

Field Study by Rachel Seiffert.
William Heinemann 2004.

After her stunning 2001 collection *The Dark Room*, Rachel Seiffert had raised the highest of expectations among her readers for the second collection, *Field Study*. It is great to be able to report that it not only matches but goes further than its predecessor, fully justifying *Granta's* 2003 naming of the author as one of the best young British novelists.

There are 11 stories in *Field Study*, differing in length and geographical setting, but all highly engaging, intriguing and – the ultimate test of a good short story – intensely satisfying.

While it is always invidious and highly subjective to single out one of a collection as being the best, I unhesitatingly nominate *Dimitroff*, which teases throughout, for this accolade. Other readers will undoubtedly have their own.

I await Rachel Seiffert's next book with eager anticipation.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh