

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE3781

## Cullen, Jean

( - 1950)

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| <b>Died</b> | 31 December, 1950, Brisbane Queensland Australia |
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| <b>Occupation</b> | Cartoonist, Illustrator, Journalist |
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### Summary

Jean Cullen was an illustrator and humorous artist who worked for *Smith's Weekly* in the period 1941-1950. She also created the teenage cartoon character 'Pam' for the Brisbane *Courier Mail*, a character that Marie Horseman continued to develop after Cullen took her own life in 1950.

In 1945, Cullen published an adult illustrated book that was quickly banned called *Hold that Halo, or, How to lose it in ten easy lessons*. The comic narrated the trials and tribulations of a young woman during the second world war and was a stark commentary on the sexual double-standard as it applied to women.

## Details

### Hold that Halo, or, How to lose it in ten easy lessons

*(On the frontispiece)*

*"Breathes there a girl with soul so dead,*

*Who never to herself hath said:*

*This is my halo, all my own,*

*But how I wish the thing were flown."*

*(with apologies to Sir Walter Scott)*

Adam and Eve have caused these rhymes  
Two souls in Heav'n, with what good times!  
They frolicked round thru' every hour.  
Eve's halo drop't, with apples sour.  
Then Cleo, Egypt's pride of all  
Too saw her halo take its fall.  
This Nile-ish gal with men galore  
Loved many, yet she wanted more.

An' this is how it all began  
As old-time girls from halos ran.  
Perchance 'tis said the story's old  
That halos drop if girls be bold.  
But let's tell on 'ere you condemn  
What halos mean to modern femme.

This halo's lass took Ma's advice  
"Beware of men with tinge of vice!"  
This lovely girl was a halo's sort  
And "Nay'd" men's curious thoughts of sport.  
She stayed home nights all full of wonder  
Why saucyer girls oft stole her thunder.

This halo'd charmente oh! was poor  
Till a gay bold wolf knocked at her door.  
She yielded, made the bad wolf pay  
Her halo's gone: she's rich that way.

This halo'd heiress found wealth a bore  
Men liked her cash: that made her sore  
They passed her halo ashine without sin  
They used her coupons to drink her gin.

Another with halo, alas! without vim, *(A picture of a school marm reading books called 'Say yes and like it' and 'How to have it' accompanies this verse)*

With past all dopey – her future looks dim.  
She's booked to be spinster's of virtuous bed,  
With halo intacta, the burglar's worst dread.

This girl had a halo but not for long,  
She lost it a'wrestling, the guy was strong.  
She' wasn't upset when it went off fast,  
Her moto: "Why worry? They're not meant to last.'

I've told you solme secrets of gals good and bad,  
Of rich girls and poor gals, of gay femmes and sad.  
And last but not least of the girl who will bawl:  
But whay all this fuss about halos and all?

So the moral is written for all girls to see:  
"Ah, don't trust your halo where it oughtn't to be."

## Events

**1940 - 1950**

## Published resources

### Book

Artists and Cartoonists in black and white: the most public art, Kerr, Joan, 1999

### Catalogue

Black and White Exhibition: Fifty Years of Australian Cartooning, Australian Journalists' Club, 1964

### Booklet

Hold that Halo or how to lose it in ten easy lessons, Cullen, Jean, 1945

### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

### Site Exhibition

The Women's Pages: Australian Women and Journalism since 1850, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2008,  
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/cal/cal-home.html>

### Resource Section

Horseman, Marie Compston (Mollie) (1911-1974), Kerr, Joan, 2006,  
<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/AS10232b.htm>

## Archival resources

### Mitchell and Dixson Libraries Manuscripts Collection

[Selection of cartoon drawings from Smith's Weekly. ca. 1930-1950](#)

### Author Details

Nikki Henningham

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