

Griffith University

On / In Mykonos

Nigel Krauth

Nigel Krauth is Professor and head of the writing program at Griffith University. He has published novels, stories, essays, articles and reviews. His research investigates creative writing processes and the teaching of creative writing. He is the General Editor of TEXT: Journal of writing and writing courses. His most recent book is Creative Writing and the Radical (MLM 2016).

It was a discussion about prepositions. We talked with retsina and fetta on the table, with the harbour blue and the boat for Delos leaving.

‘We say *on* islands, but *in* other places,’ she said.

When she arrived Mykonos airport, she came the corner Immigration, pulling her luggage, a smile her face broad Australia.

‘You can’t be *in* an island. Only *in* a country.’

The airport we hugged like we’d been apart years. Fact, it was only weeks. Distance multiplies.

‘But, are you *in* New Guinea, or *on* New Guinea? *In* Sri Lanka, or *on* it?’

We hailed a taxi. We stamped her luggage the boot and told the driver go the hotel urgently.

‘Isn’t Australia the largest island in the world? If you must be *on* an island, why aren’t you *on* Australia?’

We drove the Mykonos hotel bed. We wrenched the clothes each other. We thrashed the bed the sea-wall whispered and shirred the window. We broke the bed. It gave way a ‘crack’.

‘But, you can be *in* Manhattan. *In* Singapore. *In* Venice.’

We were each other. We were two islands clashing, two continents colliding, two places plaiting.

‘And what about seas and oceans? One is *on* the ocean wave, *on* the high seas, but only ever *in* the Pacific, *in* the Atlantic, *in* the Aegean.’

‘And what about *on* the map?’

We were love.