

Rabbit-Proof Fence

Introduction:

Rabbit-Proof Fence is briefly based on a true story of three aboriginal girls named Gracie (10), Daisy (8) and Molly (14). In the book, these three girls are forcibly taken from their homeland, Jigalong, to a "education" camp called Moore River in 1931. The story is about their escape from the Moore River Native Settlement, north of Perth, Western Australia, in order to find their way home.

The story is told by Doris Pilkington Garimara, who is Molly's daughter.

What is the 'Rabbit-Proof Fence'?

Rabbits were first introduced to Australia by the Europeans in 1788 and afterwards they colonised the natural environment and displacing native animal species. Therefore, the rabbit-proof fence was built to protect Western Australian crops and pasture lands from the destructive scourge of the rabbit in the early 1900s. When completed in 1907, the rabbit-proof fence (including all three fences) stretched 3,256 km. The girls' walk was 1600 kilometres of it.

In the book, the Rabbit-Proof Fence can be seen as an answer of the white man to a problem in his own way but it can be also seen as a link between mother and daughter when they both stand at each end. The fence is not an enemy but a friend for the girls.

What happens?:

In 1931, Molly and her cousins Daisy and Gracie were taken away from their families and sent to a camp to be trained as good 'white' Australians. But Molly would not accept it.

Molly decides to take her other two cousins and escape and return to their homeland.

But there are too many obstacles not only in terms of natural harshness but also in terms of being caught: a Aboriginal guard called Moodoo who skillfully catches those who escape from the camp. He chases them all the way home but can't catch.

On their walk, they face many difficulties (hunger, thirst, fatigue ...) Fortunately, good people meet them on their walk. But one of them they've met on the road says that their mothers are waiting for them in Wiluana. It's not true.

The quick-witted Molly realizes that it's a lie and she doesn't go there with Daisy, but Gracie gets caught by going there. After leaving Gracie behind, the both girl -Molly and Daisy- go on walking. Finally they get home