

# *The Windy Season*

by Sam Carmody

**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

*The Windy Season* is one of the six books shortlisted for the 2017 Readings Prize for New Australian Fiction.

A young fisherman is missing from the crayfish boats in the West Australian town of Stark. There's no trace at all of Elliot, there hasn't been for some weeks and Paul, his younger brother, is the only one who seems to be active in the search. Taking Elliot's place on the boat skippered by their troubled cousin, Paul soon learns how many opportunities there are to get lost in those many thousands of kilometres of lonely coastline.

**JUDGES' COMMENTS:**

'*The Windy Season* pulls the reader into a landscape which is violent, treacherous and unforgiving. The language is immersive, the pace relentless. This is a book that roars down and batters the senses.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:**

Writer and musician Sam Carmody grew up along the rural central coast of Western Australia. *The Windy Season* is his debut novel and was shortlisted for the 2014 Australian/Vogel's Literary Award. He currently lives in Darwin and teaches writing at The Australian Centre for Indigenous Knowledges and Education, Charles Darwin University.

**DISCUSSION POINTS:**

1. Reflect on the significance of the rural, coastal setting within *The Windy Season*. How does it shape the language and mood of the novel?
2. One of the central themes of *The Windy Season* is masculinity. Discuss the variations of masculinity represented by Carmody in the novel.
3. How does *The Windy Season* add to the conversation about class structures in contemporary Australian society?
4. *The Windy Season* employs conventions of the crime thriller genre but is ultimately a work of literary fiction. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?
5. What do you think about the roles of the female characters in *The Windy Season*?
6. *The Windy Season* has a second story interspersed throughout Paul's central narrative. How does this imbue the novel with a sense of menace?