



London Triptych

Jonathan Kemp

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"London itself is as powerful a presence here as the three gay men whose lives it absorbs." —The Times Literary Supplement

"Vivid and visceral, *London Triptych* cuts deep to reveal the hidden layers of a secret history." —Jake Arnott, author of *The Long Firm*

Rent boys, aristocrats, artists, and criminals populate this sweeping novel in which author Jonathan Kemp skillfully interweaves the lives and loves of three very different men in gay London across the decades.

In the 1890s, a young man named Jack apprentices as a rent boy and discovers a life of pleasure and excess that leads to new friendships, most notably with the soon-to-be-infamous Oscar Wilde. A century later in 1998, David tells his own tale of unashamed decadence from prison, recalling life as a young man arriving in the city in the mid-'80s just as the scourge of AIDS hit. Where their paths cross, in the politically sensitive 1950s, when gay men were the target of police and politicians alike, the artist Colin tentatively explores his sexuality while working on his painting "London Triptych."

Moodily atmospheric and rich with history, *London Triptych* is a sexy, resplendent portrait of the politics and pleasures of queer life in one of the world's most fascinating cities.

Jonathan Kemp lives in London, where he currently teaches creative writing at Birkbeck College. *London Triptych*, his first novel, was published in the United Kingdom in 2010 and won the Authors' Club Best First Novel Award.



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