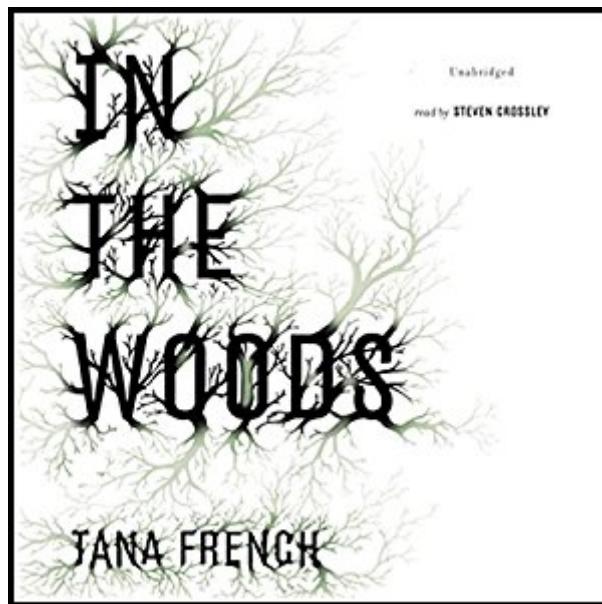


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# In The Woods



## Synopsis

The bestselling debut with over a million copies sold that launched Tana French, "required reading for anyone who appreciates tough, unflinching intelligence and ingenious plotting" (The New York Times), who is "the most interesting, most important crime novelist to emerge in the past 10 years" (The Washington Post). Look out for Tana French's newest novel, *The Trespasser*, available now.

As dusk approaches a small Dublin suburb in the summer of 1984, mothers begin to call their children home. But on this warm evening, three children do not return from the dark and silent woods. When the police arrive, they find only one of the children gripping a tree trunk in terror, wearing blood-filled sneakers, and unable to recall a single detail of the previous hours. Twenty years later, the found boy, Rob Ryan, is a detective on the Dublin Murder Squad and keeps his past a secret. But when a twelve-year-old girl is found murdered in the same woods, he and Detective Cassie Maddox—his partner and closest friend—find themselves investigating a case chillingly similar to the previous unsolved mystery. Now, with only snippets of long-buried memories to guide him, Ryan has the chance to uncover both the mystery of the case before him and that of his own shadowy past. Richly atmospheric and stunning in its complexity, *In the Woods* is utterly convincing and surprising to the end. Winner of the Anthony, Macavity, and Barry Awards for Best First Novel, and the Edgar Award for Best First Novel by an American Author Finalist for Los Angeles Times Book Prize

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have never felt so cheated by a book ever. What's even more disappointing is that I loved some bits of the beautiful writing. Sure there were some extra unwanted pages about minute details of mundane things that could have been skipped but it was engaging - till the end. I was always more excited about what happened in 1984 than the Katy murder and not having a resolution to it really irritated me. I mean, seriously? Why build so much tension about an episode **THROUGHOUT** the book when you're not even going to tell us what really happened? Did the author not know how to finish the book? I finished the book, was bewildered, knew this was part of a series so I hoped there would be a resolution in the next book, but apparently not. I hardly get any time to read books these days and to have wasted precious hours on this deceptive book is hard to take. **SOME SPOILERS** ahead: And even the present day mystery is not handled well. How did you start investigating without bothering to search the immediate vicinity of the place the body was found? The stupid team comes to back to search the place one month after the murder. Genius! I won't bother reading any of this author's other books. I can't believe this was a best seller. I guess people who loved it are fine with theorizing everything in their minds and maybe just assuming that Ryan was the psychopath all along, but no, I cannot do that. Because this is not my book, it's yours, Tana. So please don't leave readers hanging like this. That's just cruel.

I thought the book was much too long. I don't know why it had to be almost 600 pages. Given the length of the book, I would have wanted to get a sense of the characters, no one really came to life, I am now reading Deborah Kennedy's *Tornado Summer* (will I definitely will review when I'm finished) and in less than 200 pages, I really have a feeling for who the people in the book are. It's a huge difference. The book, a detective novel, is also sometimes extremely boring. Why not just one star? I'm not sure.

*In The Woods* by Tana French is the first book in the popular Dublin Murder Squad series. I love a good mystery thriller and was excited at the possibility of having five more books to read if I liked this one. The book focuses on the murder of a young girl found dead in the woods. These woods also happen to be the same exact location where Detective Ryan, the lead investigator, experienced the disappearance/murder of his two best friends twenty years prior; an incident where he was the sole survivor. Are the cases related, and can he keep his connection to the previous child murders a secret long enough to solve the case? What elevates this book beyond your typical thriller is the skilled writing, tight plotting, and the exploration of relationships; especially between Detective Ryan and his partner Cassie Maddox. The pacing of the book was great and the author

kept a lot of balls in the air without dropping them. I found the conclusion a tad bit far-fetched and not wholly believable, but it's part of the fun of books like these. I enjoyed *In The Woods* and plan on reading the next book, *The Likeness*, which I am told is one of the best in the series.

Compelling. Stand-alone that is easy to follow and difficult to put down. Abuse triggers and violence. No drag-you-down drama. The underlying theme of this story is family. How far will one go to protect and at what cost? Believable characters with distinct personalities. Thought-provoking and memorable dialogue. I will re-read this story and always look forward to works by this author.

Excellent literary mystery. Wow, it was like watching a train wreck approaching, as detective Rob (Adam) Ryan unravels during the investigation. Yes, I wanted a resolution to the older case as well, and I wanted the "true" perpetrator (no name, that would be a spoiler) to receive proper punishment, but maybe the point is, life doesn't always work out with clean and neat solutions.

Ms. French has a uniquely compelling voice, or rather, her characters do. "*In the Woods*" is very far from your usual or even unusual whodunit. Rather, it details the psychological journey of good, talented, and flawed man. I will give away no more. I love detective novels in the grand tradition, i.e. Doyle, Marlowe, Hammett. This book forges a tradition of its own.

French's detectives are a mix of brilliance and ignorance, strength and fragility. It's the detectives relationships with one another and their working through the case that make this a good book. The story centers on the murder of a 12 year old girl and its possible connection to a 20 year missing persons case. I am typically good at solving the mystery halfway through a book, and this was no exception. I enjoyed the character development of the detectives and the connections between the present crime and the disappearance of two young children in the 1980's.

I came back to this book every moment I had. The characters were very well developed & I couldn't help but feel for them. Unfortunately was left disappointed by the end. Some closure would have been amazing but I would've settled for an inkling that Rob / Adam was still searching for answers to free himself, his parents and his friends parents...

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