

From: Diana Kimpton
Sent: 14 January 2006 12:16
To: Alan Shearman
Subject: HMV bid for Ottakars

I am writing to say how concerned I am by the possibility of Ottakars being taken over by Waterstones.

I live on the Isle of Wight where the main bookshop is run by Ottakars. Although it is part of a chain, the manager is allowed to run it very much as a local bookshop, responding to the Island's individual nature and market. He makes a big effort to make the shop part of the Island community by running writing events, stocking local books and supporting local authors.

As one of those authors, I very much appreciate that support and the staff's continuing interest in my books. When my Pony-Mad Princess series was launched, the shop pulled out all the stops to support it. They hired the indoor school at a local riding stables and threw a children's party complete with games and prizes for little girls who came dressed as princesses in wellie boots. They even had a real pony there.

I've been in Waterstones on the mainland and found they look much more part of a chain. Also their children's departments are not as attractive or well-stocked as ours. I would be disappointed to see our Ottakars become a Waterstones as I feel it would lose that vital local feel and its range of children's books may suffer.

Best wishes
Diana Kimpton

Diana Kimpton
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Latest series - The Pony-Mad Princess
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