**The Searcher**

**By Tana French**

1. What do you make of the title? Who is searching? Trey (for Brendan)? Cal (for a new start)? Mart (for a sheep slayer)?
2. What do you make of Cal's comment that "nineteen is the right age for a lot of things that can start misfiring inside someone's mind"? (172)
3. What does it mean to be a morning person? "Cal has always liked mornings. He draws a distinction between this and being a morning person, which he isn't: it takes time, daylight and coffee to connect up his brain cells. He appreciates mornings not for their effect on him, but for themselves." (155)
4. Was Cal running from something in his past? "His four best buddies were among the reasons he left Chicago; the depth and detail with which they knew him had come to feel unsafe..." (202) Later, the guys at the pub, while talking about his beard: "This fella thought you were on the run." (214)
5. What is the difference between manners, etiquette and morals? "Etiquette is the stuff you gotta do just 'cause that's how everyone does it...Manners is treating people with respect...Morals...is the stuff that doesn't change. The stuff you do no matter what other people do." (264-5)
6. Why put questions of manners and morals in the book? What purpose do they serve?
7. Did you ever suspect Trey of any crime? How did your impression of Trey change over the course of the book?
8. What do the weather and terrain have to do with the pace and direction of the story / plot? "Cal doesn't like the stark contrasts in this terrain. They have the same feel as the weather, of an unpredictability deliberately calculated to keep you one step behind." (276)
9. In what ways are we influenced by our environment? "The morning has turned lavishly beautiful. The autumn sun gives the greens of the fields an impossible, mythic radiance and transforms the back roads into light-muddled paths where a goblin with a riddle, or a pretty maiden with a basket, could be waiting around every gorse-and-bramble bend. Cal is in no mood to appreciate any of it. He feels like this specific beauty is central to the illusion that lulled him into stupidity, turned him into the peasant gazing slack-jawed at his handful of gold coins til they melt into dead leaves in front of his eyes. If all this had happened in some depressing suburban clot of tract homes and ruler-measured lawns, he would have kept his wits about him." (368)
10. According to Cal, morals are having your own code and sticking to it. Does that mean that Mart's actions are justified by his own personal code?