

Pigeon English

by Stephen Kelman · Language: EN

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Summary

Opening Context (150 chars):

Set in a gritty London housing estate, Stephen Kelman's 2011 debut follows eleven-year-old Harrison "Harri" Opoku, a Ghanaian immigrant navigating school, gang violence, and pigeon-watching after his family's move to the UK.

Main Content (400 chars):

Harri and his friend Dean investigate the stabbing of a local boy, Dell, mimicking detective work while dodging the Dell Farm Crew, a menacing gang that recruits kids. Meanwhile, Harri's sister Lydia faces bullying and shoplifting pressure, and his mother works double shifts, leaving him to interpret Britain's chaos through a child's lens. Kelman blends Harri's naive, lyrical narration—where pigeons whisper and everyday objects feel magical—with brutal realism: the gang's threats escalate, culminating in a shocking climax where Harri himself is stabbed.