

International Indigenous Futurism? The case of Ambelin Kwaymullina's *The Interrogation of Ashala Wolf*

Ambelin Kwaymullina's *The Interrogation of Ashala Wolf* is as refreshing and turbulent as our 2018 theme of Refreshing/Turbulent Waters. A wide gulf separates the critical and popular acclaim the 2012 novel received in Australia and the relative obscurity of its 2014 reprinting in the United States. Much like other dystopian YA novels with protagonists of color, in the U.S., Kwaymullina's novel received more critical than popular attention.

My reading of *The Interrogation of Ashala Wolf* is two-fold: I examine Kwaymullina's refreshing use of the YA dystopian genre and I propose areas where we could bridge the divide between critical and popular reception of Indigenous-authored works in the United States. First, I consider Kwaymullina's novel as a work of Indigenous Futurism, a genre that insists upon Indigenous presence, scientific literacies, and ideologies across time, from the past through to the far fictional future. Then I analyze the differences between the Kwaymullina's publishing contexts in Australia and in the United States, focusing upon the avenues for publishing explicitly Indigenous works, the epitextual materials surrounding the book's publication (such as interviews, scholastic guides, book releases), and the educational context for the book's use in classrooms.

Kwaymullina combines the genres of YA and Indigenous Futurism to address issues of Indigenous land use, ownership, and access to citizenship. She does this by rejecting a coming-of-age narrative and creating a futurist world that operates according to the understandings of law held by the Palyku people group, the group to which Kwaymullina belongs. Thus, Kwaymullina demonstrates the importance of Aboriginal peoples and concepts of nationhood to the contemporary world order, suggesting that a just and ecologically balanced world can come only from reincorporating Indigenous practices into governmental policy. In making these moves, *The Interrogation of Ashala Wolf* becomes a utopian vision in the most politically active sense.