

brilliant blue karen stevens

A remarkable debut collection of short stories

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Welcome to the infamous Duncock Estate.

“Bold, beautiful and ebullient, *Brilliant Blue* fizzles with life as we journey through the unseen and overlooked landscapes of Britain today. From a sinkhole estate to the aspirational suburbs of southern England, we watch Stevens' characters grapple with loaded odds, human fallibility and the failures of love. Yet *Brilliant Blue* is no grim examination of working-class life. It dazzles with the sheer power and intelligence of Stevens' vision. Her stories kick back with honesty and an off-the-scale daring even as they reveal the tender intimacies and affirmations that sing through the everyday. **I don't think I've ever read a writer whose eye is more acute.**”

ALISON MACLEOD

Author of Unexploded and All the Beloved Ghosts

“The short stories in *Brilliant Blue* are perfectly constructed mosaics of recognisable, daily life. Sensitively written, they show us how often moments of intimacy happen alongside undercurrents of violence and misunderstanding. **Fans of Sarah Hall and Jon McGregor will appreciate the craftsmanship in these wonderfully written stories** that reflect and comment on our current time.”

SUZANNE JOINSON

Author of A Lady Cyclist's Guide to Kashgar

“Karen Stevens' moving and powerful stories go straight to the heart of the human condition. Many of her characters are fighting: for money, for friendship and love, for family. There are so many moments of humour and grace and beauty. **This is such an important book, and I loved it.**”

ED HOGAN

Author of Blackmoor and The Electric



Karen Stevens writes short fiction and has been published in a variety of anthologies and journals, including The Big Issue, Fish Publishing, Salt Publishing and Valley Press. She was runner-up for the prestigious ALCS Tom-Gallon Trust Award in 2023. Her edited collection of essays *Writing a First Novel: Reflections on the Journey* was published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2014. Her co-edited collection of short stories *High Spirits* won a Saboteur Award for Best Anthology in 2019. Karen is Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing at the University of Chichester and lives in West Sussex. *Brilliant Blue* is her first collection of short stories.

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