

Praise keeps coming for college instructor's book

Ismet Prcic, a drama instructor at Clark College, has been in the spotlight recently for his accomplishments as an author.



Ismet Prcic

His first novel, "Shards," is based on Prcic's experiences growing up in war-torn Bosnia, and has received regional as well as national attention.

"Shards" was:

- On The New York Times' list of 100 Notable Books of 2011 (and it earned a glowing New York Times review in October).

- One of six 2012 Book Award winners from the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association.

- On The Oregonian's list of the top 10 Northwest Books of 2011.

- Among seven national finalists for the 2011 Flaherty-Dunn First Novel Prize.

His name doesn't pop up just as the author. Ismet Prcic also is the name of a character, as the author tries to blur the lines between memoir and novel.

"A way to trick people into thinking it's a memoir is to use some real names," said Prcic, the subject of a recent story in The Columbian.

"When people read a memoir, they know that no matter what happens, it will turn out OK because the person lived to write the book."

By the end of "Shards," however, "There is no clue who is real," Prcic said. "It has a more visceral effect on the reader."

— Tom Vogt