Little Sinners, and Other Stories
Karen Brown

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Book Synopsis:
Winner of the Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Fiction, Karen Brown’s Little Sinners, and Other Stories features a sad, strange mosaic of women and men grappling with the loss and pain of everyday existence.

Included in this Press Kit:
• Book Description
• Praise for the Book
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Book Description

Winner of the Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Fiction, Karen Brown’s Little Sinners, and Other Stories features a sad, strange mosaic of women and men grappling with the loss and pain of everyday existence, people inhabiting a suburban landscape haunted by ghosts: a mother who leaps from a ridge, a mistress found at the bottom of the Connecticut River, a father who dresses in a pale blue-custom suit—and disappears. The dead leave behind postcards, houses, bottles of sherry, bones. They become local legends, their stories part of the characters’ own: an expectant mother in an isolated cottage on Long Island Sound uncovers an unsettling secret in her backyard; a troubled housewife is lured to a dinner party by a teenage girl whose mother has vanished under mysterious circumstances; a woman and her lover swim the pools of their neighborhood under cover of darkness; a young heiress struggles with mortality and the abandonments in her past.

These stories capture the domestic world in all its blighted promise—a world where women’s roles in housekeeping, marriage, childbirth, and sex have been all too well defined, and where the characters fashion, recklessly and passionately, their own methods of escape.

Pre-Publication Praise

“I love this book. The characters in Little Sinners are sexy and knowing, and often behave badly, which makes them such fun to read about. They all possess bold, wayward hearts, and appetites that lead them to bliss or self-destruction, sometimes both.” —Christine Sneed, author of Portraits of a Few of the People I’ve Made Cry, Grace Paley Prize winner

“Karen Brown’s stories are smart and psychologically acute, far from naive, yet filled with the glamour of falling in love, even drowning in it. Readers will find much to admire—and to love—in Little Sinners, and Other Stories.”
—Laura Furman, author of The Mother Who Stayed and series editor of The PEN/O. Henry Prize Stories

Post-Publication Praise

Please visit this book’s web page (http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/product/Little-Sinners-and-Other-Stories,675233.aspx) for the most current post-publication praise.

Author Biography

Karen Brown’s first collection of short stories, Pins and Needles, won the Grace Paley Prize for Short Fiction, and her stories have been included in The PEN/O. Henry Prize Stories 2009 and The Best American Short Stories 2008.

Photo by Robert Baisden
Additional Information

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