

Re: Restrictions on the Parallel Importation of Books

As Anzac day fast approaches and a surge in National pride also rises, I love the celebration of all that represents the uniquely Australian culture. Relaxing the current restrictions on the parallel importation of books will not serve to perpetuate that love of all that is Australian. It will be another death of sorts. This time cultural.

As an author and poet I want to express and to use my Australian heritage and vernacular in my poems and novels. I don't want to see the Americanisation of my work. I want to celebrate the landscape, the fierce work ethic and spirit of those on the land and in our uniquely Australian cities. For example my latest book for children 'Star jumps' will be released by Walker Books Australia on June 1st. Not only is it in a verse novel format but it provides a social document of drought and farm down- sizing: yet flies a flag of hope.

For me as an author, I know that relaxing the restrictions on the parallel importation of books will not allow me that hope-the hope that I can write with such subject matter and be published.

If the Australian culture and way of life is lost from our literature, our children and their education will be the poorer for it.

The sacrifice of Anzac is hope. Let me as a unique Australian author also have the hope that I can write, be published by Australian based- publishers and bring to the world the taste of Australian life.

Yours sincerely,

Lorraine Marwood

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