'We’re informed that the Navy sank a ship full of infiltrators yesterday, and that some of them may have escaped on small boats. We’ve also heard that the so-called Shepherds may be attempting to aid the survivors from the sunken ship. As I’m sure you know, this is illegal and punishable by a lengthy spell of mandatory detention. Anyone found aiding an infiltrator is to be apprehended and arrested.’

A New Zealand Navy frigate torpedoes a boat full of refugees fleeing a drowning country and Nasimul Rahman is one of the few survivors. First he has to reach the shore alive and then he has to avoid the trigger-happy Shore Patrol, on alert to stop climate change refugees entering the country.

Donna is new to the Patrol. When word comes through that the Navy has sunk a ship full of infiltrators and survivors might be making their way ashore, it sounds like she might get to see some action.

A tale of desperation and betrayal on a shrinking shore in the not too distant future.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tim Jones was awarded the NZSA Janet Frame Memorial Award for Literature in 2010. He has published one novel, two short story collections and five poetry collections, co-edited two poetry anthologies and writes a blog called ‘Books in the Trees’. Born in Lincolnshire, England, Tim moved to Southland, New Zealand, as a two-year-old and lives now on a Wellington hill. He is a climate change activist.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

CHAPTER 1
• Discuss the significance of the title. What are the different senses of ‘we’?
• Look at a map of the Earth and trace the possible route from Bangladesh to the Tasman.
• ‘No self-respecting Bangladeshi river ferry sailed without at least twice the number of passengers it was rated for.’ What role does humour play in the novella?
• What role does a navy serve? What possible responses to climate disaster are likely? How should we respond to climate refugees?
• What evidence is there so far that the novella is set in a near-future Aotearoa New Zealand?

CHAPTER 2
• What kind of person is Donna? What motives does she have for joining the Shore Patrol?
• What kind of organisation is the Shore Patrol? Why do you think it has been formed?
• What features of Big Bob’s speech can you identify as the language of propaganda?
• What city in New Zealand has a Beachcroft Avenue, Arthur Street and Gloucester Park?
• What do the terms ‘infiltrators’ and ‘Shepherds’ indicate? Why does Big Bob use these terms?
• Big Bob gives two rules in this chapter. What is implied by the second rule?

CHAPTER 3
• Nasimul feels that he might die. Who else do you think has he seen die since starting his sea voyage?

CHAPTER 4
• How has Aotearoa New Zealand changed? What has happened to low-lying coastal areas?
• What similarities are there between Donna and Nasimul?
• What has Brian been arrested for?

CHAPTER 5
• What does Nasimul’s giving of chocolate to Rufus tell us about his character?

CHAPTER 6
• What indicates that the Shore Patrol are amateurs at conducting interrogations?
• What parts of the opening are humorous?

CHAPTER 7
• This chapter contains three questions. What role do the questions play? Why does the author use questions here?
CHAPTER 8
In this chapter, we jump from following Nasimul to following Donna.
• How would the novella be different if we just followed one character?
• What does the oscillation from Nasimul to Donna and back add to the story?

CHAPTER 9
• What happens to Donna in this chapter?
• Does Donna care more for Rufus than for Nasimul?

CHAPTER 10
• ‘… having decided not to kill him, she had now become complicit in saving him.’
  What does complicit mean in this sentence? What is ‘complicity’?

CHAPTERS 11 & 12
• What has Donna done to help Nasimul? Why do you think she has done this?

CHAPTER 13
• What do you think happens to the Nasimul at the end of the story? Do you think that
  the shopkeeper will help him? Why or why not?
• Why do you think Jones ends the novella at this point?

AFTERWORD
Read pages 71 and 72. What connections can you make between the author’s account of the state
of the world with his story? Find two quotations and then connect them to the story.

CREATIVE WRITING EXERCISE
Write a chapter 14 of the novella that tells us what happens next to either Nasimul or Donna.
You can try to copy the author’s style of narration in the novella if you wish.

GENRE QUESTIONS
• What is a novella? What are the features of a novella? What other famous novellas have
  been written?
• Where We Land is an example of ‘cli-fi’. What is cli-fi? What other works of cli-fi have
  been written?