

Trespasser by Tana French – Viking HC – 9780670026333 - \$27.00 – 10/4/16

Tana French is a master spinner of suspenseful tales and this book is no disappointment to those who value her talents. Her ability to create tension without subjecting the reader to gory scenes and gruesome anatomical/forensic details is welcome. We really don't need to be splattered with brain matter and severed body parts to get the idea of how awful murder is.

Once again we find ourselves inside the Dublin Murder Squad, this time with an African-British detective who is at odds with just about everyone in the place except her partner, a red-haired freckled seemingly-simple or at least naïve detective who supports her at each turn. The tale hinges on the killing of a young woman who has ties to the police going back to the disappearance of her father when she was a gawky teen. She's reinvented herself and has dedicated her life to bringing justice to those who misled her about her father's fate. She's out for vengeance. The fact that she had a date with a hapless bookseller who couldn't get her to respond to his ring at her door seems to point to his guilt, but that idea comes into dispute early on and continues to furnish a matter of question throughout.

As always, French is a great storyteller and her characters are fully realized and believable. Places and names, details about Dublin and its environs pepper the narrative with props to the verisimilitude and add spice. Her books are always a delight to mystery readers and those who just like a good tale told well. The process of delving into the psychology of the victim, the murderer and the detectives investigating the case become the real drivers of this book.

Shelf Talker: Yet another in the line of suspenseful tales of murder and retribution from the premier raconteur of Dublin crime, this will not disappoint the author's many fans.