

VAMPIRE SQUID

by **Prema Arasu**

'Brimming with formal experimentation, *Vampire Squid* playfully seeks a language for what lurks and lives in the depths of the ocean and within us.' *Caitlin Maling, author of Fish Work and Fish Song*

'These poems take up the language of science, so that the musical syllables of Vampyromorphidia sing alongside echoes of Wordsworth and Shakespeare.' *Steve Mentz, author of Ocean, An Introduction to the Blue Humanities, and Swim Poems*

ABOUT THE BOOK

You are what you see. The deep sea – home of the uncanny vampire squid – is fathomless and mysterious, but so too are the scientists who observe the creatures of the deep.

Full of wry wit and ironic scrutiny, *Vampire Squid* examines the relationship between humans and the deep sea as the poet places their colleagues under the microscope to draw attention not only to the teeming life beneath the sea, but the distinctive ways that oceanographer, geoscientist, taxonomist, marine biologist and geneticist interpret the same world through very different eyes.

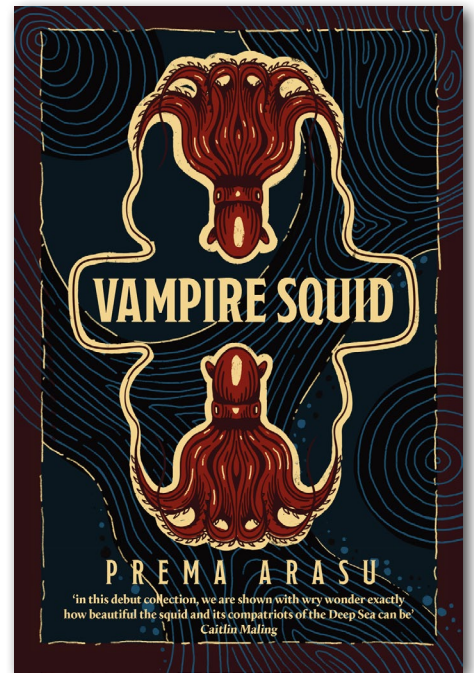
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Prema Arasu is a writer and academic at the Deep-Sea Research Centre at the University of Western Australia. Their research utilises transdisciplinary and creative methods to investigate the aesthetics of the deep sea. In 2023, Prema's fantasy novel, *The Anatomy of Witchcraft*, was shortlisted for the Fogarty Literary Award.



NOTES

- Prema Arasu was shortlisted for the 2023 Fogarty Literary Award.
- *Vampire Squid* explores the deep sea through the lenses of scientists who relate to it from a variety of perspectives – be they oceanographer, geoscientist, taxonomist, marine biologist, geneticist or the creative writer-observer.
- The author is a postdoc fellow at the Munderoo-UWA Deep-Sea Research Centre, where they work alongside a multidisciplinary team of scientists.
- The book is for poetry readers but will also work for upper secondary readers and teachers who want to highlight connections between science and literature, nature and art.
- The poems weave together notes on classical poetry, Romanticism and Shakespearean sonnets with pop culture and the alien beauty of deep-sea life and reveal the awe, humour and quiet wonder that comes from researching creatures that most will never see or consider.



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