

Discussion Questions

Tana French, *In the Woods*

- How does Rob's experience *In the Woods* at the age of twelve affect his ability to function as a detective? Is it always a hindrance to him, or are there ways in which it improves and deepens his insights?
- Rob states that he both craves truth and tells lies. How reliable to you find him as a narrator? In what ways does the theme of truth and misrepresentation lie at the heart of *In the Woods*?
- Why is Rob the narrator? How would the story be different if Cassie narrated the events? Or Sam? Or even Rosalind? Or if it were a third person narrator?
- Cassie Maddox, Rob's partner, is perhaps the most consistently appealing character in the novel. What are her most attractive qualities? What are the weaker points of her personality? Does Rob ever fully appreciate her?
- After sleeping together, Rob and Cassie cease to be friends. Why do you think the experience of physical intimacy is so damaging to their relationship? Are there other reasons why their friendship falls apart?
- Were you surprised by who killed Katy? Why do you think Rosalind really wanted her sister dead? Would it be possible to punish Rosalind? Will she do something like this again?
- What do you think happened to Jamie and Peter? Are you disappointed that crime was never solved? Do you think Rob has finally come to terms with the fact that his friends have disappeared, are probably dead, and he will never know who did it? Or will this always haunt him?
- What were your thoughts and emotions upon finishing *In the Woods*? If this book affected you differently from other mysteries you have read, why do you think this was true?