Glass Houses and other stories
Karen Phillips

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rrp $25 • 128mm x 198mm • 180pp • short fiction

Selling points:
• Second collection from award-winning Ahipara author who has also featured in a number of recent anthologies.
• Stories about ordinary New Zealand families dealing with significant and sometimes traumatic changes in their lives.
• Follow-up collection to 2017’s A Question of Blood.

A crash site memorial for a daughter is disturbed by road workers, a son goes missing after an earthquake, a husband struggles with his wife going into dementia care, grandparents meet-up with a grandchild they lost contact with when his parents divorced, a late-in-life relationship is broken apart when his health declines, a couple who lease out their basement flat discover a former tenant has been linked to a murder …

Each of Karen Phillips’ stories is like the glass houses in the title story – small pieces, some opaque and some translucent, that offer glimpses of ordinary families whose lives are coming apart, sometimes in ways imperceptible to the outside eye. Memories of a kinder past are one way to pull things back together and simple humanity is another, but sometimes the answer is where you least expect it.

Karen Phillips began writing in 2009, winning the Katherine Mansfield Novice award and the Heartland competitions that year. Her stories have been published in Takahē, Flash Frontier and the Fresh Ink anthologies. Her debut short story collection A Question of Blood was published by Steele Roberts in 2017. She lives in Ahipara in the far north on a hill overlooking the sea, with her husband, twenty olive trees, a hive of bees and a big black Labrador.