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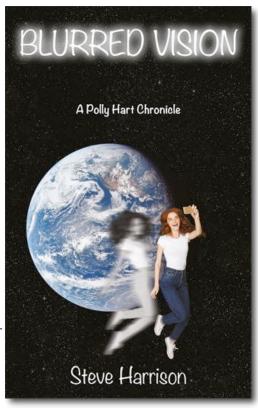
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EARTH - NASA EARTH OBSERVATORY

POLLY & KYLIE - DEAN DROBOT/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM



First contact?

When Polly Hart agrees to swap places with a girl from another planet, she has no idea that this makes her a fugitive in the fabulous universe revealed by her new friend, and now she must outwit the school bully, a weird teacher and an interstellar hit squad to survive. So annoying!

"Take it easy," said Kylie, still with a hint of amusement. "You're perfectly safe. Think of me as a tourist."

Polly squinted back at her. She couldn't help herself. "Are you invading earth?"

"Are you kidding? Do you know how much that would cost?"

"Then what are you doing here?"

"We found you after you activated the camera on the satellite and were impressed by the other stuff you did to hide your tracks. Easy for us, but we all thought it was very cool. For an Earth human, anyway."

"You don't talk like an alien."

"How many do you know?" asked Kylie.

Polly couldn't argue with that. "Good point."

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Steve Harrison was born in Yorkshire, England, grew up in Lancashire, migrated to New Zealand and eventually settled in Sydney, Australia, where he lives with his wife.

As he juggled careers in shipping, insurance, online gardening and the postal service, Steve wrote short stories, sports articles and a long running newspaper humour column called *HARRISCOPE: a mix of ancient wisdom and modern nonsense*.

His first novel *TimeStorm*, published by Elsewhen Press, was Highly Commended in the Fellowship of Australian Writers (FAW) National Literary Awards, Jim Hamilton Award in the fantasy/science fiction category, for an unpublished novel of sustained quality and distinction by an Australian author.

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