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**Derry Public Library**

64 E. Broadway, Derry NH 03038

11/09/22

Kate Jenness  
40 Aaron Drive  
Manchester, NH  
03109

Dear Kate,

Thank you for taking the time to complete the Request for Reconsideration of Materials form, and sharing your concerns about *The Big Bath House* by Kyo Maclear. Following library policy, your request was reviewed by the Library Director, Eric Stern, and a committee was formed to review and discuss the material. This committee has decided to remove this book from the general picture book collection and place it in the parenting collection. We believe this is the best course of action due to the positive critical feedback which this book has received, along with patron interest in the book based on circulation. Moving the book will allow it to be available to patrons who may want to read it for the "cultural education" purposes that you noted, while significantly decreasing the chances that it will be picked up by a child or family that may also have concerns about the images in the book.

If you have any questions, please reach out to contact me. Thank you again for your time, and we look forward to seeing you at the Derry Public Library soon!

Sincerely,

Raymond Fontaine  
Head of Children's Services  
Derry Public Library  
64 East Broadway,  
Dery, NH, 03038  
603-432-6140  
[rayf@derrypl.org](mailto:rayf@derrypl.org)

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*Derry Public Library - a welcoming place for the community to connect, explore and grow*

phone: 603-432-6140

email: [derrylib@derrypl.org](mailto:derrylib@derrypl.org)

website: [www.derrypl.org](http://www.derrypl.org)

Patron's Request for Reconsideration of an Item

Author Grace Zhang  
Kyo Maclear Book(print) Video Audio Magazine  
(Circle One Above)  
Title The Big Bath House  
Publisher (if known) Random House NY  
Request initiated by Kate Jenner  
Telephone 781-605-9382 Address 40 Aaron Dr  
Manchester NH 03109  
Complainant represents:  
Kate Jenner (him/herself)  
(organization)  
(other group)

1. To what in the item do you object? (Please be specific; cite pages or sections)

Adult nudity including breasts and  
pubic hair. Adults undressing children,  
adults and children naked together in  
a tub.

2. What do you feel might be the result of reading/viewing/listening to this item?

Children viewing inappropriate  
content

3. For what age group would you recommend this item? Adult

4. Is there anything good, useful, or valuable about this item? (Explain)

Cultural education

5. Did you read/view/listen to the entire item? Yes If no, what parts?

6. Are you aware of the judgment of this item by literary critics? No

but I will research

7. What do you believe is the theme of this item? Educating Children  
About a ritual in another culture

8. What would you like the library to do about this item?

☒ withdraw it

☐ reevaluate it

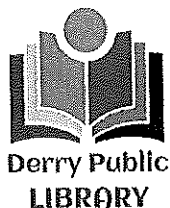
☒ other move to an adult section.

[Signature]  
Signature of Complainant

11-4-00  
Date

Received by Director 11/7/22 ET/AT

File name: Challenged material form  
3/30/00



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**Derry Public Library**

64 E. Broadway, Derry NH 03038

5/21/22

To Anonymous Patron,

Thank you for taking the time to complete the Request for Reconsideration of Materials or Programs form and sharing your thoughts about the books "Sam is My Sister" by Ashley Rhodes-Courter and "Born Ready: The True Story of a Boy Named Penelope" by Jodie Patterson. As noted in our policy, the Library Director convened a committee to review the books and your concerns.

Both books were reviewed and found to meet the Derry Public Library's collection development policy, and will remain in the collection. The books have received positive reviews from multiple sources, including Kirkus Reviews and Publisher's Weekly, and have also been added to the picture book collections of three other libraries in the GMILCS consortium.

In your Request for Reconsideration you note a concern about the library promoting "a one-sided political/moral viewpoint" on the topic of these books, transgender children. Our collection policy notes that "the selection of materials will exhibit a balance of viewpoints", and this is a goal that we strive to achieve, although this is also affected by what is published and available for purchase. A quick review of the materials we have available showed that in picture books alone we currently have 7,325 titles, and throughout the children's collection only 16 books have any relation to transgender youth.

You also note a suggestion to move books to a separate section in the Children's Room, such as the Parenting collection or to create a new "difficult topics" section. Currently, the Parenting section does include at least one book on this topic. As a committee, we decided that we would also move "Born Ready" to this collection. We also reviewed the book that you requested, "Johnny the Walrus" by Matt Walsh and plan to add this title to the Parenting collection as well. The topics of other picture books available in the Parenting collection were also looked in to. There is a wide variety, including such topics as moving to a new home, adoption, military families, death, and self-esteem. For almost every case, the topics that are covered in the parenting section are also addressed in other books available in other parts of the Children's collection.

The committee talked about the purpose of the Parenting collection and noted that this is not intended to be a comprehensive place to find all materials on topics parents may find

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**Derry Public Library**

64 E. Broadway, Derry NH 03038

challenging, but as a place where materials on a variety of topics parents may want to discuss with their children or learn more about are readily available for families. Recently, some libraries have begun to “genrefy” their collections, putting picture books into categories by topic, rather than by author. Some of these collections do include “Family Issues” as one of the categories they use to organize books. However, such categories include a wide range of family topics, from fire safety to picky eaters, not just “topics of controversy”, as you noted. At this time, we have no plan to “genrefy” our picture book collection.

As noted in our policy, if you disagree with the findings of the Review Committee, you have the right to request that the complaint be brought to the Board of Trustees.

Thank you again for sharing your concerns.

Sincerely,

Raymond Fontaine  
Head of Children’s Services

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website: [www.derrypl.org](http://www.derrypl.org)

**DERRY PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**Request for Reconsideration of Materials or Programs - FORM**  
**Approved 02/14/22**

The Library Board of Trustees has delegated the responsibility of selection and evaluation of library resources to the Library Director and has established reconsideration procedures to address concerns about those resources.

If you wish to request reconsideration of a library resource, please return the completed form to the Derry Public Library, 64 E Broadway, Derry, NH 03038.

Name Anonymous Patron Date 5/14/22

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City Derry

State NH Zip 03038 Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Do you represent yourself? No An Organization? \_\_\_\_\_

1. Resource on which you are commenting:

No Books) \_\_\_\_\_ Textbook \_\_\_\_\_ Video/DVD \_\_\_\_\_ Display/Exhibit

\_\_\_\_\_ Magazine \_\_\_\_\_ Library Program \_\_\_\_\_ Audio Book/Music CD

\_\_\_\_\_ Newspaper \_\_\_\_\_ eBook/eMagazine \_\_\_\_\_ Videogame

\_\_\_\_\_ Electronic Information \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Title 'Sam is My Sister' Ashley Rhodes-Courter

Author/Producer 'Born Ready A True Story of a boy named Penelope'  
By Jodie Patterson

2. What brought this resource to your attention?

Introducing sex change topic to children infant age to young

Adapt in a fun way showing this topic is generally and widely accepted

3. Have you read the library's criteria for selection, including the Library Bill of Rights and Freedom to Read Statement, as stated in DPL's policies?

ALA Freedom to Read Statement #2 It would conflict with for this age group  
the public interest for them (DPL) to establish their own  
political, moral, or aesthetic views as a standard for determining what

4. What concerns you about the resource? (If necessary, please attach additional pages)

Please be specific and cite pages or sections.

I believe (one-sided) a political/moral view point is being  
circulated on this topic which also conflicts with

ALA Bill of Rights section II 'Libraries should provide materials  
and information presenting all view points on current & historical issues'

should be published or circulated

#4 cont.) materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.  
and conflicts with ALA Freedom to Read Statement #2 as listed above in #3.

5 cont.)

can add scientific books on this topic showing <sup>negative</sup> affects of what sex change in a young child can do

- 7 as well as a specific widely known 'Johnny the Walrus' book By Matt Walsh  
5. What resources would you suggest to provide additional information and/or other viewpoints on this topic? <sup>Should be made available</sup>

Yes, please provide books showing the alternative viewpoint on this topic for children at a young age

6. Is there anything good about this resource? If so, please explain.

If a parent wishes to promote this idea with their child, they

should have access to this material, in a separate section.

One could argue if you have these books available, you should also have

7. Did you read, watch, or listen to the entire work? If not, what part did you observe? <sup>other books available of other topics</sup>

"My brother wants to be a girl, and that's OK"

Portrays young children with the pictures 'Sam is my sister'

8. For what age group do you recommend this resource?

Parenting section or Teenage + up/adult.

9. Are you aware of critical judgment of this resource? If yes, please summarize.

Yes, the topic is current topic of controversy

10. What do you believe is the theme or purpose of this resource?

To promote the idea that a sex change before a child reaches

puberty is 'OK' or safe or normal. A child this age is still

developing physically and mentally. It should be a topic a parent

11. What would you like the library to do about this resource? <sup>Chooses to discuss with their child at this age level.</sup>

\_\_\_\_ Withdraw it from the collection.

\_\_\_\_ Reevaluate for collection development.

\_\_\_\_ Restrict usage. If so, to whom? \_\_\_\_\_

~~X~~ Other. Please be specific. Change location of such materials in Parenting section

AND Add other difficult topics and/or a new section 'difficult topics and/or young adult to adult'  
Regarding your choice above, please explain how your desired action would improve the library's service to the community.

picture books on difficult topics in one section vs. spread throughout

Having a more directed approach to discuss such topics with a child.

For instance, if books newly acquired were put in the parenting section. <sup>(over)</sup>

Patron Signature: X 5/14/22

\*\*\*\*\* Below to be completed by DPL staff \*\*\*\*\*

Date received: 5/14 Director Initial: IRS 5/16 Patron called: N/A 5/16 Committee meeting: 5/18

Patron notified of decision: N/A Board of Trustees notified: \_\_\_\_\_ Board meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

letter 5/21



11) continued  
I imagine <sup>directed</sup> books about family transitions - moving / divorce / family illness  
disability / death  
are put in parenting section.

Books relating to sexual transitions should also be put in a directed place especially for children at such a young age not yet learning about sex, puberty. This can also be considered a 'family issue' and placed in this category.

\* Also to quote Beth Scaer, NH resident on this / similar topic

"There are many picture books in the children's room accessible to young children promoting the idea that a boy who likes wearing dresses and long hair and jewelry and plays with dolls can become a girl like 'Soon is My Sister' and a girl who likes to wear pants and short hair and plays with trucks can become a boy, like Jack (Not Jackre). This is damaging for children in multiple ways. It gives children the idea that the clothes they like to wear and the toys they play with can only be associated with the opposite sex then the only way to live in the world is to change sex."

7 cont.) 'Penelope is not a pretend boy or a tomboy.  
He is our five-year-old big boy'  
'I am a boy' - 'Born Ready'

NAME (print) Stephanie Masters DATE 6/22/11  
ADDRESS 16 Oak Street Apt #2 PHONE 603-479-8907  
TITLE Fish don't play Ball AUTHOR Emma McCann

Please specifically describe your objection to the material, citing page numbers or sections of particular concern. You may wish to consider such things as what you feel would be the result of reading/viewing/listening to this material, as well as age appropriateness and anything of positive value about it. **Please use the back or attach separate sheet if necessary.**

Should we help expose young children to "telling animals/people off"?

PATRON SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

TO BE FILLED IN BY LIBRARY STAFF

**Date Received:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Director Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Disposition:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Patron notified:**

**Board of Trustees:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Patron notified:** \_\_\_\_\_

expressing a point of view; rather, they are an attempt to remove material from the curriculum or library, thereby restricting the access of others. As such, they are a threat to freedom of speech and choice.”

Because the book has circulated a dozen times without incident, we believe that the content does not pose a problem and should remain within the collection. Parents with concerns regarding content of materials read to young children may wish to read the materials first before presenting them to their child. However, the library must provide access to everyone who wishes to read such materials. Individuals who find the material inappropriate for their particular child can decide if they wish to expose their child to the ideas within it or not.

**TO:** Cheryl Lynch,  
Director, Derry Public Library

**FROM:** Materials Review Committee  
Gayle Tudisco, Head of Children's Services  
Jacqueline Spenard, Children's Librarian  
Christine Sharbrough, Reference Librarian

**RE:** **Book Challenge: *Fish Don't Play Ball***

**DATE:** July 29, 2011

The Materials Review Committee met on July 8, 2011 to discuss the book *Fish Don't Play Ball* by Emma McCann in response to a patron challenge filed on June 22, 2011.

The book in question was originally published by Meadowside Children's Books located in the UK in 2004. This is where the majority of copies of this book are held. The book was reprinted by Sandy Creek in New York, USA in 2010.

The book was received into our collection in 2010. Since then, it has circulated eleven times in 2010 and twice in 2011 so far. As a storyline, the book illustrates a theme of tolerance and respect for differences in others; realizing that individuals do not have to like the same things to be friends; and that everyone has value even if they are different.

The wording at issue in this challenge, "told off," is actually a colloquialism of the UK. Its origins lie in early 20<sup>th</sup> century UK military verbiage and means "chastised." It is usually applied to a child or subordinate. [source: <http://www.english-for-students.com/Ticked-Off.html>] In the US that would translate, according to the website to: "annoyed." The Free Dictionary Online (<http://www.thefreedictionary.com>) defines this phrasal verb as an informal usage of the verb tell meaning "to rebuke severely or reprimand."

We believe that the language in this book is a reflection of the culture in which it was written. In addition to our own research, we did contact the author, Emma McCann, who verified our conclusions. Therefore, we make a recommendation that the book remain in the collection. We adhere to the American Library Association's stance on Banned and Challenged books which states:

"The ALA promotes the freedom to choose or the freedom to express one's opinions even if that opinion might be considered unorthodox or unpopular and stresses the importance of ensuring the availability of those viewpoints to all who wish to read them.

A challenge is an attempt to remove or restrict materials, based upon the objections of a person or group. A banning is the removal of those materials. Challenges do not simply involve a person

Ms Stephanie Masters  
16 Oak St., Apt #2  
Derry, NH 03038

Dear Ms Masters,

I am writing to you in regard to the "Request for Reconsideration" you placed on the children's book entitled "Fish Don't Play Ball" on June 22, 2011. As is our procedure, the head of the department responsible for that collection in which the item in question is located is responsible for convening a "Materials Review Committee" to review that item.

The Committee has met and I have attached their opinion report along with their findings. Referring briefly to their report: "Because the book has circulated a dozen times without incident, we believe that the content does not pose a problem and should remain within the collection."

Should you feel that you want to appeal this decision please feel free to write to the Derry Public Library Board of Trustees. This is part of the overall process of "request for consideration" and they encourage all input. They are the elected, governing body of this institution and have the final decision making authority.

Although the "Committee" has disagreed with your opinion, we appreciate your input and thank you for caring enough to take the time from your busy life to consider the appropriateness of our reading material for children.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Lynch  
Director  
Derry Public Library

6/27/13

Erin Gilbert  
11 Paul Avenue  
Derry, NH 03038

Dear Miss Gilbert,

Thank you so much for bringing this issue to our attention. Having reviewed the DVD in question (An Easter Bunny Puppy) I agree with your observations that the packaging is not only misleading, but the content is also meant for an older audience. We will be removing the title from the Children's DVD collection.

Sincerely,

Evan Michael Bush

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Evan Michael Bush", written over the printed name.

Head of Children's Services  
Derry Public Library  
64 E. Broadway  
Derry, NH 03038

Revised 5-19-03

**DERRY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF MATERIALS**

The Derry Public Library appreciates any concerns you may have about materials, resources or services the library offers. So that we may address them fully, please fill out this form and return it to the attention of the Library Director. You will receive an acknowledgement upon the director's receipt of the form.

NAME (print) Erin Gilbert DATE 5-29-13

ADDRESS 11 Paul Ave Derry PHONE 965-3386

TITLE An Easter Bunny Puppy AUTHOR \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle all that apply: Book ☒ Video ☐ Audio ☐ Magazine ☐ Internet ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Children Young Adult Adult

Have you read, listened to or reviewed the entire work? yes

Please specifically describe your objection to the material, citing page numbers or sections of particular concern. You may wish to consider such things as what you feel would be the result of reading/viewing/listening to this material, as well as age appropriateness and anything of positive value about it. Please use the back or attach separate sheet if necessary.

The packaging of this video is extremely misleading. It shows a cute Cocker Spaniel with bunny ears on its head. This dog is not even in the movie. Instead it is more of a tween drama with a gun and young love, not what I would've let my four year old take out. I feel the company that put this out was trying to intentionally mislead people. No one is going to look at this movie & think the story is what it turns out to be. There isn't even a description of the true movie content on the back so as a parent, I had no idea what I was getting into.

PATRON SIGNATURE Erin Gilbert

TO BE FILLED IN BY LIBRARY STAFF

Date Received: 6/3/13 Director Signature: AUSA Brown

Disposition: We viewed the movie & agreed that it was in misleading packaging & did not Patron notified: 6/27/13

Board of Trustees: \_\_\_\_\_ Patron notified: \_\_\_\_\_  
belong in the T collection

Mrs. Bonnie Bell  
48 E. Derry Road  
Derry, NH 03038

Dear Mrs. Bell,

Thank you for filling out the Reconsideration of Materials form regarding *Binky Brown Meets The Holy Virgin Mary* by Justin Green. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and input into our collection. Having received the form, we have considered the material and have chosen to keep the book in our collection. *Binky Brown* is a historically relevant graphic novel and offers a unique perspective.

You may be wondering how *Binky Brown* could be historically significant. Art Spiegelman (Author of *MAUS*) says it best in his forward, "I readily confess that without his work, there would be no *Maus*....it's no small thing to invent a genre." He is talking about the fact that before *Binky Brown*, there were no autobiographical graphic novels circulating. Since it was published in 1972 Justin Green has regularly been lauded as "the father of the biographical graphic novel." *Binky Brown* is the book that gave birth to the genre.

I also mentioned the importance of the perspective. The story follows the experience of a young man as he struggles with adolescence, his religious beliefs and his OCD. At times, these neuroses can be quite graphic, however, *Binky* makes it through in the end, relieved to be free of the nightmarish quality of his internal thoughts and struggles. This book is an honest portrayal of a personal journey, and while it may not fit every pallet, it is important that public library make available a wide variety of perspectives for the varying interests of our patrons.

Lastly, the Reconsideration Form conveyed the message that the book should be removed based on it being "an offense to Catholicism." Our Library Bill of Rights states that "Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval."

Again, we thank you for taking the time to let us know your thoughts on *Binky Brown Meets the Holy Virgin Mary*. We try to be thorough and fair in our review of challenged materials while insuring that the library contains a variety of materials that meet the needs and interests of all patrons. Should you disagree with this decision, our policy procedure allows you to take your concern directly to the Board of Trustees.

Best Wishes,

Erin E. Robinson





64 East Broadway  
Derry, New Hampshire 03038  
Tel. 603-432-6140  
Fax 603-432-6128

February 21, 2014

Dear Mr. Judkins,

Thank you very much for taking the time to express your feelings about the book *Zeitoun* which you recently listened to on audio. I have read your comments on the form you filled out for us and I understand your objections to the content of this book.

The Derry Public Library subscribes to the American Library Association's Freedom to Read statement, which I am enclosing with this letter. When we purchase materials for this library, we specifically strive to have multiple points of view represented, and to not restrict patrons' access in any way. We believe that providing an open "marketplace of ideas" is the best way we can support an informed citizenry, and that every individual has the right to examine and consider conflicting perspectives.

Thank you again for sharing your opinion about this particular book. If you have any other questions, I am more than happy to speak with you.

Susan Brown  
Acting Director  
Derry Public Library

Passed 5-19-03

**DERRY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF MATERIALS**

The Derry Public Library appreciates any concerns you may have about materials, resources or services the library offers. So that we may address them fully, please fill out this form and return it to the attention of the Library Director. You will receive an acknowledgement upon the director's receipt of the form.

NAME (print) ROBERT J. JUDKINS, SR DATE 2/7/14  
ADDRESS 28 LINKEW DR - A-16 PHONE 603 275 2960  
TITLE "ZEITHOUN" AUTHOR DAVE EGGER

Please circle all that apply: Book Video Audio Magazine Internet Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Children Young Adult Adult

Have you read, listened to or reviewed the entire work? YES

Please specifically describe your objection to the material, citing page numbers or sections of particular concern. You may wish to consider such things as what you feel would be the result of reading/viewing/listening to this material, as well as age appropriateness and anything of positive value about it. Please use the back or attach separate sheet if necessary.

TOTALLY ANTI-CHRISTIAN AND PRO MUSLIM LITERATURE - PROTAGONIST  
IS A SYRIAN MUSLIM US CITIZEN MARRIED TO SOUTHERN WOMAN CONVERTS  
TO ISLAMISH TEACHING WITH SEVERE ANTI CHRISTIAN REMARKS AND  
EVENTS TO THE DETRIMENT OF HER FORMER CHRISTIAN BELIEFS  
CHRISTIAN CLERGY ARE OBSTACLED AS LIARS, MONEY-GRUBBERS, ETC  
CHRISTIAN WOMEN ARE CRITICIZED AS PREJUDICIAL AND VIOLENTLY  
ANTI-MUSLIM, ESPECIALLY, SINCE 9/11.

LEAD CHARACTER DISAPPEARS WHILE PERFORMING HUMANE  
ACTS DURING HURRICANE KATRINA'S AFTERMATH LEAVING  
READERS WITH THE SUGGESTION, THAT HE WAS ABDUCTED AND  
KILLED, DUE TO HIS RELIGIOUS BELIEFS BY "EVIL CHRISTIAN  
PATRON SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ AMERICAN THUGS"

\_\_\_\_\_  
TO BE FILLED IN BY LIBRARY STAFF

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Director Signature: Susan Brown  
Disposition: responded explaining about ALA's  
Freedom to Read Statement Patron notified: 2/21/14  
Board of Trustees: \_\_\_\_\_ Patron notified: \_\_\_\_\_

Source: <http://www.english-for-students.com/Ticked-Off.html>

## Ticked Off : Phrases

### Meaning:

Chastised; 'told off', or in a separate US meaning, 'annoyed'. There's also the literal meaning of 'ticked off' - when ticks are placed against a list of items as they are noted.

### Example:

### Origin:

The 'chastised' meaning is of UK military origin and dates from the early 20th century and is now rather outmoded. It is usually applied to a child or subordinate. the earliest known citation of it in print is in a 1915 letter which was later published in Wilfred Owen's Collected Letters:

"He has been 'ticked-off' four or five times for it; but is not yet shot at dawn."

The more recent American meaning of 'annoyed' is unrelated and dates from around the 1960s. For example, this piece from The Charleston Gazette, April 1969:

"The letter that really ticked me off was the one from the wife who said she felt like a prostitute."

reviews  
"reservations"  
"recomm" of "language"  
female author  
British Reviews?  
X

Poss. donated - 2010 ~~or~~ purch. records?

- military bases

- Onondaga Lib. in Syracuse

\* Publishing house? not appear to  
be self-published

2004 - London

2010 - Sandy Creek

Circ Stats - 13 times

2x-2011

11x-2010

Tolerance for differences in others,

Derry PL Quote

ALA guidelines - freedom to read.

Verdict: Remain in collection

Melissa DeMartino  
22 East Derry Rd  
Derry, NH 03038

October 29, 2009

Dear Mrs. Martino:

We appreciate your concern about the language in the movie "The Secret of Loch Ness".

A committee of four library staff persons from Reference, Children's, Technical Services and Young Adults viewed the entire movie. We all agreed that there was some language throughout the movie. However, on the back cover where the PG rating is located there was a warning that said, "Language throughout and some violence/peril". The children's room purchases G and PG movies (except some Harry Potter-type movies that are PG-13).

The reviews for this movie did not mention any language. Since we base our purchases on reviews and rely on them to make our decision whether we will purchase the item or not, we were totally unaware of the language. The film was originally produced in Germany and the U.S. version was dubbed in English.

Some of the comments in the reviews were, "a delightful tale of a lonely boy....extraordinary journey...an adventure of a lifetime..." The film was categorized as a Family Drama Adventure.

The committee felt that the movie should stay in the children's room because it was rated PG and there was a warning about the language on the back of the DVD cover.

If you do not agree with this decision, you may bring this up with the Board of Trustees at their next meeting on Monday, November 16, 2009.

Sincerely,

Adele Boeske  
Head of Children's Services

*Challenged Movie*

**Cheryl Lynch**

---

**From:** Adele Boeske [adeleb@derrypl.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 13, 2009 3:19 PM  
**To:** cheryll@derry.lib.nh.us  
**Cc:** merylez@derrypl.org; joans@derrypl.org  
**Subject:** Challenged DVD

Hi Cheryl

Joan, Meryle and I viewed the DVD, "The Secret of Loch Ness". We all agreed that the characters did use swear words many times. We felt that the swearing was not gratuitous, however. A strong emotion of frustration, anger or reaction to deadly threats was the reason for the swearing.

This movie was originally filmed in German by a German production company and was later dubbed and released to the US audience.

Midwest Tape Co. categorized this movie as "family adventure". The movie is described as "a delightful tale of a lonely boy..." The movie is rated PG. The back of the DVD case does say that there is "language throughout and some violence/peril". This fact was unknown when ordering the DVD for the collection. However, because of its PG rating, the DVD can remain in the children's room. Parents are the ultimate censor for their children, so it is up to them to read everything on the back of a DVD case and decide whether it is appropriate for their family.

Let me know if you need any additional information.

Thanks

Adele

Mary Ann Taylor  
3 Montgomery Farm Rd.  
Derry, NH 03038

Dear Mrs. Taylor:

Thank you so much for taking the time to express your concerns about "Jack and the Beanstalk: The True Story." In response to your recommendation, the following library staff viewed the video: Jack Robillard, Assistant Director; Susan Brown, Head of Information Services; and Adele Boeske, Head of Children's Services. We viewed the movie for the same amount of time (20 minutes) that you had indicated.

The movie was a 2001 made-for-TV miniseries by Hallmark and it is 3 hours and 4 minutes long. The video's jacket cover clearly describes this movie as "Not a fairy tale." There is a mention of Jim Henson Productions since they provided the special effects. When you read the entire video jacket, you get a sense of what this video is about.

Our children's room collection includes a wide range of materials appropriate for children up to and including the age of eleven. We do not make a practice of labeling or rating materials by age since individual children's interests, comprehension, attention span and maturity level vary widely. This subject often comes up for debate, since many parents and professionals share your concerns about the age appropriateness of visual materials. However neither the film industry nor any government agency has yet developed a satisfactory system for standardizing evaluations. As a result, we believe that parents and caregivers, rather than our staff, should make all decisions concerning which materials should be taken home.

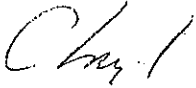
After viewing the first 10 minutes, we noticed some potential "creepiness" (moody soundtrack, storm with lightning, interior shots showing cobwebs), although we thought that most 5 year olds would not necessarily understand what was going on. The next 10 minutes consisted mostly of dialogue and character development, so would perhaps seem rather boring.

We applaud your decision to stop viewing the video when you felt that it was "too creepy" for your child. Nevertheless a video which is "too creepy" for some children may not be "too creepy" for others. As librarians, we rely on parents such as you to exercise their prerogative and make the best choices for their own children. At this time we are comfortable characterizing this video as family fare, partly because it has been checked out 103 times in the past 8 years with no other complaints about the content. We therefore feel that the video can remain in the children's room.

Thank you for taking the time to make your concerns known to us. We hope that we have addressed these concerns to your satisfaction. We try to be thorough and fair in our review of challenged materials while insuring that the library contains a variety of

materials that meets the needs and interests of all patrons. Should you disagree with this decision, our policy procedure allows you to take your concern directly to the Board of Trustees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cheryl", written in dark ink.

Cheryl Lynch  
Director



Dale Rpt

## Cheryl Lynch

To: susanb@derry.lib.nh.us; 'Jack Robillard'; adeleb@derrypl.org

Subject: request for reconsideration

There has been a "Request for Reconsideration on a video "JVC Jack Beanstalk". Adele, I have placed this in your mail box and since you are the selector you will head the committee. Susan, Jack you will also participate by joining Adele in reading the review material pertaining to this as well as watching the video. Finally, you will submit a report and the woman will be contacted. I need to reread the procedure to see who actually does the final phase. In any case, please check the policy manual to determine time frames etc. Thanks....cheryl

Cheryl Lynch  
Director  
Derry Public Library  
64 East Broadway  
Derry, NH 03038  
(603) 432-6140 (x14)  
(603) 432-6128 (fax)

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## REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF MATERIALS

May 19, 2003

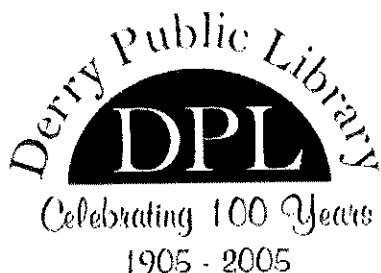
The Derry Public Library (DPL) is committed to upholding the American Library Association Right to Read Statement and state and national library organizations' resolutions concerning Internet use. (See attached) Derry Public Library defends the Constitutional rights of all individuals, including children and teenagers, to use library resources and services. We affirm the right and responsibility of all parents and guardians to guide their own children's use of the library, its resources and services.

The DPL Board of Trustees is the governing board of the library. According to state law RSA 202-A:6, "the library trustees shall have the entire custody and management of the library and all the property of the town relating thereto..." Only the Board of Trustees may remove or restrict materials in the collection in response to a written request by a patron based on the patron's perception that the material is inappropriate or offensive. All resources will remain in use, pending resolution by the Board of Trustees.

The Derry Public Library protects the rights of individuals to express their opinions about library resources and services. We encourage dialogue and discussion about any materials in the collection. Every patron shall have access to the material selector, department head and/or director to engage in this discussion.

If, for any reason, the discussion cannot take place or the patron is not satisfied, the patron shall be encouraged to file a Request for Reconsideration Form. The procedure for responding to the written request shall be as follows:

1. The form shall be sent to the director who will initial and date it. The director will call the patron to acknowledge receipt of the form.
2. The director will appoint a Materials Review Committee consisting of the selector, department head and such other staff as the director deems advisable. Each committee member will be provided with a copy of the request and will review the material in question.
3. The Materials Review Committee shall convene to discuss their individual written assessments on the earliest possible date.
4. If the Committee majority disagrees with the patron, the director or his/her designee shall provide a written assessment to the patron and note that the material will remain in the collection. The patron shall also be informed of his/her right to request that the complaint be brought to the Board of Trustees.
5. If the Committee majority agrees with the patron or the patron requests the complaint go to the Board of Trustees, the director will notify the chair of the board and immediately provide each trustee with copies of the complaint and staff assessment. No staff assessment shall be sent to the patron. The director shall notify the patron the date and time of the Board meeting when the complaint will be discussed.
6. The Trustees shall review the material in question immediately. The discussion and vote shall be held at a public Board meeting. A written assessment of the material and decision shall be executed by the Board, one copy sent to the patron and one to be filed. The decision of the Board of Trustees is final.



64 East Broadway  
Derry, New Hampshire 03038  
Tel. 603-432-6140  
Fax 603-432-6128

April 19, 2005

*File*  


Dear Ms. Fox,

I am writing to you in regard to the "Request for Consideration of Materials" form you filed in March regarding the book "The Camera My Mother Gave Me" by Susanna Kaysen.

The book was given to an internal review committee for reexamination. Our books are primarily selected from reviews published in professional journals. Our committee, consisting of myself, the assistant director and two people from our reference department, revisited all of the available reviews in our professional journals. In this case they searched and read critical reviews in Library Journal, Kirkus Reviews, Booklist, School Library Journal and Publishers Weekly.

The reviews were mostly positive. In addition to a summary of the basic premise; the reviewers commented: "humor and graphic honesty," (Library Journal, 8/3/2001)... "a voluptuous exploration of sexuality, aging, the failures of modern medicine, attempts at self-knowledge, and the meaning of pain," (Kirkus Reviews, 8/1/2001) and "...prose pared down to the essentials and peppered with sharp wit," (Booklist, 8/1/2001. Publishers Weekly, (7/30/2001) was the only review that quoted "explicit language..." And, while other reviewers talk about Kaysen using "terse" language and being "admirable in her honesty", they say nothing about it being pornographic

The committee then looked at the definitions of 'pornography' and "obscenity" to gain a legal understanding. Pornography was defined as "being sexually explicit in pictures, writing or other material whose primary purpose is to cause arousal and has no particular legal significance, according to the courts. "Obscenity" has a much more complicated legal history. The basic guidelines stipulate a three-part test involving "community standards," state law, and the lack of "serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value." All three parts must be met for a work to be deemed obscene in the legal sense.

Finally the group read various portions of the work to gather their personal impressions.

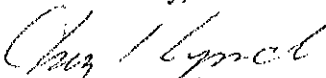
The author tells of her trials and tribulations dealing with a medical and personal crisis, namely vaginal pain particularly during intercourse, and her problems with an unsympathetic boyfriend.

The general consensus is that the book is not pornographic, despite several crude slang expressions in place of "vagina" and the crude language, mostly centered around the author's unsympathetic boyfriend, that helped explain his character (or lack thereof)

After careful consideration the recommendation of the committee is that the book remains in the collection.

We thank you for your concern and watchfulness. We try to be thorough and fair in our review of challenged materials while insuring that the library contains a variety of materials that meets the needs and interests of all citizens. Should you disagree with this decision our policy procedure allows you to take your concern directly to the Board of Trustees.

Yours truly,

  
Cheryl Lynch  
Director

Request for Reconsideration: The Camera My Mother Gave Me  
by Susanna Kaysen

On March 15, Diana Fox (23 Faith Drive, Derry, 437-9007) submitted a Request for Reconsideration of Materials form, stating the material "is of pornographic content." She asked, "Please review!" and requested, "Please respond." She gave her email address: [dianafox@comcast.net](mailto:dianafox@comcast.net).

As a result, the library director, Cheryl Lynch, requested three members of the staff (Jack Robillard, Asst. Director; Lynn Dumais, YA librarian; and Sherry Bailey, Reference Librarian to review the request and submit recommendations.

First we looked at the definitions of "pornography" and "obscenity" to refresh our understanding of the legal terms. "Pornography" –being sexually explicit pictures, writing, or other material whose primary purpose is to cause sexual arousal – has no particular legal significance, according to the courts. "Obscenity" has a much more complicated legal history. The basic guidelines stipulate a three-part test involving "community standards," state law, and the lack of "serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value." All three parts must be met for a work to be deemed obscene in the legal sense.

We then read the professional journal reviews (Library Journal, Kirkus Reviews, Booklist, School Library Journal and Publishers Weekly); to see on what the selectors may have based their purchase; and then we read various portions of the work to gather our personal thoughts.

The author tells of her trials and tribulations dealing with a medical and personal crisis, namely vaginal pain particularly during intercourse, and her problems with an unsympathetic boyfriend.

The Summary from the library's public access catalog is as follows: From the author of "Girl, Interrupted" comes an astonishing journey into the terrain of sexual desire. Just as her first memoir used a particular clinical experience to explore larger philosophical questions about the nature of the human mind, Kaysen's new book explores questions that arise when sexual pleasure is replaced by pain.

The reviews were mostly positive. In addition to a summary of the basic premise; the reviewers commented: "humor and graphic honest," (Library Journal, Aug. 3, 2001). . . "a voluptuous exploration of sexuality, aging, the failures of modern medicine, attempts at self-knowledge, and the meaning of pain," Kirkus Reviews, August 1, 2001. . . and ". . . prose pared down to the essentials and peppered with sharp wit," Booklist, August 1, 2001. While the reviewers talk about Kaysen using "terse" language and being "admirable in her honesty", they say nothing about it being pornographic.

"Camera my Mother Gave Me"  
Request for Reconsideration

Publisher's Weekly (July 30, 2001) was the only review that quoted explicit language, "... an unnamed live-in boyfriend who, despite her pain, pressures her to have intercourse: 'I want to fuck you, goddammit, he said, lunging at me, pushing his hands between my legs...I jumped out of bed. I was naked... I ran downstairs. All I could think of was to get away from the bed and from him and his fingers. I pressed my back against the wall in the living room and shook, from cold and the remnants of my desire.'" The reviewer calls the work a "... thin, disappointing chronicle of what happened when 'something went wrong' with her vagina" and remarked, "... Kaysen's slight memoir will spark some controversy. . ."

Our staff noted that the catalog record and book jacket blurb explicitly identify the book as containing sexual content. The reviews, including School Library Journal, are positive and make no warning about language or content. The book is cataloged in adult non-fiction and is a memoir which, generally speaking, will contain language and scenarios of "real life." The book is more specifically a "medical" memoir about a woman's struggle with vestibulitis (vaginal dysfunction) and the effects on her life and relationships.

The general consensus is that the book is not pornographic, despite several crude slang expressions in place of "vagina," and the crude language, mostly centered around the author's unsympathetic boyfriend, that helped explain his character (or lack thereof!).

The recommendation of the three reviews is that the book remains in the collection.

**DERRY PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF MATERIALS**

The Derry Public Library appreciates any concerns you may have about materials, resources or services the library offers. So that we may address them fully, please fill out this form and return it to the attention of the Library Director. You will receive an acknowledgement upon the director's receipt of the form.

NAME (print) Diana Fox DATE 3/15/05

ADDRESS 23 Faith St. Derry PHONE # 437-9007

TITLE "The Camera my Mother gave me" AUTHOR Suzanna Kayser

Please circle all that apply: ☒ Book ☐ Video ☐ Audio ☐ Magazine ☐ Internet ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
☒ Children ☐ Young Adult ☐ Adult

Have you read, listened to or reviewed the entire work? no ~~entire~~ entire book.

Please specifically describe your objection to the material, citing page numbers or sections of particular concern. You may wish to consider such things as what you feel would be the result of reading/viewing/listening to this material, as well as age appropriateness and anything of positive value about it. Please use the back or attach separate sheet if necessary.

*Is of ~~pornographic~~ pornographic content. Please review.*

*Please respond.  
dianafox@comcast.net*

PATRON SIGNATURE *Diana L. Fox*

\_\_\_\_\_  
TO BE FILLED IN BY LIBRARY STAFF

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Director Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Disposition: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patron notified: \_\_\_\_\_

Board of Trustees: \_\_\_\_\_ Patron notified: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Camera My Mother Save Me

The catalog record and book jacket blurb explicitly identify this book as containing sexual content. The reviews, including School Library Journal, are positive and make no warning-type comments about language or content. The book is cataloged in adult non-fiction (NOT YA). It is a memoir, which generally speaking will contain the language and scenarios of "real life." I think the book has merit and should be retained in the collection. Sherry Bailey, Reference.  
(I don't find it offensive.)

3/17/05

From: Lynn:

I do not believe this book should be removed from our shelves for several reasons. I have skimmed (quickly + briefly) this non-fiction medical memoir, as well as read the reviews and looked at the author's credentials. This is a critically acclaimed author whose previous work "Girl, Interrupted" was made into an Oscar-winning film. This is a medical memoir (note: cataloged in the <sup>adult</sup> Health section of the library) about a woman's struggle with vestibulitis ~~and~~ (vaginal dysfunction) and the effects of the condition on her life and relationships. I definitely feel the book is not pornographic; despite the fact that several crude slang expressions are used in place of "vagina." However, this is a non-fiction book and, unfortunately, people use crude slang expressions in place of "vagina" in real life. By definition (Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary) pornographic writing is intended to create sexual excitement. But this book →

is discussing the effects of medical sexual dysfunction.



Request for Reconsideration:

The Camera My Mother Gave Me by Susanna Kaysen

In response to a Request for Reconsideration of "The Camera My Mother Gave Me" by Susanna Kaysen, I read the reviews from Library Journal (Aug 3, 2001), Kirkus Reviews (August 1, 2001), Booklist (August 1, 2001), and Publishers Weekly (July 20, 2001). Publisher's Weekly found the memoir "admirable in its honesty and insights into medicine's limits," and Booklist, the most positive review, noting the book touched on the author's thoughts on "sexuality, love, trust, femininity, age, self-image, and the wisdom of the body."

I skimmed several chapters and found it easy reading. Despite being a male reading about a woman's problem with vaginal soreness, I could empathize with her encounters with doctors. Her writing was terse and realistic.

The summery from our catalog is:

*From the author of "Girl, Interrupted" comes an astonishing journey into the terrain of sexual desire. Just as her first memoir used a particular clinical experience to explore larger philosophical questions about the nature of the human mind, Kaysen's new book explores questions that arise when sexual pleasure is replaced by pain.*

The book is cataloged in Gynecology and Obstetrics; Experimental Medicine.

I would not consider the content pornographic. Even the crude language, mostly centered around the author's unsympathetic boyfriend, helped explain his character (or lack thereof!).

As an additional note: 17 libraries around the state have this title on their shelves, including three in our GMILCS consortium, including Derry, plus 2 libraries that have the audio version.

Jack Robillard  
Derry Public Library  
3/22/05



"Pornography" is a layperson's term, with no particular legal significance. Jones may believe that Penthouse is non-pornographic, while Smith believes that it is. Neither is incorrect.

The term of legal significance is "obscenity", which, after struggling for many years and through many cases, the U.S. Supreme Court defined in *Miller v. California* in 1973. It is a three-part test, as follows:

"The basic guidelines for the trier of fact must be:

- (a) whether "the average person, applying contemporary community standards" would find that the work, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest, *Kois v. Wisconsin*, supra, at 230, quoting *Roth v. United States*, supra, at 489;
- (b) whether the work depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct specifically defined by the applicable state law; and
- (c) whether the work, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value."

Note that part (a) does employ community standards. However, all three parts must be met for a work to be deemed obscene, and part (c), as the Court has held elsewhere, is a national threshold, not a community test.

An example is from the Supreme Court's 1989 decision in *Fort Wayne Books v. Indiana*. Some relevant language from that Opinion:

"We refined that approach further in our subsequent decisions. Most importantly, in *Heller v. New York*, 413 U.S. 483, 492 (1973), the Court noted that "seizing films to destroy them or to block their distribution or exhibition is a very different matter from seizing a single copy of a film for the bona fide purpose of preserving it as evidence in a criminal proceeding." As a result, we concluded that until there was a "judicial determination of the obscenity issue in an adversary proceeding," exhibition of a film could not be restrained by seizing all the available copies of it. *Id.*, at 492-493. The same is obviously true for books or any other expressive materials. While a single copy of a book or film may be seized and retained for evidentiary purposes based on a finding of probable cause, the publication may not be taken out of circulation completely until there has been a determination of obscenity after an adversary hearing. *Ibid.*; see *New York v. P. J. Video, Inc.*, 475 U.S. 868, 874-876 (1986).

"Thus, while the general rule under the Fourth Amendment is that any and all contraband, instrumentalities, and evidence of crimes may be seized on probable cause (and even without a warrant in various circumstances), it is otherwise when materials presumptively protected by the First Amendment are involved. *Lo-Ji Sales, Inc. v. New York*, 442 U.S. 319, 326, n. 5 (1979). It is "[t]he risk of prior restraint, [489 U.S. 46, 64] which is the underlying basis for the special Fourth Amendment protections accorded searches for and seizure of First Amendment materials" that motivates this rule. *Maryland v. Macon*, supra, at 470. These same concerns render invalid the pretrial seizure at issue here.<sup>9</sup>

"In its decision below, the Indiana Supreme Court did not challenge our precedents or the limitations on seizures that our decisions in this area have established. Rather, the court found those rules largely inapplicable in this case. 504 N. E. 2d, at 564-567. The court noted that the alleged predicate offenses included 39 convictions for violating the State's obscenity-laws<sup>10</sup> and observed that the pretrial seizures (which were made in strict accordance with Indiana law) were not based on the nature or suspected obscenity of the contents of the items seized, but upon the neutral ground that the sequestered property

represented assets used and acquired in the course of racketeering activity. "The remedy [489 U.S. 46, 65] of forfeiture is intended not to restrain the future distribution of presumptively protected speech but rather to disgorge assets acquired through racketeering activity. Stated simply, it is irrelevant whether assets derived from an alleged violation of the RICO statute are or are not obscene." *Id.*, at 565. The court also specifically rejected petitioner's claim that the legislative inclusion of violations of obscenity laws as a form of racketeering activity was "merely a semantic device intended to circumvent well-established First Amendment doctrine." *Id.*, at 564. The assets seized were subject to forfeiture "if the elements of a pattern of racketeering activity are shown," *ibid.*; there being probable cause to believe this was the case here, the pretrial seizure was permissible, the Indiana Supreme Court concluded.

"We do not question the holding of the court below that adding obscenity-law violations to the list of RICO predicate crimes was not a mere ruse to sidestep the First Amendment. And for the purpose of disposing of this case, we assume without deciding that bookstores and their contents are forfeitable (like other property such as a bank account or a yacht) when it is proved that these items are property actually used in, or derived from, a pattern of violations of the State's obscenity laws.<sup>11</sup> Even with these assumptions, though, we find the seizure at issue here unconstitutional. It is incontestable that these proceedings were begun to put an end to the sale of obscenity at the three bookstores named in the complaint, and hence we are quite sure that the special rules applicable to removing First Amendment materials from circulation are relevant here. This includes specifically [489 U.S. 46, 66] the admonition that probable cause to believe that there are valid grounds for seizure is insufficient to interrupt the sale of presumptively protected books and films."

The "special rules applicable to removing First Amendment materials" are not just applicable to allegedly obscene material, but to all speech, deriving from the notion that the government must meet a much higher burden to restrain speech in advance than to try to punish it after the fact. The classic example of this is the Supreme Court's decision in *New York Times v. United States* (the so-called Pentagon Papers case), in which the Court refused to prevent publication of the Pentagon Papers by the NYT, despite the government's assertion that the papers included matters of national security. Prior restraints on speech are not absolutely prohibited under all imaginable scenarios, but \*virtually\* all attempts to restrain speech in advance are found to be unconstitutional, even if that same speech may later be found to be obscene, defamatory, etc.

-James S. Tyre

Author Kaysen, Susanna, 1948-

Title The camera my mother gave me / Susanna Kaysen.

bib# 1094810

Publisher New York : Alfred A. Knopf, c2001

Description 157 p. ; 20 cm.

Subjects Gynecology.  
Gynecologist and patient.  
Sex (Biology)  
Sexual excitement

ISBN 0679443908

According to the catalog, this book has  
not been out since 5/14/2003. 3 vols  
since 11/7/01.

**From Publishers Weekly**

Eight years ago, Kaysen's affecting story of her two years in a psychiatric hospital, *Girl, Interrupted*, helped sparked the memoir craze and later became a Hollywood blockbuster. Now Kaysen, also an accomplished novelist (*Asa, As I Knew Him*; *Far Afield*), returns with this thin, disappointing chronicle of what happened when "something went wrong" with her vagina. The terse narrative chronicles her quest to determine the cause of and cure for disabling vaginal pain vestibulitis, the medical term for a "sore spot" on the wall of her vagina. The most intriguing element is Kaysen's explosive relationship with an unnamed live-in boyfriend who, despite her pain, pressures her to have intercourse: "I want to fuck you, goddammit, he said, lunging at me, pushing his hand between my legs. I jumped out of bed. I was naked... I ran downstairs. All I could think of was to get away from the bed and from him and his fingers. I pressed my back against the wall in the living room and shook, from cold and the remnants of my desire." Later, sans boyfriend, Kaysen reflects too briefly on how she's changed as her desire for sex evaporates, concluding, "when eros goes away, life gets dull." Stingy with basic facts the reader is left wondering how old she is and how she spends her days (writing? teaching?) the memoir is admirable in its honesty and insights into medicine's limits. (Oct.) Forecast: Already the subject of a New York Times piece suggesting this "autopathography" may become the target of a backlash against such transgressive confessions, Kaysen's slight memoir will spark some controversy, but don't expect *Girl, Interrupted*-level sales.

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--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

**From School Library Journal**

After the shattering revelations of *Girl, Interrupted*, Kaysen is at it again, this time detailing her anguish and medical odyssey after she lost all sexual sensation.

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**From Library Journal**

In this follow-up to *Girl, Interrupted*, Kaysen tackles an even more taboo subject than depression: her vagina. Maintaining the same humor and graphic honesty, she tells of her inconclusive search to diagnose and treat the shooting pains that plague her. Her gynecologist refers her to an herbalist, while her internist sends her to a biofeedback practitioner. She exhausts conventional aids like creams and pills as well as experiments with baking soda and acupuncture. Throughout, she bemoans how controlling, demanding, and unsympathetic her boyfriend is, leading the reader to wonder if her pain really lies in her head. It's as if the book is a form of therapy, allowing the author to dissect the mechanics of her sexuality. Told poetically and without apology, Kaysen's latest once again proves that the power of her work is deeply rooted in her ability to recognize her own emotions and convey them to others. Recommended for all public libraries.

- Rachel Collins, "Library Journal"

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**From Booklist**

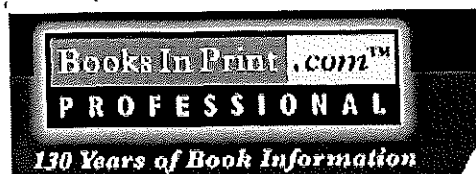
Medical memoirs are terrifying, humbling, and inspiring. Maxine Kumin, Linda Hogan, and Susan Antonetta have all written about injuries and torturous maladies and the revelations they engender with surpassing fortitude and lyricism, and now another writer joins the pained but redemptive chorus. Kaysen gets right to it, whether she's reporting retrospectively on her bout with mental illness at age 18 in the acclaimed *Girl, Interrupted* (1993), brought powerfully to the screen in an Oscar-winning 1999 production, or writing about another assault from within that forced her to put her life on hold. Her ailment? Excruciating and incessant pain in her vagina. In prose pared down to the essentials and peppered with sharp wit, Kaysen recounts her long, fruitless search for a diagnosis and cure. She is examined and treated unsuccessfully by a gynecologist, an internist, and various alternate health-care practitioners. Drugs and creams are supplied; she is told to soak in tea, baking soda, and oatmeal; and surgery is suggested. In between, she argues with her boyfriend about her inability to have sex and discusses her problems at length with friends. Thoughts on sexuality, love, trust, femininity, age, self-image, and the wisdom of the body radiate out from her pain like rays from the sun, touching her rapt, sympathetic, and often amused readers with the heat and light of her hard-won insights and candor. *Donna Seaman*

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**Product Description:**

Susanna Kaysen, who wrote about her teenage depression in the bestseller *Girl, Interrupted*, now takes on another taboo: her vagina—which suddenly and inexplicably starts to hurt. And neither Kaysen's cheery gynecologist, nor her internist, nor a laconic "vulvologist" has the cure. An alternative health nurse suggests direct application of tea, baking soda, and boric acid. Others recommend novocaine, oatmeal, "bio-feedback," and anti-depressants. Nothing works. As sex becomes more and more painful, Kaysen's relationship with her boyfriend disintegrates and she turns to her best friends, her wicked sense of humor, and finally wry self-reflection to get herself through.

Using this unusual lens, Kaysen challenges us to think in new ways about the centrality and power of sexuality. **The Camera My Mother Gave Me** is an unexpected and revelatory book from one of our most candid, insightful and consistently surprising writers.



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## The Camera My Mother Gave Me

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Full Description	Publisher Information	<b>Title Reviews</b>	Author Biography	Other Formats	Stock Availability
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Click highlighted text for a new search on that item.

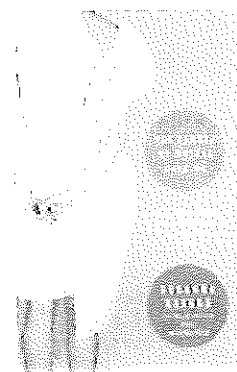
Reviews listed below may refer to a specific version of this work.

### Library Journal

(August 3, 2001; 0-679-44390-8)

In this follow-up to *Girl, Interrupted*, Kaysen tackles an even more taboo subject than depression: her vagina. Maintaining the same humor and graphic honesty, she tells of her inconclusive search to diagnose and treat the shooting pains that plague her. Her gynecologist refers her to an herbalist, while her internist sends her to a biofeedback practitioner. She exhausts conventional aids like creams and pills as well as experiments with baking soda and acupuncture. Throughout, she bemoans how controlling, demanding, and unsympathetic her boyfriend is, leading the reader to wonder if her pain really lies in her head. It's as if the book is a form of therapy, allowing the author to dissect the mechanics of her sexuality. Told poetically and without apology, Kaysen's latest once again proves that the power of her work is deeply rooted in her ability to recognize her own emotions and convey them to others. Recommended for all public libraries.

[Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 6/1/01.] Rachel Collins, "Library Journal" Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information.




[Back to Top](#)

### Kirkus Reviews

(August 1, 2001; 0-679-44390-8)

A vagina dialogue: pithy, funny, adventurous, sexy, and eye-opening. The conversation is between Kaysen (*Girl, Interrupted*, 1993) and her vagina, which abruptly begins to give her pain instead of the pleasure they have shared so frequently over the years. Kaysen starts on a round of health practitioners, beginning with her comfortable gynecologist and moving on to an alternative medicine practice, a surgeon who specializes in the vulva (he's a "vulvologist"), and her respected internist. She rejects surgery, which involves cutting a nerve that may also dull her sexual pleasure. But she gives a number of other options a try, from Novocain and estrogen creams, which only increase the pain, to baking soda baths and tea soaks, which don't help at all. She researches the most likely diagnosis, but skeptically says no to the no-lettuce diet recommended as a cure, just as refuses Prozac: "My life is terrible," she tells a doctor. "So I should take Prozac and feel better about it, even though it's still terrible." Meanwhile, her live-in boyfriend demands sex of one sort or another on a constant basis and refuses to believe how painful ("like razor blades") even the slightest arousal-let alone

intercourse-is for her. It's too much like rape, she frets; he leaves. Friends offer sympathy, advice, and good meals throughout the ordeal. Eventually the pain recedes, but so does all sensation. Does this mean no more sex, she wonders in anguish? For her, sexual conquest was what relationships were all about. Maybe that's what her vagina was trying to tell her. She isn't sure, so she's still listening. (One other unanswered question: What does the title mean? There's no indication here.) Disguised as plain, brown memoir, a voluptuous exploration of sexuality, aging, the failures of modern medicine, attempts at self-knowledge, and the meaning of pain.

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## Booklist

(August 1, 2001; 0-679-44390-8)

Medical memoirs are terrifying, humbling, and inspiring. Maxine Kumin, Linda Hogan, and Susan Antonetta have all written about injuries and torturous maladies and the revelations they engender with surpassing fortitude and lyricism, and now two very different writers join the pained but redemptive chorus. Ansay's novels, including *Vinegar Hill* (1994), an Oprah Book Club pick, are exceptional in their humanity, and her first nonfiction work reveals the source of her compassion. A superb storyteller, she vividly brings to life her childhood in Port Washington, Wisconsin, describing her farming heritage and the simplistic Catholicism that ordered her world. An intense and inquisitive girl, she dreamed of being a nun, recoiled from the cruelty and sexism of high school, and fell madly in love with music, practicing the piano with prayerful devotion. By the time she made it to the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, however, she was experiencing blazing pain in her arms and legs, an affliction no doctor could diagnose or cure. Ansay soldiered on, but after 15 months of acute suffering and endless rounds of medical consultations, she realized that she had to learn to live with her disability. Ansay's love for her parents shapes her compelling tale of evolving spirituality, and her exquisite sense of balance and love of life enable her to see that although she was forced into a wheelchair, she was freed from a restrictive faith, and although she lost her music, she found her writer's voice. What a strong and melodious voice it is. Kaysen gets right to it, whether she's reporting retrospectively on her bout with mental illness at age 18 in the acclaimed *Girl, Interrupted* (1993), brought powerfully to the screen in an Oscar-winning 1999 production, or writing about another assault from within that forced her to put her life on hold. Her ailment? Excruciating and incessant pain in her vagina. In prose pared down to the essentials and peppered with sharp wit, Kaysen recounts her long, fruitless search for a diagnosis and cure. She is examined and treated unsuccessfully by a gynecologist, an internist, and various alternate health-care practitioners. Drugs and creams are supplied; she is told to soak in tea, baking soda, and oatmeal; and surgery is suggested. In between, she argues with her boyfriend about her inability to have sex and discusses her problems at length with friends. Thoughts on sexuality, love, trust, femininity, age, self-image, and the wisdom of the body radiate out from her pain like rays from the sun, touching her rapt, sympathetic, and often amused readers with the heat and light of her hard-won insights and candor. Donna Seaman

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## Publishers Weekly

(July 30, 2001; 0-679-44390-8)

Eight years ago, Kaysen's affecting story of her two years in a psychiatric hospital, *Girl, Interrupted*, helped sparked the memoir craze and later became a Hollywood



blockbuster. Now Kaysen, also an accomplished novelist (*Asa, As I Knew Him*; *Far Afield*), returns with this thin, disappointing chronicle of what happened when "something went wrong" with her vagina. The terse narrative chronicles her quest to determine the cause of and cure for disabling vaginal pain vestibulitis, the medical term for a "sore spot" on the wall of her vagina. The most intriguing element is Kaysen's explosive relationship with an unnamed live-in boyfriend who, despite her pain, pressures her to have intercourse: "I want to fuck you, goddammit, he said, lunging at me, pushing his hand between my legs. I jumped out of bed. I was naked... I ran downstairs. All I could think of was to get away from the bed and from him and his fingers. I pressed my back against the wall in the living room and shook, from cold and the remnants of my desire." Later, sans boyfriend, Kaysen reflects too briefly on how she's changed as her desire for sex evaporates, concluding, "when eros goes away, life gets dull." Stingy with basic facts the reader is left wondering how old she is and how she spends her days (writing? teaching?) the memoir is admirable in its honesty and insights into medicine's limits. (Oct.) Forecast: Already the subject of a New York Times piece suggesting this "autopathography" may become the target of a backlash against such transgressive confessions, Kaysen's slight memoir will spark some controversy, but don't expect *Girl, Interrupted*-level sales. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information.

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### School Library Journal

(June 1, 2001; 0-679-44390-8)

After the shattering revelations of *Girl, Interrupted*, Kaysen is at it again, this time detailing her anguish and medical odyssey after she lost all sexual sensation. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information.

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### Review Citation(s):

Review Source	Date Reviewed	Reviewed By
Los Angeles Times	Nov 04, 2001	
Washington Post	Nov 04, 2001	<a href="#">Laurie Stone</a> , <a href="#">Liza Featherstone</a>
San Francisco Chronicle	Oct 21, 2001	<a href="#">Heller McAlpin</a>
New York Times Book Review	Oct 14, 2001	<a href="#">Laura Jamison</a>

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(Bowker

January 25, 2005

I called Melinde Sanborn (437-1808) to discuss her concerns about "The Queen's Slave Trader" by Nick Hazlewood. (See Melinde's hand written note on the 4X5 DPL complaint, suggestion or comment form) dated Dec. 13, 2004.

In the interim, Susan Brown had asked her husband, Ray, to read the book and comment on Melinde's concerns. (See typed comments, unsigned, beginning "Well, Nick is taking on one of the white hats among the Elizabethan sea-dogs.")

I explained to Melinde that we re-read the Journal reviews, asked an independent reader to comment on the book's content, and discussed it amongst the library's reference staff. We noted the reviews were very positive, with terms such as "impressive, impeccably researched" (Library Journal, Dec. 1, 2004), "engrossing, well-researched account" (Booklist, November 15, 2004), and "impressively researched and disturbing" . . . "a tour de force that condemns rather than romanticizes its thuggish adventurer." (Publishers Weekly, October 25, 2004.

Melinde's concern centers around the author's statements, based on what Melinde knows to be old research, more recently disproved, that the Taino Indians are extinct -- "a theory exploded over twenty years ago," according to Melinde.

Ray seems to feel that the author is "hardly objective, though he does try to be fair" and that his use of primary sources from Spain, causes his outlook to be reinforced, given the works he used (450-year old diaries, government documents, manuscripts, and archives).

Melinde understood this geocentric approach might cloud his research, but felt it was akin to keeping a book on the planets on the shelf that was researched prior to the discovery of Pluto. The information would be false and not appropriate to be on the shelf. Anyone researching the subject would be given information that has been subsequently amended by more recent information.

While the library is concerned about having accurate information available, an item such as this would not be the only source for someone doing serious in depth research, and that, given the reviews, it deserves its place among the sources of information about the slave trade.

Melinde thanked me for calling and understood that we have decided to keep the book on the shelf.

I added that if she wished to pursue her concerns further she could fill out a formal "Request for Reconsideration of Materials" and we would follow the library's procedure, including a decision by the Board of Trustee, who are the final arbiter in the whether to pull an item from the shelf.

Submitted by Jack Robillard - 1/25/05

# Derry Public Library

If you have a complaint, suggestion or comment  
And don't know what to do,  
Just leave us a note  
And we will take care of it for you.

The Queen's Slave Trader by  
Nick Hazlewood should be removed  
from the shelf because of multiple  
errors of fact. The Taino are  
not extinct as claimed on page  
39 - a theory exploded over twenty

Name: (optional)

Melinde Sanborn

Date:

13 Dec 04

Director's Action

437  
600-1808

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

years ago.

Hazlewood's assertion that the subject of the work had a son born a decade before he married is pure failure of research and failure to understand the records he was using.

If the first 50 pages have these significant errors in them, it is questionable that the rest of the book became authoritative later. Please remove it before inexperienced readers are misinformed by this failure of scholarship.

## *The Queen's Slave Trader*

by Nick Hazelwood

Well, Nick is taking on one of the white hats among the Elizabethan sea-dogs. But though I would take issue with his interpretation of the facts, he is not making up his facts.

You had mentioned some issue where the Tainu Indians are not reportedly, actually extinct in Hispaniola and Cuba. More commonly called the Arawaks, these people are universally acknowledged to have long been extinct in Hispaniola (modern DOMREP and Haiti). On Cuba, one would need to consult the CIA, or a reference librarian. Some of the Tainu do yet exist in Guiana and Surinam, but the book is not speaking of those jungle holes. Generally, the Spanish wiped them out by hard work and introduction of new diseases – with some help from the Brits, the French, and the Dutch, as well as African slaves.

Looking through the book, Hazelwood, who lives in Madrid and has traveled extensively in Latin America, is hardly objective, though he does *try* to be fair. He uses far more primary sources from Spain than England, and his outlook is thereby reinforced. He does not begin to understand the English Reformation, or the differences between Puritanism and Lutheranism. And he sure does not know much about what a Captain at sea is thinking. His blaming the slave trade on Hawkins is, I believe, wrong-headed and not worth a book.

Yet, I do not see where he has made up his facts. And even if some of his citations are incorrect or subject to dispute (and I do not see them), that puts Hazelwood in one of the least exclusive clubs in the world.

And he has cited works which I find to be a really honest, if imperfect, research.

“Serve God daily.  
Love one another.  
Preserve your victuals.  
Beware of fire.  
Keep good company.”

Admiral Sir John Hawkins  
Standing Orders, 1588

2 page(s) will be printed. [Back](#)

**Record: 1**

**Title:** THE QUEEN'S SLAVE TRADER: John Hawkyns, Elizabeth I, and the Trafficking in Human Souls (Book).

**Source:** Kirkus Reviews; 10/1/2004, Vol. 72 Issue 19, p948, 2p

**Document Type:** Book Review

**Subject Terms:** \*BOOKS -- Reviews  
SLAVE trade  
NONFICTION

**Reviews & Products:** QUEEN'S Slave Trader: John Hawkyns, Elizabeth I, & the Trafficking in Human Souls, The (Book)

**People:** HAZLEWOOD, Nick

**Abstract:** Reviews the book "The Queen's Slave Trader: John Hawkyns, Elizabeth I, and the Trafficking in Human Souls," by Nick Hazlewood.

**Full Text Word Count:** 369

**ISSN:** 0042-6598

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**Database:** Academic Search Elite

Section: Nonfiction

## THE QUEEN'S SLAVE TRADER: John Hawkyns, Elizabeth I, and the Trafficking in Human Souls (Book)

Hazlewood, Nick  
THE QUEEN'S SLAVE  
TRADER: John Hawkyns,  
Elizabeth I, and the  
Trafficking in Human Souls  
Morrow/HarperCollins  
(432 pp.)  
\$26.95  
Dec. 2004  
ISBN: 0-06-621089-5

The swashbuckling, high-seas adventures of an English mariner who pioneer the enslavement of Africans, along the way enriching himself but earning history's enduring censure.

Hazlewood (Savage: The Life and Times of Jemmy Button, 2001) crafts an engrossing, swift, and sanguinary narrative around Hawkyns, born circa 1532 into a wealthy Plymouth merchant family. He became a master sailor and a ferocious negotiator (cannon and sword were among his more persuasive tools), a man who sailed boldly into Spanish ports in the New World and forced the terrified denizens to trade (i.e., buy slaves) or suffer consequences that included burning homes, plundering local wealth, and killing temporizers. At the time Hawkyns's sail first loomed on history's horizon, Portugal and Spain enjoyed primacy in the slave trade between Africa and the Western Hemisphere, based on their arrangements with African leaders. Then the fearless Englishman arrived, using stealth and brutality to carve for his nation a profitable part of this market in humans. As Hazlewood points out, there was little objection anywhere to slavery on moral grounds. Queen Elizabeth, dancing delicately on history's high wire, offered private support (she had other disturbing dishes on her plate: Mary, Queen of Scots; the powerful Spanish), and Hawkyns found willing investors. The author describes in great detail his first two very profitable ventures and the disastrous third one, during which he barely escaped with his life when the Spanish

attacked him in Mexico. Hazlewood rightly points out, as well, the religious implications of all of this. Hawkyns's Protestant men destroyed and desecrated Roman Catholic symbols and structures in the New World, and the Inquisitors later dealt harshly with some of the English they captured. The author also makes excellent use of some astonishing details, as when he describes English sailors fishing in a South American river for an alligator--and using one of their dogs as bait.

A gripping tale and a sterling analysis of England's first foray into the nastiest of human enterprises. (16 pp. b&w photos, not seen)

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Source: Kirkus Reviews, 10/1/2004, Vol. 72 Issue 19, p948, 2p

Item: 14722818



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## The Queen's Slave Trader: John Hawkyins, Elizabeth I, and the Trafficking in Human Souls

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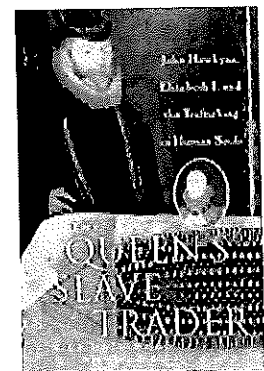
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Reviews listed below may refer to a specific version of this work.

### Library Journal

(December 1, 2004; 0-06-621089-5)

Freelance journalist Hazlewood (*Savage: The Life and Times of Lemmy Button*) provides an impressive, impeccably researched chronicle of Sir John Hawkyins (1532-95). Cousin to Sir Francis Drake, Hawkyins was the first Englishman to benefit from the early New World triangular slave trade, directly responsible for shipping between 1500 and 2000 slaves from Guinea to the Caribbean. In these profitable activities, he was supported by Elizabeth I, Hazlewood reveals. While Hawkyins oversaw three slave voyages, the queen deviously distracted the representatives of Spain, Portugal, and France; this relationship added the moniker of the "queen's personal slave trader" to Hawkyins's legacy. Fittingly, Hazlewood takes off the kid gloves with which history has up to now treated Hawkyins. Drawing on obscure, 450-year-old diaries, government documents, manuscripts, and archives, his scholarly work updates James Alexander Williamson's *Hawkins of Plymouth* and Harry Kelsey's *Sir John Hawkins*, which makes it an important addition to early New World history collections. -Dale Farris, Groves, TX Copyright 2004 Reed Business Information.



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### Booklist

(November 15, 2004; 0-06-621089-5)

The age of the English sea dogs can still conjure up romantic images of brave, flamboyant mariners who challenged the mighty Spanish empire. Of course, the reality was more sordid. Hazlewood, a freelance journalist, has chosen a fairly representative figure of a brutal period: John Hawkyins, born into a prominent, prosperous middle-class family in the port of Plymouth. He was attracted to the sea as a youth, and he also displayed an early propensity for violence. Hazlewood acknowledges Hawkyins' bravery, leadership ability, and even his occasional acts of compassion. But, as his deep involvement in the blossoming Atlantic slave trade shows, he was ruthless, intolerant, and chillingly indifferent to human suffering. This story is not all shame and sin. Hazlewood knows how to spin a good yarn, and there is plenty of excitement as Hawkyins' adventures span four



continents. This engrossing, well-researched account is likely to leave readers alternatively exhilarated and repelled, but it is a ride worth taking. --Jay Freeman  
Copyright 2004 Booklist

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### **Publishers Weekly**

(October 25, 2004; 0-06-621089-5)

This impressively researched and disturbing biography tells the story of John Hawkyms, an Elizabethan privateer who conducted profitable slave trading expeditions, capturing his victims on the west coast of Africa and selling them illegally in Spanish ports in the Americas. British journalist Hazlewood (*Savage: The Life and Times of Jenny Button*) traces Hawkyms's move from "roughneck" Plymouth to London, his formation of a trading syndicate and his successful and brutal slave trading voyages of 1562-1563, from which he returned to England with a show of riches. Having won the patronage of Elizabeth I, Hawkyms departed on an another eventful voyage. Here Hazlewood is able to draw on a wide array of archival resources, both Spanish and English, as he recounts Hawkyms's exploits in Sierra Leone and South America. Hazlewood furnishes yet more scintillating detail in his account of Hawkyms's next, fateful 1567 voyage, focusing on various members of the crew, many pressed into service as young boys. After savagely capturing yet more African slaves, Hawkyms suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of a Spanish squadron in Veracruz. Lacking drinking water and supplies for the journey home, he abandoned a number of his men in Mexico; their pathetic fates at the hands of the Spanish enemy are painstakingly traced. Brilliantly evocative of 16th-century Anglo-Spanish rivalry and the brutality of Elizabethan maritime life, Hazlewood's book is a tour de force that condemns rather than romanticizes its thuggish adventurer. 16 pages of b&w photos not seen by PW. Agent, Luigi Bonomi at Shell Lands Assoc. (On sale Nov. 23) Copyright 2004 Reed Business Information.

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## REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF MATERIALS

May 19, 2003

The Derry Public Library (DPL) is committed to upholding the American Library Association Right to Read Statement and state and national library organizations' resolutions concerning Internet use. (See attached) Derry Public Library defends the Constitutional rights of all individuals, including children and teenagers, to use library resources and services. We affirm the right and responsibility of all parents and guardians to guide their own children's use of the library, its resources and services.

The DPL Board of Trustees is the governing board of the library. According to state law RSA 202-A:6, "the library trustees shall have the entire custody and management of the library and all the property of the town relating thereto..." Only the Board of Trustees may remove or restrict materials in the collection in response to a written request by a patron based on the patron's perception that the material is inappropriate or offensive. All resources will remain in use, pending resolution by the Board of Trustees.

The Derry Public Library protects the rights of individuals to express their opinions about library resources and services. We encourage dialogue and discussion about any materials in the collection. Every patron shall have access to the material selector, department head and/or director to engage in this discussion.

If, for any reason, the discussion cannot take place or the patron is not satisfied, the patron shall be encouraged to file a Request for Reconsideration Form. The procedure for responding to the written request shall be as follows:

1. The form shall be sent to the director who will initial and date it. The director will call the patron to acknowledge receipt of the form.
2. The director will appoint a Materials Review Committee consisting of the selector, department head and such other staff as the director deems advisable. Each committee member will be provided with a copy of the request and will review the material in question.
3. The Materials Review Committee shall convene to discuss their individual written assessments on the earliest possible date.
4. If the Committee majority disagrees with the patron, the director or his/her designee shall provide a written assessment to the patron and note that the material will remain in the collection. The patron shall also be informed of his/her right to request that the complaint be brought to the Board of Trustees.
5. If the Committee majority agrees with the patron or the patron requests the complaint go to the Board of Trustees, the director will notify the chair of the board and immediately provide each trustee with copies of the complaint and staff assessment. No staff assessment shall be sent to the patron. The director shall notify the patron the date and time of the Board meeting when the complaint will be discussed.
6. The Trustees shall review the material in question immediately. The discussion and vote shall be held at a public Board meeting. A written assessment of the material and decision shall be executed by the Board, one copy sent to the patron and one to be filed. The decision of the Board of Trustees is final.

**DERRY PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF MATERIALS**

The Derry Public Library appreciates any concerns you may have about materials, resources or services the library offers. So that we may address them fully, please fill out this form and return it to the attention of the Library Director. You will receive an acknowledgement upon the director's receipt of the form.

**NAME** (print) \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

**TITLE** \_\_\_\_\_ **AUTHOR** \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle all that apply: Book Video Audio Magazine Internet Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Children Young Adult Adult

Have you read, listened to or reviewed the entire work? \_\_\_\_\_

Please specifically describe your objection to the material, citing page numbers or sections of particular concern. You may wish to consider such things as what you feel would be the result of reading/viewing/listening to this material, as well as age appropriateness and anything of positive value about it. **Please use the back or attach separate sheet if necessary.**

**PATRON SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **TO BE FILLED IN BY LIBRARY STAFF** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Received:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Director Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Disposition:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Patron notified:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Board of Trustees:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Patron notified:** \_\_\_\_\_

Incident Report      Date: Friday, 7/23/04      Time 9:50 a.m.  
Person Making the Report: Jack Robillard, Assistant Director

During a morning reference training session Cathy G. passed a message that the person who had called about the R-rated video was here with a letter. We completed the remainder of our training (10-minutes or so) and I greeted Mr. Broderick, who was seated by the magazines. He started to discuss his concerns and letter, but I asked him if he'd like to come in. We moved to Cheryl's office where I introduced her.

We sat for about 20 minutes while he explained his concerns (see original incident report and letter), during which I tried to clarify what a resolution may be. Mr. Broderick seemed to agree the primary issue was fore-known knowledge that a children's card is the equivalent of an adult card -- a fact which he felt was not sufficiently made clear up front. Our meeting was pleasant and productive.

Mr. Broderick stated both in person and in writing that he expects to hear from us in two-weeks, and intimated during our discussion that he would be satisfied if we make clear to the community that we place no restrictions on check-outs and that parents are made aware their children's cards need parental supervision.

The policy committee is scheduled to meet on Monday, August 9 at 2:00 p.m. (the beginning of the second week).

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jack Robillard". The signature is written in dark ink and is located in the lower right portion of the document.

## EDWARD J BRODERICK

---

12A South Ave. #51 Derry NH 03038  
Home-603-537-2368 Fax-603-537-1213

July 20, 2004

To whom it may concern;

My name is edward broderick jr. it has come to my attention after my son who is 11 yrs.old has been allowed to take out movies from the derry libriay that had nothing but violence and nudity and sex themes in the rated R movies. your employees are allowing to be rented without parental permission . I did try to resolve this issue nicely after one of your employees called my son to tell him his rated R movie was in and he was allowed by your employees to let him without notifying his parents I was told by the director of the libriay it was not their responsibilty once we signed the card that left the libriay off the hook . there is nothing on the card that says the libriay has no say in giving rated R movies to minors . I am 42yrs old was born in derry and used the libriay things were different then please tell me what went wrong with this today you are promoting violence and sex to our childeren if this is not stopped asap then I will go to the press and churches in our community and we will see if people of out great town of derry would like to hear that you are indeed promoting violence and sex is ok to our childeren and this will make it a bigger issue or lets do it the nice way and stop it now. Thankyou for your time I will give you 2weeks to resolve this before I go to the tv stations and newspapers and churches thankyou again

Sincerely,

Edward j broderick jr.

copy

DERRY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
64 East Broadway  
Derry, N. H. 03038

June 20, 2002

Mrs. Christine Randall  
80 - L Derryfield Rd.  
Derry, N. H. 03038

Dear Mrs. Randall:

The Board of Trustees deeply appreciates your taking the time to share your concerns with the library about "The Banging Book". We respect your point of view and assure you that all five members of the Board who were present at the meeting on June 17 read both the book and your request for reconsideration of materials.

Interestingly enough, each one of us independently interpreted the book as being one of potentially instructive value for many children. We concluded it could inspire positive discussions as a child and parent read it together.

Here are some discussion points and merits we found:

The book begins with sound, both verbal and physical---dear to every child's heart! The children find sounds differ with "tools" and different material. Their actions escalate---"Banging just to hear the noise"---until there is no thinking, only noise.

The drawings get bigger, more crowded; the children's faces change; the toys with faces go from enjoying the play, to reflecting dismay at all that noise, to outright fear when the activity gets out of hand.

"They've banged the noise right out of things."

The pile of smashed toys is bigger than the children---so big it falls off the pages.

But then---"Children, look what you have done!"---each broken toy or piece is shown clearly, each child placed separately among them.

"If banging can be used for breaking,  
Banging can be used for making."

The language and pictures are more contained and orderly. The children are truly smiling, the toys with faces happily helping "fill the world with fixing noise". The rhythm of the language, though using the same words, is calmer, the words standing for noise rather than being the noise.

"Sound is coming back."

It is true the author doesn't spell out the consequences or moral. Some books give you the result, others allow the reader to discover it and discuss it. We believe that discovery and opportunity for discussion is a wonderful learning experience for any age.

Believing that there is merit in this book for children and adults, both in the language and pictures, and recognizing that all of the arts and literature are open to individual interpretation, the Board of Trustees has voted to keep the book in the children's collection.

You, of course, know your child best. Thank you for trying the book and for reading it all the way through. Please continue to enjoy the library and the window to the universe it offers. And do continue to share your criticisms and comments. We are here to serve all of our community.

If you wish to discuss this further, we would be delighted to talk with you. Please call Pat MacEachern (437-2379) or Elizabeth Ives (434-6539).

Board of Trustees, Derry Public Library

Rita Correia, Chair

Elizabeth Ives, Treasurer

Charlie Zoeller, Vice Chair

Pat MacEachern

Melissa Cormier, Secretary

(May Casten was not present for the discussion.)

DERRY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF MATERIALS

The Derry Public Library appreciates any concerns you may have about materials or services the library offers. So that we can address them fully, please fill out this form and mail to the attention of the Director at the library. You will receive a response within two weeks.

NAME Christine Randall DATE 5/30/02

ADDRESS 80-L Derryfield Rd. Derry PHONE 437-0683

TITLE OF MATERIAL The Banging Book

AUTHOR Bill Grossman Illustrated: Robert Zimmerman

Please circle: Book Video Audio Magazine Internet

Have you read or viewed the entire item? yes

Please describe specifically your objection to the material, citing page numbers or sections of particular concern. (You may wish to consider such things as what you feel would be the result of reading/viewing/listening to this item, age appropriateness for the item, anything useful or valuable about the item.)

This book was picked out by a 5 year\* old child for enjoyment purpose. When we were reading this book we were very shocked at what we were hearing, seeing & reading. As parents we spend a good amount of time teaching children not to be destructive & to respect your things. The pictures display the children thoroughly enjoying be destructive. Is this ok. No, not in the least. As we continued reading, we ~~exp~~ expected a good result (as in morals) to end the story. Unfortunately, the ending solution was it's o.k. to be very destructive; banging, hitting, ruining & just out right destructive! I feel this book should be taken off the shelf due to its inappropriate content!! Thank You, a concerned patron.

To be filled in by Library staff \*\*\*\*\*

DIRECTOR \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SELECTOR \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

RESPONSE DATE \_\_\_\_\_

(7/17/00)



DERRY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
64 East Broadway  
Derry, New Hampshire 03038  
Telephone: (603) 432-6140 • Fax (603) 432-6128

June 4, 2002

Mrs. Christine Randall  
80-L Derryfield Rd.  
Derry, NH 03038

Dear Mrs. Randall:

Thank you for submitting your request for reconsideration of materials request on May 30, 2002. The book *The Banging Book* by Bill Grossman was the subject of your request.

The librarians and library staff who purchase materials and I have reviewed your request and the book.

We agree with you that the book should be removed from the library for inappropriate content. We also would remove the book during our normal weeding process due to low circulation, age of the book and because it is not appropriate to the collection.

For the book to be removed, the Board of Trustees must approve our recommendation. The Board will consider it at its next meeting on June 17<sup>th</sup>. With Board approval, the book will be removed from the library as soon as possible after the 17<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any questions about this matter or anything else, feel free to call or see me at the library.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert E. Youngberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert E. Youngberg  
Library Director

## **Derry Public Library**

### **Memo**

**To:** Rita Correia

**From:** Robert

**Date:** June 4, 2002

**RE:** Request for Reconsideration of Book *The Banging Book*

On May 30<sup>th</sup>, Christine Randall filed a request for reconsideration of materials form over the above book.

We are following the staff guidelines on this. See copy enclosed.

Adele Boeske, Jean Cabaup, Cheryl Lynch, Susan Brown, Lynn Dumais, Jack Robillard, Kathy O'Connell and I reviewed the book.

As you can see by my letter to Mrs. Randall, we agree with her that the book should be removed.

I have mailed this letter to her. This is my transmittal to the chair of the board of the compliant and my response as required by the guidelines.

According to the guidelines, the book "will remain in public access unless action is taken by the board of trustees to remove it."

I will put this on the agenda for the June 17<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

30 MAY 2002

DERRY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
Circulation

01:22pm

Author Grossman, Bill.  
Title The banging book /

Holds: 0

CURRENT STATUS      Shelving cart  
Status Set: 30 MAY 2002

Barcode....	34504000987074	Type.....	DER JUVENILE BOOK
Call #....	DERJPB E GRO c. 1	Price.....	\$12.89
Agency....	DER	Last Use....	30 MAY 2002
Date Added:	03 NOV 1995		
Curr Use..:	2	Past Use....	24

Change Status, <enter>

6 1/2 years  
13  
4 air gear

30 MAY 2002

DERRY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
Circulation

01:22pm

CHILDREN'S LEVEL - PICTURE BO      Status : Shelving cart  
E GRO

AUTHOR      Grossman, Bill.

TITLE      The banging book / by Bill Grossman ; illustrated by Robert  
Zimmerman.

EDITION      1st ed.

PUBLISHER      New York : HarperCollins Publishers, c1995.

DESCRIPT      1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 21 cm.

NOTES      1) "A Laura Geringer Book."

- - - - More on Next Screen - - - -

Press <enter> to see next screen :

SO=Start Over, B=Back, RW=Related Works, PH=Place Hold/Select  
C=Copy status, SB=Save Bib, <enter>=Next Screen, O=Other commands

30 MAY 2002

DERRY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
Circulation

01:22pm

CHILDREN'S LEVEL - PICTURE BO      Status : Shelving cart  
E GRO

Continued...

SUMMARY      Irrepressibly noisy children discover that building things by  
banging is more rewarding than smashing them to bits.

SUBJECTS      1) Noise -- Fiction.  
                 2) Building -- Fiction.  
                 3) Stories in rhyme.

ADD AUTHOR      1) Zimmerman, Robert, 1958-

DYNIX #      868059

- - - - End of Title Info - - - -

Press <enter> to see Copy status :

SO=Start Over, B=Back, RW=Related Works, PH=Place Hold/Select, SB=Save Bib  
P=Previous Screen, SBLIST=Saved Bib List

June 3, 2002

To: Robert

From: Susan

As requested, I read The Banging Book, by Bill Grossman this evening. I agree that the book sends the wrong message to young children – particularly on the page which reads, “No more banging. No more fun.” There is a tacit suggestion that destruction is fun and permissible. Further, the book is not realistic in its representation of “banging” to repair broken items. No message of natural consequences there!

Unfortunately, I found the text really appealing (content aside!) It must be a great read-aloud.

I recommend removal of the book due to inappropriate content.

## STAFF GUIDELINES TO CHALLENGED MATERIALS

Any library patron who objects to or seeks reconsideration of any material or resource offered by the library should have his/her comments treated with respect and a helpful approach. If the Selector of the material or a Department Head is available, call that person to deal with the patron. Usually complaints can be resolved by a welcoming and understanding conversation. If the patron is not satisfied, explain the reconsideration process and ask the patron to fill out the Request For Reconsideration Form.

The Library is committed to upholding the ALA Right to Read statement and all state and national library organizations' resolutions concerning Internet use. The Library is also committed to the highest standards of respectful customer service.

THE MATERIAL WILL REMAIN IN PUBLIC ACCESS UNLESS ACTION IS TAKEN BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO REMOVE IT.

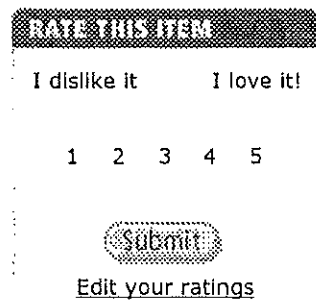
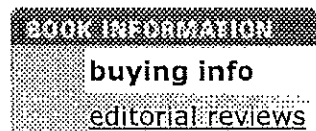
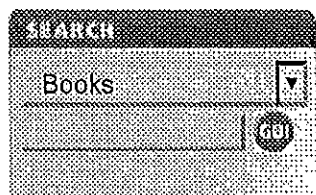
1. At time of complaint, explain the reconsideration process. Give the patron the Request For Reconsideration Form to fill out so the issues can be considered carefully. (The form can be mailed back to the library to the Director's attention.)
2. Upon receipt of the form, the director will initial and date it and provide a copy to the Selector.
3. The Director will provide copies to the Selections Committee who will immediately review the material in question; the director will convene the Committee to assess the material at the earliest possible date.
4. The Director and Selector will create a written response from the Selections Committee meeting and send it to the patron within two weeks of the initial complaint.
5. The Director will send a copy of the complaint and the reply to the Chair of the Board of Trustees and file the originals.
6. If the patron is not satisfied, the Director will respond within one week with a personal interview to discuss concerns, indicating type of response and date on original form. The Director will write a summary of the interview with the patron, send it to patron, and place a copy with original complaint in file.
7. If the patron still persists, the Director will bring the matter to the attention of the Board of Trustees who will resolve the issue.

THE INTENTION IS TO RESOLVE ALL ISSUES AND CONCERNS AT THE LOWEST LEVEL POSSIBLE THROUGH A DIALOGUE WITH THE PATRON.

7/17/00

amazon.com

VIEW CART | WISH LIST | YOUR ACCOUNT | HELP



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offer!

## The Banging Book

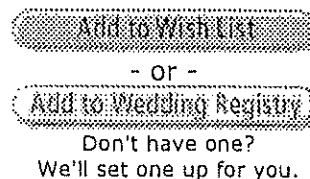
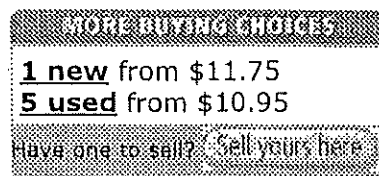
by Bill Grossman, Robert Zimmerman  
(Illustrator)



**See All New:** from \$11.75  
**See All Used:** from \$10.95

Seller usually ships in 1-2 business days  
**Edition:** Hardcover

➤ [See more product details](#)



## Product Details

- **Hardcover:**
- **Publisher:** Harpercollins Juvenile Books; ISBN: 0060244976; (May 1995)
- **Amazon.com Sales Rank:** 1,020,558

## Editorial Reviews

### From Horn Book

Loud, somewhat frenetic verses tell about a group of children who delight in noise: hack it. Smack it. Try to crack it. / Make an awful whacking racket. Then, when everything is bashed to bits, the children are encouraged to put their energies to work making instead of breaking. Retro cartoonlike illustrations capture the out-of-control action and noise. -- Copyright © 1995 The Horn Book, Inc. All rights reserved.

### Ingram

For children who love to "bangety, bang, bang" things to pieces just to hear the noise, here's a gentle reminder that banging things together again, "fixity, fix, fix," can be even more fun. Full color.

➤ [See all editorial reviews...](#)

**Customers who bought titles by Bill Grossman also bought titles by these authors:**

- Lois Ehlert





DERRY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
64 East Broadway  
Derry, New Hampshire 03038  
Telephone: (603) 432-6140 • Fax (603) 432-6128

December 10, 2001

Mrs. Amanda Graser  
21 Linlew Dr. Apt. 3  
Derry, NH 03038

Dear Mrs. Graser:

I am sorry it has taken me so long to respond to your request for reconsideration of the video *Fear*.

The librarians who select library materials and I have reviewed your request and evaluated the video. We evaluated the video with your specific objections of "extreme sexual content and promotion of animal abuse" in mind. We also evaluated your request according to the Library's "Staff Guidelines for Challenged Materials," the Library's "Collection Development Policy," the Library's "AV Materials Collection Plan," and the "Request for Reconsideration of Materials" form you submitted to me. Lastly we read newspaper and magazine reviews of the video.

We feel the sexual content of the movie is within acceptable limits, though on the extreme end of these limits.

The decapitation of the family dog would be animal cruelty if a real dog had been decapitated and it had been shown on screen. Neither happened. When I viewed the scene, it was obvious to me the dog's head shown was a prop or model. At no point in the movie was a living dog actually abused on film. This scene was meant to intensify the fear that the people were experiencing.

Both of these scenes, viewed by them selves, are very disturbing, but when viewed within the context of the entire movie, they support the plot and are less disturbing because the movie is meant to be psychological thriller.

After the librarians and I reviewed the video and studied the reviews, we decided the video should remain in the library and available to patrons. This conclusion is based on evaluating your objections to the video as you presented them and in the context of the entire video.

If you are not satisfied with this decision, you have the right to appeal. If you disagree with the librarians and my decision, I recommend you appeal it. The appeal process is simple. The first appeal is you and I meeting to discuss you concerns. If you are not satisfied after our meeting, or if you do not wish to meet with me, you may present your request for reconsideration to the Board of Trustees. The next two Board of Trustees meeting are Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup> and Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 P. M. in the library.

December 10, 2001  
Mrs. Amanda Graser  
Page 2

Please let me know what you decide to do. I can be reached at 432-6140.

If I can be of any assistance in this or any other matter, please call me at the library.

Thank you for your patience.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert E. Youngberg". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Robert E. Youngberg  
Library Director

\* Please excuse my hand writing mistakes. \*

DERRY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF MATERIALS

The Derry Public Library appreciates any concerns you may have about materials or services the library offers. So that we can address them fully, please fill out this form and mail to the attention of the Director at the library. You will receive a response within two weeks.

NAME Miss Amanda J. Graser DATE 10/20/01

ADDRESS 21 Linlew Dr. #3 PHONE 434-0415

TITLE OF MATERIAL Fear

AUTHOR don't know, sorry

Please circle: Book Video Audio Magazine Internet

Have you read or viewed the entire item? NO  
Please describe specifically your objection to the material, citing page numbers or sections of particular concern. (You may wish to consider such things as what you feel would be the result of reading/viewing/listening to this item, age appropriateness for the item, anything useful or valuable about the item.)

I feel the video Fear is inappropriate due to extreme sexual content and promotion of animal abuse. I did not watch the video completely through due to the male + female character's obvious sexual acts while on a carnival ride. Also, at the very end (which I happened to walk in on), the male character decapitates a dog.

I do not feel this should be a video selection for your shelves, but if necessary, it should be rated "X" for sexual content + animal abuse, not R rated.

\*\*\*\*\* To be filled in by Library staff \*\*\*\*\*

DIRECTOR R. E. Youngberg DATE 10/23/01

SELECTOR \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

RESPONSE DATE \_\_\_\_\_

(7/17/00)

approved by BOT 7/17/00

October 19, 2001

Mrs. Amanda Graser  
21 Linlew Dr. Apt. 3  
Derry, NH 03038

Dear Mrs. Graser:

I am sorry I did not contact you by October 15<sup>th</sup> as I said I would in my e-mail of September 20<sup>th</sup>. Two staff members recently resigned so we are short staffed while trying to recruit their replacements.

I assure you we are reviewing the video *Fear* as rapidly as we can.

In order for me to proceed with this review please complete the enclosed *Request for Reconsideration of Materials* form and return it to me. I have included a stamped self-addressed envelope for your convenience.

If you need to watch the video again to accurately fill in the form, it is available at the library. This weekend a librarian has it to watch and review. Before coming to the library to borrow it, please call the reference desk or me and ask us to hold it for you.

If you have any other questions I can be reached by phone or e-mail.

Thank you for your patience.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'REY' or 'R. E. Youngberg', written in a cursive style.

Robert E. Youngberg  
Library Director

Robert Youngberg

---

**From:** Mandy Graser [dwjnashbridges@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 20, 2001 1:30 PM  
**To:** roberty@derry.lib.nh.us  
**Subject:** RE: This is important, please read. -- Reply

Mr. Youngberg,

Thank-you, I'd very much appreciate it. I'll be looking forward to hearing your decision. My prayers are with you as you decide. I hope you chose the right decision regarding this video.

Thanks again,  
Amanda Graser

--- Robert Youngberg <roberty@derry.lib.nh.us> wrote:

>  
>  
> I received your request to review the movie "Fear."  
>  
> We will review the video and I will contact you  
> about our  
> decision by October 15,2001.

>  
> Robert E. Youngberg  
> Library Director  
>  
>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Mandy Graser [mailto:dwjnashbridges@yahoo.com]  
> Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2001 12:02 AM  
> To: roberty@derry.lib.nh.us  
> Subject: This is important, please read.

>  
>  
>  
>  
> Dear Sir,  
> I come to realize that you carry a video cassette  
> in the Derry Public Library that is completely  
> inappropriate for a library.  
> The video is titled "Fear". The actors include  
> Mark  
> Wahlberg and Reese Witherspoon.  
> This film contains very explicit sexual behavior  
> and animal cruelty.  
> We rented it once through a different place, and  
> turned it off immediately. Then, I was looking

> through  
> the library's videos and I see "Fear".  
> I would appreciate it if you'd review this movie  
> and hopefully procede removal of this video.

>  
>  
>

> Thank-you,  
> Amanda Graser, a library card holder

>  
>

---

> Terrorist Attacks on U.S. - How can you help?  
> Donate cash, emergency relief information

>  
> [http://dailynews.yahoo.com/fc/US/Emergency\\_Information/](http://dailynews.yahoo.com/fc/US/Emergency_Information/)

>

---

Terrorist Attacks on U.S. - How can you help?  
Donate cash, emergency relief information  
[http://dailynews.yahoo.com/fc/US/Emergency\\_Information/](http://dailynews.yahoo.com/fc/US/Emergency_Information/)

Robert Youngberg

---

To: Mandy Graser  
Subject: RE: This is important, please read. -- Reply

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Library Director

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The video is titled "Fear". The actors include Mark Wahlberg and Reese Witherspoon.

This film contains very explicit sexual behavior and animal cruelty.

We rented it once through a different place, and turned it off immediately. Then, I was looking through the library's videos and I see "Fear".

I would appreciate it if you'd review this movie and hopefully procede removal of this video.

Thank-you,  
Amanda Graser, a library card holder

---

Terrorist Attacks on U.S. - How can you help?  
Donate cash, emergency relief information  
[http://dailynews.yahoo.com/fc/US/Emergency\\_Information/](http://dailynews.yahoo.com/fc/US/Emergency_Information/)

21 Linbur P.O. #3

0415

Robert Youngberg

---

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**To:** roberty@derry.lib.nh.us  
**Subject:** This is important, please read.

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The video is titled "Fear". The actors include Mark Wahlberg and Reese Witherspoon.

This film contains very explicit sexual behavior and animal cruelty.

We rented it once through a different place, and turned it off immediately. Then, I was looking through the library's videos and I see "Fear".

I would appreciate it if you'd review this movie and hopefully procede removal of this video.

We even  
have  
CDs with  
bad  
language.

Thank-you,  
Amanda Graser, a library card holder

---

Terrorist Attacks on U.S. - How can you help?  
Donate cash, emergency relief information  
[http://dailynews.yahoo.com/fc/US/Emergency\\_Information/](http://dailynews.yahoo.com/fc/US/Emergency_Information/)

The above e-mail came today. I replied that we are "reviewing" the video. IT is checked out. I have it reserved for me.

We need to evaluate this video.

Can you remember, or find reviews that support your decision to buy it?

Cheryl said there's nothing we can do according to the Library's Bill of Rights.



I understand about the Bill of rights  
& CDs language issues.

I just wonder if you can remember  
why you chose it.

I knew it is 'R' rated.

What will we  
do? WD  
the video?

I'm trying to give to all  
Reese audience - OK  
Witherspoon family - OK  
is very popular, teens - Fear - good  
adults for teens?

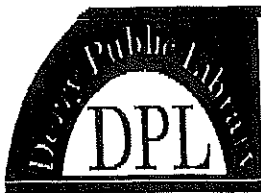
I will  
wait it  
we will  
keep it  
it's really  
good

They like  
horror  
movies.

I guess how doing here specific name  
for this - much as a member  
OK!  
I have to take the  
e-mail review

SAVILLE

Copy



64 East Broadway  
Derry, NH 03038  
603-432-6140  
603-432-6128 (Fax)

April 2, 2010

Dear [REDACTED]

The library appreciates your concern about the "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom" DVD. According to the Children's Room collection development policy, we purchase movies that are rated by the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) as G for General Audiences and PG for Parental Guidance.

When this movie was originally released in 1984 it was rated PG because there was no PG-13 rating at that time. Parents brought their children to see this movie and were horrified at the amount of violence and gore. It was then that Steven Spielberg, who directed the film, suggested that a PG-13 rating be added. The new rating took effect on July 1, 1984. Because the movie was released before this date, it will have the PG rating.

In conclusion, the DVD will be put into the adult collection where PG-13 movies are shelved.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Adele Boeske  
Head of Children's Services

**Cheryl Lynch**

---

**To:** dianeag@derrypl.org; susanb@derry.lib.nh.us; adeleb@derrypl.org; susanb@derrypl.org; joans@derrypl.org; merylez@derrypl.org  
**Subject:** RE: Request for reconsideration of materials

Is this the regular adult Indiana Jones series we are talking about or some special kids version? Are there others in the series in the children's collection as well? Why did we buy them for children's collection in the first place? What about this follows or does not follow our collection development plan and policy? Before anything happens I would like to see these questions answered...We cannot just keep winging it through life. We have to follow what we have set in place...c.

---

**From:** Diane Arrato Gavrish [mailto:dianeag@derrypl.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 5:51 PM  
**To:** susanb@derry.lib.nh.us; adeleb@derrypl.org; susanb@derrypl.org; joans@derrypl.org; merylez@derrypl.org; cheryll@derry.lib.nh.us  
**Subject:** RE: Request for reconsideration of materials

Hi - I think upstairs if fine; is it in DVD or VHS format or both? DAG

---

**From:** Susan Brown [mailto:susanb@derry.lib.nh.us]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 24, 2010 1:05 PM  
**To:** adeleb@derrypl.org; susanb@derrypl.org; dianeag@derrypl.org; joans@derrypl.org; merylez@derrypl.org; cheryll@derry.lib.nh.us  
**Subject:** RE: Request for reconsideration of materials

I think it would be great upstairs. I've seen the movie, more than once, and agree it's a little rough for downstairs.  
Susan

---

**From:** Adele Boeske [mailto:adeleb@derrypl.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 24, 2010 11:22 AM  
**To:** susanb@derrypl.org; dianeag@derrypl.org; joans@derrypl.org; merylez@derrypl.org; cheryll@derry.lib.nh.us  
**Subject:** Request for reconsideration of materials

See attached file for more information.

A patron is asking that we move the movie "Indian Jones and the Temple of Doom" to the adult level. After researching the movie's reviews and MPAA history, I agree that this movie should be moved to the adult level. The ironic thing about this request is that the patron was concerned about Indiana Jones pushing on a stone statue's breasts to enter a hallway. If the patron had continued to watch the movie what would she have said about the violence, gore and yuck factor?

I had completely forgotten that this movie precipitated the PG-13 rating. I guess they still have to put PG on the cover because that was how it was originally released. If anyone wants to view the movie, it will be on my desk. Please let me know what you think.

Thanks

Adele Boeske

Head of Children's Services

Derry Public Library

64 East Broadway

Derry, NH 03038

603-432-6140

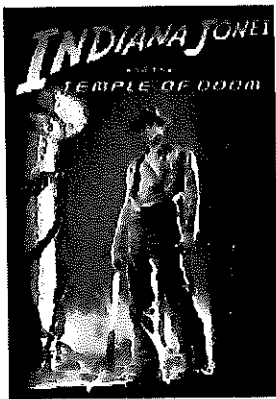
603-432-6128 (fax)

[adeleb@derrypl.org](mailto:adeleb@derrypl.org)

From: <http://www.common sense media.org/>

## Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom

(1984, Rated PG, Action/adventure, Starring Harrison Ford, Kate Capshaw, Ke Huy Quan)



- Is it age appropriate?

## What Parents Need to Know

This review of *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom* was written by Randy White

Parents need to know that this installment in the *Indiana Jones* trilogy is the reason the PG-13 rating was created. So many children had nightmares after seeing it. A man's beating heart is torn right out of his chest and children are worked near to death in the mines. The movie is also a creepfest, with lots of gross-out activities, none more nauseating than the eating of live snakes

The MPAA PG-13 rating was initiated in

1.



## The PG-13 rating is adopted

In 1984, explicit violence and gore in the films *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom* and *Gremlins* caused an uproar among parents over their PG rating.<sup>[11]</sup> Their complaints led Hollywood figure Steven Spielberg, director of *Temple of Doom* and producer of *Gremlins*, to suggest a new rating to MPAA president Jack Valenti. Spielberg's suggestion was for an intermediate rating of PG-13 or PG-14.<sup>[12]</sup> On conferring with cinema owners, Valenti and the MPAA on July 1, 1984, introduced the PG-13 rating indicating that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

The first two films distributed with a PG-13 rating were *Dreamscape* and *Red Dawn* (1984) although *The Flamingo Kid* (1984) was the first film so rated.<sup>[13][14]</sup>

The ratings used from 1984 to 1985 were:

- **Rated G:** General Audiences — All ages admitted
- **Rated PG:** Parental Guidance Suggested — Some material may not be suitable for children.
- **Rated PG-13:** Parents are strongly cautioned to give special guidance for attendance of children under 13 - Some material may be inappropriate for young children
- **Rated R:** Restricted — Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian
- **Rated X:** No one under 17 admitted

From 1985 to 1990 the PG-13 rating was described thus: *Parents strongly cautioned — some material may be inappropriate for children under 13*

Adult Reviewer  
HeroneSilverton  
Lives in North Carolina

**A movie that stood the test of time.**

Well, first off, this is definitely not a PG movie. But I don't see why because of this, people are giving it bad reviews. This movie is very violent, and there is much blood shown, so it is a PG-13 movie, but it is a good one. Mature eleven year olds should be just fine watching it, but they might be disturbed at the heart-ripping-out scene. As far as social behavior, I don't think it was racist to Asians as much as CSM puts it. I loved the little Chinese boy, who added a great character to the movie, throwing in some comic relief where it was needed. This movie is also much funnier than I expected, instead of just being a serious action flick. On the flip side, there are some pretty morbid (for lack of a better word) things shown, such as enslaved children being whipped. Indy and the Chinese boy were also whipped, and you see the bloody scratches on Indy's back (think Will Turner in Pirates, only the afflictions weren't actually shown being applied.) As far as other violent material, a man is crushed under a cement roller kind of thing (the same kind of thing as in the first one; a big strong man that Indy can't beat in normal terms ends up being killed by something large... say a propeller.) He isn't actually shown being crushed, but he is shown sucked in when his cape gets caught, and then there is a trail of blood as the roller turns around again. Men are eaten by crocodiles, but you hardly see anything, it basically looks like the crocs are tearing up their clothing. People are also shot, but it is very cartoonish (someone fires a shot, the actors jump backwards

or tumble off of a cliff...think Power Rangers). Blood is shown often on people in fistfights, including on children (there is a fistfight between two children.) Sheltering moms beware! There is a demonic cult in this movie (they are the bad guys) and two of their rituals are shown. A child uses a fully functional voodoo doll on Indy as well, stabbing it with a knife and causing him pain. Indy even uses a spell to his benefit in the end. This really shouldn't be a problem, but I know those moms that don't want their children to know anything about magic and whatnot. So basically, I've noticed that CSM reviews always make things sound worse than they really are, including this one. That is because they just list all of the bad things. I try to explain them a little better, such as the heart-tearing-out scene, the bad guy just reaches in there and somehow magically gets it, and the sacrifice is left unscathed... except he's missing a heart. Of course, then he is lowered into magma, but it doesn't really show him burning or anything. Ok, off of violence, and onto other iffy material parents might want to know about. There is sexual behavior, BUT nothing happens except for a few kisses. There are only three or four bad words, though I'm pretty sure it's three. This movie is an action-packed adventure, so if your kids want to see it because of the hype surrounding the new movie, then if they are eleven or twelve or older, and you think they could handle a movie like Tomb Raider or James Bond (without the sex) then they should be just fine with this. You may want them to close their eyes during the sacrifice if they are sensitive to that, but seriously, this movie has definitely stood the test of time; watching it now, It almost seems like a movie that could have been made

today, with the exception of the crocs. The mine shaft scene was a lot of fun, and the action was very good. I actually enjoyed it more than the first one, because it seemed a bit more Indiana Jones to me, since he spent the majority of his time in a Tomb-like place. I also really enjoyed seeing the Hindu culture at the near beginning, such as the Hindu women dancing in the temple. So to wrap it up, this movie is really good, I don't see why the ratings have been so low. The reason there have been so many angry parents is because it was mis-rated; this is a PG-13 movie. So treat it like one, and your eleven year olds should be fine.

**From**

**<http://www.learnaboutmovieposters.com/NewSite/INDEX/articles/MPAA-Ratings.asp>**

## **MPAA Ratings History**



for MPAA History, [click here](#)

One way to help in dating your posters is to look at the MPAA ratings. In 1968, when the MPAA first released the ratings, there were only 4 ratings. The original movie ratings consisted of:

**Rated G – Suggested For GENERAL Audiences (including children).**

**Rated M – Suggested For MATURE Audiences: Parental Discretion Advised.**

**Rated R – RESTRICTED: Children under 17 (originally 16) not admitted unless accompanied by a parent or adult guardian; some theater chains specifically stated that the**



**"adult guardian" must be at least 21.**

**Rated X – Children Under 17 Not Admitted; the notation "Age limit may vary in certain areas" was sometimes added.**

**Many parents thought films rated M contained more adult content than those that were rated R; this confusion led to its replacement in 1969 by GP:**

**Rated GP – General Public – Parental guidance suggested.**

**In 1970 GP was changed to PG.**

In 1984, the actions of Steven Spielberg pushed to introduce a PG-13 rating.. Violent scenes in the PG-rated films Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom and Gremlins , led Spielberg to suggest a new PG-13 rating to Jack Valenti. After conferring with theater owners, the new rating was introduced on July 1. The rating still allows children under 13 to be admitted without a parent or guardian, but it alerts parents about potentially shocking violence or sexual content.

The first movie to be released with a PG-13 rating was the 1984 release of Red Dawn.

**The current MPAA movie ratings consist of:**

**Rated G – GENERAL AUDIENCES: All ages admitted.**

**Rated PG – PARENTAL GUIDANCE SUGGESTED: Some material may not be suitable for children.**

**Rated PG-13 – PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED: Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**

**Rated R – RESTRICTED: Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.**

**Rated NC-17 – No one 17 and under admitted.**

**X or XXX is still used by the adult industry but is not regulated by MPAA**

**If a film was never submitted for a rating, the label "NR" (Not Rated) is often used, however "NR" is not an official MPAA classification.**

**From:**

**[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motion\\_Picture\\_Association\\_of\\_America\\_film\\_rating\\_system](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motion_Picture_Association_of_America_film_rating_system)**

Passed 5-19-03

**DERRY PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
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NAME (print) [REDACTED] DATE 3-22-10

ADDRESS [REDACTED] PHONE                     

TITLE Indiana Jones & The Temple of Doom AUTHOR                     

Please circle all that apply: Book Video Audio Magazine Internet Other DVD  
Children Young Adult Adult

Have you read, listened to or reviewed the entire work? NO

Please specifically describe your objection to the material, citing page numbers or sections of particular concern. You may wish to consider such things as what you feel would be the result of reading/viewing/listening to this material, as well as age appropriateness and anything of positive value about it. Please use the back or attach separate sheet if necessary.

Rated only PG... But is on the juvenile level.  
watched about 20/25 mins... Lots of  
inappropriate sexual content. For example:  
a stone nude woman statue that opens  
into a cave hall by Indiana grabbing that  
statue's breasts & pushing.

maybe rethink level assignment for  
this movie. THANKS.

PATRON SIGNATURE [REDACTED]

TO BE FILLED IN BY LIBRARY STAFF

Date Received: 3/22/10 Director Signature:                     

Disposition: Move to adult collection

Patron notified:                     

Board of Trustees:                      Patron notified:

To: Cheryl Lynch

From: Kathy Piasek

Date: June 21, 2010

Re: A patron's Request for Reconsideration  
of a DVD

I had read [REDACTED] request about the DVD  
"Election."

This DVD was donated to the library in 2005  
without a summary, just the cover. I had put it out  
just like that.

I apologize for not putting the summary with a  
rating of the movie on the DVD case.

Now that I have taken care of this, I recommend we  
put this DVD back on the shelf.

Thank you.

# **DERRY PUBLIC LIBRARY** **REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF MATERIALS**

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NAME (print) [REDACTED] DATE 6/21/10

ADDRESS [REDACTED] PHONE [REDACTED]

TITLE Election AUTHOR

Please circle all that apply: Book Video Audio Magazine Internet Other DVD  
 Children Young Adult Adult

Have you read, listened to or reviewed the entire work? No

Please specifically describe your objection to the material, citing page numbers or sections of particular concern. You may wish to consider such things as what you feel would be the result of reading/viewing/listening to this material, as well as age appropriateness and anything of positive value about it. Please use the back or attach separate sheet if necessary.

The DVD jacket has no ~~description~~ <sup>synop</sup> summary of the movie. Therefore, I had no idea about the story line. My husband, daughter, daughter's boyfriend, and I were together as we started to watch the show. <sup>After</sup> About 10 minutes of viewing we stopped watching the DVD. All of us were uncomfortable. The language was crude. The sex <sup>scene</sup> ~~scenes~~ that we saw was almost explicit. During that sex scene I stopped the movie, to the relief of everyone.

If I viewed this movie while alone, I still would not watch it to the end.

PATRON SIGNATURE [REDACTED]

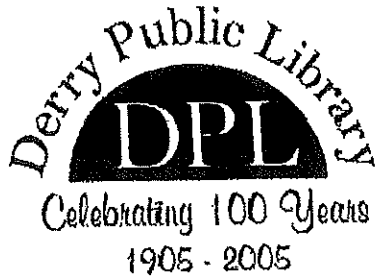
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 TO BE FILLED IN BY LIBRARY STAFF

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Director Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Disposition: \_\_\_\_\_

Patron notified: \_\_\_\_\_

Board of Trustees: \_\_\_\_\_ Patron notified: \_\_\_\_\_



64 East Broadway  
Derry, New Hampshire 03038  
Tel. 603-432-6140  
Fax 603-432-6128

February 9, 2007



After receiving your "Request for Reconsideration of Materials" regarding Walter Mosley's novel, "Killing Johnny Fry," we convened a Materials Review Committee to review your concerns. Four members of our staff reviewed the item separately, along with written material about the book from our professional journals, Booklist, Library Journal, Kirkus and Publishers Weekly. We then discussed options and made our recommendations as follows.

While most published reviews noted the explicit sexual nature of the content, the one from which the book was selected only commented, "... a series of scenarios that cross the line from NC-17 to XXX ..." and further, "An interesting look at a male in midlife crisis."

Our library reviewers all agreed that the sexual description was excessive; that the prolific author of fiction, political essays, mysteries and science fiction was experimenting with a new direction, which he calls a *sexistential* novel; and, as one reviewer noted, "it might be too much sex for some readers and too little novel for others."

The one reviewer who read the entire book did see the author's literary efforts realized by the twist at the end where the protagonist almost inadvertently kills Johnny Fry after coming to grips with his desire for revenge.

All agreed the novel should not be classified as a Mystery. None of the reviewers recommended withdrawing the item completely or marking it in any way for content.

As a result of the committee's discussions we will make the following adjustments.

- The item will be removed from the New Book shelf, so as not to be prominently displayed.
- The item will be sent to Technical Services to be reclassified from Mystery to Fiction.
- The item will be returned to the Fiction shelves among the authors other works in that genre. (Other GMILCS libraries that own the item have it categorized as Fiction.)

We hope that by these actions we have addressed your concerns. Should you disagree with the Committee's recommendations you may request that your concerns may be brought to The Board of Trustees.

Yours truly,

Cheryl Lynch, Director

# **DERRY PUBLIC LIBRARY** **REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF MATERIALS**

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NAME (print) \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE KILLING JOHNNY FRY AUTHOR WALTER MOSLEY

Please circle all that apply: ☒ Book ☐ Video ☐ Audio ☐ Magazine ☐ Internet ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Children ☐ Young Adult ☐ Adult

Have you read, listened to or reviewed the entire work? YES

Please specifically describe your objection to the material, citing page numbers or sections of particular concern. You may wish to consider such things as what you feel would be the result of reading/viewing/listening to this material, as well as age appropriateness and anything of positive value about it. Please use the back or attach separate sheet if necessary.

LISTED AS "RED-HOT EROTIC NOIR" ON INSIDE  
COVER!! I FEEL THAT THIS BOOK SHOULD BE PLACED  
IN "PORN" SECTION ONLY - EXPLICIT SEXUAL <sup>DESCRIPTIONS</sup> ~~DESCRIPTIONS~~  
START ON Pages - 5, 6, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 55, 56, 57-  
77, 78, 79, 84, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 129, 130, 131, 134  
133 - MANY MORE PAGE TOO SICK TO READ -  
I DO NOT THINK THIS BOOK SHOULD BE REPLACED ON  
OPEN SHELF FOR IT IS NO MYSTERY NOVEL!!!

PATRON SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
TO BE FILLED IN BY LIBRARY STAFF

Date Received: 1/22/07 Director Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Disposition: See 2/9/07 letter attached JR

Patron notified: 2/9/07

Board of Trustees: \_\_\_\_\_ Patron notified: \_\_\_\_\_

When I was reading the Kirkus Review, I had come across one on Walter Mosley's new book "Killing Johnny Fry".

I had read the review and noticed the last sentence: "An interesting look at a male midlife crisis. As L says, 'I had come alive. And life hurt.'" The review didn't say anything about the story being erotic or pornography. Not even "bad" words.

Walter Mosley has written more than 25 books and he is very popular with our patrons. So I had ordered the book for our Adults' fiction collection. I should have classified the book as Fiction instead of Mystery.

According to the Library Bill of Rights, we keep it in the collection. Too late.

Kathy Piasek

characters, too, including Jono's tenderhearted tough-broad girlfriend Renée, Bobby's pathetic drunken *inamorata* Colleen, brutal neighborhood bully "Poochy" Ponerelli and 390-pound bouncer (and bibliophile) Randall Pound.

Contains too many echoes of films (from *The Deer Hunter* to *Mean Streets* to *Sleepers*), including particularly its substantial debts to Dennis Lehane's *Mystic River* and the Clint Eastwood adaptation are thereof. Still, a lively, big-hearted tale, drenched in gritty working-class ambience. (Agent: Jeff Kleinman/Graybill & English Literary Agency)

Middleton, Stanley

MOTHER'S BOY

Hutchinson/Trafalgar (256 pp.)

\$24.95

Jan. 15, 2007

ISBN: 0-09-179717-9

Three variously embattled marriages and their complex interconnections are scrupulously analyzed in the veteran author's new novel—his 43rd, in a half-century's work including the 1974 Booker Prize-winning *Holiday*.

Middleton is a domestic realist whose quiet narratives, set mostly in the English Midlands, focus on people of the professional classes whose marital and family relationships both circumscribe and define their often intriguingly flawed natures. This novel begins with 30ish accountant John Riley's visit to the nursing home where his father William languishes in the early stages of Alzheimer's. Their halting communication initiates a succession of conversations, accomplished in meetings and telephone calls, through which we gradually comprehend their own and their loved ones' straitened circumstances. John's mother Ella, a primary-school headmistress, cannot overcome her anger over William's effective retreat from her—especially after he overcomes his dementia ("heroically") and begins romancing a fellow patient. Ella's chic younger sister Irene and her literally distant husband Eric—a busy foreign correspondent—offer tart commentary, moral support and a dash of sexual complication to John's initially half-hearted, eventually sincere efforts to reconcile with his estranged wife Helen, an emotionally fragile beauty, albeit a successful solicitor. It sounds like soap opera, but isn't—because Middleton writes incisive, revealing dialogue and radiates empathy for his sometimes annoyingly poky characters. He also suggests—through allusions to Shakespeare—that fools though these middle-class mortals may be, they're as complicated, ornery and interesting as the people next door. Though this industrious, unpretentious artist is often compared to E.M. Forster and C.P. Snow, he's more closely akin to early 20th-century realist Arnold Bennett.

Middleton's fiction doesn't wave flags or strike sparks. It stares you in the face and tells the plain truth, and it knows more things about us than we might have believed possible.

Mosley, Walter

KILLING JOHNNY FRY

Bloomsbury (288 pp.)

\$23.95

Jan. 1, 2007

ISBN: 1-59691-226-X

And now for something completely different from Easy Rawlins' prolific creator (*Cinnamon Kiss*, 2005, etc.), who's branching out into still another genre.

Cordell Carmel, a middle-aged New York translator everybody calls "L," decides one afternoon on his way to a conference to wait a few hours for a first-class train to Philadelphia. Heading over to girlfriend Joelle Petty's apartment, he finds her sharing a frantic embrace with Johnny Fry, a white man who'd like to switch from being a personal trainer to playing classical guitar. Instead of calling attention to himself, L leaves quietly (though he does turn back briefly when he thinks Jo is crying out in pain) and proceeds to pull down the edifice of his carefully constructed life. He smashes his hand against a brick wall, orders a high-fat meal, buys an expensive bottle of cognac and takes home a porn video, *The Myth of Sisypha*, that puts him in touch with his appetite for passion and pain. The next day, after missing the conference and infuriating his agent, L begins to grab every chance at a new life. He reinvents himself as an agent for photographer Lucy Carmichael, flirts with female acquaintances and takes three of them to bed, then returns to Jo bent on getting some of the kind of wild, crazy sex she's been enjoying with Johnny. But it's *The Myth of Sisypha* that has the most profound impact on L, and when he has a chance to meet the video's star and embark on a series of scenarios that cross the line from NC-17 to XXX, his obsessions with getting off and killing Johnny are joined by another kind of desire as tender as it is unlikely.

An interesting look at a male in midlife crisis. As L says, "I had come alive. And life hurt." (Agent: Gloria Loomis/Watkins Loomis Agency Inc.)

Noël, Alyson

FLY ME TO THE MOON

St. Martin's Griffin (336 pp.)

\$12.95 paperback original

Jan. 1, 2007

ISBN: 0-312-35508-4

A flight attendant's love life is prone to turbulence.

In her first novel for adults, Noël sticks closely to the chick-lit formula, setting up Atlas Airlines air hostess Hailey Lane for a proposal from her four-year-live-in pilot/boyfriend Michael on page one, only to have her walk in on him in bed with another man 12 pages later. The inevitable period of mourning and readjustment to the single life follows, with the role of sage best friend filled by Hailey's gay fellow attendant Clay. Despite relocation to a seedy apartment, and a bad case of sunburn during a layover in Puerto Rico, Hailey is soon back in the dating pool, fancying first Dane Richards, who returns her lost manuscript (she is an aspiring novelist in her spare time) after an onboard mix-up, but getting more deeply involved with wealthy Maxwell Dunne, until she realizes that, despite his suite at the Paris Ritz and his excellent kissing ability, size really does matter. We know that Dane is really "the one" because Hailey's dealings with him are fraught with misunderstanding. Meanwhile, the reader gets to hear plenty of gripes about the downside of her job: "They expected us to work overbooked flights with half the staff, search the airplane for bombs before boarding, defend ourselves against violent passengers with dialogue learned in a Verbal Judo seminar, and act as an unarmed human shield for pilots who, securely locked in their cockpit, were now packing heat." Having endured another dubious affair, on Mykonos, Clay's declaration that he's leaving New York and a round of layoffs, Hailey is finally rewarded with a publishing deal for her novel and the love—and contractual advice (he's a literary agent)—of Dane.

As predictable as an onboard safety video.



## Killing Johnny Jay - Walter Mosley

After reading the reviews and some of the cited passages from the complaint, I would tend to classify this book as pornography/erotica (depending on your attitude about such things.) I probably wouldn't have selected it for the collection and if donated (and I screened it) I wouldn't accept it.

However, Mosley is a respected author, this is one of his literary experiments, and people want to read it. So now that it's in the collection, I have mixed feelings about removing it.

Perhaps one of the issues is its visibility (as a new book) and its complete departure from his usual mystery style. Susan suggested moving it from "new" books and I'd suggest putting it in Fiction (not mystery.) Then only people looking in the catalog for this specific book, presumably because they had heard of it, will likely find it. I know that labeling is anti-ALA ethics, but I would not oppose using a yellow highlighter on the book jacket to emphasize "outrageously explicit sexual odyssey" for Mosley fans who grab + run. Sherry

I would not withdraw the book, or label it in any way (not ethical! or according to ALA guidelines).

I would, however, take off the Mystery label since it is not part of his regular mystery series. I would also remove the "new" designation & put the book in the fiction section. That way the likelihood of someone browsing & picking it up by "mistake" (unaware of the content) would decrease dramatically. At the same time, someone interested in reading it would be able to find it.

As a further step, I would not be opposed to attaching an informative book review inside the cover.

Susan

Killing Johnny Fry by Walter Mosley  
A Sexistential Novel.

Mosley is the author of more than 25 critically acclaimed books, including a best selling mystery series featuring Easy Rawlins.


We own 26 titles by the author, split between the Fiction + Mystery collections.

The book starts out with the <sup>main</sup> character, Cordell Carmel, walking in on his long-time girlfriend having sex with Johnny Fry, a mutual friend.

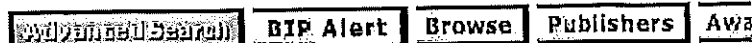
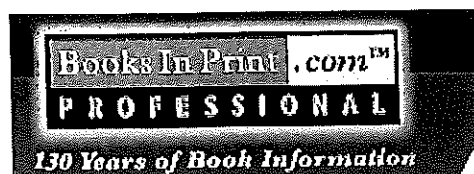
He doesn't confront them but, instead starts a journey of sexual extravagance while harboring thoughts of revenge. He buys an X-rated video, has encounters with several other women and describes his odyssey of self discovery and depravity in vivid detail.

There are repeated passages of outrageous sexual activity, interspersed with discussions about his mental state, motives, & awakening freedom after a ho-hum life as a foreign language interpreter & ~~book~~ stuck-in-a-rut lover.

I actually enjoyed the book. The plot was interesting; albeit almost too much sexual description. The protagonist's evolution from corballed lover to being a completely <sup>changed</sup> ~~altered~~ male in mid-life

(new job, new outlook, new prospects for romance) was done well by a prolific & talented author. 

I'd pay keep it. Two other GMLCS  
libraries have it (Manchester & Manchester West  
& Derry (4 circs) <sup>including me</sup> + Mrs. Smith who did not finish the book. 0 circs  
I'd take it off the new book shelf -  
take it out of Mystery & move it  
to regular fiction.



► Children's Room ► Fiction Room ► Forthcoming

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## Killing Johnny Fry: A Sexistential Novel

1 [BACK TO RESULTS](#) ►

Full Description	Publisher Information	Full Reviews	Author Biography	Other Formats	Stock Availability
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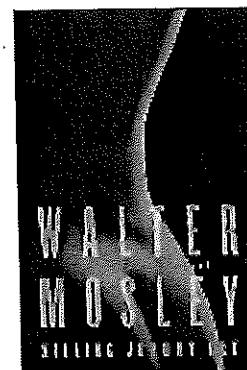
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Reviews listed below may refer to a specific version of this work.

### Booklist

(November 15, 2006; [1-59691-226-X](#); [978-1-59691-226-7](#))

Though he's best at crime novels, Mosley has been busy reinventing himself as an all-around writer of high purpose, trying his hand, with mixed results, at literary fiction, political essay, and science fiction. Despite its noiresque title, this one represents a surprising new direction: what Mosley calls the sexistential novel. Mild-mannered Cordell Carmel drops by his longtime girlfriend's apartment unannounced and finds her having the orgasm of her life with another man. Carmel sneaks out unseen, disturbed and aroused. Obsessed with a movie that seems to mirror his situation, he transforms from passive nice guy to sexual aggressor--and soon finds himself having the sex of his life, with a series of beautiful, adoring women. Adrift and confused, he keeps going, hoping to find himself by losing control. It's hard to know how much of Mosley's audience will want to follow him on this explicitly sexual journey. The sex scenes are compelling, but the story loses its way; it might be too much sex for some readers and too little novel for others. In a way, it contains the same contradictions as a big-budget porno movie that uses a self-important story line to lend the project an air of legitimacy, then drives home the message that our baser sexual instincts are nothing to be ashamed of. Mosley deserves kudos for his courage, but let's hope sexistentialism is a one-night stand. --Keir Graff  
Copyright 2006 Booklist



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### Library Journal

(November 1, 2006; [1-59691-226-X](#); [978-1-59691-226-7](#))

Like his last two adult novels (*The Wave* and *Fortunate Son*), Mosley's latest is a departure from his best-selling Easy Rawlins mysteries. His protagonist, 45-year-old translator Cordell Carmel, considers himself lucky that girlfriend Joelle is so undemanding that they spend only one night a week together. Stopping by Joelle's apartment unannounced one day, he discovers her with another man, aspiring musician Johnny Fry. That night, Cordell buys his first X-rated DVD and begins a journey of sexual self-discovery. Watching *The Myth of Sisypha*, the vividly described adult film he has purchased, opens Cordell's eyes to a world of

sex and power, pleasure and pain. He explores his renewed sexual energy with a young photographer he's helping, an attractive neighbor, a French student he meets on the subway, and Sisypha herself. Mosley's decision to subtitle the book "a sexistential novel" implies a more philosophical approach to sexuality than the gratuitous sexual episodes described here. Recommended only for libraries with strong demand for all of Mosley's work.-Karen Kleckner, Deerfield P.L., IL  
Copyright 2006 Reed Business Information.

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### **Publishers Weekly**

(October 30, 2006; [1-59691-226-X](#); [978-1-59691-226-7](#))

Mosley returns from the vastly underrated *Fortunate Son* and from *Fear of the Dark* with a piece of what one might call "deep erotica": there's plenty of sex, and also plenty of motivation for it within protagonist Cordel Carmel's travails and ruminations, as far-fetched as they can get. After a charged-but-chaste lunch with young Lucy Carmichael (a blonde in her early 20s looking to be introduced to Cordel's art agent friend), Cordel, 45, walks in on Joelle (his longtime, non-live-in girlfriend): Joelle's being very consensually sodomized by a white man wearing a red condom, their (very well-endowed) mutual acquaintance, Johnny Fry. Cordel walks out quietly, without being seen. In short order, Cordel buys a porno video and gets enraptured with its sadist star, Sisypha; quits his freelance-translation gig; has conflicted, amazing sex with Joelle (who continues to lie to him); has unconflicted, amazing sex with Lucy (who seems very nice) and with voluptuous neighbor Sasha Bennett (who seems way crazy); meets Sisypha for an *Eyes Wide Shut*-like experience; seduces the young, ghetto Monica Wells; and finally, within the week, has his confrontation with Johnny Fry. Though it all, Cordel's thoughts on humiliation, submission, pain, family, aging and abuse manage to sustain the wisp-thin plot of this total male fantasy. (Jan.) Copyright 2006 Reed Business Information.

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