



## Triptych

*Karin Slaughter*

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**Triptych** Karin Slaughter

BONUS: This edition contains an excerpt from Karin Slaughter's *Fallen*

In the city of Atlanta, women are dying—at the hands of a killer who signs his work with a single, chilling act of mutilation. Leaving behind enough evidence to fuel a frenzied police hunt, this cunning madman is bringing together dozens of lives, crossing the boundaries of wealth and race. And the people who are chasing him must cross those boundaries too. Among them is Michael Ormewood, a veteran detective whose marriage is hanging by a thread—and whose arrogance and explosive temper are threatening his career. And Angie Polaski, a beautiful vice cop who was once Michael's lover before she became his enemy.

But another player has entered the game: a loser ex-con who has stumbled upon the killer's trail in the most coincidental of ways—someone who may be the key to breaking the case wide open...

## Triptych Details

Date : Published August 15th 2006 by Delacorte Press (first published 2006)

ISBN : 9780385339469

Author : Karin Slaughter

Format : Hardcover 393 pages

Genre : Mystery, Thriller, Crime, Fiction, Mystery Thriller

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# From Reader Review Triptych for online ebook

## Julie says

Triptych by Karin Slaughter is a 2006 Delacorte Press publication.

I have read other books by this author, but somehow, I never got around to the Will Trent series. With a new installment slated for release this month, I decided to try playing catch up, which shouldn't be too hard with only seven more to read after this one.

So, first up is Triptych, originally published in 2006. This story introduces us to Will Trent, a Georgia Bureau of Investigation specialist, who arrives in Atlanta after a string of murders involving teenage girls, catches his attention.

The case reunites Will with his best friend during childhood, and former lover, Angie Polanski, a vice cop, with a plethora of intimacy issues, that constantly drives the couple apart.

As Will and Angie navigate the treacherous waters of race and wealth, amid the troublesome rumors surrounding one of the officers close to case, they unwittingly discover a link from the past involving the murder of another teenager. The connection they uncover is explosive, but soon becomes a matter of life and death, when another girl goes missing.

Well, I certainly understand why this series is so well received. The author does an amazing job of developing the characters, building suspense, and adding in uncomfortable issues that might make you squirm a little. These issues add layers of conflict and controversy to the already complicated murder investigation.

The beginning of the book can be a little uneven at times because the set up involves the introduction of several storylines, and timelines, going on all at once. But, it's not long before the threads begin to connect and it all starts to make sense. Somewhere around the midway mark, I became immersed in the story so completely, I didn't want to move, not even for a bathroom break.

The story is dark, graphic, gritty and disturbing, but also challenging and thought provoking and is just the type of thriller I enjoy most.

Overall this first book in the series has roped me in and waiting impatiently in line at the library for the next book in the series.

4 stars.

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## Val...Shameless.Skanky.B\*tchy. says

### 3.5 Stars

The beginning of this book was absolutely brilliant. It's hard to explain without ruining it for someone who

hasn't read it yet, but the way Slaughter set the tone and your beliefs regarding certain characters and then turned them on their heads was seriously awesome. I have never read a book where the author managed that in quite that way.

This was my first Karin Slaughter book. It was excellently written and the story very layered. It stalled a little bit for me toward the middle mark (thus my rating) but I still enjoyed it a lot.

Will is a VERY interesting character. So was Angie, although I spent the majority of the book wanting to punch her upside her damned head. She and Will are damaged with a capital "D." I'm curious to see where this series and their story goes, so I will definitely be checking out the next one.

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## **Paige Bookdragon says**

**EDIT: Reread as of December 1, 2015**

Sometimes, if I'm in a good mood, I believe in second chances. That's why we have rehab because some people need to have another shot.

I decided to give Triptych another chance because **Hridya** said that Michael (the fucktard who I thought was the lead) is not the hero of this book but Will Trent. I should have known this obvious fact because Will Trent's name is also the name for this series. Sometimes my stupidity astounds me.

Anyway, so there I was, rereading this book and here are my thoughts.

### **The Good**

The gore. My goodness the gorey scenes in this book is amazing. I love my crime books dirty and gritty and Karin Slaughter gave that to me so kudos to that.

*The character: John Shelley*

I actually feel sorry for this dude. He's the type of character that needs to have a second chance. I was horrified with what he experienced inside the prison and I love the way he stood up with himself in the end.

*The character: Will Trent*

Because.

### **The Bad**

Maybe I'm not that sold to this book because I found out who's the motherfucking bastard in this story. I was already half way in the book when I realized who's chopping the tongues of those teenagers and lemme tell you, that took the thrill out of the book.

I also find the out of order flashbacks of John Shelley's life annoying. I think the author did that to make it interesting but it didn't work for me. It only add confusion and I was like meh.

### **The Evil**

The characters. All of these fucktards are in my shit list.

Let me start with Angie-

First of all bitch, I don't like you. How can I when you're an ungrateful twat who loves to hurt those around you. You use people like a discarded tissue and I never liked how you use Will like he's your fuckboy or something.

### **Michael**

Of all the motherfuckers, you are the motherfuckest. Fuck you, dipshit.

### **Michael's mother**

I forgot the bitch's name but trust me, she's a bitch. Fuck you too.

\*\*\*\*\*

I do not like infidelity (who the fuck does?) that's why when I found out that our wonderful hero has an affair with a 15 year old girl, I stopped reading immediately. Don't try to change my mind, trolls .That's just gross.I'll be reading more of Karin Slaughter's works in the future but for now..

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### **Alp says**

Things moved a bit slowly in the first few chapters that I almost lost my interest in them several times. Fortunately, after the 20% mark, the pace picked up and around halfway through the story, I found myself drawn into this murder investigation in such a way that I had a hard time putting it down. But sadly, there

was something I didn't like in the latter part of the book which sort of ruined my enjoyment from the previous chapters.

I must admit I had high hopes for this series as I've heard many good things about it. But I'm sad to report that Triptych couldn't be considered a total success for me. It was, in fact, not that the plot was bad per se, but it's just that I've already read something way better, creepier, scarier, crueller, more chilling, and more gripping than this one before.

There was nothing new about the plot. The mystery aspect was predictable that I saw it coming a mile away. I could also easily identify the killer even before I reached the second half. And that was a bit too boring for me!

I don't understand why the title of this series has to be 'Will Trent'. I think the proper one should be 'Angie Polaski series' instead since she literally stole every scene she appeared in. Wasn't Will supposed to be the star of this book? Wasn't he supposed to be the cleverest person or the clearest thinker in this story? I expected a lot from him, but he turned out to be the least important character here. Let's just say, he wasn't as smart as I initially thought he would be. If you ask me, he was overshadowed by almost every other character; damn, even John could make more brilliant decision than him!

Honestly, I couldn't care less about Will. He was just too weak for my liking.

Anyway, let's talk about Angie since I found that she was the most interesting and complex character in this book. She seemed tough, invincible, cold, and sometimes bitchy on the outside, but soft, scarred, and vulnerable on the inside. In my opinion, Angie was the real highlight of this book. I loved how she managed to remain cool and collected in the most life-threatening crisis and got out of it on her own. (Sorry Will, but you weren't needed here.)

Well, to tell you the truth, despite the predictable plot and my problem with Will's character, there were multiple things I enjoyed about this book. And you know what? Just when I was ready to give 4 stars to it, then Will messed things up by (view spoiler). I wasn't impressed with how he handled the whole situation after that. It wasn't the smartest move at all.

And when I finished reading this, I asked myself "Did the good outweigh the bad?" I'm still not sure of an answer to this question. The book was neither great nor awful. All I could say is that it wasn't an outstanding read in comparison to the other books I've read in the same genre.

Overall, this was a somewhat lackluster mystery/thriller story. Nothing special about the plot to remember. I partially enjoyed it nevertheless.

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## **Mo says**

4.5 stars.

A bit gruesome at times but a solid read. Will Trent is a very intriguing character. Look forward to reading more about him.

*In the city of Atlanta, women are dying—at the hands of a killer who signs his work with a single, chilling act of mutilation. Leaving behind enough evidence to fuel a frenzied police hunt, this cunning madman is bringing together dozens of lives, crossing the boundaries of wealth and race. And the people who are chasing him must cross those boundaries too. Among them is Michael Ormewood, a veteran detective whose marriage is hanging by a thread—and whose arrogance and explosive temper are threatening his career. And Angie Polaski, a beautiful vice cop who was once Michael's lover before she became his enemy.*

*But another player has entered the game: a loser ex-con who has stumbled upon the killer's trail in the most coincidental of ways—someone who may be the key to breaking the case wide open*

**"You just one weird motherfucker."**

**"He wore a watch on his wrist, but only as a cheat to help him differentiate between left and right."**

**Will turned his back to her, looking at the painting over the mantel. It was a triptych, three canvases hinged together to make one image when it was open, another image when it was closed. He had always assumed she liked the duplicity of the piece. It was just like Angie, one thing inside, another out.**

I don't know what to make of Angie. Not sure if she features in future books. Kinda don't want her to be the love interest ...

**"Think about it," ...**

**"Think about what's going to happen to you."**

**The light went out.**

**The door closed. The bolt slid home.**

**She was going to die ...**

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## Kasia says

This, *Triptych*, is as close to man-fiction as a book written by a woman can get. But gosh, was it good?!!

I cried, I laughed, I gasped in surprise countless times. The story was totally engrossing. Karin Slaughter definitely knows what she's doing. But don't read it if graphic violence makes you cringe. Don't read it if you want to believe all inmates are the scum of the earth. Don't read it if you have manly bits and are particularly sensitive, I can't guarantee there won't be trauma. And if you do decide to read it, and you did read plenty of K. Slaughter already, know this: the first half of the book rocks! But after a major twist and revelation (you'll know when you come to it) our dear writer falls back onto her old patterns. Not that it makes a bad book. Quite the contrary. But the first half led me into thinking that this would be *The Crime Masterpiece*. *Triptych* being merely a damn good thriller? That's just unbearable, but that's what it was. Evil book! Evil Karin Slaughter, how dare she teasing me like that.

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## ♥Sharon♥ says

This was another first for me. It was my first crime thriller and my first book by Karin Slaughter. Is **Triptych** a book I would have picked out for myself? Probably not but that is the beauty of Goodreads.

For the last few weeks I have been following by sweet friend Mo's status updates and review's for this series and kept toying with the thought of picking this one up and jumping into the series. I worried that it would be too shocking and hideous, a story that wouldn't appeal to me. There were moments that were rather shocking and hideous but I quickly found myself unable to turn away from the story, the mystery and the characters. I am hooked. I will be making my way through this series.

There is a peculiarity about Will Trent that has me intrigued. I need to know more about this guy and **Triptych** is just the beginning.

The setting is Atlanta, Georgia. When the book starts out we are hit with a gruesome murder of a hooker. The writing of the scene was so vivid and shocking. The platform had been set. A few characters had been introduced and the mystery begins.

As each character is introduced and their personal stories start to unfold I struggled with keeping my emotions and reaction towards them in check. With the investigation of the most recent murder underway, there are certain things that link it to past attacks and murders. We are introduced to a character John Shelley whose life was stripped away from him at a young age, convicted of one of these past murders. He is finally given his freedom back only to be faced with the fear of someone toying with that freedom.

When the Atlanta police department sets out to find the person who committed this horrid crime different angles are pursued and nothing is clear cut. Michael Ormewood was the lead investigator and was rather combative at every turn but he had earned his rank and he would do his job. He is paired with Leo, an older detective and he was that buffer and the one that smoothed out Michael's wrinkles.

But there was some crazy shit going on. People had been murdered, a young girl has gone missing and there was some guy out there that has to be stopped. The pieces of the puzzle were not coming together quick enough. He had to be found.

Angie Polaski was a vice cop who was also working the case. She was someone difficult to figure out. She was rough, lived life hard and did her job well. She shared a past with two men and was engaging in a relationship with another man. This was typical of Angie. She was like a Triptych. A canvas that appeared one way on the outside but different on the inside. Her life was about to implode.

Tangled within this mystery is the man that has me intrigued. **Will Trent.**

Early on in the story we learn of his past, his relationships and his affliction. His determination and his inquisitiveness is what sets him aside as a Special Agent. It also gets him into trouble. Will has this sixth sense with things and decides to check into a lead that starts to put the pieces of the puzzle together. But a moment of doubt sets a certain ball rolling. Will has to rely on someone he didn't expect to. In the end it was a choice that made all the difference.

This one was a definite winner for me. I've already started *Fractured*. Loving it so far!

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**Alienor ✕ French Frowner ✕ says**

**Book 2 : *Fractured* ★★★1/2**

**Book 3 : *Genesis/Undone* ★**

I've said it before, but the *whodunits* and what not aren't what compel me to read thrillers, but rather **the unflinching look they take at the most gruesome and disgusting parts of our human world**. I've guessed who the killer was in *Darkness*, *Take My Hand* halfway through it, and it remains one of my favorite thriller, because sometimes, the characterization, the *Hows* and *Whens* and *Whys* are just so much more important and interesting than the big reveal.

**Triptych is one of these books.** Even though I've known - *known* - in my core who the psychopath was for more than 200 pages, I couldn't look away until the very end. Karin Slaughter puts so much care in her characters - villains included - that even though you want them to burn, you don't want them to get caught in some two-pages scene and call it a day : you want closure, and she delivers.

I'm going to warn you : Triptych is short on likeable characters, and Karin Slaughter doesn't shy away from picturing **gruesome violence on page**, so perhaps don't read it if that's something that could trigger you. The story being told through multiple - and unreliable - narrators, I can assure you that you'll want OUT of several of these minds. I've been feeling on the edge of vomiting from page one, and Will's chapters were the only ones that could bring a tiny smile on my face. Will, whose name prevented me from stopping my read when I realized - thanks to the series' name and friends' reviews - that *he* was meant to be the hero, and not that fucker of Michael Ormewood. Will, whom I wanted to protect from the moment I met him, probably because of his dyslexia and the way people - and himself - treated him. As a teacher, I've seen too often how self-depreciation can go hands in hands with learning disorders, and it breaks my heart every damned time. Oh, and probably because he's the only character who's thoroughly likeable and did I say that you'll want to protect him? Yeah?

In the end, I feel sick to my stomach but I can't deny that I don't regret starting this series for one second : thrillers whose appeal doesn't revolve around some final twist are way too rare for me to look away, and I'll definitely read more of Will Trent's investigations really soon. **Recommended.**

**TW - (view spoiler)**

*For more of my reviews, please visit:*

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## Carolyn says

This is the first in Karin Slaughter's Will Trent series and the first book I've read of hers. We are introduced to Will Trent, a Special Georgia Bureau of Investigation agent, called in to help local police with difficult crimes. Will is a loner and a damaged man, having been abused as a child, his 6'4" body covered in scars. He met his best friend and sometime lover Angie in a State orphanage and she is the only person he lets get close to him. Angie is tough as nails, currently an undercover policewoman in Vice dressing as a prostitute to arrest men soliciting on the streets.

Will arrives in Atlanta following the brutal death of a woman who is left mutilated and choking to death on her own blood. The mutilation of her body is similar to that of two young girls attacked elsewhere and Will believes a serial rapist is at large and may have escalated to murder. At around the time of the first attack, John Shelley was released from prison after 23y for rape and murder of a 15y old girl. John just wants to put his time in prison behind him and get on with rebuilding his life but someone has other plans for him.

This was quite a graphic and gripping novel with plenty of nail biting action as Will hunts down the rapist and killer. I look forward to reading more in this series.

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## **Miriam Smith says**

Wow!!!! I only wish I could give this book "Triptych" 6 stars as in my opinion this is one hell of a story and definitely my type of book!

This is a no holes barred book that is gritty, gruesome, highly addictive and an absolute page turner that I totally devoured in a couple of days. If you are particularly offended by vicious violence or the world of seedy prostitution then this book may not be for you but I thought Karin captured it all perfectly, especially John's time in prison which I was utterly moved by and truly felt his torment.

I loved the way Karin described the areas in the book, I really felt like I was there with the characters and appreciate that Karin has put a lot into relating this to the reader. It's difficult to say much about the story without giving away spoilers but there are some clever twists and turns in a very carefully planned plot that concludes in an intense shocking climax between killer and victim and is just outstanding.

I've had this book on my bookshelf for a few years now not realising it featured Special Agent Will Trent and only wish I'd read it sooner as it's a brilliant book introducing Will and his history. Although this is a standalone book it can be read with or without further Will Trent books.

Karin Slaughter has always been and always will be one of my favourite authors, her writing is so professional, polished and she certainly knows how to pack a punch. A must read that I highly recommend!

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## **Kelly (and the Book Boar) says**

Find all of my reviews at: <http://52bookminimum.blogspot.com/>

Holy poop I'm really far behind on reviewing. And you know what's awesome? All the library books I read while on Christmas vacay are now disappearing from my Kindle making my notes go "poof" . . . . .

(Hey Goodreads, why don't you figure out how to make your super not awesome feature of Kindle note sharing work for library books instead of just shit I had to buy on Amazon. Kthanks!)

Anyway, like I said I'm really far behind, I read this nearly two weeks ago and I am senile so I don't have any quotey quotes to share. You'll just have to trust me that the dialogue on this was pretty decent and there were some quotables.

Shelby (Ha! I totally got to link one of your "I lurved it, it was gud" reviews LOLLOLOL) has been telling me to read Karen Slaughter until she's blue in the face, but I'm a jerkoff so I ignored her. (Really I was a little terrified I would hate it and then she would cut me.) Good news is, I didn't hate it at all. And to Karen Slaughter . . . .

At the risk of sounding sexist against my own fairer sex, I never cease to be amazed by women authors who are willing to take things to an uncomfortable level with zero shits given. Caroline Kepnes did it with an anti-hero you just couldn't stop yourself from falling in love with, Ania Ahlborn does it with horror and

Karen Slaughter does it with crime fiction.

The story here is about dead women in Atlanta whose murders may be connected. “May” being the operative word due to the fact that they don’t fit the typical serial killer scenario since they are of different ages and socioeconomic backgrounds. They all have something in common, however, that is a potential link – their tongues have been bitten off. Makes you hungry, right????

Detective Michael Ormewood has been assigned the latest case when a fella named Will Trent enters the scene offering to help. Then things get a little cray and you get to find out just how intricate a spider web Karen Slaughter is capable of weaving together.

So like I said, I’m officially a Karen Slaughter fangirl now. I had my doubts after reading *Pretty Girls*, but I’m going to trust Shelby and say that one was just a fluke. Now, Slaughter does have her moments and this was a ~~real Stephen King~~ in need of leaving some pages on the cutting room floor, but other than those times where I was screaming . . . .

This was a solid start to a series.

Things I loved (aside from the stabby stabby):

1. Will Trent. J.K. Rowling did it with *Cormoran Strike* and Karen Slaughter did it with Will Trent. Instead of some super hot supersleuth, Will kind of resembles this guy . . . .

Wait, that’s not right. He really kinda looks like this . . . .

He’s not pretty. He’s also seriously effing broken and you’ll totally fall in love with him (if you’re smart it will be a not-sexy way because Shelby called dibs a long time ago).

2. Speaking of broken, meet the female lead in this series Angie Polaski. As a future Rock ‘N Roll Hall of Fame inductee once said . . . .

“She’s a crazy bitch.”

It’s A-Okay to have this type of reaction to her too . . . .

She’s seriously punchable and also a little awesome.

3. The change in perspective. I didn't expect the narrator to change and it threw me for a loop for a bit, but boy was that a good idea.

4. Knowing the "whodunit" early. I love a good mystery that confirms your suspicions early and allows you to sit back and enjoy the ride while the characters play catch up.

If you're a fan of crime thrillers, this is an author to definitely check out.

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## Krystin Rachel (Here's The Fucking Twist) says

If anything ever called for a Space Jam gif it's this review.

Ummmm, so yeah I liked this. **Like, a lot.**

I'm not drooling all over myself like I did for *Pretty Girls* (the first Karin Slaughter novel I'd ever read, excuse me, I'm so sorry) but I'm definitely feeling like a Serbian who just won a gold medal for water polo at the summer Olympics. And I know how this might feel because that's exactly what I'm watching while I type this. And let me tell you, they are definitely excited men in a pool. So that's what I am - an excited Serbian in pool. Side note: how much do you want to bet those skull hats are what's causing so many of them to go bald?

But I digress...somehow in my long and illustrious mystery-thriller reading ~~definitely not a career~~ career I had totally missed out on Will Trent and this series. Until now. Who knows what took me so long. Maybe it was college. Maybe it was Netflix. Maybe it was some other shiny words bound together. Maybe I'm just an asshole (likely.) But now that I'm here I'm going to stick around and make my ass comfortable on this bandwagon.

Karin Slaughter is turning into one of my favourite authors. **I find her characters to be so robust**, so interesting. Her plotting is exceptional, setting up each connecting story line with ease and without giving anything away. I mean she even throws in small, delightful ties about something as simple as how a dog came to be named Betty. **I just enjoy reading her stories so much.**

And *Triptych* is just another confirmation of this.

The story introducing Will Trent and Angie Polaski, revolving around Michael Ormewood, John Shelley, a 20 year old murder, recent serial murders, prostitutes and the Atlanta streets is just a masterful example of mystery writing. Plotting, red herrings, character development, setting, history...it's just:

Being the first in a series, there was a lot of set up for the first quarter of the book, and while mostly necessary, I did find some of it dragged a little bit. But once I got in the heart of it, I was hooked. I had to pee so badly at one point, but I didn't dare put the book down and walk away. Was potential bladder damage and

the danger of wetting the bed next to my husband worth it? **I'm going to have to say yes, yes it was.**

Just like my first foray with Karin Slaughter thanks to *Pretty Girls*, I once again come away from my reading adventure with hearts in my eyes. ***Triptych* was a gritty and complex mystery.** But most importantly (to me), it seemed honest and walked the line of being graphic, unflinching, and unapologetic about its darkness without being overwrought or excessive. I was sucked into this world and never questioned the story's probability.

Loved it. Loved the characters. **Loved loved LOVED** Will Trent. Would totally do Angie. Will definitely be in for the second novel. 4.5 stars.

You got me Karin Slaughter. You got me.

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### **Mary Beth \*Traveling Sister\* says**

This book is so Addicting!! I just could not put it down. It was amazing. I am so happy it is the first book in the series. That's why I love reading series, because it takes awhile for it to end. I don't know why it took me so long to actually open up this book. I now am going to the library and I am going to get the second and third book, and I already have the fourth book. This book was so suspenseful, I love a good thriller and its a good mystery also. I really want more of Will Trent,

Nobody would of cared about the death of Aleesha Monroe, the prostitute slain in the Atlanta Housing Project if the killer had not of bitten off her tongue. Since Aleesha is the fourth such victim in recent months, Detective Michael Ormewood is under intense pressure from his lieutenant to close the case. The pressure is only intensified when Will Trent, the Georgia Bureau of Investigations Special Criminal Apprehension Team is assigned to the case. and when Will Trent asks his childhood friend Vice Cop Angie Polaski for help. Across town John Shelley just released from prison after serving 20 years for rape and murder, has problems of his own, a dead end job, and that everyone knows that he served time for killing a 15 year old girl.

Though there are mysteries along the way, how did John manage to compile a great credit rating and whats the connection between the violence past and present?

The heroes and villains, who act both surprisingly and logically are a welcome sign that Slaughter's great work only hints at her talent of her gifts.

This book is definitely not for the faint at heart. Its a dark mystery and thriller.

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### **Beverly says**

Wow! Thanks Goodreads friends for recommending this fine mystery. Will Trent is my new favorite. Sorry Jackson Brodie. A shout-out to PiirateSteve who wrote a very nice poem about the 3rd book in the series,

which sent me on a quest for the first.

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## **PirateSteve says**

Triptych.

A three panel painting or photograph. Generally a large center panel with a hinged smaller panel on either side.

The three panels combined may display one larger view, three different views of the same subject or three related subjects.

The casual observation will enjoy the three panel experience.

Intellectual observers will contemplate whether the three views together offer a larger spectrum of it's subject.

It's the curious observer that sees the hinges.....

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