

Caleb Azumah Nelson

Caleb Azumah Nelson (b. 1993) is a British-Ghanaian writer and photographer, living in South East London. His writing has been published in [Litro](#) and he was recently shortlisted for the Palm Photo Prize and won the People's Choice prize. He was shortlisted for the BBC National Short Story Award 2020 for his story 'Pray'.



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Publications

Fiction

Publication Details	Notes
SMALL WORLDS 2023 Viking (UK) Grove Atlantic (US)	<p>The one thing that can solve Stephen's problems is dancing. Dancing at Church, with his parents and brother, the shimmer of Black hands raised in praise; he might have lost his faith, but he does believe in rhythm. Dancing with his friends, somewhere in a basement with the drums about to drop, while the DJ spins garage cuts. Dancing with his band, making music which speaks not just to the hardships of their lives, but the joys too. Dancing with his best friend Adeline, two-stepping around the living room, crooning and grooving, so close their heads might touch. Dancing alone, at home, to his father's records, uncovering parts of a man he has never truly known.</p> <p>Stephen has only ever known himself in song. But what becomes of him when the music fades? When his father begins to speak of shame and sacrifice, when his home is no longer his own? How will he find space for himself: a place where he can feel beautiful, a place he might feel free?</p> <p>Set over the course of three summers in Stephen's life, from London to Ghana and back again, <i>Small Worlds</i> is an exhilarating and expansive novel about the worlds we build for ourselves, the worlds we live, dance and love within.</p>

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OPEN WATER 2021 Viking (UK) Grove Atlantic (US)	<p>A stunning, shattering debut novel about two Black artists falling in and out of love. Two young people meet at a pub in South East London. Both are Black British, both won scholarships to private schools where they struggled to belong, both are now artists - he a photographer, she a dancer - trying to make their mark in a city that by turns celebrates and rejects them. Tentatively, tenderly, they fall in love. But two people who seem destined to be together can still be torn apart by fear and violence.</p> <p>At once an achingly beautiful love story and a potent insight into race and masculinity, Open Water asks what it means to be a person in a world that sees you only as a Black body, to be vulnerable when you are only respected for strength, to find safety in love, only to lose it. With gorgeous, soulful intensity, Caleb Azumah Nelson has written the most essential debut of recent years.</p>