

## ***Triptych*: Synopsis**

*Triptych* examines death and infidelity, straight up – with an erotic twist.

*Triptych* opens in June of 2004 in the idyllic Bahamas. JONATHAN and ALLY, both surgeons, celebrate their tenth anniversary at a party filled with friends and family. One of those family members is Jonathan's second cousin TIM, a recent widower who lives in New Jersey. Tim and Ally had dated when he was seventeen, and she, fifteen.

Jonathan collapses at the anniversary party. Tim and Ally rush him to the hospital. Doctors diagnose an inoperable brain tumor.

Flash ahead to the summer of 2005. Jonathan is between cancer treatments. Tim has taken a teaching position in The Bahamas. He still feels as connected to Ally as when they first dated. Ally has taken a sabbatical from her medical career in order to care for Jonathan and their children. As Jonathan's treatments have rendered him impotent, acute sexual frustration dogs her. Time passes; Ally's feelings for Tim evolve into sexual attraction. Despite valiant efforts not to, Tim and Ally succumb.

Jonathan senses the attraction between Tim and Ally. He makes an unorthodox proposition to his cousin, suggesting that Tim take care of Ally's sexual needs. Tim's instincts tell him to protect his heart. However, he cannot refuse his dying cousin. Tim and Ally begin a guilt-ridden affair.

The rapid progression of Jonathan's symptoms makes him realize that he is dying. He writes a series of letters to his loved ones, in which he expresses his feelings while he is still able. His doctors confirm his suspicions. Jonathan, wishing to die in peace, takes the family

away to a second home in a place called Harbour Island. Ally watches helplessly as Jonathan suffers a fatal seizure.

Almost a year passes. Ally feels comfortable enough to go on a first date with Tim. They make love with vigor and renewed affection. Afterwards, Tim suggests a vacation for two. Ally balks. Tim is frustrated and angry at what he views as rejection.

After the disastrous date, Ally retreats to the Harbour Island home where Jonathan died. She removes her engagement, wedding, and remembrance rings. She revisits the hammock where he died, folds it up, and stores it away. Slowly, she makes her peace.

Jonathan's grown daughter TERRI, visibly upset, appears at Tim's office. The family has gone to Harbour Island without her. She feels guilt at how she treated her father in his last days. She begs Tim to come with her to the island. The thought of seeing Ally fills him with trepidation. Still, Tim agrees to go.

Tim and Terri arrive in Harbour Island. Tim learns that Ally has gone to a party at a friend's home, her so-called "coming out" after Jonathan's death. Determined, Tim crashes the party in search of her. Ally is surprised and overjoyed to see him. She confesses that she loves him.

"Jesus, Ally," he sighs. "You're my first love and my last love. You're my alpha *and* my omega."