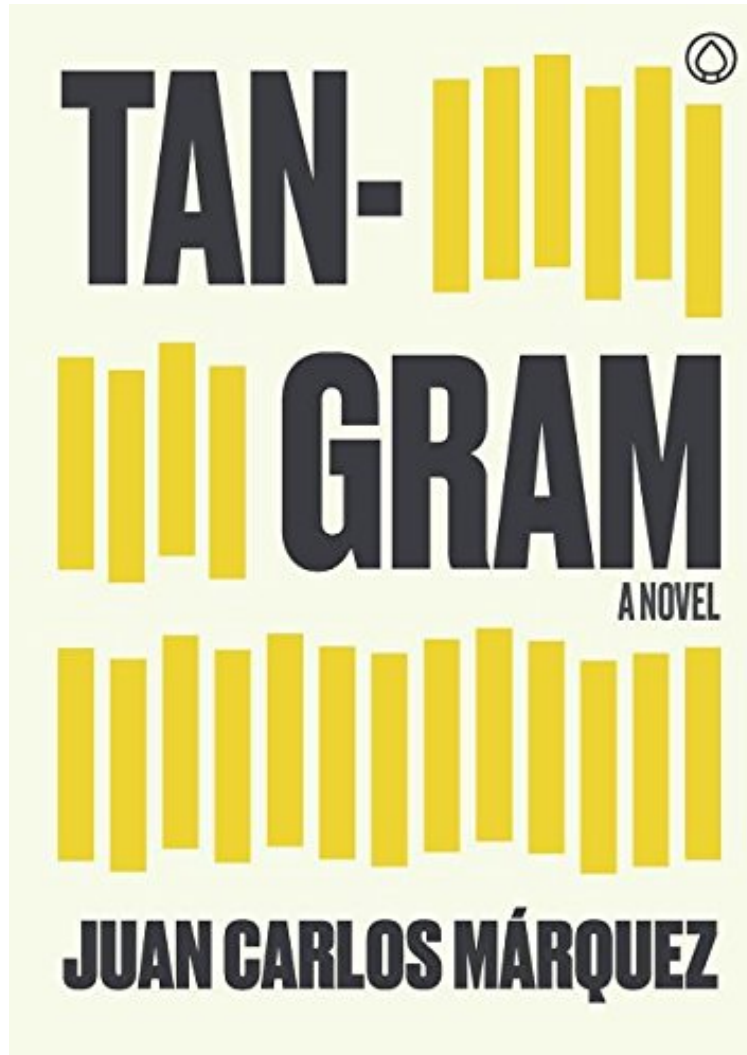


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## Tangram (Nevsky Books)

*Juan Carlos Marquez*  
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**Juan Carlos Marquez : Tangram (Nevsky Books)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tangram (Nevsky Books):

Tangram is a thriller, a fractured portrait of our contemporary corruption that ranges from the Basque Country to Reykjavik, from London to Calabria. A set of interlinked stories that combines and recombines into a series of possible narratives, each one giving its own perspective on a world built on deceit and damage. A morbidly obese woman, a former actress, imprisons two university students in a basement in Getxo in the north of Spain. A psychopath decides on Reykjavik as the theatre for his crimes. A thief, recently released from prison, tries to recover

the money that he hid years previously on the outskirts of London. A mafioso, recently arrived in a Calabrian village, manages to win the respect of his fellow citizens even as he extorts money from them. A detective struggles to deal with his police duties and a growing sexual obsession. These stories, apparently separate on the surface, are shown to have far-reaching connections. They are pieces of a puzzle, and it is only on reading the final pages that the last one clicks neatly into place. Winner of the 2012 Euskadi Prize for best novel of the year Winner of the 2011 Sintagma Booksellers' Prize [MARquez's language] is as incisive and precise as it is brilliant in its deployment of revelatory images' El País 'Juan Carlos MARquez is one of the safest possible bets in the current generation of Spanish writers' El Mundo

"Juan Carlos Marquez is one of the safest possible bets in this current generation of Spanish short-story writers." Angel Basanta, El Mundo "Without running the risk of falling into hyperbole, you could call this author an amazing discovery, with his magnificent prose and admirable imagination. Now, when it seems that the whole of the literary terrain has been conquered and colonised by styles which are recherche and finickity, by genres which are strange and flimsy, by any kind of desperate or delirious approach (as if the well of literature had run dry and everyone had to run around looking for alternatives like crazy diviners), then to come across an author like Juan Carlos Marquez is to be able to put all these ideas to one side, and regain the pleasant notion that literature is as infinite and as inexhaustible as human life itself, and that sometimes, out of the deluge of books that we are offered, an author can appear, unconnected to the major commercial channels, and remind us that in this ocean that we have sailed for almost a thousand years of literary history we have never so far passed out of sight of the shore." Ignacio Gomez-Cornejo Gilperez, La tormenta en un vaso "From a formal perspective, Tangram is a bravura display of writing. A treat for anyone who cares about the language. Marquez has a style which is simultaneously expressive and precise. Precise because shock, humour, fear all exist in this work but do not take control of it: the important thing is the way the work fits together, not flashy effects. Marquez manages to make the reader uncertain whether to laugh, take offence, or even question his own feelings." Recaredo Veredas, Culturamas "We find ourselves lucky enough to be faced with a book that is extremely inventive and powerfully focussed." Carlos F. Romero, Con L mayuscula "A fractured mirror; a set of stories, pieces of a puzzle that combine to form a whole." Judges' Report, Euskadi Novel Prize, 2012 "Juan Carlos Marquez's prose is some of the most carefully worked writing that it is possible to find. His novel is a literary game right from its title onwards, as it gives us story after story and sets us the enjoyable and fascinating task of reading them and putting them together." Awarding Committee, Sintagma Prize 2011 "About the Author Juan Carlos Marquez was born in Bilbao in 1967. He graduated in information science and then studied journalism, but has been a full-time writer and creative writing teacher for several years. He has been nominated twice for the Setenil Prize for Short Fiction, as well as for the prestigious International Ribera del Duero Short Fiction Prize. He has won the Jose Nogales Prize (2010), the Rafael Gonzalez Castell Prize (2005) and the Juan Rulfo Prize to the best debut writer (2003).