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Karin Slaughter's novels do more than tell thrilling stories.

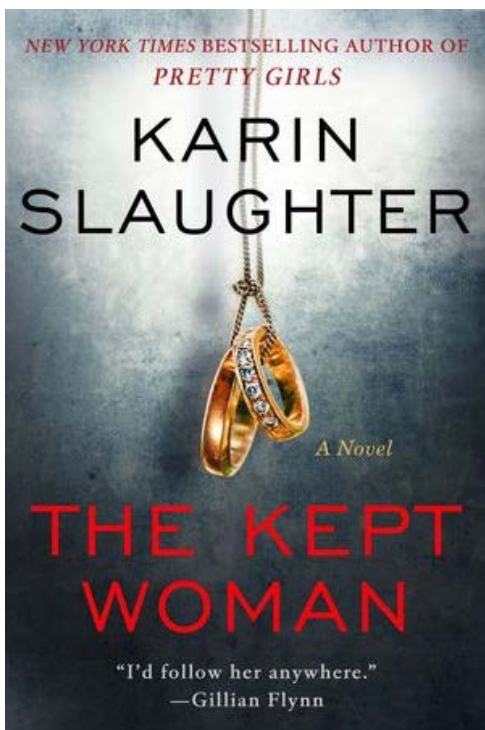
■ Best-selling author of Grant County series to speak at BookSmart event

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"The Kept Woman" features Karin Slaughter's hero Will Trent investigating a murder that involves a former nemesis and his former wife. Courtesy

By James D. Watts Jr. Tulsa World | 0 comments

Karin Slaughter did not initially set out on a life of crime.

"I thought I had to write literature and add my name to the list of great Southern storytellers," Slaughter said. "Fortunately for me, no one wanted to read any of those stories. They got rejected by everyone. Sometimes, I would get a note saying they liked the writing but the story simply didn't work.

"I always wanted to try to write a thriller, and figured, since everything else I had tried wasn't going anywhere, what did I have to lose?" she said.

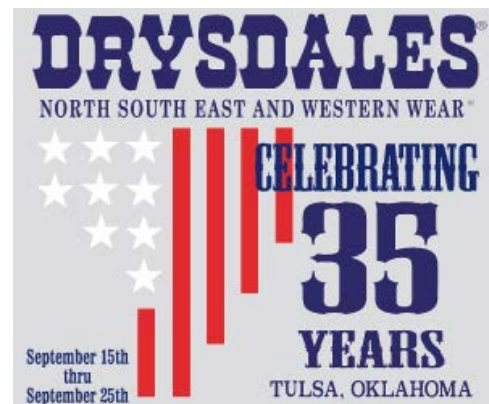
That first thriller, "Blindsided," published in 2001, became a best-seller, was translated into 30 languages and made the shortlist of Great Britain's Crime Writers Association's Debut Thriller of the Year award.

The novel introduced Sara Linton, a doctor who doubles as a pediatrician and coroner in a small town in Grant County, Georgia.

Since then, Slaughter has published five additional novels in the Grant County series,



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Book Event

"Crime Time: An Evening with Karin Slaughter," presented by BookSmart Tulsa

When: 7 p.m. Thursday

Where: Hardesty Regional Library, 8316 E. 93rd St.

Admission: Free.

which she concluded with "Beyond Reach" in 2007. The year before, Slaughter began a second series, this time featuring Will Trent, an agent for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation in Atlanta.

The most recent book in the Will Trent series, "The Kept Woman" (William Morrow, \$27.99), will be released Tuesday — two days before Slaughter will be in Tulsa as a guest of BookSmart Tulsa.

Slaughter grew up reading the adventures of Encyclopedia Brown and Nancy Drew, and said her discovery of Sara Paretsky, author of the V.I. Warshawski novels, was "a revelation because she was telling stories about a tough woman taking on big issues through the crime novel."

Her experience with crime has been limited to someone swiping her scooter from the driveway.

"I grew up in a small town in Georgia where nothing bad happened — it was like Mayberry," she said. "But I remember hearing about and following the Atlanta child



murders when I was young. Those murders freaked my parents out, and it made me realize that there were bad people in the world capable of doing horrible things."

"The Kept Woman" begins with the discovery of the body of a former cop in a building that is owned by basketball star Marcus Rippy, who recently managed to beat a rape accusation that Will Trent investigated.

It becomes apparent early on that Trent's ex-wife, Angie Polaski, was at the scene of the crime and could be either killer or victim or both. Trent's obsession with tracking down Angie, with whom he shares a troubled past as products of the state foster care system, threatens his relationship with Linton, now transferred to Atlanta.

And the connections to Rippy, and his unscrupulous lawyer Kip Kilpatrick, make the investigation even more fraught with pitfalls.

"I never want to write a book just to tell a story," Slaughter said. "There is always something deeper going on. For example, in this book, what fascinated me were the people — whether they are lawyers, employees, or fans — who defend privileged people who are accused of heinous things, like rape.

"People think they know some athlete or actor because they have seen this person on TV, who really identify with them," she said. "Then their idol commits this horrible crime, and they're the ones going online and saying the victim needs to be killed or something.

"Some like to quote statistics, saying something like, 10 percent of rape claims are false," Slaughter said. "Even if you believe that, it means 90 percent of the claims are true. And nobody wants to deal with that."

James D. Watts Jr.

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Family, community leaders view video

POLICE SHOOTING - Pastor says 'let justice take its course' and urges public to respond with respect

By Nickolas Christakis
Tulsa pastor released video of an Oct. 10 police shooting that left a 14-year-old boy dead and another boy injured. The pastor, Rev. James D. Moore, said the video shows the police officers' actions were "unjustified." He urged the public to respond with respect and to let justice take its course.

Crutchers' church vows to 'keep pressing on'

By Nickolas Christakis
The church of a Tulsa police officer who was shot and killed by a suspect in a 2013 shooting has vowed to "keep pressing on." The church, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, said it will continue to support the police and the community.

COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS • Tulsons call volunteering more than just something to do

Volunteering has become a trend among Tulsa residents, and it's not just something to do. It's a way of life. Many people are finding ways to give back to their community, whether it's through a local organization or simply helping out a neighbor in need.

COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS
Empowering the way we live

About the series
This series focuses on the people who are making a difference in their communities. From local heroes to everyday good samaritans, these stories inspire us to do our part.

How to help
If you're looking for ways to get involved, visit our website at [tulsa.com/communitychampions](#).

Couple finds career in volunteering

By Nickolas Christakis
A couple has found a new career in volunteering. The couple, John and Mary, have spent the last several years working with local organizations to help the less fortunate. They say they have found a sense of purpose and fulfillment through their work.

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