



Rhiza Edge

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MEDIA RELEASE

Flexibility and Diversity of Identity

The Pressure of Our Many Facets of Identity and Change

Misilina has finished her training and is assigned to protect her childhood bully. Worried about whether she will match her father's legacy or be drowned by the expectations of her mother's lineage, an uprising puts the pressure on Misilina to figure out who she is.

Writer Rosanne Hawke, hopes readers can connect with Misilina's "dedication to her work and her drive to do her best." People often feel the pressure of expectation, and Rosanne conveys that with Misilina, "She has the ability to learn, adapt to situation and acknowledge her mistakes." Though it can be hard for people to admit they're wrong, Misilina connects with her questioning and teaches the importance of change and that it's doable.

Identity plays a large role in Misilina's journey, which many readers can relate to, especially in diverse Australia. There are a thousand ways of thinking! "It's taken me a while to accept that my creative mind means I think differently from a lot of other people," Rosanne says when talking about her own pressures with identity. "But I've learnt that this creativity is a gift and an important part of me, so I need to use it and develop it, rather than trying to subdue it."

Flexibility is one of the core lessons that Rosanne hopes people can learn from Misilina. In the beginning, Misilina has her perceptions and ideas about everyone around her, but one by one she begins to open up and find those grey areas, allowing her to change and grow as a person. "Things aren't always as clear-cut as we would like to believe," Rosanne tells, "and I think we need to be open to this and consider any changes that might be appropriate in ourselves rather than think everyone else need to change."

Rosanne Hawke has been a teacher, a lecturer in creative writing at Tabor Adelaide, and worked with a mission agency in Pakistan & UAE. Her books explore cultural and social issues, Cornish folklore, history, mystery, family and faith. She often writes of displacement, belonging and reconciliation and tells stories of children unheard.

For your review copy of *The Verindon Conspiracy*, contact publishing and marketing assistant, Sara Muller, at Rhiza Edge via sara@wombatrhiza.com.au.

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