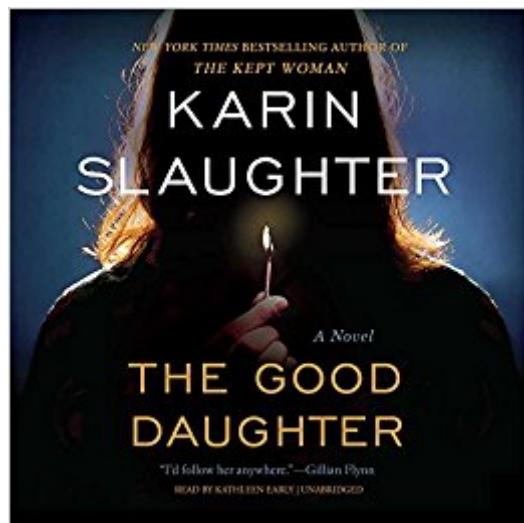


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The Good Daughter: A Novel



Synopsis

[Read by Kathleen Early] The stunning new novel from the international #1 bestselling author -- a searing, spellbinding blend of cold-case thriller and psychological suspense. Two girls are forced into the woods at gunpoint. One runs for her life. One is left behind | Twenty-eight years ago, Charlotte and Samantha Quinn's happy small-town family life was torn apart by a terrifying attack on their family home. It left their mother dead. It left their father -- Pikeville's notorious defense attorney -- devastated. And it left the family fractured beyond repair, consumed by secrets from that terrible night. Twenty-eight years later, and Charlie has followed in her father's footsteps to become a lawyer herself -- the ideal good daughter. But when violence comes to Pikeville again -- and a shocking tragedy leaves the whole town traumatized -- Charlie is plunged into a nightmare. Not only is she the first witness on the scene, but it's a case that unleashes the terrible memories she's spent so long trying to suppress. Because the shocking truth about the crime that destroyed her family nearly thirty years ago won't stay buried forever | Packed with twists and turns, brimming with emotion and heart, *The Good Daughter* is fiction at its most thrilling.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This is a great writer at the peak of her powers. Karin Slaughter is at her nail-biting, heart-stopping, emotionally draining best." --Peter James, author of *Love You Dead* "Karin Slaughter has -- by far -- the best name of all of us mystery novelistsâ |*The Good Daughter* is Karin Slaughter's most ambitious, most emotional, and best novel. So far, anyway." --James Patterson, #1 New York Times bestselling author "The best book you'll read all year. Raw, powerful, and utterly gripping -- yet

written with a tenderness and empathy that will break your heart." --Kathryn Stockett, #1 New York Times bestselling author "It's hard to think of any writer since Flannery O'Connor, referenced at several key moments here, who's succeeded as consistently as Slaughter at using horrific violence to evoke pity and terror. Whether she's extending her franchise or creating stand-alones like this, she really does make your hair stand on end." --Kirkus Reviews (starred review) "Slaughter is a master of her craft. Her characters -- even the secondary ones -- are deep and multifaceted, and here, the tightly packed story unfolds at a perfect pace that leaves readers frantically turning pages." --Booklist (starred review) "If you're into mystery thrillers, then you're into Karin Slaughter." --TheSkimm.com "Winner of the AudioFile Earphones Award. Narrator Kathleen Early brings to life Slaughter's compelling story. Using pitch, tone, and pace, Early contrasts the personalities of the two sisters. She excels at projecting the larger-than-life character of their father, Rusty. [and] selectively uses regional accents to enliven an array of secondary characters. Listeners will be totally engaged with this account of a family and challenged to consider that there are many sides to a story." --AudioFile

Two girls are forced into the woods at gunpoint. One runs for her life. One is left behind . . . The stunning new novel from the internationally #1 bestselling author "a searing, spellbinding blend of cold-case thriller and psychological suspense. Twenty-eight years ago, Charlotte and Samantha Quinn's happy small-town family life was torn apart by a terrifying attack on their family home. It left their mother dead. It left their father "Pikeville's notorious defense attorney "devastated. And it left the family fractured beyond repair, consumed by secrets from that terrible night. Twenty-eight years later, Charlie has followed in her father's footsteps to become a lawyer herself "the ideal good daughter. But when violence comes to Pikeville again "and a shocking tragedy leaves the whole town traumatized "Charlie is plunged into a nightmare. Not only is she the first witness on the scene, but it's a case that unleashes the terrible memories she's spent so long trying to suppress. Because the shocking truth about the crime that destroyed her family nearly thirty years ago won't stay buried forever . . . Packed with twists and turns, brimming with emotion and heart, *The Good Daughter* is fiction at its most thrilling. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I enjoy everything Karin Slaughter writes. I have to admit that I like the series novels (especially the Will Trent series) better than the stand alone books, but I haven't read one of her books that isn't good. This is a stand alone book. It takes place mostly in a small town about 2 hours from Atlanta.

The book starts with events that happened 28 years ago and then jumps into the present. Several of the main characters are lawyers but it isn't really a legal thriller even though there is a really fun courtroom scene. One of the things I enjoyed about the book is that it isn't just about the present day case -- much of the book is about the events that happened in the past and how they are affecting the characters in the present and their relationships to each other. The characters were really well done, I could almost hear them bickering with each other out loud as I was reading. You will care about what happens to them. But it wouldn't be a Karin Slaughter book without a compelling mystery. I could not put it down and had no guesses what would happen so the ending came as a big surprise to me. And even if I had tried to guess, there were so many twists and turns I would have been wrong. This is a great beach read but also a great book to read any time and any place.

The Good Daughter, Karin Slaughter's new thriller, her nineteenth novel, is set in rural Georgia, like most of the Grant County and Will Trent novels which established her reputation. She was born there and now lives in Atlanta and it shows. Slaughter's characters are clearly native to the area. They might live in one or another neighboring state, but nowhere else. Samantha and Charlotte Quinn are now in their early forties. Known as Sam and Charlie to family and friends, they're the daughters of Russell (Rusty) Quinn, a criminal defense lawyer who has gained the enmity of nearly everyone who lives in the region. He has defended murderers and rapists, often successfully, and frequently receives death threats as a consequence. ("There was not one low-life alleged criminal in Pikeville, Georgia, that Rusty Quinn would not represent.") Both Sam and Charlie are also lawyers. Sam is a hugely successful patent attorney in New York; Charlie defends children. Twenty-eight years ago, their mother, Harriet ("Gamma") Quinn, was murdered in the kitchen of their home by two young local men as her daughters looked on. Fifteen-year-old Sam was shot in the head and buried alive. Twelve-year-old Charlie escaped by running through the woods adjoining their farm. The action in The Good Daughter alternates between the murder scene and the present day and shifts perspective from one daughter to the other as well as other characters. Their somewhat different recollections dramatically illustrate the unreliability of memory. The story is anchored in the present because Charlie accidentally witnessed a school shooting. A teenage woman shot the principal of the middle school she'd attended and a little girl who was visiting her mother, one of the teachers. Separated from her husband, she had visited one of the other teachers to swap cellphones which had gotten exchanged when they spent the night together. As the story unfolds, the repercussions of the school shooting gradually coincide with the events on the day of Gamma Quinn's murder. Slaughter masterfully weaves the two plots together,

building suspense to a crescendo in the closing pages of the novel. Her novels have sold thirty-five million copies and have been international bestsellers—“and it’s no wonder. Karin Slaughter is without doubt one of today’s most talented and accomplished thriller authors. I rush to buy every new thriller she writes. The three women characters central to the plot in this new thriller are all brilliant. The mother, “Harriet Quinn wasn’t called Gamma out of a precocious child’s inability to pronounce the word ‘Mama,’ but because she held two doctorates, one in physics and one in something equally brainy that Samantha could never remember but, if she had to guess, had something to do with gamma rays.” Sam has inherited her mother’s smarts: at forty-four, she’s about to become a named partner at one of the world’s leading firms of patent attorneys. Charlie, who is much closer to her father, is only a little less intelligent.

I have a couple of issues with the story itself where in a couple of places, you end up shaking your head because it’s so...unlikely. Also, it gets a little bit frustrating to be kept in the dark for (literally) hundreds and hundreds of pages regarding some pertinent details that could have easily been divulged earlier. But from the moment I opened the book on my Kindle, I was drawn in and totally hooked, as in I didn’t sleep a wink overnight and finished at 8 AM with half-closed eyes, knowing I had calls in two hours and that I’d be a wreck all day. So, when a book does that to you, it must be good. I’m interested in reading more of Karin Slaughter’s novels. I liked the style in which she wrote the book as well as going back and forth in the timeline, revealing only a little more from a different perspective, continuing to horrify the reader more and more. The book is 800+ pages long, but it’s so engaging that you just want to get to the end of it. She does an excellent job of fleshing out the main characters and despite a couple of unrealistic turns, you can’t help but become compelled to finish the story.

I love her books. First I fell in love w a single book, then the Grant County series, then I powered through the Will Trent Series. Now I simply get alerts when she comes out w a new book. The last two I’ve read do NOT disappoint. I’ve said this before and I stand by my statement that one of the reasons I fell in love w this author is her ability to sketch fallible female characters. They’re believable, relatable, multidimensional, beautiful human beings. The men are as well. (And her villains are equally fleshed out and well described). Without getting into plot revelations this book explores family dynamics, sisterly love, obligation, life in a small town, law and the death penalty.

Not her normal writing style but I really liked it a lot. Personally, I saw a lot of dark humor which I

enjoy (like when they were talking about the outfit for the funeral as in "but what if he wanted to dress like a clown?" - I burst out laughing!) and there were a lot of other off-the-cuff comments that had me chuckling. That being said, the story was not a comedy in the least bit. Just people trying to get through life's horrible, difficult situations with a twist of humor. Can't wait for the next one! BTW...how's Sarah & Will??? Tell them we said hi and that we miss them!

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