

OVERLAND

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M/s Carole Ferrier,
Department of English,
University of Queensland,
Brisbane, Australia. 4067.

Dear Carole,

Regarding Boyd Oxlade's story: the possibility that the story might be read as justification or even celebration of a crude ocker attitude to women was seriously considered before I accepted the story. I told the story to two women readers mentioning the possibility of such an interpretation and saying I thought it mistaken.

This is certainly a story about an ocker but I do not think it is an ocker story. Oxlade observes shrewdly and with accuracy the behaviour of a particular man; he is particularly skilful with the vernacular. A writer's intentions are often complex but surely one of Oxlade's is satirical. If so the story can be seen as anti-ocker.

As to Rob Dickins' drawing, our general policy, rightly or wrongly, is to ask not for exact illustration but for "an accompanying drawing". The artists are left to make their own pictures out of the writers' basic elements.

I will circulate your letter to the others at Overland. It is important to have discussion about the points you raise. In the meantime let me say that I do not think my own record or that of Overland would justify anyone thinking that we intend to have, as you put it, a "bias offensively ocker."

Sincerely,

Barrett

Barrett Reid.
Editor.

LM also to reply