

## ***Painting Churches* by Tina Howe**

MAGS

The only hope for us ...“Boston girls” is to get as far away from our kind as possible. It’s not so much how creepy they all are, as how much they remind me of myself! I mean...look at me! Awkward...plain...I don’t know how to dress, I don’t know how to talk. The great thing about being a portrait painter, you see, is it’s the *other* guy that’s exposed; you’re safely hidden behind the canvas and easel (standing behind the easel). You can be as plain as a pitchfork, as inarticulate as mud, but it doesn’t matter because you’re completely concealed: your body, your face, your intentions. Just as you make your most intimate move, throw open your soul.... To be so invisible while so enthralled...it takes your breath away! That’s why I’ve always wanted to paint you, to see if I’m up to it. It’s quite a risk.