Who would you go back for?

Lestari Aris is a woman on the edge. Her tattoo studio on Karangahape Road is hammered by burglaries; the hangers-on in her life, from a teenage runaway to a married cop, are bonded to her for reasons she can’t fathom. And years after their father suddenly abandoned them, her mother is still lost in a self-medicated blur and culturally adrift from her Indonesian homeland.

Then a murder in Symonds Street Cemetery sends Lestari into the orbit of an unpredictable drug, the product of a decades-long covert clinical study. Its repercussions reveal that the separate issues in her life are in fact tightly connected. When the promise of resolution beckons, it’s through a volatile experiment that can destroy as often as it heals.

Within its vivid central Auckland setting, Isobar Precinct is an audacious and structurally playful book that challenges notions of time, explores the burden of choice when technologies alienate more than assist and asks what lengths we’ll go to save a loved one.

Angelique Kasmara is a writer to watch.

“stylish, edgy and inventive”

— PAULA MORRIS

Angelique Kasmara has a Master of Creative Writing from the University of Auckland. She was a finalist for the Michael Gifkins Prize and won the Sir James Wallace Prize in 2016. Some of her fiction appears in Newsroom, Ko Aotearoa Tātou | We Are New Zealand and A Clear Dawn: New Asian Voices.

Angelique lives in Tāmaki Makaurau where she works as a communications manager, writer, translator and reviewer.