



***Identical*, by Scott Turow**  
***Reviewed by Cindy Kennedy, August 2014***

Scott Turow's latest thriller is simply and aptly named *Identical*. Its two central characters are identical twin brothers Paul and Cass Giansis, members of a large and complex Greek-American community. The brothers may be identical but their circumstances are not: Paul is running for mayor and Cass has been serving 25 years in prison for the murder of his girlfriend, Dita Kronon.

As the story unfolds, Cass is being patrolled just before his brother Paul's mayoral election. At the patrol hearing, Dita's wealthy and powerful brother Hal Kronon accuses Paul of involvement in the murder. Hal's accusation goes viral, damaging and compromising Paul's chances for election.

Enter Evon Miller, a former FBI agent now working for the security detail for the Kronon family, and Tim Brodie, the original private investigator on the case. Now the plot takes many twists and turns. Readers are kept guessing: did one twin or the other actually commit the murder?

Full disclosure: as an identical twin myself, I usually am skeptical of how twins are depicted in film and fiction. My twin Laura and I, growing up, were put out that Haley Mills portrayed both twin sisters in "The Parent Trap." (Couldn't the producers have found a pair of actual twins to play the two roles? Ditto for the remake with Lindsay Lohan.) Often twins are depicted as either/or--the good twin vs. the evil twin. Case in point: Curtis Sittenfeld's novel *Sisterland*.

That said, Turow's treatment of Paul's and Cass's complex twin relationship is spot-on. The brothers are competitive for sure, yet protective of one another. Each character defies the cookie-cutter label of good or evil. Turow's research also is impressive; the critical fact that identical twins share every genetic trait but have different fingerprints is central to the twisting plot line. All in all, *Identical* is a fine choice for a beach-bound summer read.