



Cover artwork by Annie Hayward



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.

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.



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