

*Long Way Home: The Odyssey of a  
Lesbian Mother and Her Children*

by Jeanne Jullion

Cleis Press

paperback, 261 pp., \$8.95

Because I have been involved in lesbian and feminist politics for some time now, I have listened to a lot of lesbian custody stories. Feminist lawyer friends have filled whole evenings with gruesome details of homophobic judges, inept social workers and distraught, angry, terribly wronged mothers and children.

Thinking that I know this kind of story quite well, I might never have picked up Jeanne Jullion's *Long Way Home* had I not been asked to review it. And I would have missed a treat – if one can call an engaging but sometimes tragic true story of injustice and homophobia a treat.

The exceptional thing about Jullion's book is the gripping way in which it recounts the facts of her five-year struggle to keep her younger son. The vivid narrative reads at times like an adventure story. Choosing not to write in the first person, Jullion sidesteps the potential hazards of the confessional "I" in favor of

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the third person. Her tone blends her personal anguish into a social and political context, drawing the reader into her compelling story.

For a highly readable insight into the prejudice that pervades our institutions, all people, gay or otherwise, should look to this excellent book. It is unfortunate that Cleis, like too many small presses these days, let it out of its hands with an unforgivable number of errors getting by the proofreader. Such material deserves the best possible presentation.

— Judith Barrington