

Keshed

Stu Hennigan

Outline

In the derelict shell of what was once his family home, a dying man surveys the wreckage of his former life and drinks himself senseless, haunted by the chain of events that led him there.

Dark, complex and visceral, *Keshed* is an unflinching character study exploring class, belonging, fatherhood and conflicting ideals of modern masculinity.

At heart it's the story of a relationship struggling to cope with the impossible pressures of raising a child under late-stage capitalism; but it's also a love letter to the working class North, from the grinding poverty of Thatcher's 80's to the present day.

Selling Points

- The much-anticipated debut novel from writer and publishing world figure, Stu Hennigan
- Hennigan's previous book *Ghost Signs* was shortlisted for Best Non-fiction in 2022 Books Are My Bag Awards and Best Political Book By A Non-Parliamentarian in 2022 Parliamentary Book Awards
- *Keshed* explores the complexities of the contemporary male experience, particularly the pressures that come with fatherhood, as well as mental health, generational trauma, class, belonging and addiction to a depth that's rare in modern fiction
- A searing portrait of life in the North spanning four decades, depicting the psychological and financial ravages of Austerity on individuals and families in a declining Britain - a story that encapsulates the current moment and shows how we got here
- A devastatingly emotional, big-impact book that's angry and intense while remaining compassionate and compulsively readable

Author

Stu Hennigan is a writer, poet and musician from the north of England. His book *Ghost Signs* (Bluemoose, 2022) was shortlisted for best non-fiction at the Books Are My Bag Awards and Best Political Book By A Non-Parliamentarian at the Parliamentary Book Awards in 2022/3. His short fiction, essays, poetry, criticism and articles have been published widely in print and online. *Keshed* is his first novel.

Reviews and Endorsements

'Timely and urgent. Hennigan is one of the country's finest writers on the confluence of capitalism and class ... a beautiful, visceral, gut-punch of a novel.' **Angharad Hampshire, Walter Scott Prize-shortlisted author of *The Mare***

'Profane, darkly funny, and unflinching in its focus on the wreckage of ordinary lives. Hennigan is a voice we need.' **Naomi Booth, author of *raw content* and *Exit Management***

'*Keshed* is a novel of fierce power, with a voice that rips from the page. It stares down hopelessness, and bursts with defiant desire.' **James Scudamore, winner of the Somerset Maugham Award**

'An incredibly powerful book. Immersive, visceral and compelling.' **Mark Bowles, Goldsmiths Prize-shortlisted author of *All My Precious Madness***

'A triumph. Heartbreaking, vicious and so brilliant.' **Heidi James, author of *The Sound Mirror***



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