



GIRAMONDO PUBLISHING

COLD ENOUGH FOR SNOW

QUESTIONS FOR BOOK CLUBS

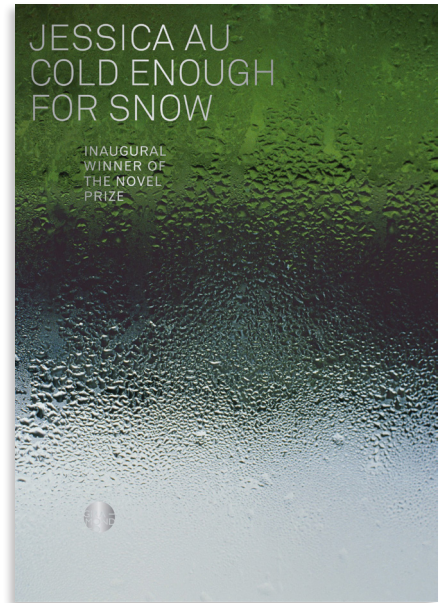
Cold Enough for Snow

Jessica Au

Cold Enough for Snow (Giramondo Publishing, 2022) is a reckoning and an elegy, steeped in themes of memory, loss, migration, mother/daughter relationships, art, language, intimacy, and with the ineffable and unknowable. With extraordinary skill, author Jessica Au creates an enveloping atmosphere that expresses both the tenderness between a mother and daughter on a trip overseas, and the distances between them. *Cold Enough for Snow* won the inaugural Novel Prize, and has since won and been a finalist for many other prizes, including receiving the 2023 Victorian Prize for Literature.

Book club questions:

1. What is the significance of the book's title, *Cold Enough for Snow*?
2. In the book a young woman takes her mother on a holiday in Japan. What kind of relationship do they have?
3. How does the novel deal with memory and perspective? Did you trust the daughter's version of things? Is the mother really there on the trip?
4. How would you describe the main character? Did you find her sympathetic or too concerned with her own reactions?
5. Were you able to identify with the mother-daughter situation? What emotions did it evoke?
6. Is this a book about intimacy or estrangement, or both?
7. How important is the fact that mother and daughter have grown up in different circumstances? How relevant is the experience of migration to your understanding of the novel?
8. What did you think of the style in which the book is written? Were there any passages or scenes that stood out to you?
9. What role does art play in the book?
10. A book as short as this is often called a novella rather than a novel. Do you think that makes a difference to the way you read it?



Jessica Au, 2023. Photo: Charlie Kinross

The acuity and sensitivity with which Au registers the distances between her characters, their small failures of communication, their unspoken feelings of unease, is one of the novel's triumphs.

—Judges' comments, Miles Franklin Literary Award