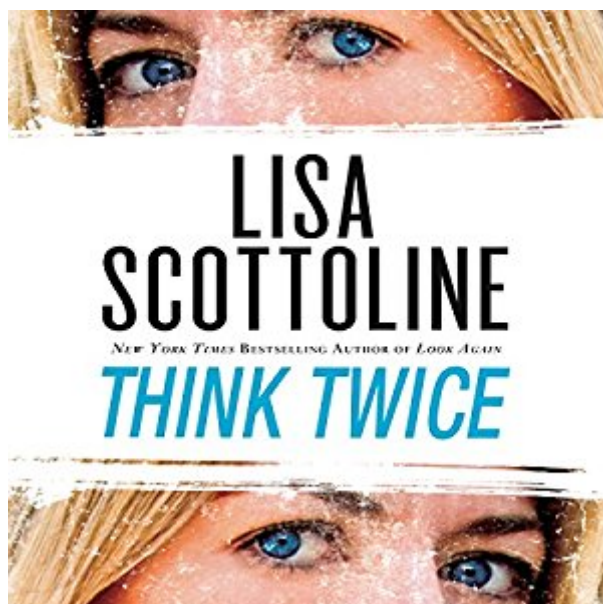


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Think Twice



Synopsis

From the blockbuster New York Times bestselling author of Look Again comes a novel that makes you question the nature of evil: is it born in us or is it bred? Bennie Rosato looks exactly like her identical twin, Alice Connolly, but the darkness in Alice's soul makes them two very different women. Or at least that's what Bennie believes, until she finds herself buried alive at the hands of her twin. Meanwhile, Alice takes over Bennie's life, impersonating her at work and even seducing her boyfriend in order to escape the deadly mess she has made of her own life. But Alice underestimates Bennie and the evil she has unleashed in her twin's psyche, as well as Bennie's determination to stay alive long enough to exact revenge. Bennie must face the twisted truth that she is more like her sister Alice than she could have ever imagined, and by the novel's shocking conclusion, Bennie finds herself engaged in a war she cannot win--with herself. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

I've been a long-time Scottoline fan, owning all of her books, most in First Edition hardback. I've corresponded personally with Lisa, and she's a charming and very nice person. I've really enjoyed spending time in the world of Bennie Rosato and her associates. It's very painful for me to say that I didn't like this book very much at all. I understand the artistic urge to take an established character into new and uncharted territory. It keeps it fresh for the author as well as, hopefully, the reader. But as with any risk, there's always the chance of failure. In general, I don't think much of the

doppelganger device in literature and movies. It has been used successfully - and rarely - to illustrate issues of morality and the duality of human nature, but there's a reason the phrase "evil twin" has become such a cliché joke in our lexicon. I didn't care all that much for the previous book in which Bennie's twin sister was introduced - it seemed contrived - and this book takes the whole thing way over the top. The Bennie Rosato of the series is a cool and self-controlled character, with plenty of sang froid to spare, a woman who knows what she wants and how to achieve it. The Bennie in this book is completely unglued, running around like a lunatic with her hair on fire. The pacing and structure of the book reflect this frenzy: my Advance Reader's Copy has 371 pages divided into 128 chapters. Do the math; that works out to 2.9 pages per chapter. This book reads more like a movie script than a novel, and suffers accordingly. There's no real sense of setting in any of the scenes, no inner dialogues to speak of, a pretty complete lack of the kind of narrative of which Scottoline has proven she's capable.

First let me admit two things up front; 1. I'm a big fan of Lisa Scottoline, have read all of her previous novels, and have enjoyed them very much, especially the Rosato and Associates ones. 2. I did not finish "Think Twice". I couldn't. It's dreadful. I stuck it out until page 202 but then couldn't stand the thought of reading another page, let alone another of those short, choppy chapters. The plot path she was taking was obvious, and I no longer cared what happened to a character I always had cared a great deal about in the past. The evil twin part is bad enough, but we've seen Alice before. It's the use of two of the worst possible plot elements that made this a second (or third or tenth) rate work. They are, first, the overuse of coincidence and, second, that everyone is suddenly struck stupid. They are the hallmarks of bad writing and of authors who no longer care or are no longer able to write anything worth reading. I was incredibly disappointed that one of my favorite authors would stoop so low. It was like reading one of those awful "Ludlum novels" that "he" wrote years after his death. (Or, even worse, one of the Van Lustbader Bourne novels.) This book raises an interesting question. Did Lisa Scottoline really write "Think Twice"? Maybe she has an evil twin who took her place and wrote this mess. Maybe every one around her is too stupid to figure this out. That would be more plausible than anything that happened in this book. The plot involves Bennie Rosato's twin sister replacing her and everyone who knows Bennie either being on vacation (by coincidence) or too wrapped up in their own agendas (due to sudden stupidity syndrome) to tell the difference.

Wow....it's good to have the original cast back again, making progress in their lives but tougher than

ever. This time Scottoline tells the tale from the perspective of Bennie Rosato, owner of the all-woman law firm where Mary and Judy work. There's also Anne, who appeared briefly in an earlier novel, but she is conveniently on vacation in this volume. Scottoline's trademark is putting people in impossible situations and watching them carry it off. One she had a lawyer pretend to be an employee of another law firm. This time, she has Bennie's twin sister, Alice, impersonating Bennie. It all begins when Bennie tries to be supportive of her troubled twin, accepting a dinner invitation where Alice claims to be living. Bennie foils Alice's attempt to kill her but then (as the reader will expect) Bennie's troubles really begin. She has to convince the cops that's she's Bennie, not Alice, which is hard to do when she's dressed like Alice. She has to stop Alice's elaborate scheme to steal her life. Scottoline really hammers the reader. She juggles character viewpoints smoothly and convincingly. Her tone changes when we switch among Alice, Mary and Bennie. Mary and Judy are consistent with the characters Scottoline created in her very first book. We know just enough about Judy to keep interested. For a moment I thought we'd get to meet Judy's parents but no: we get more than enough of Mary's family. Let's just say that Judy's role in the plot was not surprising, given her character. Following mystery conventions, Scottoline ends every chapter with a cliffhanger. She introduces, for the first time I can remember in the series, something new in the character of Fiorella, a distant cousin who claims to be a witch.

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