

From the Wreck

by Jane Rawson

ABOUT THE BOOK:

From the Wreck is one of the six books shortlisted for the 2017 Readings Prize for New Australian Fiction.

From the Wreck reimagines the remarkable story of George Hills, who survived the real-life sinking of the steamship *Admella* off the South Australian coast in 1859. Haunted by his memories and the disappearance of a fellow survivor, George's fractured life is intertwined with that of a woman from another dimension, seeking refuge on Earth.

JUDGES' COMMENTS:

'A truly original voice in the landscape of Australian historical fiction, this novel brings the twin strands of history and trauma together in a lyrical and visceral meditation on the cost of survival.'

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Jane Rawson's first novel, *A wrong turn at the Office of Unmade Lists*, won the Small Press Network's 2014 'Most Underrated Book' Award and was shortlisted for the Aurealis Award for best science fiction novel. *From the Wreck* is her second novel.

DISCUSSION POINTS:

1. *From the Wreck* is based on a real-life shipwreck in which a relative of Jane Rawson's was involved. Why might an author use a true story for fictional purposes?
2. How does the alien presence in *From the Wreck* touch on important and timely themes such as immigration and climate change?
3. How does *From the Wreck* depict trauma in both George and the alien?
4. What do you think about the relationship that develops between George and his son, Henry?
5. Jane Rawson is a passionate climate change warrior and often explores this topic in her fiction, joining a growing list of authors doing the same. Is fiction a powerful tool for consciousness raising and promoting change?
6. *From the Wreck* is a genre-bending read. Which genres does it encase? Does it combine the genres successfully? What other novels can you think of that do a similar thing?