Black Friday shopper craving a markdown on an HDTV. No living author has a hold on me like French and her new novel--psychologically rich, sociopolitically charged and structurally brilliant--proves why.

The story is told by Antoinette Conway, a thirty-two year old rising star promoted from Missing Persons into the elite Murder Squad operating out of Dublin Castle. A tenacious detective with solid interviewing skills--which her wholesome thirty-three year old partner Stephen Moran observed when she assisted him in locking down a girls' boarding school and interrogating eight separate teenagers in *The Secret Place*--Conway is prepared to resign. Her gaffer Superintendent O'Kelly slots the single Conway & Moran the thankless night shift cleaning up alco murders, while anonymous harassment from a person or persons on the squad keeps Conway watching her back.

Handed a domestic violence case by O'Kelly at the end of their shift, Conway & Moran are dispatched to the scruffy neighborhood of Viking Gardens, where an anonymous call to Stoneybatter station alerted Garda to

the body of twenty-six year old Aislinn Murray, dead from a skull fracture on the floor of her apartment. Moran's hopes that a serial killer might be on the loose are dashed by evidence Aislinn was preparing a romantic dinner at the time of her death; text messages indicate her date was Rory Fallon. Conway has seen Aislinn before but is unable to place where. She's also puzzled by their gaffer's order that she and Moran bring in vainglorious Detective Don Breslin, "someone who's good with witnesses" as backup.

*Domestics are mostly slam-dunks; the question isn't whether you can arrest your guy, or girl; it's whether you can build a case that'll hold up in court. A lot of people love that--it pretties up your solve rate, looks good to the brass--but not me: it means domestics get you fuck-all respect from the squad, where I could do with it, because everyone knows the solve came easy. Which is also another reason they piss me off: they've got a whole special level of idiotic all to themselves. You take out your wife or your husband or your Shag of the Day, what the fuck do you think is gonna happen? We're gonna be standing there with our mouths open, scratching our heads at the mind-blowing mystery of it all, Duh, I dunno, musta been the Mafia? Surprise: we're gonna go straight for you, the evidence is gonna pile up way over your head, and you're gonna wind up with a life sentence. If you want to kill someone, have enough respect for my time to make it someone, anyone, other than the most gobsmackingly obvious person in the world.*

Conway & Moran keep Breslin in the dark long enough to have a crack at their first witness, Aislinn's best friend Lucy Riordan. Assuming the D's are there about Aislinn, Lucy maintains that while her friend hadn't known Rory long and was taking things slow with the bookstore owner, everything was fine between them. Aislinn's dad vanished when she was a child and her mother, who did not take the separation well, recently passed away, liberating Aislinn to give her life a makeover. Lucy reveals that Aislinn had a habit of breaking dates, hinting that she might have had a fella before Rory, but claims she never confided who this man, if he existed, was.

While Conway has no doubt that Rory Fallon is their man, Moran presents other theories. Aislinn Murray, who Conway refers to as "dead Barbie," seemed to be putting her life together out of magazines. Her story remains a mystery, and while the D's agree that Lucy was holding something back, Conway doubts that this other fella existed. It strikes Moran that the call came in to a cop shop--not 999, where the calls are recorded--and while civilians wouldn't have known that, gangsters would've. However, when Breslin joins Conway to interview the cloying Rory Fallon at the squad room, their suspect leaves nearly half an hour in his evening unaccounted for and little doubt that he killed Aislinn.

Conway feels pressure from Breslin to book Rory Fallon. Considering her enemy or enemies on the squad, it occurs to Conway that someone wants this case closed quickly. She discovers that one of the Murder D's ran a criminal background check on Aislinn Murray months before her death. Moran conjectures that if Aislinn's fella was a gangster, he might have a cop on his payroll, like Breslin or his miserable partner Joe McCann. Conway comes upon the men whispering about taking care of the woman and putting things back to normal, which might have been about Conway, or about McCann's estranged wife. Conway becomes aware of a tall dark stranger lurking around her house. She begins to doubt herself.

*My instincts are good--not bragging, every D's are, specially every D who makes it as far as Murder--and I know how to use them. They've come through for me when all the solid detective work in the world would have run me into a brick wall. But this time they're being bugger-all use. Not that they're out of commission--every sensor is firing wildly, red lights flashing, beeping noises everywhere--but they just keep sweeping, can't pin anything down. Rory's keeping something back, but I can't tell whether it's the murder or not; Breslin's fucking with us, but I can't figure out why. I feel like I'm missing the bleeding obvious here, but the harder I concentrate, the more all the signals turn to noise. Something is scrambling them.*

*The Trespasser* has the quality control that's been a staple of Tana French's work from the beginning and with this mesmerizing new entry, she proves again how complete an author she is. French's prose ratchets technical detail into a larger story incorporating the culture, geography and weather of modern Ireland. Her dialogue crackles with passion and wit, exploring one of my favorite sub-genres: the workplace drama. **I don't know why, but I love reading about people going to work.** The political content of French's books--not as in public policy, but the art and science of influence at any level--is bar none. She writes superlative interrogation scenes. And for French, relationships, whether friends, family or co-worker, are essential. The murder stuff is coincidental.

French has employed a female homicide detective as narrator before (in the undercover themed *The Likeness*) but by setting *The Trespasser* predominantly in the office and surrounding Antoinette Conway with co-workers the detective doesn't trust, this novel more than any other is about the challenges warrior women may face in the workplace, waging a campaign on two fronts: against the enemy they can see as well as the saboteurs they cannot. Conway's past is largely kept submerged--a likely development for an author publishing her sixth novel as opposed to her first--but her fury is righteous, her angst is unmistakable and the novel is unputdownable.

For readers unaccustomed to the riches of Tana French who are ready to dip their necks under the yellow tape, her "series" does not need to be read in any order due to each novel being narrated by a different character, as well as her commitment to start and end one story with each book. It is not necessary to commit to multiple books or purchases to get through one story. Here goes my ranking of the series from most favorite to least favorite. Keep in mind this is like ranking the six James Bond movies starring Sean Connery from most favorite to least favorite--there are no losers.

1. *Faithful Place* (Dublin Murder Squad #3)
  2. *In the Woods* (Dublin Murder Squad #1)
  3. *The Trespasser* (Dublin Murder Squad #6)
  4. *The Likeness* (Dublin Murder Squad #2)
  5. *The Secret Place* (Dublin Murder Squad #5)
  6. *Broken Harbor* (Dublin Murder Squad #4)
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## Susanne Strong says

5 stars! (I would give it 10 if I could!)

This is, by far, Tana French's best novel. She drew me in - captured every ounce of me - every fiber of my being and wouldn't let go till I read the very last sentence. Breathless. Heart in my chest. Unable to concentrate on anything but this for days. Work?: An interruption, a bother. Eating? As if. This. Consumed. Me.

French perfects the Irish dialect, her prose is smart and witty. Clever. Extremely funny. I admit that I couldn't help myself here. I can put on an Irish accent and throughout the entire book, I found myself reading it in the dialect.. especially during the portions Steve was speaking.. yeah, but.

There were times halfway through when I was scared. Terrified. Projecting. Imagining what was going to happen next. Picturing the ABSOLUTE WORST. Stomach in knots. At that point, I even messaged a Goodreads friend who just finished this and told her where I was at and that I had a bad feeling. All I can say

is.. Thank god! My imagination ran wild and I was WAY off course. Tana French does that. She leads you down a path and you think, OMG!!! And you are wrong! I was led astray more times than I can count. And, in this instance, PHEW!!!

In this novel, Tana French brings back two character from previous novels. Antoinette Conway and Steve Moran. Murder Detectives. They just get each other. Play off each other well. Conway? She's a tough cookie. Abrasive and angry. Yet funny as hell. She has never had anyone to rely on. And she doesn't let anyone in. Not even Moran. She has a cold outer shell. And in Murder D? She has never felt like a part of the team. She is an outsider. And the other Murder D's? They play tricks on her and have since day one. Yet Conway's sarcasm and ability to insult the other Murder D's who treat her like crap? Funny as all get out! Tana French had me in hysterics time and time again. And Moran? He is so trusting, Almost an innocent. Yet GOOFY as hell. And he's smart as a whip. And he doesn't let Conway get away with anything. (I admit that I have a crush on him. Always have. Ever since he appeared in "The Faithful Place." Even though I am probably what 15-20 years older? I can't help it... he's adorable! And he gives a sh\*t. Love it!). Anyhow, I digress: Together, he and Conway, they make great partners. And they work a case to death.

Here, Conway and Moran, with the help of Senior Detective Breslin, investigate the death of Aislinn Murray, which they initially thought was a domestic disturbance gone wrong. The night of her death, Aislinn was preparing a sweet meal for her new boyfriend, Rory Fallon. And he becomes the prime suspect, even though there is no hard evidence against him. Conway and Moran however, fail to believe he is the culprit and explore other avenues and immediately discover that things are not what they seem. The paths they go down? Frakking crazy!!

We the readers are sucked in from the start. While I previously would have stated that my two favorite Tana French books were "In the Woods" and "The Secret Place," this surpasses them by MILES. Here, my stomach was in knots and my heart was beating a mile a minute and I was glued to the pages. Staying up as late as I could each night dying to finish. This one is a roller coaster. And I encourage everyone to get on it and go for a ride.

Published on Goodreads and Amazon on 3/2/17.

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