



12-1-2009

The Likeness by Tana French, Penguin (Non-Classics), 2009

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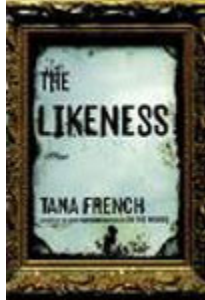
Morrel, Judi, "*The Likeness* by Tana French, Penguin (Non-Classics), 2009" (2009). *LAS Faculty Book Reviews*. 39.
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Recommended Readings



The Likeness

by Tana French, Penguin (Non-Classics), 2009

Reviewed by Judi Morrel

Has anyone ever told you that you look just like someone else? It seems to be an urban legend that everyone has a double - that's the underlying premise of Tana French's second novel, in which a protagonist from her Edgar-award winning first novel, *In the Woods*, reappears. Detective Cassie Maddox, recently transferred out of Dublin's undercover squad after a harrowing experience, is recalled to the unit when a corpse eerily bearing her likeness and her former undercover identity is discovered. What follows is a daring and risky operation in which Cassie re-assumes the fictitious identity of Lexie Madison in order to smoke out the killer. While there are unexpected plot twists and plenty of dramatic tension, the most fascinating aspect of this novel is the portrayal of the characters. The murdered Lexie had shared her living space with a group of four graduate students, suspects all in her demise, a compelling set of unusual characters who have been drawn together to form a dysfunctional, but recognizable, family of sorts. Reading this book will make you examine your own family relationships while entertaining you with suspense as well as lyrical description and fine characterizations.

- Judi Morrel is Interim Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and associate professor of mathematics at Butler University.