Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE3781

Cullen, Jean

(- 1950)

Died	19501231, Brisbane Queensland Australia
Occupation	Cartoonist, Illustrator, Journalist

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 word 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
Career in journalism active

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
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Created 27 October 2008
Last modified 20 November 2018