



Cop Town: A Novel

By Karin Slaughter

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NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

Karin Slaughter, author of the bestselling Will Trent novels, is widely acclaimed as “one of the best crime novelists in America” (*The Washington Post*). Now she delivers her first stand-alone novel: an epic story of a city in the midst of seismic upheaval, a serial killer targeting cops, and a divided police force tasked with bringing a madman to justice.

Atlanta, 1974: As a brutal murder and a furious manhunt rock the city’s police department, Kate Murphy wonders if her first day on the job will also be her last. She’s determined to defy her privileged background by making her own way—wearing a badge and carrying a gun. But for a beautiful young woman, life will be anything but easy in the macho world of the Atlanta PD, where even the female cops have little mercy for rookies. It’s also the worst day possible to start given that a beloved cop has been gunned down, his brothers in blue are out for blood, and the city is on the edge of war.

Kate isn’t the only woman on the force who’s feeling the heat. Maggie Lawson followed her uncle and brother into the ranks to prove her worth in their cynical eyes. When she and Kate, her new partner, are pushed out of the citywide search for a cop killer, their fury, pain, and pride finally reach the boiling point. With a killer poised to strike again, they will pursue their own line of investigation, risking everything as they venture into the city’s darkest heart.

Relentlessly paced, acutely observed, wickedly funny, and often heartbreaking, *Cop Town* is Karin Slaughter’s most powerful novel yet—a tour de force of storytelling from our foremost master of character, atmosphere, and suspense.

Features a preview of Karin Slaughter’s next novel, *Pretty Girls*

“Karin Slaughter is simply one of the best thriller writers working today, and *Cop Town* shows the author at the top of her game—relentless pacing, complex characters, and gritty realism, all set against the backdrop of a city on the edge. Slaughter’s eye for detail and truth is unmatched. . . . I’d follow her anywhere.”—**Gillian Flynn**

“*Cop Town* proves Karin Slaughter is one of America’s best writers. . . . She pulls her readers into a twisted tale of mystery and keeps them fascinated from start to finish.”—***The Huffington Post***

“Stunning . . . Karin Slaughter breaks new ground with this riveting story. If you haven’t yet read her, this is the moment.”—**Michael Connelly**

“Compulsively readable . . . will have your heart racing.”—***O: The Oprah Magazine***

“Intense . . . engrossing . . . evocative . . . [Karin Slaughter’s] first stand-alone novel [has] a gritty, action-packed plot and strong, believable characters.”—**Associated Press**

“Slaughter graphically exposes the rampant racism, homophobia, and misogyny of cop culture in the 1970s. . . . Winning leads, the retro setting, and a riveting plot make this one of Slaughter’s best.”—***Booklist* (starred review)**

“Superb . . . explosive . . . [*Cop Town*] is sure to win over readers new to Slaughter’s work while reminding old fans of her enormous talent.”—***Library Journal* (starred review)**

“Evocative writing . . . amazing characters . . . with edge-of-your-seat suspense and a riveting plot . . . Slaughter’s first stand-alone book is a knockout.”—***RT Book Reviews***

From the Paperback edition.

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review In her first stand-alone novel, Slaughter revisits the themes of her best-selling 1970s-set *Criminal* (2012). In Atlanta in 1974, Kate Murphy shows up for her first day of work at the Atlanta Police Department. Brought up in the genteel section of town, the daughter of a wealthy psychiatrist, Kate is wholly unprepared for the rough-and-tumble atmosphere of a department that is openly hostile to women. Sporting a uniform three sizes too big, she is a ready target for her fellow cops' emotional and physical hazing. She partners with Maggie Lawson, who has a brother and an uncle on the force, and the two are thrown headlong into a day that sees them dealing with the murder of a fellow police officer. They begin to suspect that the dead cop was the victim of the Shooter, an expert marksman who has already taken out four other officers. Frantically looking for the thread that connects the murders, conducting a harrowing interrogation of a transsexual pimp that erupts in violence, and emotionally bruised from the vitriol directed her way, Kate begins to wonder if she is cut out to be a cop. Slaughter graphically exposes the rampant racism, homophobia, and misogyny of cop culture in the 1970s, made all the more jarring by its contrast with Kate's cultured upbringing. Winning leads, the retro setting, and a riveting plot make this one of Slaughter's best. **HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY:** Slaughter has more than 30 million copies of her books in print in 32 languages; the first stand-alone novel by this exceptional crime writer is sure to win her many new fans. -- Joanne Wilkinson

Review

"Sly . . . compulsively readable . . . [one of] the summer's best thrillers."—*O: The Oprah Magazine*

"*Cop Town* proves Karin Slaughter is one of America's best writers. . . . She pulls her readers into a twisted tale of mystery and keeps them fascinated from start to finish."—*The Huffington Post*

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"Evocative writing . . . amazing characters . . . with edge-of-your-seat suspense and a riveting plot . . . Slaughter's first stand-alone book is a knockout."—**RT Book Reviews**

"Scintillating . . . Slaughter does her usual fine job of exploring intriguingly troubled characters."—**Publishers Weekly**

"Karin Slaughter is simply one of the best thriller writers working today, and *Cop Town* shows the author at the top of her game—relentless pacing, complex characters, and gritty realism, all set against the backdrop of a city on the edge. Slaughter's eye for detail and truth is unmatched. . . . I'd follow her anywhere."—**Gillian Flynn**

“Stunning . . . In Karin Slaughter’s first stand-alone novel, she breaks new ground with this riveting story of two young police officers trying to stop a serial killer targeting cops. Her characters, plot, and pacing are unrivaled among thriller writers and if you haven’t yet read her, this is the moment.”—**Michael Connelly**

“A masterpiece . . . Much more than a thriller . . . Karin Slaughter’s unforgettable female characters and stunning evocation of time and place make *Cop Town* one of the most powerful and moving reads of recent memory.”—**Kathryn Stockett**

About the Author

Karin Slaughter is the *New York Times* and #1 internationally bestselling author of over a dozen thrillers, including the Will Trent and Grant County series. A longtime resident of Atlanta, she splits her time between the kitchen and the living room.

Kathleen Early is a television, film, and stage actress, as well as an AudioFile Earphones Award-winning narrator. She studied at the University of Oklahoma, the Oxford School of Drama, and the Actors Theatre of Louisville before moving to New York City, where she understudied on Broadway and toured nationally. Her television credits include recurring roles on *Miami Medical* and *Grey's Anatomy*.

Users Review

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Jaclyn Utecht:

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Chris Barrentine:

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