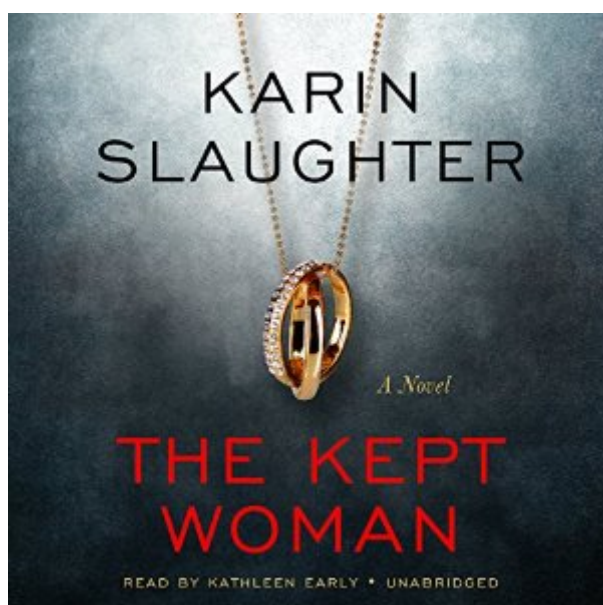


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## The Kept Woman: Will Trent, Book 8



## Synopsis

It's the most dangerous case of Will Trent's career. He knows this from the moment he sets foot in the abandoned Atlanta warehouse where a body lies on the floor - the body of an ex-cop. Bloody footprints leading away from the scene reveal that another victim, evidently a woman, was carried away and has vanished into thin air. And, worst of all, the warehouse belongs to the city's biggest and most high-profile athlete - a local hero protected by the world's most expensive lawyers. A hero married to Will's ex-wife. A hero whom Will's superiors at the Georgia Bureau of Investigation have spent the last six months investigating for rape. But for Will - and also for Sara Linton, the GBI's newest medical examiner - the case is about to get even worse. Because an unexpected discovery at the scene reveals a personal link to Will's troubled past, and the consequences will wreak havoc on his life and the lives of those he loves, those he works with, and those he pursues. Relentlessly suspenseful and furiously paced, *The Kept Woman* marks Karin Slaughter's triumphant return to her most popular series.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is another excellent book by Karin Slaughter. The title may be "The Kept Woman", but what this book is really about is "women", and many of them. There is plenty of suspense and enough twists and turns in the plot to satisfy readers, like myself, who appreciate this genre. Ms. Slaughter takes on the complex subjects of rape and domestic abuse, and gives them fair treatment. Women are portrayed as not only the victims, but also, in some cases, the perpetrators of abuse (both physical and psychological). The book is another entry in the author's Will Trent series. He, actually,

seems to play a lesser role than in previous books, as we see Will more through the eyes of Dr. Sara Linton (a complex heroine) and their romantic relationship. Fortunately, he still does some great detective work and does get involved in some action during the novel's climax, which should keep loyal fans satisfied. The book also focuses heavily on Will's female nemesis, Angie Polaski. If I have any criticism of the novel it would be that I was tired of reading about Angie. Her detailed story was the only place where the book bogged down and got a little slow. We do learn much more about her past. Although I personally believe the author really likes this character (as she devotes so many pages to her), I have a pretty hard time finding anything sympathetic or likeable about Angie, even though I think Ms. Slaughter tries to redeem her in some way by the end of the story. However, for me, I just don't buy it. (I do understand that this is completely my personal opinion, and other fans may find Angie more sympathetic and more likeable than I do.) In summary, this is another great read from Karin Slaughter, and I give the book a solid 4.5 stars. I rated up because overall I enjoyed the book and believe others will, too.

If you have followed the Will Trent series from the beginning, especially if you have followed the series since Sarah and her first husband you will enjoy this newest addition. If you are new to the series you will struggle with not only the storyline, but Will Trent in particular - you may not even like Will in this book...this would be so unfair as he is a great character. This book focuses a lot on the back story of Will and Angie (Will's wife), issues that have come up between Angie and Sarah (Will's girlfriend), and Angie's past with the department. The past is all tied together with the current case that the department is currently working on, with Angie right smack in the middle of it. It is really hard to explain without giving spoilers. Slaughter does what she normally does and gives great character development and a fantastic story that builds on her previous books. I honestly don't feel this is a stand alone book because there is so much rich history about characters that we have come to love (or hate) and to not have that going into this book, well I could see where you would just dislike all the characters. I do wish for a more permanent ending with Angie. I am really sick of her having her claws in Will. I believe Slaughter wants to try to get us to like her in some small way like she did Lena in previous books, but I was never a fan of Lena's either.

The Kept Woman is Karin Slaughter's latest entry in the Will Trent series. I will admit that I was so excited to see that Slaughter was returning to this series. I've been a constant reader from way back and feel that Will Trent is one of the author's most interesting characters. Will has always exhibited that pitch perfect combination of machismo and vulnerability that makes him a compelling hero. In

this latest offering, we find Will happily involved in a relationship with Sara yet still dealing with Angie, that master of psychological torture that he happens to be married to. The story that unfolds is complicated and sometimes a bit convoluted, yet it is always surprising. The murders at the center of this story are grisly, and the circumstances are disturbing. Slaughter's writing style has evolved over the years and she brings a new hardness to these characters and their stories that might be a bit surprising for Grant County readers. We spend a lot of time in these characters' heads, and I think if you weren't already familiar with Will and Angie, you might end up being a bit lost. So much of the story and understanding of the characters' motivations relies on a knowledge of their history. I was easily engrossed in the tale, but others might not be so lucky. The book alternates between Will and Angie's perspectives. I found myself getting a bit tired of hearing from Angie. I think the author might have been trying to make her a more sympathetic character. If so, I don't think she was all that successful. The pacing lagged during her portion of the narrative, even though we continued to discover more information throughout. I kept wondering what Will was up to! The story itself delivered quite a few surprises although I could see where things were going with some of the story lines pretty early on. The Kept Woman is an interesting, often suspenseful read that is best suited for those familiar with this author's Will Trent series. Don't start with this one! This is a must read for fans of the series and despite a slow, plodding portion, and a few contrived plot points, this is still an enthusiastic recommendation.

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