

Adrift by Lisa Brideau

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS HERE** (Ideally 10 questions to guide discussion of the title):

1. Lisa Brideau chose to set the book in the Pacific Northwest, and include the watery border between Canada and the United States as a location where climate refugees are being discovered. How did you feel, reading about people in desperate circumstances, clamouring to come to Canada in this way? Did it feel different than other refugee scenarios, where people are escaping political crises at home?
2. Ess encounters people who speak about a memory wipe in positive terms, imagining a fresh start and a clean slate. How much of our identity is wrapped up in core memories, vs. muscle memory? Do you think she made different choices after her memory wipe, because she was in a different environment, or was she truly a different person? Do you think that memories are integral to who we are, or is it possible to stay ‘ourselves’ even if we don’t remember anything about our former lives?
3. Setting the book in the year 2038 allows for the reader to imagine the world’s altered climate patterns in a very real way. Did reading Adrift allow you to examine the choices you make in your daily life, which can directly impact our climate future?
4. How do you feel the world’s resources (ie. fresh water) should be treated, through a lens of humanity as a whole, or with geo-political boundaries drawn around them? Who should dictate the rules around these resources, and why?
5. Adrift combines the author’s interest in speculative fiction, with Brideau’s desire to educate people about climate change. What do you think is the biggest takeaway message in 2023 (the year the book was published), based on reading this book set in the year 2038?
6. What impact, if any, did Ess’s experience in Haida Gwaii have on the way in which you viewed the city of Nanaimo as Ess arrived there to follow her clues? Why do you think the author used these two places as the main setting for the book?
7. Did you find that, overall, you felt hopeful by the end of the book? The Canadian landscape in 2038, as painted by Lisa Brideau, is rather bleak, and yet her character interactions were overarching ones of loving, caring and kindness. Did this ring true for you? Why or why not?
8. The author has a Bachelor degree in Aerospace Engineering from Carleton University, a Master of Science in Urban Planning from the University of British Columbia and currently works as a sustainability specialist, making her descriptions within the book highly scientifically accurate. Do you feel that a book like Adrift is a good way to educate the public about the looming climate reality? Does it matter to you, as a reader, that Lisa Brideau is highly qualified to broach these subjects?