



# The Best of All Possible Worlds: A Novel

*Karen Lord*

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# The Best of All Possible Worlds: A Novel

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**The Best of All Possible Worlds: A Novel** Karen Lord

**NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY *BUZZFEED***

Karen Lord's debut novel, the multiple-award-winning *Redemption in Indigo*, announced the appearance of a major new talent—a strong, brilliantly innovative voice fusing Caribbean storytelling traditions and speculative fiction with subversive wit and incisive intellect. Compared by critics to such heavyweights as Nalo Hopkinson, China Miéville, and Ursula K. Le Guin, Lord does indeed belong in such select company—yet, like them, she boldly blazes her own trail.

Now Lord returns with a second novel that exceeds the promise of her first. *The Best of All Possible Worlds* is a stunning science fiction epic that is also a beautifully wrought, deeply moving love story.

A proud and reserved alien society finds its homeland destroyed in an unprovoked act of aggression, and the survivors have no choice but to reach out to the indigenous humanoids of their adopted world, to whom they are distantly related. They wish to preserve their cherished way of life but come to discover that in order to preserve their culture, they may have to change it forever.

Now a man and a woman from these two clashing societies must work together to save this vanishing race—and end up uncovering ancient mysteries with far-reaching ramifications. As their mission hangs in the balance, this unlikely team—one cool and cerebral, the other fiery and impulsive—just may find in each other their own destinies . . . and a force that transcends all.

## **Praise for *The Best of All Possible Worlds***

“An engrossing picaresque quest, a love story, and a moving character study . . . [Karen] Lord is on a par with Ursula K. Le Guin.”—*The Guardian*

“[A] fascinating and thoughtful science fiction novel that examines] adaptation, social change, and human relationships. I’ve not read anything quite like it, which makes it that rare beast: a true original.”—**Kate Elliott, author of the Crown of Stars series and The Spiritwalker Trilogy**

“Reads like smooth jazz comfort food, deceptively familiar and easy going down, but subtly subversive . . . [puts] me in mind of Junot Díaz’s brilliant novel *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*.”—**Nalo Hopkinson, Los Angeles Review of Books**

“If you want to see science fiction doing something new and fascinating . . . then you shouldn’t sleep on *The Best of All Possible Worlds*.”—*io9*

“Rewarding science fiction for emotional grown-ups.”—*Mysterious Galaxy*

“[A] marvelously formed universe.”—*The A.V. Club*

“A rewarding, touching and often funny exploration of the forms and functions of human culture.”—*SFX*

“*The Best of All Possible Worlds* . . . poses an interesting question: What parts of you do you fight to preserve when everything you know suddenly changes?”—**Associated Press**

*From the Hardcover edition.*

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