

Jan 2023

Book Reconsiderations that were denied by the Library Director and ignored by our elected officials.

Jan 2023:

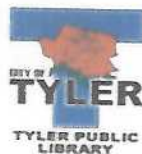
Volunteers began submitting Book Reconsiderations in January 2023.

As these Reconsiderations were submitted they were also sent to either all City Council members and the Mayor or perhaps just one council member. See emails attached.

In particular, Stuart Hene and James Wynne were provided with these forms. See emails attached.

These books were not removed at from the YA section as requested.

Volunteers complained multiple times that Hene and Wynne ignored their emails as did the Mayor.



Tyler Public Library

Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Material

Thank you for bringing an item to our attention you feel may not have merit. The Collection Development Committee will examine the material in an attempt to be objective, but they need your help to determine specifically the objection. Your Help in this matter is appreciated. We hope you will continue to support the library in its efforts to bring a well-balanced and meaningful collection together for every citizen of Tyler.

Please complete the follow form. You may use the back of the form if you require more space.

Author: Patricia McCormick

Title: Sold

Publisher: Hyperion

Format: Hardcover X Paperback Recording Other

Request Initiated by: Marcia Daughtery

1) To what in the item do you object? Please be specific, citing pages:

SEE ATTACHED SPECIFIC PASSAGES FROM THIS BOOK ATTACHED

This book depicts graphic rape scenes, pedophilia and extreme violence toward young girls. Most parents and grandparents will object to the willful placement of books detailing sexually deviant, explicit material anywhere in the minor's section. Taxpayers in Tyler TX have a reasonable expectation that vulgar content will not be displayed or made available to minors by the Library Director or Collections Committee of the Tyler Public Library.

2) What do you feel might be the result of using this material?

It is proven that early exposure to sexually explicit, violent material *increases the risk of children becoming a victim of sexual violence or acting out sexually against another child*. I found this book to be sad and depressing. In the book, the young girl was repeatedly sexually abused. The grown MEN that abused her suffered no real consequences. This is hardly a lesson that should be communicated to young girls or boys.

3) For what age group would you recommend this material?

This book should be immediately reshelfed in the Adult Fiction. In the Author's Note, it becomes clear the book was written to help bring attention to the fate of Nepali girls. Again, this is something adults would be interested in knowing but should not be available for 12+

year old. There are hundreds of uplifting books about teenagers' struggles that are eventually overcome that are actually helpful to children. *Simply because it is about a child does not mean it belongs in the children's section.*

4) Can you recommend anything good about this material?

The reason that this book reconsideration is being submitted because it is inappropriate for the give minors access to sexually explicit or vulgar books. Whether there is 'anything good' about the material is completely subject and, I believe, irrelevant. Opinions of books vary wildly from person to person. Therefore, I prefer to present only facts by detailing the actual excerpts from this book. Graphic, perverted details of the rape of a child should absolutely not be available to minors in the Tyler Public Library.

5) Did you read, view or listen to this item in its entirety? Yes.

6) Are you aware of the reviews received by this material? The librarian will be happy to help find them.

Yes, I am aware of and have read the reviews of this book including the Tyler Public Library's own rather mild review in its online catalog. I also read the book and have formed my own opinion. I find that reviews from Kirkus and the Tyler Library's catalog to omit the sexually graphic nature of this book. Further, there are multiple online reviews of this book, many of which detail the excerpts as a very good way of warning parents of what is actually in the book. The Collections Committee's job is to clearly understand exactly what type of material they are circulating to minors that enter our library. The City Librarian has the authority to remove any item from the collection and I am requesting this book be removed from the children's section.

Signature of Complainant

Marcia Saughtrey

Address _____ Tyler Texas _____

Library Card Barcode # 28957001990604 _____

Phone _____

SOLD



Young Adult

Ny Patricia McCormick

ISBN: 978-0786851720

Summary of Concerns:

This contains explicit aberrant sexual activities including rape of a minor; prostitution; and explicit violence.

Page	Content
102	"Are you ready to work?" she says in my language. I nod and say yes, then nod again, although I do not understand how these city people do their chores in such fine clothes and uncomfortable shoes. I follow Mumtaz down the hallway lined with tiny rooms. We pass by girls sitting cross-legged on the floor. Girls drawing on tiger eyes. Girls spraying themselves with flower water. Some of them stare at me. Some take no notice. We go up some stairs, down another hallway, then into a room where an old man is lying on a bed. His skin is yellow and he has tufts of hair poking out from his ears. Mumtaz speaks kindly to him and I wonder if he is sick. Across the hall, in another room, where a red cloth is hung across the doorway, I hear the sound of grunting. It is a strange, animal sound that makes me shudder. Mumtaz points to me and says something to the old man. He licks his palm and smooths down his hair. They do not seem to notice the grunting. Then it stops. The red cloth is pulled back. And a man stands in the hallway zipping his pants. I look down at my red-painted nails and my new shoes. Something is not right here. I don't know what is going on, but it is not right, not right at all. Mumtaz pats the edge of the bed and tells me to come closer. The old man makes a clucking sound. "Don't be afraid," she says. "Come her, now." I don't move. Her voice turns hard. "Get over here, you ignorant girl." She says. Still, I don't move. Then Mumtaz flies at me. She grabs me by the hair and drags me across the room. She flings me onto the bed next to the old man. And then he is on top of me, holding me down with the strength of ten men. He kisses me with lips that are slack and wet and taste of onions. He teeth dig into my lower lip. Underneath the weight of him, I cannot see or move or breathe. He fumbles with his pants, forces my legs apart, and I can feel him pushing himself between my thighs. I gasp for air and kick and squirm. He thrusts his tongue into my mouth. And I bite down with all my might. He cries out "Aghh!" and I am running. Running down the hall, past the other girls, losing my fancy city shoes along the way, until I am back in the room where I started, pulling my old clothes out of my bundle.
106	I wrap my arms around myself and grip with all my might. But the trembling will not stop. "Well, then." Mumtaz says, pulling her record book out from her waistcloth. "Let me explain it to you." "You belong to me," she says. "And I paid a pretty sum for you, too." She opens to page in her book and points to the notation for 10,000 rupees. "You will take men to your room," she says. "And do whatever they ask of you. You will work here, like the other girls, until your debt is paid off."
107	This Shahanna leans close and whispers to me, "It will go easier on you if you hold still." There is a slicing sound, and a clump of my hair falls to the floor. I cry out and try to break free, but Shahanna has hold of me.

Page	Content
	Mumtaz draws back, the jaw of the scissors poised at my neck. "Hold still," she says, her teeth clinched. "Or I'll slice your throat."
109	Each morning and evening Mumtaz comes, beats me with a leather strap, and locks the door behind her.
110	Tonight when Mumtaz comes to my room, she sees that her strap has left raw sores on my back and neck, my arms and legs. So she hits me on the soles of my feet.
111	Tonight when Mumtaz comes and unlocks the door, she sees there is no part of me unmarked by her strap. "Now will you agree to be with men?" I shake my head. And she says that she will starve me until I submit.
115	"No," I hear myself say in a ragged voice. "I will not do this disgraceful thing." Shahanna sighs. "She will only sell you to another place just like this."
116	You are safe here only if you do not show how frightened you are.
120	A man with lips like a fish comes into my room and says, "You're lucky to be with Habib." He is squeezing my breast with his hand, like someone shopping for a melon. I try to push him away, but my arm, stone-heavy from the lassi, doesn't move. "You're lucky," he says, "that Habib is your first one." I close my eyes. The room pitches this way and that. "You can tell the others that it was Habib," he says. I open my eyes, watch him squeeze my other breast, and wonder: Who is this Habib he keeps talking about? "If this is really your first time," he says, "Old Mumtaz is a tricky one." He unbuckles his belt. "Once before, she sold Habib used goods." The fish-lips man removes my dress. I wait for myself to protest. But nothing happens. "Habib," he says. "Habib is good with the ladies." Then he is on top of me, and something hot and insistent is between my legs. He grunts and struggles, trying to fit himself inside me. With a sudden thrust I am torn in two. "Oh, yes," he says, panting. "Habib is good in bed." I hear, coming from a distance, a steady thud, thud, thud, and register that this is the sound of a headboard hitting a wall. After a while, I don't know how long, Another sound interrupts the rhythmic thud of the headboard. I know this noise from somewhere. I work very hard to make it out. Finally, I identify it. It is the muffled sound of sobbing.

Page	Content
	Habib rolls off me. Then I understand: I was the person crying.
123	In between, men come. They crush my bones with their weight. They split me open. Then they disappear. I cannot tell which of the things the do to me are real, and which are nightmares. I decide to think that it is all a nightmare. Because if what is happening is real, it is unbearable.
125	I hurt. I am torn and bleeding where the men have been. I pray to the gods to make the hurting go away. To make the burning and the aching and the bleeding stop.
127	Before it starts, you hear a zipper baring its teeth, perhaps the sound of a shoe being kicked aside in haste, the wincing of the mattress. Once it starts, you may hear the sound of horns bleating in the street below, the peanut vendor hawking his treats, or the pock of a rubber ball as the children shout and play in the school yard nearby. But if you are lucky, or if you work hard at it, you hear nothing. Nothing, perhaps, but the clicking of the fan overhead, that steady ticking away of seconds until it is over. Until it starts again.
128	One day Shahanna comes to my room, bearing a cup of tea and a leftover heel of bread. She slips a small plastic package into my hand. "Don't let Mumtaz see this," she whispers. "What is it?" I ask. She checks to make sure no one can hear. "A condom." I don't understand what this condom is and why it must be kept so secret. Shahanna explains. "Ask the men to use ti, sot that you don't get a disease," she says. "Most of them will say no; they will threaten to go somewhere else if you insist."
129	There is a bucket of water next to my bed. But no matter how often I wash and scrub and wash and scrub, I cannot seem to rinse the men from my body.

Page	Content
132	One afternoon, Mumtaz comes to the door and tells me to gather up my things. "Now that you are no longer a virgin," she says, "I cannot fetch a good price for you."
133	I haven't cried, not one tear, since that first night with the fish-lips man. But now tears surge up in my eyes. I blink them back and lift my chin. "But what?" she says. She pulls the leather strap out from under her skirt and slaps it against her open palm. I bow my head. "From now on," Mumtaz says, "you will join the other girls downstairs each night. You will share a bedroom and be free to walk the house." I stare straight ahead. Mumtaz comes close and takes my chin in her hand. "But if you try to run away," she says, "I will grind hot chillies and put them in your private parts."
135	A fat, toothless woman stirs a vat of greasy stew while a naked child crawls at her feet, and the air is thick with the smell of spices and cooking oil, perfume and cigarette smoke. It is all, suddenly, too much. I sink to the floor, wincing at the tenderness between my thighs.
141	Before, when you were in the locked room, Shahanna says, Mumtaz sent the customers to you. Now, if you want to pay off your debt, you must do what it takes to make them choose you. Tell the customers that you are twelve, she says. Or Mumtaz will beat you senseless. Do whatever the customer asks of you, Shahanna says. Otherwise he will beat you senseless. Then he will do whatever he likes and leave without paying. Always wash yourself with a wet rag after the man is finished, Pushpa says. This will keep you from getting a disease.
142	There are special things you need to know about how to use your shawl, she says. Flick the ends of your shawl in a come-closer gesture and you will bring the shy men to your bed, the ones who will slip an extra coin into your hand before they go. Draw your shawl to your chin, bend your neck like a peacock. This will bring the older men to your bed, the ones who will leave a sweet on your pillow. Press your shawl to your nose with the back of your hand, Pushpa says, when you must bring a dirty man to your bed. He will leave nothing but his smell, the stink of sweat, and hair oil and liquor and man. But you can use your shawl to block the worst of it. Anita turns away from the mirror, transformed from a crook-faced country girl into a tiger-eyed city woman. There is another way to use a shawl, she says. I cannot tell from her always-frowning face if she is being kind or cruel. That new girl, the one in your old room, she says. Yesterday morning Mumtaz found her hanging from the rafters.

Page	Content
145	The younger ones, like Jeena, are given special medicine so they can sleep under the bed while their mothers are with customers.
147	Half of what the men pay goes to Mumtaz, she says. Then you must take away 80 rupees for what Mumtaz charges for your daily rice and dal. Another 100 a week for renting you a bed and pillow. And 500 for the shot the dirty-hands doctor gives us once a month so that we won't become pregnant.
180	Once, when the dirty-hands doctor pushed himself up against me in a back hall, Monica pried him off of me and told him he would have to pay like everyone else.
182	I have been beaten here, locked away, violated a hundred times and a hundred times more. I have been starved and cheated, tricked and disgraced.
189	"Have you been washing yourself?" she says. "After the men. Do you wash yourself down there?" I try to nod, but my head is heavy, achy, a distant thing I cannot control. All I can do is close my eyes.
191	"Take these pills tonight," she says. "And you'll be back at work in no time." Then she unwinds her waistcloth and takes out her record book. She wets her pencil with the tip of her tongue and writes a number in her book. "You'll be able to work off the cost of the medicine in a few days," she says.
216	"Get to work, you lazy whores," she says.
227	Here at Happiness House, there are dirty men, old men, rough men, fat men, drunken men, sick men. I will be with them all. Any man, every man.
228	I have a regular customer now. He makes me do a nasty thing, but he gives my 10 rupees extra.
254	I learned ways to be with men. I learned how to forget what was happening to me even as it was happening. But ever since the pink-skinned man came here, with his pictures of the clean place, I cannot remember those ways. Now, while I wait for the American to return, and the men come to my bed, I clench the sheets in my hands, for fear that I will pound them to death with my fists. I grit my teeth, for fear that I will bite through their skin to their very bones. I squeeze my eyes closed tight, for fear that I will see what has actually happened to me.

Page	Content
257	It is a simple kitchen sound, the grinding of spices with a wooden pestle. Sometimes it means nothing more than spicy stew for supper. But sometimes it means that the cook is readying the hot chili punishment for one of us. And then it is a sound that turns even the hardest woman here into a whimpering child. Because it means that someone has crossed Mumtaz, that Mumtaz will smear the chili on a stick and put it inside the girl, and that all of us will be awake throughout the night, listening to the girl moan.
258	She pushes the cook aside, takes her stick, rolls it in the chili powder, and wheels around to face me. I fall to the floor, kissing her feet and weeping. She gives me a kick in the ribs, and all the air flies out of me in a whoosh. Then she is gone. Soon I hear a piteous wailing coming from the next room. Anita bends over me. "It's Kumari, the new girl," she says, stroking my hair. "She accepted a bangle bracelet from a customer."
258	"You certainly act the part of the guilty one," Mumtaz says from above me. What I feel next is the gritty sole of her shoe on the side of my head, gently at first, then with steady, gathering force, relentless, building pressure until her full weight is on me. She grinds her foot, and the metal edge of my earring bites into the flesh of my ear. But I do not cry out. The seconds tick by. Then, somehow, I am outside myself, marveling at this pain, a thing so formidable it has color and shape. Fantastic red, then yellow, starbursts of agony explode in my head. Then there is a blinding whiteness, and then blackness. Somehow, without warning, the pain is gone. A new pain takes its place as Mumtaz yanks on my braid and drags me to my feet. We are eye to eye. I can smell the sour tang of her sweat. "Have you done something for which you should be punished?" she says. I don't answer. She yanks on my braid. My scalp yelps with pain. But I don't say a word. "Have you done something wrong?" she says, spit gathering in the corners of her mouth. "Tell me, you stupid little hill girl." Mumtaz has called me a little hill girl. Which is, still, what I am. I meet her gaze. "No, Mumtaz," I say. "I haven't." She lets go of my hair, and it takes all my strength to keep my knees from giving way. "Then put on you makeup," she says, "and get back to work." I stay upright until she is gone. Only then do I slump to the floor and touch the side of my head. My earring comes off in my hand, bloodied, but intact. And I know then that my earlobe has been torn clear through.



D <nativetexandee@gmail.com>

Fwd: Book Reconsideration - People Kill People

1 message

Robyn Daniels <robyn.daniels1@gmail.com>

To: Dee Smith County Republican Party <nativetexandee@gmail.com>

Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:33 AM

Response from Wynne. Is that it?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: James Wynne <jwynne@tylertexas.com>

Date: January 9, 2023 at 8:30:07 AM CST

To: Robyn Daniels <robyn.daniels1@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Book Reconsideration - People Kill People

Robyn,

Thanks for contacting me. I will follow up with Ashley to make sure she received your email.

James Wynne
Tyler City Council District 4

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 7, 2023, at 2:32 PM, Robyn Daniels <robyn.daniels1@gmail.com> wrote:

Mr. Wynn,

Please see my email below. As my City Council representative I want to make sure you are aware of the vulgar and sexually explicit materials that are accessible to minors in the Tyler Library.

You'll notice that my family has uprooted from California to be able to raise my three grandchildren in a place that has community values that match our own.

Thank you.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Robyn Daniels <robyn.daniels1@gmail.com>

Date: Sat, Jan 7, 2023 at 2:21 PM

Subject: Book Reconsideration - People Kill People

To: ataylor@tylertexas.com <ataylor@tylertexas.com>, <tweaver@tylertexas.com>

Ashley,

I have attached my first book reconsideration after seeing first hand what type of books have been made accessible to minors in the Tyler Library.

I moved here from California and am shocked and saddened by what I found in the YA and children's section. I grew to expect this type of vulgar material in California libraries but I **never actually saw it until I visited the Tyler Library.**

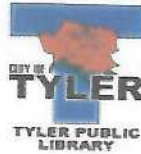
My 12, 10 and 8 year old grandchildren have just moved here from California as well. I do not want to have them find this type of book in the Library. It is your responsibility to ensure that only age-appropriate material is placed in the children and YA sections of the library. Since you have complete authority to immediately remove this book, please take action on this on your own vs. Kicking to the board.

Further, when you expose children to any kind of sexual material - especially violent, vulgar and explicit sex - at a young age, it has been documented to be emotionally destructive. This can not be allowed to continue.

-- Robyn Daniels

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. **Do not click links** or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

<Reconsideration Form Tyler Public Library PEOPLEKILLPEOPLE 01072023.docx>



Tyler Public Library

Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Material

Thank you for bringing an item to our attention you feel may not have merit. The Collection Development Committee will examine the material in an attempt to be objective, but they need your help to determine specifically the objection. Your Help in this matter is appreciated. We hope you will continue to support the library in its efforts to bring a well-balanced and meaningful collection together for every citizen of Tyler.

Please complete the follow form. You may use the back of the form if you require more space.

Author: Ellen Hopkins
Title: People Kill People
Publisher: Simon & Schuster
Format: Hardcover X Paperback Recording Other
Request Initiated by: Robyn Daniels

1) To what in the item do you object? Please be specific, citing pages:

SEE ATTACHED SPECIFIC PASSAGES FROM THIS BOOK ATTACHED

This book is located in the Young Adult section which includes children from the age of 12 and up.

This disturbing book is filled with sex, racial hatred, murder, drug use, and violence. Throughout the book, sex is referenced as a something to be used by girls as a reward, as a commodity to be traded for expensive items, drugs, cash, for acceptance or mere experimentation. Sex even seems to be entered into out of distrust, competition or fear. For YA children, reading this type of book 'normalizes' this behavior. Throughout this book, sex is treated casually as if trading sex for material items or approval is normal and acceptable behavior and has no real consequences, only rewards. I was stunned by the number of times references of entering into very casual sexual encounters were found. Impressionable YA children have brains that are still developing which is why responsible people protect minors from reading about or viewing sexually explicit acts. I kept expecting a good lesson at the end of the book but was dismally disappointed. The library should be a trusted safe haven and parents have the right to expect books of this kind are **placed in the adult section**.

2) What do you feel might be the result of using this material?

Pervasively vulgar, sexually explicit, violent material adversely affects YA children and youngsters. It can also have a negative effect on a child's own sexual behavior and behaviors toward others. There are many professional and medical publications that prove this that I can provide to the Collections Committee for future reference.

Until recently, Tyler Library patrons viewed the library as a trusted source of information, education, and entertainment. Unsuspecting parents still automatically believe books in the YA children and juvenile's sections are age appropriate because they have been vetted by the Collection Committee. However, we now find multiple examples of vulgar, sexually explicit, violent material accessible to minors.

When questioned, about this, the library leans on the ALA's Freedom to Read Statement. They then point to The Library Parental Responsibility Policy which states "Tyler Public Library supports parents and guardians in their efforts to guide their children's reading, viewing and listening choices".

No one disagrees that Parents guide their children. **But tax-payers have every right to expect city employees do not knowingly place crude graphic sexual pictures or content in the YA and children's section.**

Taxpayers have a reasonable expectation that the intent and competency of the Collection Committee and Library Director is to ensure minors are not exposed to sexual and violent material. Do to otherwise appears to violate their fiduciary duties.

3) For what age group would you recommend this material?

This book should be immediately be removed from any areas to which minors have access.

4) Can you recommend anything good about this material?

I found no redeeming qualities or lessons in this book that would justify putting in in an area where YA or children can access it.

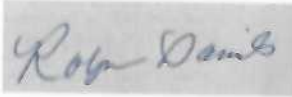
5) Did you read, view or listen to this item in its entirety? Yes.

6) Are you aware of the reviews received by this material? The librarian will be happy to help find them.

Yes, I am aware of and have read the reviews of this book. I read the Tyler Public Library's own summary in the online catalog. Nowhere in the 'Subject' section does it note the overly sexual

nature of this book. I am more interested in how the Collections Committee determined it to be a good book for YA children. *I am requesting that you send me the reviews used to approve this book at your earliest convenience.*

Signature of Complainant



Address _____ Tyler TX _____

Library Card Barcode # 28957001994093

Phone _____

EXCERPTS FROM PEOPLE KILL PEOPLE:

Page 38: "You just want to get laid." ...The gesture moves quickly from "sweet" to "boner-worthy," and as your tongues collide, you lift her off the floor. Another time, you'd carry her into your bedroom.

Page 54: The part-time QuickTrip gig pays minimum wage and you splurged your last check on a little weed, hoping to lower a certain redhead's inhibitions, **finally finesse your way into her pants.**

Page 101: You underline the promise with a longer, deeper kiss, one to make him believe his effort to take you out tonight will be justly rewarded at its end. That's so much fun that you go a little farther, dipping your tongue lightly into his ear before dropping your lips to his neck, where you lock them in place and suck gently at first, then a little harder. Hard enough to raise a telltale bruise. "Stop already." **He steers your hand into his lap, where it's happy to admire the impressive bulge behind his button fly. "I won't be able to walk, let alone dance. Jesus, what you do to me!" "Hey. Jesus didn't do that. I did, and don't you forget it." Hedging his bets, he invites, "Want to do more?" The offer is tempting. Parking-lot sex might be a kick, with or without people walking by. ...They say the only way to keep married sex interesting is experimentation. You'll have to play researcher soon.**

Page 119: Throughout those ten years of spiraling abuse, you witnessed her subtle manipulations, designed to divert his rage. Often that meant submitting to him, like a mare to a stallion. More than once it happened within your direct line of sight. That was your sex education. You knew the mechanics by age six.

The worst part now is the two images of her that appear when you let yourself remember: **Damian fucking her and Damian killing her.**

Page 122 Which is how he almost- too damn close to success- convinced you to have sex the last time you met up.

Page 123: ...Sex has proven to be a useful tool. And beyond that, you like it.

Page 124: The monkey was bartered, sex as commodity. There have been many times when you needed something expensive that you straight-out traded sex for cash.

Page 127: This will be sex as reward. Violence as aphrodisiac. You are totally turned on right now.

Page 128: The mere suggestion of violence serves as intoxicant. Aphrodisiac. Wish more people felt that way. Get down. Get high. Get off.

Page 134: And you didn't get laid. Not last night. Not this morning.

Page 138-139: "Has anyone ever showed you how to feel good?" "What do you mean?" You really didn't know. "Has anyone ever touched you like this?" He pulled you into his lap. One arm remained possessively in control, while his spare hand dropped to stroke the crotch of your jeans. That part didn't hurt and, in fact, you were surprised that your wiener responded positively. Still, you knew it was wrong, so wrong, and you tried to get away. "Oh, no. Not yet." The hand holding you gripped tighter while the other unzipped your pants and yanked them off in one swift, well-practiced motion. You struggled, but couldn't come near to matching his physical strength. He unbuttoned his own fly, freeing his sorry erection to worm its way between your butt cheeks. He slapped a hand over your mouth. "This might hurt a little it's really your first time. Let's see if it is." If there was one small saving grace, it was that he possessed a pencil dick. Still, when he drove it inside you, the pain was exquisite and you screamed into his filthy palm. But your pleas carried no weight. The wind blew cinder-heavy ashes into your face, and he grunted like a hungry pig, over and over, until he was finished. When he shriveled out of you, he let you go and you crawled away, bare knees and hands through the dirt.

Page 148: After you spread the sleeping bag, Ashlyn and you stripped down to skin, and you found yourself grateful the air wasn't colder. February in Tucson usually brings chilly nights, but it didn't seem so bad, especially once she kicked things into high gear. In fact, by the end of the rodeo, you were sweating. There is nothing shy about Ashlyn, nothing tentative. She knows what she likes, and exactly how to get you to comply. She showed you where to touch her, how to touch her, and wouldn't let you deviate. Yet she was willing to accommodate your demands, too. "I want to make you feel great," she said, and oh brother, did she! Your previous sexual encounters were clumsy, directed by instinct, not practice. Ashlyn took you way beyond fumbling, past the limitations of missionary, into the realm of weirdness. It took extreme force of will to hang on, but you managed, and you're anxious for an encore. Maybe even today. Logistically, it's a challenge because after tacos at your dad's, you'll want Ashlyn for dessert, and a couple of guys would make that problematic.

Page 170: "...Skinheads are radical lays. I just couldn't help myself. He made me all hot and horny for his hard, Aryan six-pack." ...Not only that, but now you want to know if she actually had sex with him, and if she did, if it approached what the two of you shared last night.

Page 171: ...Some hint of affection that makes you think sex came secondary to love.

Page 185-186: It was all about competition, and mostly they competed for the attention of guys...You tried to fit in, tried flirting with boys. But on those rare occasions you were successful, somehow kissing them wasn't a huge turn-on and their hungry fingers fumbling unbutton your blouse or touch you there only made you feel dirty, rather than desired.

Page 210: One night of sex, even after a few weeks of demonstrated interest on Silas's part, doesn't exactly mean a dedicated relationship was formed.

Page 229-230: The drowsy husk of her voice is sexy as hell and coupled with the heat of her skin, she is a total turn-on. And, for probably the millionth time, you think how incredibly lucky you are that she's all yours. "So I can get laid before work?" ... "Yeah. Like, sex lessons. You keep getting better and better." ... "No lessons. Just lots of practice." ... "We have done it a time or five hundred, huh?" "At least." She runs her hand down the length of your torso, and you might take that as an invitation to be accepted, but the alarm blares.

Page 241: There you were, Silas, lying on a thick bed of jungle leaves, with a redhead on either side. Grace kissed you sweetly while Ashlyn went down on you, and there was nothing sweet about that. It was downright nasty. The kind of nasty that would keep a guy going back for more.

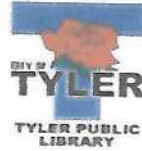
Page 287: ...You woke to Rand's request for lovemaking, and after the hot-hot-hot dream he pulled you from, you were happy to oblige. At nineteen, your sex drive is maturing, changing from passive acceptance to true desire. You've read that hunger will continue to grow, maybe all the way into your thirties. But sometimes you worry that Rand can't keep pace. He's pretty damn vanilla. If he had his way, it would mostly be straightforward missionary. Experimentation? Depends on the day. For sure he dislikes when you play the aggressor. Sometimes he even recoils. ...But you wouldn't mind more variety, no matter who initiates it. Which is why you got clever this morning, simply offering yourself unusual ways, assuming positions and allowing him to say yea or nay. He didn't disagree even once. So maybe there's hope for the two of you.

Page 308: You were a high school sophomore, and you'd gone to a post-football-game party. The guy who was supposed to take you home- you couldn't rightfully call him your boyfriend, more like an acquaintance with a car- wasn't ready to call it a night. Despite your protest, he drove to a construction site, of course deserted at the time. "Take me home, please" you tried. "Sure. After we have some fun." "Look, I don't give sex away, and you've got nothing I need." "I've got this."

Page 309: He unzipped his pants, freeing his erection, then pushed you down on the seat, forcing himself between your legs. You were wearing a skirt, putting nothing between him and you but thin panties

Page 340: She does not argue, not even when your hand drops to stroke the ample rounds of her breasts

Page 391: ...you're not anxious to confess that you gave Tim a hand job, with the promise of something more in the future...whether or not you'll fulfill that vow is debatable but getting to carry this crazy-cool pistol was worth dealing with a palmful of semen.



Tyler Public Library

Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Material

Thank you for bringing an item to our attention you feel may not have merit. The Collection Development Committee will examine the material in an attempt to be objective, but they need your help to determine specifically the objection. Your Help in this matter is appreciated. We hope you will continue to support the library in its efforts to bring a well-balanced and meaningful collection together for every citizen of Tyler.

Please complete the follow form. You may use the back of the form if you require more space.

Author: Ellen Hopkins
Title: People Kill People
Publisher: Simon & Schuster
Format: Hardcover X Paperback Recording Other
Request Initiated by: Robyn Daniels

1) To what in the item do you object? Please be specific, citing pages:

SEE ATTACHED SPECIFIC PASSAGES FROM THIS BOOK ATTACHED

This book is located in the Young Adult section which includes children from the age of 12 and up.

This disturbing book is filled with sex, racial hatred, murder, drug use, and violence. Throughout the book, sex is referenced as a something to be used by girls as a reward, as a commodity to be traded for expensive items, drugs, cash, for acceptance or mere experimentation. Sex even seems to be entered into out of distrust, competition or fear. For YA children, reading this type of book 'normalizes' this behavior. Throughout this book, sex is treated casually as if trading sex for material items or approval is normal and acceptable behavior and has no real consequences, only rewards. I was stunned by the number of times references of entering into very casual sexual encounters were found. Impressionable YA children have brains that are still developing which is why responsible people protect minors from reading about or viewing sexually explicit acts. I kept expecting a good lesson at the end of the book but was dismally disappointed. The library should be a trusted safe haven and parents have the right to expect books of this kind are **placed in the adult section**.

2) What do you feel might be the result of using this material?

Pervasively vulgar, sexually explicit, violent material adversely affects YA children and youngsters. It can also have a negative effect on a child's own sexual behavior and behaviors toward others. There are many professional and medical publications that prove this that I can provide to the Collections Committee for future reference.

Until recently, Tyler Library patrons viewed the library as a trusted source of information, education, and entertainment. Unsuspecting parents still automatically believe books in the YA children and juvenile's sections are age appropriate because they have been vetted by the Collection Committee. However, we now find multiple examples of vulgar, sexually explicit, violent material accessible to minors.

When questioned, about this, the library leans on the ALA's Freedom to Read Statement. They then point to The Library Parental Responsibility Policy which states "Tyler Public Library supports parents and guardians in their efforts to guide their children's reading, viewing and listening choices".

No one disagrees that Parents guide their children. **But tax-payers have every right to expect city employees do not knowingly place crude graphic sexual pictures or content in the YA and children's section.**

Taxpayers have a reasonable expectation that the intent and competency of the Collection Committee and Library Director is to ensure minors are not exposed to sexual and violent material. Do to otherwise appears to violate their fiduciary duties.

3) For what age group would you recommend this material?

This book should be immediately be removed from any areas to which minors have access.

4) Can you recommend anything good about this material?

I found no redeeming qualities or lessons in this book that would justify putting in in an area where YA or children can access it.

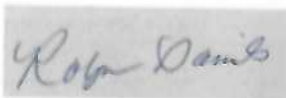
5) Did you read, view or listen to this item in its entirety? Yes.

6) Are you aware of the reviews received by this material? The librarian will be happy to help find them.

Yes, I am aware of and have read the reviews of this book. I read the Tyler Public Library's own summary in the online catalog. Nowhere in the 'Subject' section does it note the overly sexual

nature of this book. I am more interested in how the Collections Committee determined it to be a good book for YA children. *I am requesting that you send me the reviews used to approve this book at your earliest convenience.*

Signature of Complainant



Address _____ Tyler TX _____

Library Card Barcode # 28957001994093

Phone _____

EXCERPTS FROM PEOPLE KILL PEOPLE:

Page 38: "You just want to get laid." ...The gesture moves quickly from "sweet" to "boner-worthy," and as your tongues collide, you lift her off the floor. Another time, you'd carry her into your bedroom.

Page 54: The part-time QuickTrip gig pays minimum wage and you splurged your last check on a little weed, hoping to lower a certain redhead's inhibitions, **finally finesse your way into her pants.**

Page 101: You underline the promise with a longer, deeper kiss, one to make him believe his effort to take you out tonight will be justly rewarded at its end. That's so much fun that you go a little farther, dipping your tongue lightly into his ear before dropping your lips to his neck, where you lock them in place and suck gently at first, then a little harder. Hard enough to raise a telltale bruise. "Stop already." **He steers your hand into his lap, where it's happy to admire the impressive bulge behind his button fly. "I won't be able to walk, let alone dance. Jesus, what you do to me!" "Hey. Jesus didn't do that. I did, and don't you forget it."** Hedging his bets, he invites, "Want to do more?" The offer is tempting. **Parking-lot sex might be a kick, with or without people walking by.** ...They say the only way to keep married sex interesting is experimentation. You'll have to play researcher soon.

Page 119: Throughout those ten years of spiraling abuse, you witnessed her subtle manipulations, designed to divert his rage. Often that meant submitting to him, like a mare to a stallion. More than once it happened within your direct line of sight. That was your sex education. You knew the mechanics by age six.

The worst part now is the two images of her that appear when you let yourself remember: **Damian fucking her and Damian killing her.**

Page 122 Which is how he almost- too damn close to success- convinced you to have sex the last time you met up.

Page 123: ...Sex has proven to be a useful tool. And beyond that, you like it.

Page 124: The monkey was bartered, sex as commodity. There have been many times when you needed something expensive that you straight-out traded sex for cash.

Page 127: This will be sex as reward. Violence as aphrodisiac. You are totally turned on right now.

Page 128: The mere suggestion of violence serves as intoxicant. Aphrodisiac. Wish more people felt that way. Get down. Get high. Get off.

Page 134: And you didn't get laid. Not last night. Not this morning.

Page 138-139: "Has anyone ever showed you how to feel good?" "What do you mean?" You really didn't know. "Has anyone ever touched you like this?" He pulled you into his lap. One arm remained possessively in control, while his spare hand dropped to stroke the crotch of your jeans. That part didn't hurt and, in fact, you were surprised that your wiener responded positively. Still, you knew it was wrong, so wrong, and you tried to get away. "Oh, no. Not yet." The hand holding you gripped tighter while the other unzipped your pants and yanked them off in one swift, well-practiced motion. You struggled, but couldn't come near to matching his physical strength. He unbuttoned his own fly, freeing his sorry erection to worm its way between your butt cheeks. He slapped a hand over your mouth. "This might hurt a little it's really your first time. Let's see if it is." If there was one small saving grace, it was that he possessed a pencil dick. Still, when he drove it inside you, the pain was exquisite and you screamed into his filthy palm. But your pleas carried no weight. The wind blew cinder-heavy ashes into your face, and he grunted like a hungry pig, over and over, until he was finished. When he shriveled out of you, he let you go and you crawled away, bare knees and hands through the dirt.

Page 148: After you spread the sleeping bag, Ashlyn and you stripped down to skin, and you found yourself grateful the air wasn't colder. February in Tucson usually brings chilly nights, but it didn't seem so bad, especially once she kicked things into high gear. In fact, by the end of the rodeo, you were sweating. There is nothing shy about Ashlyn, nothing tentative. She knows what she likes, and exactly how to get you to comply. She showed you where to touch her, how to touch her, and wouldn't let you deviate. Yet she was willing to accommodate your demands, too. "I want to make you feel great," she said, and oh brother, did she! Your previous sexual encounters were clumsy, directed by instinct, not practice. Ashlyn took you way beyond fumbling, past the limitations of missionary, into the realm of weirdness. It took extreme force of will to hang on, but you managed, and you're anxious for an encore. Maybe even today. Logistically, it's a challenge because after tacos at your dad's, you'll want Ashlyn for dessert, and a couple of guys would make that problematic.

Page 170: "...Skinheads are radical lays. I just couldn't help myself. He made me all hot and horny for his hard, Aryan six-pack." ...Not only that, but now you want to know if she actually had sex with him, and if she did, if it approached what the two of you shared last night.

Page 171: ...Some hint of affection that makes you think sex came secondary to love.

Page 185-186: It was all about competition, and mostly they competed for the attention of guys...You tried to fit in, tried flirting with boys. But on those rare occasions you were successful, somehow kissing them wasn't a huge turn-on and their hungry fingers fumbling unbutton your blouse or touch you there only made you feel dirty, rather than desired.

Page 210: One night of sex, even after a few weeks of demonstrated interest on Silas's part, doesn't exactly mean a dedicated relationship was formed.

Page 229-230: The drowsy husk of her voice is sexy as hell and coupled with the heat of her skin, she is a total turn-on. And, for probably the millionth time, you think how incredibly lucky you are that she's all yours. "So I can get laid before work?" ... "Yeah. Like, sex lessons. You keep getting better and better." ... "No lessons. Just lots of practice." ... "We have done it a time or five hundred, huh?" "At least." She runs her hand down the length of your torso, and you might take that as an invitation to be accepted, but the alarm blares.

Page 241: There you were, Silas, lying on a thick bed of jungle leaves, with a redhead on either side. Grace kissed you sweetly while Ashlyn went down on you, and there was nothing sweet about that. It was downright nasty. The kind of nasty that would keep a guy going back for more.

Page 287: ...You woke to Rand's request for lovemaking, and after the hot-hot-hot dream he pulled you from, you were happy to oblige. At nineteen, your sex drive is maturing, changing from passive acceptance to true desire. You've read that hunger will continue to grow, maybe all the way into your thirties. But sometimes you worry that Rand can't keep pace. He's pretty damn vanilla. If he had his way, it would mostly be straightforward missionary. Experimentation? Depends on the day. For sure he dislikes when you play the aggressor. Sometimes he even recoils. ...But you wouldn't mind more variety, no matter who initiates it. Which is why you got clever this morning, simply offering yourself unusual ways, assuming positions and allowing him to say yea or nay. He didn't disagree even once. So maybe there's hope for the two of you.

Page 308: You were a high school sophomore, and you'd gone to a post-football-game party. The guy who was supposed to take you home- you couldn't rightfully call him your boyfriend, more like an acquaintance with a car- wasn't ready to call it a night. Despite your protest, he drove to a construction site, of course deserted at the time. "Take me home, please" you tried. "Sure. After we have some fun." "Look, I don't give sex away, and you've got nothing I need." "I've got this."

Page 309: He unzipped his pants, freeing his erection, then pushed you down on the seat, forcing himself between your legs. You were wearing a skirt, putting nothing between him and you but thin panties

Page 340: She does not argue, not even when your hand drops to stroke the ample rounds of her breasts

Page 391: ...you're not anxious to confess that you gave Tim a hand job, with the promise of something more in the future...whether or not you'll fulfill that vow is debatable but getting to carry this crazy-cool pistol was worth dealing with a palmful of semen.



Tyler Public Library

Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Material

Thank you for bringing an item to our attention you feel may not have merit. The Collection Development Committee will examine the material in an attempt to be objective, but they need your help to determine specifically the objection. Your Help in this matter is appreciated. We hope you will continue to support the library in its efforts to bring a well-balanced and meaningful collection together for every citizen of Tyler.

Please complete the follow form. You may use the back of the form if you require more space.

Author: Ellen Hopkins

Title: People Kill People

Publisher: Simon & Schuster

Format: Hardcover X Paperback Recording Other

Request Initiated by: Robyn Daniels

1) To what in the item do you object? Please be specific, citing pages:

SEE ATTACHED SPECIFIC PASSAGES FROM THIS BOOK ATTACHED

This book is located in the Young Adult section which includes children from the age of 12 and up.

This disturbing book is filled with sex, racial hatred, murder, drug use, and violence. Throughout the book, sex is referenced as a something to be used by girls as a reward, as a commodity to be traded for expensive items, drugs, cash, for acceptance or mere experimentation. Sex even seems to be entered into out of distrust, competition or fear. For YA children, reading this type of book 'normalizes' this behavior. Throughout this book, sex is treated casually as if trading sex for material items or approval is normal and acceptable behavior and has no real consequences, only rewards. I was stunned by the number of times references of entering into very casual sexual encounters were found. Impressionable YA children have brains that are still developing which is why responsible people protect minors from reading about or viewing sexually explicit acts. I kept expecting a good lesson at the end of the book but was dismally disappointed. The library should be a trusted safe haven and parents have the right to expect books of this kind are **placed in the adult section**.

2) What do you feel might be the result of using this material?

Pervasively vulgar, sexually explicit, violent material adversely affects YA children and youngsters. It can also have a negative effect on a child's own sexual behavior and behaviors toward others. There are many professional and medical publications that prove this that I can provide to the Collections Committee for future reference.

Until recently, Tyler Library patrons viewed the library as a trusted source of information, education, and entertainment. Unsuspecting parents still automatically believe books in the YA children and juvenile's sections are age appropriate because they have been vetted by the Collection Committee. However, we now find multiple examples of vulgar, sexually explicit, violent material accessible to minors.

When questioned, about this, the library leans on the ALA's Freedom to Read Statement. They then point to The Library Parental Responsibility Policy which states "Tyler Public Library supports parents and guardians in their efforts to guide their children's reading, viewing and listening choices".

No one disagrees that Parents guide their children. **But tax-payers have every right to expect city employees do not knowingly place crude graphic sexual pictures or content in the YA and children's section.**

Taxpayers have a reasonable expectation that the intent and competency of the Collection Committee and Library Director is to ensure minors are not exposed to sexual and violent material. Do to otherwise appears to violate their fiduciary duties.

3) For what age group would you recommend this material?

This book should be immediately be removed from any areas to which minors have access.

4) Can you recommend anything good about this material?

I found no redeeming qualities or lessons in this book that would justify putting in in an area where YA or children can access it.

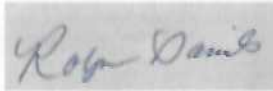
5) Did you read, view or listen to this item in its entirety? Yes.

6) Are you aware of the reviews received by this material? The librarian will be happy to help find them.

Yes, I am aware of and have read the reviews of this book. I read the Tyler Public Library's own summary in the online catalog. Nowhere in the 'Subject' section does it note the overly sexual

nature of this book. I am more interested in how the Collections Committee determined it to be a good book for YA children. *I am requesting that you send me the reviews used to approve this book at your earliest convenience.*

Signature of Complainant



Address _____ Tyler TX _____

Library Card Barcode # 28957001994093

Phone _____

EXCERPTS FROM PEOPLE KILL PEOPLE:

Page 38: "You just want to get laid." ...The gesture moves quickly from "sweet" to "boner-worthy," and as your tongues collide, you lift her off the floor. Another time, you'd carry her into your bedroom.

Page 54: The part-time QuickTrip gig pays minimum wage and you splurged your last check on a little weed, hoping to lower a certain redhead's inhibitions, **finally finesse your way into her pants.**

Page 101: You underline the promise with a longer, deeper kiss, one to make him believe his effort to take you out tonight will be justly rewarded at its end. That's so much fun that you go a little farther, dipping your tongue lightly into his ear before dropping your lips to his neck, where you lock them in place and suck gently at first, then a little harder. Hard enough to raise a telltale bruise. "Stop already." He steers your hand into his lap, where it's happy to admire the impressive bulge behind his button fly. "I won't be able to walk, let alone dance. Jesus, what you do to me!" "Hey. Jesus didn't do that. I did, and don't you forget it." Hedging his bets, he invites, "Want to do more?" The offer is tempting. **Parking-lot sex might be a kick, with or without people walking by.** ...They say the only way to keep married sex interesting is experimentation. You'll have to play researcher soon.

Page 119: Throughout those ten years of spiraling abuse, you witnessed her subtle manipulations, designed to divert his rage. Often that meant submitting to him, like a mare to a stallion. More than once it happened within your direct line of sight. That was your sex education. You knew the mechanics by age six.

The worst part now is the two images of her that appear when you let yourself remember: **Damian fucking her and Damian killing her.**

Page 122 Which is how he almost- too damn close to success- convinced you to have sex the last time you met up.

Page 123: ...Sex has proven to be a useful tool. And beyond that, you like it.

Page 124: The monkey was bartered, sex as commodity. There have been many times when you needed something expensive that you straight-out traded sex for cash.

Page 127: This will be sex as reward. Violence as aphrodisiac. You are totally turned on right now.

Page 128: The mere suggestion of violence serves as intoxicant. Aphrodisiac. Wish more people felt that way. Get down. Get high. Get off.

Page 134: And you didn't get laid. Not last night. Not this morning.

Page 138-139: "Has anyone ever showed you how to feel good?" "What do you mean?" You really didn't know. "Has anyone ever touched you like this?" He pulled you into his lap. One arm remained possessively in control, while his spare hand dropped to stroke the crotch of your jeans. That part didn't hurt and, in fact, you were surprised that your wiener responded positively. Still, you knew it was wrong, so wrong, and you tried to get away. "Oh, no. Not yet." The hand holding you gripped tighter while the other unzipped your pants and yanked them off in one swift, well-practiced motion. You struggled, but couldn't come near to matching his physical strength. He unbuttoned his own fly, freeing his sorry erection to worm its way between your butt cheeks. He slapped a hand over your mouth. "This might hurt a little it's really your first time. Let's see if it is." If there was one small saving grace, it was that he possessed a pencil dick. Still, when he drove it inside you, the pain was exquisite and you screamed into his filthy palm. But your pleas carried no weight. The wind blew cinder-heavy ashes into your face, and he grunted like a hungry pig, over and over, until he was finished. When he shriveled out of you, he let you go and you crawled away, bare knees and hands through the dirt.

Page 148: After you spread the sleeping bag, Ashlyn and you stripped down to skin, and you found yourself grateful the air wasn't colder. February in Tucson usually brings chilly nights, but it didn't seem so bad, especially once she kicked things into high gear. In fact, by the end of the rodeo, you were sweating. There is nothing shy about Ashlyn, nothing tentative. She knows what she likes, and exactly how to get you to comply. She showed you where to touch her, how to touch her, and wouldn't let you deviate. Yet she was willing to accommodate your demands, too. "I want to make you feel great," she said, and oh brother, did she! Your previous sexual encounters were clumsy, directed by instinct, not practice. Ashlyn took you way beyond fumbling, past the limitations of missionary, into the realm of weirdness. It took extreme force of will to hang on, but you managed, and you're anxious for an encore. Maybe even today. Logistically, it's a challenge because after tacos at your dad's, you'll want Ashlyn for dessert, and a couple of guys would make that problematic.

Page 170: "...Skinheads are radical lays. I just couldn't help myself. He made me all hot and horny for his hard, Aryan six-pack." ...Not only that, but now you want to know if she actually had sex with him, and if she did, if it approached what the two of you shared last night.

Page 171: ...Some hint of affection that makes you think sex came secondary to love.

Page 185-186: It was all about competition, and mostly they competed for the attention of guys...You tried to fit in, tried flirting with boys. But on those rare occasions you were successful, somehow kissing them wasn't a huge turn-on and their hungry fingers fumbling unbutton your blouse or touch you there only made you feel dirty, rather than desired.

Page 210: One night of sex, even after a few weeks of demonstrated interest on Silas's part, doesn't exactly mean a dedicated relationship was formed.

Page 229-230: The drowsy husk of her voice is sexy as hell and coupled with the heat of her skin, she is a total turn-on. And, for probably the millionth time, you think how incredibly lucky you are that she's all yours. "So I can get laid before work?" ... "Yeah. Like, sex lessons. You keep getting better and better." ... "No lessons. Just lots of practice." ... "We have done it a time or five hundred, huh?" "At least." She runs her hand down the length of your torso, and you might take that as an invitation to be accepted, but the alarm blares.

Page 241: There you were, Silas, lying on a thick bed of jungle leaves, with a redhead on either side. Grace kissed you sweetly while Ashlyn went down on you, and there was nothing sweet about that. It was downright nasty. The kind of nasty that would keep a guy going back for more.

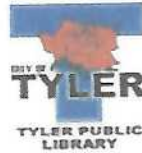
Page 287: ...You woke to Rand's request for lovemaking, and after the hot-hot-hot dream he pulled you from, you were happy to oblige. At nineteen, your sex drive is maturing, changing from passive acceptance to true desire. You've read that hunger will continue to grow, maybe all the way into your thirties. But sometimes you worry that Rand can't keep pace. He's pretty damn vanilla. If he had his way, it would mostly be straightforward missionary. Experimentation? Depends on the day. For sure he dislikes when you play the aggressor. Sometimes he even recoils. ...But you wouldn't mind more variety, no matter who initiates it. Which is why you got clever this morning, simply offering yourself unusual ways, assuming positions and allowing him to say yea or nay. He didn't disagree even once. So maybe there's hope for the two of you.

Page 308: You were a high school sophomore, and you'd gone to a post-football-game party. The guy who was supposed to take you home- you couldn't rightfully call him your boyfriend, more like an acquaintance with a car- wasn't ready to call it a night. Despite your protest, he drove to a construction site, of course deserted at the time. "Take me home, please" you tried. "Sure. After we have some fun." "Look, I don't give sex away, and you've got nothing I need." "I've got this."

Page 309: He unzipped his pants, freeing his erection, then pushed you down on the seat, forcing himself between your legs. You were wearing a skirt, putting nothing between him and you but thin panties

Page 340: She does not argue, not even when your hand drops to stroke the ample rounds of her breasts

Page 391: ...you're not anxious to confess that you gave Tim a hand job, with the promise of something more in the future...whether or not you'll fulfill that vow is debatable but getting to carry this crazy-cool pistol was worth dealing with a palmful of semen.



Tyler Public Library

Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Material

Thank you for bringing an item to our attention you feel may not have merit. The Collection Development Committee will examine the material in an attempt to be objective, but they need your help to determine specifically the objection. Your Help in this matter is appreciated. We hope you will continue to support the library in its efforts to bring a well-balanced and meaningful collection together for every citizen of Tyler.

Please complete the follow form. You may use the back of the form if you require more space.

Author: Jennifer Nevin

Title: Breathless

Publisher: Simon & Schuster

Format: Hardcover ☒ Paperback ☐ Recording ☐ Other ☐

Request Initiated by: Barbara Dorsey

1) To what in the item do you object? Please be specific, citing pages:

Here are just a few examples of objectional excerpts from this book. It currently resides in the Young Adult section which is for ages as young as 13. Why would *anyone* want a child to read such graphic descriptions of sexual activity as well as themes that would encourage sex as a way of gaining confidence?

"...I've officially given a few hand jobs and three or four unsuccessful blow jobs, had five and a half orgasms—not including the ones I've given myself—and made out with three boys, counting this one."

"...Shane is staring at me and his eyes are rolling and his breath is coming faster and faster, and he's humping my leg like a dog..."

"..I maneuver my lower half away from him, and that's when he groans and explodes. All over my inner thigh. And this is where I freak out a little, because I swear I can feel some of it dripping into me, and I roll over fast, pushing him away..."

2) What do you feel might be the result of using this material?

Children should not be exposed to sexually explicit, profane or indecent content. Mental health experts agree that providing sexual, age-inappropriate material can have lasting negative effects on children. Sexually explicit materials negatively impact cognitive, emotional and social well-being of children. **Is there ever a good reason to provide sexually explicit material to a minor?**

3) For what age group would you recommend this material?

The Tyler Public Library has a well-established and documented record of putting adult sexually erotic material in areas where children as young as 13 are encouraged to browse and check out books. This book should be immediately removed from the first floor of the library.

4) Can you recommend anything good about this material?

What I can recommend is that it simply be relocated to the adult section. This book is about an 18-year-old who is dealing with life-changing crises in her family life and how she tries to deal with it. It is disturbing that she thinks having sex is productive way to deal with her emotions. A dominant theme is that this young girl seems sex-obsessed with losing her virginity. Do 13+ year old girls need to read that having sex will help them gain confidence?

5) Did you read, view or listen to this item in its entirety?

Yes. But the more important question is will you read this book in its entirety?

6) Are you aware of the reviews received by this material? The librarian will be happy to help find them.

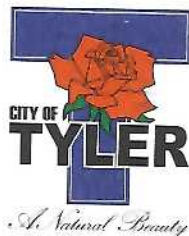
Yes, I am. Here's one for you: *"Meet Claud(ine), a teen whose coping mechanism is limiting her emotional experience to feeling angry and/or horny. The end."* Here's another one: *It's immature, unproductive and destructive.* And another one: *I don't think this is YA book as it talks ALOT about sexI am hugely disappointed and sadly won't be recommending it."*

Signature of Complainant _____ Barbara Dorsey _____

Address _____ Tyler, Texas _____ 75701 _____

Library Card Barcode # _____

Phone _____



rec'd 12/19/2023
snail
mail

Ms. Sarah Fields
P.O. Box 122
Bullard, TX 75757

RE: Review of Request for Reconsideration; Tyler Public Library

Dear Ms. Sarah Fields,

Thank you for your interest in Tyler Public Library and for submitting a Request for Reconsideration regarding your concern for *The Female of the Species* by Mindy McGinnis. A copy of your Request for Reconsideration, as well as a copy of the Library's Collection Development Policy for Reconsideration Appeals process, are attached hereto. Per our process as described in the Library's Policy, the request and item were reviewed by the Collection Development Committee ("Committee") and the results of the review are as follows.

The Tyler Public Library first added this book to its Young Adult collection in March of 2017 on the basis that it met the following specific criteria, outlined in the adopted Collection Development Policy:

- The work was judged on the basis of the work as a whole, not a part taken out of context.
- The work was reviewed favorably in professional journals such as *Publisher's Weekly*, *Kirkus*, *Booklist*, *Voices of Youth Advocates*, and *School Library Journal*.
- Awards and recognition of the work and/or author
 - Edgar Award-winning author
 - 2017 *Tayshas* List Selection
 - YALSA Top 10 Best YA Fiction of 2017
 - *The Globe and Mail* Best Books of 2016
 - *Mashable's* 8 Best YA Books of 2016
- Harper Collins markets this book as a Young Adult read, which matches the review recommendations for an age content level of 14+

Library staff consider professional reviews, awards, and credentials in the process of selecting materials for the collection and each area of the Library. When reviewing material for younger audiences Library staff also reviews age content recommendations. Professional reviewers have rated the content of the work for ages 14+. The Library chose to house this book within the Young Adult section which holds materials recommended for ages 14+ or High School and Young Adult Audiences. Since its inclusion within the Young Adult Section, the book has circulated 16 times.

While the subject matter covers difficult and emotionally charged issues such as rape culture, rural poverty, and vigilante violence and revenge, the Committee responsible for reviewing your request for reconsideration determined, while taking into account the standards established in the Library's Collection Development Policy, that *The Female of the Species* by Mindy is appropriately placed within the Young Adult section (The Young Adult Section is located in a separate area from the Children's section) as it meets several qualifications already listed

The Tyler Public Library believes that it is important for caregivers, parents, guardians, and grandparents to be guides to their children for the materials that they check out. Per the Library's Circulation Policy, parents (or legal guardians) wishing to restrict their children's borrowing of library materials may do so at any time. We understand that not all persons will agree on what should be available to whom, the City of Tyler is bound by federal court decisions regarding the First Amendment, and no one set of beliefs or values can serve as the lens for developing a well-rounded library collection. However, the Tyler Public Library respects all citizen comments and seeks to serve the entirety of the City of Tyler

In conclusion, the Tyler Public Library finds that the inclusion of *The Female of the Species* by Mindy McGinnis within the Tyler Public Library's Young Adult collection is in accordance with the Library's Collection Development Policy. Accordingly, the City's Committee has determined *The Female of the Species* should remain shelved in the Young Adult collection (ages 14+).

As outlined within our Collection Development Policy, if you are in disagreement with the City Librarian and the Committee's decision as explained herein, you may appeal the decision to the Library Board who will review the request within 90 days. Per Section VIII. of the Collection Development Policy:

In making its decision, the Library Board will consider professional reviews and will employ all of the criteria of selection listed in the Library's Collection Development Policy, including the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read Statement, and Freedom to View Statement and The Texas Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Statement.

All meetings of the Library Board are open to the public and are posted according to the Texas Open Meetings Law. Complainants will be notified in writing of the Library Board's decision in the matter.

Sincerely,



Ashley Taylor

City Librarian



Tyler Public Library

Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Material

Thank you for bringing an item to our attention you feel may not have merit. The Collection Development Committee will examine the material in an attempt to be objective, but they need your help to determine specifically the objection. Your Help in this matter is appreciated. We hope you will continue to support the library in its efforts to bring a well-balanced and meaningful collection together for every citizen of Tyler.

Please complete the follow form. You may use the back of the form if you require more space.

Author: Mindy McGinnis
Title: The female of the species
Publisher: Harper Collins
Format: Hardcover x Paperback x Recording Other
Request Initiated by: Sarah Fields

1) To what in the item do you object? Please be specific, citing pages:

I object to descriptions of violent rape of children and pedophilia?

11 ...and my daddy would probably be really disappointed in me right now. Also because I know what dick smells like. Or what Adam's does, anyway.

56...The man took her. A man took her before I learned any of these things. He took her and kept her for a while, put things inside of her. Of course, the obvious thing, but also some others, like he was curious if they'd fit. Then he got bored. Then he got creative.

91. "Guys fuck other girls and think of me," she says.

141..."I'd like your mouth better with my dick in it, bitch," the blond says, and I go for him, but Alex's arm is across my chest.

146...They told another girl they would put their dicks in her mouth.

239...I live in a world where not being molested as a child is considered luck.

320..."He's had a bit to drink too. Let him have his fun and nobody'll get hurt. It won't take five minutes." Five minutes. Like the fucking problem is that we're on a schedule and not that Branley is about to be raped right in front of me. She's kicking and screaming but he's already got her panties off and is going for his belt when I hear the sound of a shotgun being pumped.

[See more actual excerpts at the end of this form]

2) What do you feel might be the result of using this material?

Sexually violent materials have an adverse effect on children whose brains are not fully developed. Books like these are **NOT helpful for children who have been sexually abused**. We have to think about these kids and stop putting such filth in the minor's section.

3) For what age group would you recommend this material?

ADULTS. Actual Adults. 18+ years. NOT 12 or 14-year-old adults.

4) Can you recommend anything good about this material?

No.

5) Did you read, view or listen to this item in its entirety?

Yes.

6) Are you aware of the reviews received by this material? The librarian will be happy to help find them.

The Library Director is a proud member of the American Library Association... and hence the porn in the Tyler Public Library. We need a librarian who can think for herself, consider the kids she is supposed to serve and not order books based on what the ALA recommends.

Signature of Complainant _____

S. Fields

Address P.O. Box 122, Bullard TX 75757

Library Card Barcode # 28957001438604

Phone 949-680-09532

6 ...Branley's "Find Anna" shirt shoved up over her tits, my pants around my ankles, all of us with red-rimmed eyes and big oh shit looks on our faces.

11 ...and my daddy would probably be really disappointed in me right now. Also because I know what dick smells like. Or what Adam's does, anyway.

56...The the man took her. A man took her before I learned any of these things. He took her and kept her for a while, put things inside of her. Of course the obvious thing, but also some others, like he was curious if they'd fit. Then he got bored . Then he got creative.

88...Branley climbs on top and does what she wants. She's over-the-top with a push-up bra and her hair a wild mess while she makes noises straight out of low-budget porn. I'm man enough to know I shouldn't let her do this shit to me, but enough of a boy to be completely turned on.

90...she's making noises I've never heard. Never heard because they've always been practiced and perfect, and I've taken her by surprise. She's loving it and I am too. But I'm not just in it for the fuck right now. I want this. I want her.

91. "Guys fuck other girls and think of me," she says.

102....When I'm done, I find Alex waiting for me in the hallway. She's pressed against the wall underneath the sign for the girls' bathroom that someone drew on- an erect penis with eyes glaring up her plastic skirt.

129...When I'm done, I find Alex waiting for me in the hallway. She's pressed against the wall underneath the sign for the girls' bathroom that someone drew on- an erect penis with eyes glaring up her plastic skirt.

130.....A hand is on my spine, pushing down into my pants and past my panties, fingers twisting in search. I know it's not Ray because he's practically carrying me now. There's a voice in my ear that says, "Come on, Preacher's Kid. We'll take you to church for real."

141..."I'd like your mouth better with my dick in it, bitch," the blond says, and I go for him, but Alex's arm is across my chest.

142..."By which you mean I should let you rape my friend," Alex says.

...Her shirt is torn open so far I can see her bra. Her jeans are unbuttoned, already pushed a few inches below her underwear. Yet the word rape still jolts people, like maybe these guys were just dragging her out to the woods to help Peekay take a piss.

146...They told another girl they would put their dicks in her mouth.

149...Hands on me. Hands touching. Hands twisting. Hands on all the places I warned our church campers about during the awkward hour of stranger danger, where I said the places your bathing suit covers instead of vagina or penis or butt.

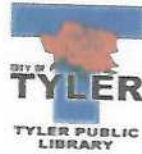
210..."Sex seems so intense," Alex goes on. "A lot of people are casual about it, like putting part of someone else's body inside of your own isn't that big of a deal. I don't understand that. It's your genitals touching someone else's genitals."

239...I live in a world where not being molested as a child is considered luck.

272..."Hey," he calls as soon as he sees me, raising the box in the air. "We've got it backward, babe; you're supposed to be the one delivering pussy."

307...I was just using her for sex (I could claim the same), I never cared about her at all (I almost wish that were true), I was a player and a liar and a son of a bitch.

317..."Dammit, Jack," she hisses. "All I want you to do is fuck me."



Tyler Public Library

Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Material

Thank you for bringing an item to our attention you feel may not have merit. The Collection Development Committee will examine the material in an attempt to be objective, but they need your help to determine specifically the objection. Your Help in this matter is appreciated. We hope you will continue to support the library in its efforts to bring a well-balanced and meaningful collection together for every citizen of Tyler.

Please complete the follow form. You may use the back of the form if you require more space.

Author: Patricia McCormick

Title: Sold

Publisher: Hyperion

Format: Hardcover ☒ Paperback ☐ Recording ☐ Other ☐

Request Initiated by: Marcia Daughtery

1) To what in the item do you object? Please be specific, citing pages:

SEE ATTACHED SPECIFIC PASSAGES FROM THIS BOOK ATTACHED

This book depicts graphic rape scenes, pedophilia and extreme violence toward young girls. Most parents and grandparents will object to the willful placement of books detailing sexually deviant, explicit material anywhere in the minor's section. Taxpayers in Tyler TX have a reasonable expectation that vulgar content will not be displayed or made available to minors by the Library Director or Collections Committee of the Tyler Public Library.

2) What do you feel might be the result of using this material?

It is proven that early exposure to sexually explicit, violent material *increases the risk of children becoming a victim of sexual violence or acting out sexually against another child.* I found this book to be sad and depressing. In the book, the young girl was repeatedly sexually abused. The grown MEN that abused her suffered no real consequences. This is hardly a lesson that should be communicated to young girls or boys.

3) For what age group would you recommend this material?

This book should be immediately reshelfed in the Adult Fiction. In the Author's Note, it becomes clear the book was written to help bring attention to the fate of Nepali girls. Again, this is something adults would be interested in knowing but should not be available for 12+

year old. There are hundreds of uplifting books about teenagers' struggles that are eventually overcome that are actually helpful to children. *Simply because it is about a child does not mean it belongs in the children's section.*

4) Can you recommend anything good about this material?

The reason that this book reconsideration is being submitted because it is inappropriate for the give minors access to sexually explicit or vulgar books. Whether there is 'anything good' about the material is completely subject and, I believe, irrelevant. Opinions of books vary wildly from person to person. Therefore, I prefer to present only facts by detailing the actual excerpts from this book. Graphic, perverted details of the rape of a child should absolutely not be available to minors in the Tyler Public Library.

5) Did you read, view or listen to this item in its entirety? Yes.

6) Are you aware of the reviews received by this material? The librarian will be happy to help find them.

Yes, I am aware of and have read the reviews of this book including the Tyler Public Library's own rather mild review in its online catalog. I also read the book and have formed my own opinion. I find that reviews from Kirkus and the Tyler Library's catalog to omit the sexually graphic nature of this book. Further, there are multiple online reviews of this book, many of which detail the excerpts as a very good way of warning parents of what is actually in the book. The Collections Committee's job is to clearly understand exactly what type of material they are circulating to minors that enter our library. The City Librarian has the authority to remove any item from the collection and I am requesting this book be removed from the children's section.

Signature of Complainant

Marcia Daughtry

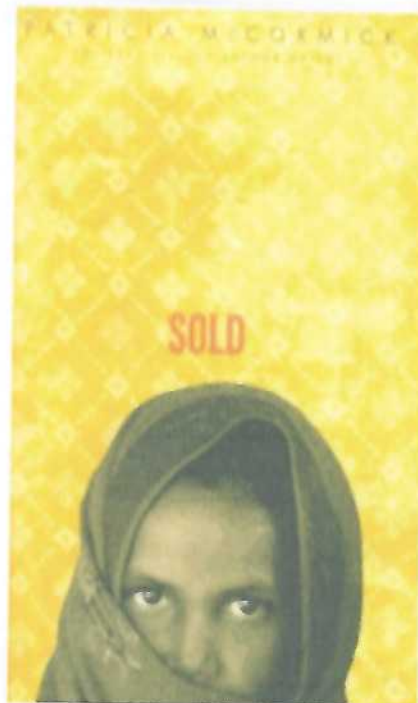
Address _____ Tyler Texas _____

Library Card Barcode # 28957001990604 _____

Phone _____

NOTE: Out of respect to the Mayor and City Council, four additional pages of filth have been truncated from the end of the report originally submitted to the Tyler Librarian. The deleted pages will be provided should the Mayor or a City Council member, for whatever reason, request the additional pages.

SOLD



Young Adult

Ny Patricia McCormick

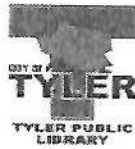
ISBN: 978-0786851720

Summary of Concerns:

This contains explicit aberrant sexual activities including rape of a minor; prostitution; and explicit violence.

- 102 "Are you ready to work?" she says in my language.
I nod and say yes, then nod again, although I do not understand how these city people do their chores in such fine clothes and uncomfortable shoes.
I follow Mumtaz down the hallway lined with tiny rooms. We pass by girls sitting cross-legged on the floor. Girls drawing on tiger eyes. Girls spraying themselves with flower water. Some of them stare at me. Some take no notice.
We go up some stairs, down another hallway, then into a room where an old man is lying on a bed. His skin is yellow and he has tufts of hair poking out from his ears. Mumtaz speaks kindly to him and I wonder if he is sick.
Across the hall, in another room, where a red cloth is hung across the doorway, I hear the sound of grunting. It is a strange, animal sound that makes me shudder. Mumtaz points to me and says something to the old man. He licks his palm and smooths down his hair. They do not seem to notice the grunting.
Then it stops. The red cloth is pulled back. And a man stands in the hallway zipping his pants.
I look down at my red-painted nails and my new shoes. Something is not right here. I don't know what is going on, but it is not right, not right at all.
Mumtaz pats the edge of the bed and tells me to come closer. The old man makes a clucking sound.
"Don't be afraid," she says. "Come her, now."
I don't move.
Her voice turns hard. "Get over here, you ignorant girl." She says.
Still, I don't move.
Then Mumtaz flies at me. She grabs me by the hair and drags me across the room. She flings me onto the bed next to the old man. And then he is on top of me, holding me down with the strength of ten men. He kisses me with lips that are slack and wet and taste of onions. He teeth dig into my lower lip.
Underneath the weight of him, I cannot see or move or breathe. He fumbles with his pants, forces my legs apart, and I can feel him pushing himself between my thighs. I gasp for air and kick and squirm. He thrusts his tongue into my mouth. And I bite down with all my might.
He cries out "Aghh!" and I am running. Running down the hall, past the other girls, losing my fancy city shoes along the way, until I am back in the room where I started, pulling my old clothes out of my bundle.
- 106 I wrap my arms around myself and grip with all my might. But the trembling will not stop.
"Well, then," Mumtaz says, pulling her record book out from her waistcloth.
"Let me explain it to you."
"You belong to me," she says. "And I paid a pretty sum for you, too."
She opens to page in her book and points to the notation for 10,000 rupees.
"You will take men to your room," she says. "And do whatever they ask of you. You will work here, like the other girls, until your debt is paid off."
- 107 This Shahanna leans close and whispers to me, "It will go easier on you if you hold still."
There is a slicing sound, and a clump of my hair falls to the floor. I cry out and try to break free, but Shahanna has hold of me.

- Mumtaz draws back, the jaw of the scissors poised at my neck.
"Hold still," she says, her teeth clinched. "Or I'll slice your throat."
- 109 Each morning and evening Mumtaz comes, beats me with a leather strap, and locks the door behind her.
- 110 Tonight when Mumtaz comes to my room, she sees that her strap has left raw sores on my back and neck, my arms and legs.
So she hits me on the soles of my feet.
- 111 Tonight when Mumtaz comes and unlocks the door, she sees there is no part of me unmarked by her strap.
"Now will you agree to be with men?"
I shake my head.
And she says that she will starve me until I submit.
- 115 "No," I hear myself say in a ragged voice. "I will not do this disgraceful thing."
Shahanna sighs.
"She will only sell you to another place just like this."
- 116 You are safe here only if you do not show how frightened you are.
- 120 A man with lips like a fish comes into my room and says, "You're lucky to be with Habib." He is squeezing my breast with his hand, like someone shopping for a melon. I try to push him away, but my arm, stone-heavy from the lassi, doesn't move.
"You're lucky," he says, "that Habib is your first one."
I close my eyes. The room pitches this way and that.
"You can tell the others that it was Habib," he says.
I open my eyes, watch him squeeze my other breast, and wonder: Who is this Habib he keeps talking about?
"If this is really your first time," he says. "Old Mumtaz is a tricky one."
He unbuckles his belt. "Once before, she sold Habib used goods."
The fish-lips man removes my dress.
I wait for myself to protest. But nothing happens.
"Habib," he says. "Habib is good with the ladies."
Then he is on top of me, and something hot and insistent is between my legs.
He grunts and struggles, trying to fit himself inside me.
With a sudden thrust I am torn in two.
"Oh, yes," he says, panting. "Habib is good in bed."
I hear, coming from a distance,
a steady thud,
thud,
thud,
and register that this is the sound of a headboard hitting a wall.
After a while,
I don't know how long,
Another sound interrupts the rhythmic thud of the headboard.
I know this noise from somewhere.
I work very hard to make it out.
Finally, I identify it.
It is the muffled sound of sobbing.



*This was
emailed
to library & later
to Hene
Jan 6, 2023*

Tyler Public Library

Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Material

Thank you for bringing an item to our attention you feel may not have merit. The Collection Development Committee will examine the material in an attempt to be objective, but they need your help to determine specifically the objection. Your help in this matter is appreciated. We hope you will continue to support the library in its efforts to bring a well-balanced and meaningful collection together for every citizen of Tyler.

Please complete the follow form. You may use the back of the form if you require more space.

Author: Patricia McCormick

Title: Sold

Publisher: Hyperion

Format: Hardcover ☒ Paperback ☐ Recording ☐ Other ☐

Request Initiated by: Marcia Daughtery

1) To what in the item do you object? Please be specific, citing pages:

SEE ATTACHED SPECIFIC PASSAGES FROM THIS BOOK ATTACHED

This book depicts graphic rape scenes, pedophilia and extreme violence toward young girls. Most parents and grandparents will object to the willful placement of books detailing sexually deviant, explicit material anywhere in the minor's section. Taxpayers in Tyler TX have a reasonable expectation that vulgar content will not be displayed or made available to minors by the Library Director or Collections Committee of the Tyler Public Library.

2) What do you feel might be the result of using this material?

It is proven that early exposure to sexually explicit, violent material *increases the risk of children becoming a victim of sexual violence or acting out sexually against another child*. I found this book to be sad and depressing. In the book, the young girl was repeatedly sexually abused. The grown MEN that abused her suffered no real consequences. This is hardly a lesson that should be communicated to young girls or boys.

3) For what age group would you recommend this material?

This book should be immediately reshelved in the Adult Fiction. In the Author's Note, it becomes clear the book was written to help bring attention to the fate of Nepali girls. Again, this is something adults would be interested in knowing but should not be available for 12+

year old. There are hundreds of uplifting books about teenagers' struggles that are eventually overcome that are actually helpful to children. *Simply because it is about a child does not mean it belongs in the children's section.*

4) Can you recommend anything good about this material?

The reason that this book reconsideration is being submitted because it is inappropriate for the give minors access to sexually explicit or vulgar books. Whether there is 'anything good' about the material is completely subject and, I believe, irrelevant. Opinions of books vary wildly from person to person. Therefore, I prefer to present only facts by detailing the actual excerpts from this book. Graphic, perverted details of the rape of a child should absolutely not be available to minors in the Tyler Public Library.

5) Did you read, view or listen to this item in its entirety? Yes.

6) Are you aware of the reviews received by this material? The librarian will be happy to help find them.

Yes, I am aware of and have read the reviews of this book including the Tyler Public Library's own rather mild review in its online catalog. I also read the book and have formed my own opinion. I find that reviews from Kirkus and the Tyler Library's catalog to omit the sexually graphic nature of this book. Further, there are multiple online reviews of this book, many of which detail the excerpts as a very good way of warning parents of what is actually in the book. The Collections Committee's job is to clearly understand exactly what type of material they are circulating to minors that enter our library. The City Librarian has the authority to remove any item from the collection and I am requesting this book be removed from the children's section.

Signature of Complainant 

Address _____ Tyler Texas _____

Library Card Barcode # 28957001990604 _____

Phone _____

SOLD



Young Adult

Ny Patricia McCormick

ISBN: 978-0786851720

Summary of Concerns:

This contains explicit aberrant sexual activities including rape of a minor; prostitution; and explicit violence.

Page	Content
102	"Are you ready to work?" she says in my language. I nod and say yes, then nod again, although I do not understand how these city people do their chores in such fine clothes and uncomfortable shoes. I follow Mumtaz down the hallway lined with tiny rooms. We pass by girls sitting cross-legged on the floor. Girls drawing on tiger eyes. Girls spraying themselves with flower water. Some of them stare at me. Some take no notice. We go up some stairs, down another hallway, then into a room where an old man is lying on a bed. His skin is yellow and he has tufts of hair poking out from his ears. Mumtaz speaks kindly to him and I wonder if he is sick. Across the hall, in another room, where a red cloth is hung across the doorway, I hear the sound of grunting. It is a strange, animal sound that makes me shudder. Mumtaz points to me and says something to the old man. He licks his palm and smooths down his hair. They do not seem to notice the grunting. Then it stops. The red cloth is pulled back. And a man stands in the hallway zipping his pants. I look down at my red-painted nails and my new shoes. Something is not right here. I don't know what is going on, but it is not right, not right at all. Mumtaz pats the edge of the bed and tells me to come closer. The old man makes a clucking sound. "Don't be afraid," she says. "Come her, now." I don't move. Her voice turns hard. "Get over here, you ignorant girl." She says. Still, I don't move. Then Mumtaz flies at me. She grabs me by the hair and drags me across the room. She flings me onto the bed next to the old man. And then he is on top of me, holding me down with the strength of ten men. He kisses me with lips that are slack and wet and taste of onions. He teeth dig into my lower lip. Underneath the weight of him, I cannot see or move or breathe. He fumbles with his pants, forces my legs apart, and I can feel him pushing himself between my thighs. I gasp for air and kick and squirm. He thrusts his tongue into my mouth. And I bite down with all my might. He cries out "Aghh!" and I am running. Running down the hall, past the other girls, losing my fancy city shoes along the way, until I am back in the room where I started, pulling my old clothes out of my bundle.
106	I wrap my arms around myself and grip with all my might. But the trembling will not stop. "Well, then," Mumtaz says, pulling her record book out from her waistcloth. "Let me explain it to you." "You belong to me," she says. "And I paid a pretty sum for you, too." She opens to page in her book and points to the notation for 10,000 rupees. "You will take men to your room," she says. "And do whatever they ask of you. You will work here, like the other girls, until your debt is paid off."
107	This Shahanna leans close and whispers to me, "It will go easier on you if you hold still." There is a slicing sound, and a clump of my hair falls to the floor. I cry out and try to break free, but Shahanna has hold of me

Page	Content
	Mumtaz draws back, the jaw of the scissors poised at my neck. "Hold still," she says, her teeth clinched. "Or I'll slice your throat."
109	Each morning and evening Mumtaz comes, beats me with a leather strap, and locks the door behind her.
110	Tonight when Mumtaz comes to my room, she sees that her strap has left raw sores on my back and neck, my arms and legs. So she hits me on the soles of my feet.
111	Tonight when Mumtaz comes and unlocks the door, she sees there is no part of me unmarked by her strap. "Now will you agree to be with men?" I shake my head. And she says that she will starve me until I submit.
115	"No," I hear myself say in a ragged voice. "I will not do this disgraceful thing." Shahanna sighs. "She will only sell you to another place just like this."
116	You are safe here only if you do not show how frightened you are.
120	A man with lips like a fish comes into my room and says, "You're lucky to be with Habib." He is squeezing my breast with his hand, like someone shopping for a melon. I try to push him away, but my arm, stone-heavy from the lassi, doesn't move. "You're lucky," he says, "that Habib is your first one." I close my eyes. The room pitches this way and that. "You can tell the others that it was Habib," he says. I open my eyes, watch him squeeze my other breast, and wonder. Who is this Habib he keeps talking about? "If this is really your first time," he says. "Old Mumtaz is a tricky one." He unbuckles his belt. "Once before, she sold Habib used goods." The fish-lips man removes my dress. I wait for myself to protest. But nothing happens. "Habib," he says. "Habib is good with the ladies." Then he is on top of me, and something hot and insistent is between my legs. He grunts and struggles, trying to fit himself inside me. With a sudden thrust I am torn in two. "Oh, yes," he says, panting. "Habib is good in bed." I hear, coming from a distance, a steady thud, thud, thud, and register that this is the sound of a headboard hitting a wall. After a while, I don't know how long, Another sound interrupts the rhythmic thud of the headboard. I know this noise from somewhere. I work very hard to make it out. Finally, I identify it. It is the muffled sound of sobbing

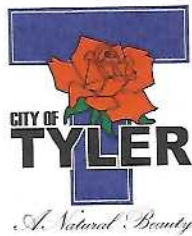
Page	Content
	Habib rolls off me. Then I understand: I was the person crying.
123	In between, men come. They crush my bones with their weight. They split me open. Then they disappear. I cannot tell which of the things they do to me are real, and which are nightmares. I decide to think that it is all a nightmare. Because if what is happening is real, it is unbearable.
125	I hurt. I am torn and bleeding where the men have been. I pray to the gods to make the hurting go away. To make the burning and the aching and the bleeding stop.
127	Before it starts, you hear a zipper baring its teeth, perhaps the sound of a shoe being kicked aside in haste, the winding of the mattress. Once it starts, you may hear the sound of horns bleating in the street below, the peanut vendor hawking his treats, or the pock of a rubber ball as the children shout and play in the school yard nearby. But if you are lucky, or if you work hard at it, you hear nothing. Nothing, perhaps, but the clicking of the fan overhead, that steady ticking away of seconds until it is over. Until it starts again.
128	One day Shahanna comes to my room, bearing a cup of tea and a leftover heel of bread. She slips a small plastic package into my hand. "Don't let Mumtaz see this," she whispers. "What is it?" I ask. She checks to make sure no one can hear. "A condom." I don't understand what this condom is and why it must be kept so secret. Shahanna explains. "Ask the men to use it, so that you don't get a disease," she says. "Most of them will say no; they will threaten to go somewhere else if you insist."
129	There is a bucket of water next to my bed. But no matter how often I wash and scrub and wash and scrub, I cannot seem to rinse the men from my body.

Page	Content
132	One afternoon, Mumtaz comes to the door and tells me to gather up my things. "Now that you are no longer a virgin," she says, "I cannot fetch a good price for you."
133	I haven't cried, not one tear, since that first night with the fish-lips man. But now tears surge up in my eyes. I blink them back and lift my chin. "But what?" she says. She pulls the leather strap out from under her skirt and slaps it against her open palm. I bow my head. "From now on," Mumtaz says, "you will join the other girls downstairs each night. You will share a bedroom and be free to walk the house." I stare straight ahead. Mumtaz comes close and takes my chin in her hand. "But if you try to run away," she says, "I will grind hot chilies and put them in your private parts."
135	A fat, toothless woman stirs a vat of greasy stew while a naked child crawls at her feet, and the air is thick with the smell of spices and cooking oil, perfume and cigarette smoke. It is all, suddenly, too much. I sink to the floor, wincing at the tenderness between my thighs.
141	Before, when you were in the locked room, Shahanna says, Mumtaz sent the customers to you. Now, if you want to pay off your debt, you must do what it takes to make them choose you. Tell the customers that you are twelve, she says. Or Mumtaz will beat you senseless. Do whatever the customer asks of you, Shahanna says. Otherwise he will beat you senseless. Then he will do whatever he likes and leave without paying. Always wash yourself with a wet rag after the man is finished, Pushpa says. This will keep you from getting a disease.
142	There are special things you need to know about how to use your shawl, she says. Flick the ends of your shawl in a come-closer gesture and you will bring the shy men to your bed, the ones who will slip an extra coin into your hand before they go. Draw your shawl to your chin, bend your neck like a peacock. This will bring the older men to your bed, the ones who will leave a sweet on your pillow. Press your shawl to your nose with the back of your hand, Pushpa says, when you must bring a dirty man to your bed. He will leave nothing but his smell, the stink of sweat, and hair oil and liquor and man. But you can use your shawl to block the worst of it. Anita turns away from the mirror, transformed from a crook-faced country girl into a tiger-eyed city woman. There is another way to use a shawl, she says. I cannot tell from her always-frowning face if she is being kind or cruel. That new girl, the one in your old room, she says. Yesterday morning Mumtaz found her hanging from the rafters.

Page	Content
145	The younger ones, like Jeena, are given special medicine so they can sleep under the bed while their mothers are with customers.
147	Half of what the men pay goes to Mumtaz, she says. Then you must take away 80 rupees for what Mumtaz charges for your daily rice and dal. Another 100 a week for renting you a bed and pillow. And 500 for the shot the dirty-hands doctor gives us once a month so that we won't become pregnant.
180	Once, when the dirty-hands doctor pushed himself up against me in a back hall, Monica pried him off of me and told him he would have to pay like everyone else.
182	I have been beaten here, locked away, violated a hundred times and a hundred times more. I have been starved and cheated, tricked and disgraced.
189	"Have you been washing yourself?" she says. "After the men. Do you wash yourself down there?" I try to nod, but my head is heavy, achy, a distant thing I cannot control. All I can do is close my eyes.
191	"Take these pills tonight," she says. "And you'll be back at work in no time." Then she unwinds her waistcloth and takes out her record book. She wets her pencil with the tip of her tongue and writes a number in her book. "You'll be able to work off the cost of the medicine in a few days," she says.
216	"Get to work, you lazy whores," she says.
227	Here at Happiness House, there are dirty men, old men, rough men, fat men, drunken men, sick men. I will be with them all. Any man, every man.
228	I have a regular customer now. He makes me do a nasty thing, but he gives my 10 rupees extra.
254	I learned ways to be with men. I learned how to forget what was happening to me even as it was happening. But ever since the pink-skinned man came here, with his pictures of the clean place, I cannot remember those ways. Now, while I wait for the American to return, and the men come to my bed, I clench the sheets in my hands, for fear that I will pound them to death with my fists. I grit my teeth, for fear that I will bite through their skin to their very bones. I squeeze my eyes closed tight, for fear that I will see what has actually happened to me.

Page	Content
257	It is a simple kitchen sound, the grinding of spices with a wooden pestle. Sometimes it means nothing more than spicy stew for supper. But sometimes it means that the cook is readying the hot chili punishment for one of us. And then it is a sound that turns even the hardest woman here into a whimpering child. Because it means that someone has crossed Mumtaz, that Mumtaz will smear the chili on a stick and put it inside the girl, and that all of us will be awake throughout the night, listening to the girl moan.
258	She pushes the cook aside, takes her stick, rolls it in the chili powder, and wheels around to face me. I fall to the floor, kissing her feet and weeping. She gives me a kick in the ribs, and all the air flies out of me in a whoosh. Then she is gone. Soon I hear a piteous wailing coming from the next room. Anita bends over me. "It's Kumari, the new girl," she says, stroking my hair. "She accepted a bangle bracelet from a customer."
258	"You certainly act the part of the guilty one," Mumtaz says from above me. What I feel next is the gritty sole of her shoe on the side of my head, gently at first, then with steady, gathering force, relentless, building pressure until her full weight is on me. She grinds her foot, and the metal edge of my earring bites into the flesh of my ear. But I do not cry out. The seconds tick by. Then, somehow, I am outside myself, marveling at this pain, a thing so formidable it has color and shape. Fantastic red, then yellow, starbursts of agony explode in my head. Then there is a blinding whiteness, and then blackness. Somehow, without warning, the pain is gone. A new pain takes its place as Mumtaz yanks on my braid and drags me to my feet. We are eye to eye. I can smell the sour tang of her sweat. "Have you done something for which you should be punished?" she says. I don't answer. She yanks on my braid. My scalp yelps with pain. But I don't say a word. "Have you done something wrong?" she says, spit gathering in the corners of her mouth. "Tell me, you stupid little hill girl." Mumtaz has called me a little hill girl. Which is, still, what I am. I meet her gaze. "No, Mumtaz," I say. "I haven't." She lets go of my hair, and it takes all my strength to keep my knees from giving way. "Then put on your makeup," she says, "and get back to work." I stay upright until she is gone. Only then do I slump to the floor and touch the side of my head. My earring comes off in my hand, bloodied, but intact. And I know then that my earlobe has been torn clear through.

Tyler Public Library
201 South College Avenue
Tyler, Texas 75702



(903) 593-READ (7323)
(903) 531-1FAX (1329)
www.tylerlibrary.com

2/2/2023

Mrs. Marcia Daughtery
6713 Hollytree Circle
Tyler, TX 75703

RE: Review of Request for Reconsideration; Tyler Public Library

Dear Mrs. Marcia Daughtery,

response
from library
(not dated)

Thank you for your interest in Tyler Public Library and submitting a Request for Reconsideration regarding your concern for *Sold* by Patricia McCormick. A copy of your Request for Reconsideration, as well as a copy of the Library's Collection Development Policy for Reconsideration Appeals process, are attached hereto. Per our process as described in the Library's Policy, the request and item was reviewed by the Collection Development Review Committee ("Committee") and the results of the review are as follows.

The Tyler Public Library first added this book to its Young Adult section, separate from our children's area, in February of 2007 on the basis that it met the following specific criteria, set forth in the adopted Collection Development Policy:

- The work was judged on the basis of the work as a whole, not a part taken out of context.
- The work was reviewed favorably in professional journals such as Kirkus, Publisher's Weekly, School Library Journal, and Voice of Youth Advocates
- The work had already obtained several recognitions including the following:
 - Publishers Weekly, Best 100 Books of 2006
 - National Public Radio's Best Books of the Year 2006
 - American Library Association, Top Ten List, Best Books of the Year, 2006
 - Booklist 2006 Editor's Choice Award
- Popularity of the author

Library staff consider professional reviews, awards, and credentials in the process of selecting materials for the collection and each area of the Library. Prior to its addition to the Library, *Sold* had received several favorable reviews by professional journals and awards. Since its inclusion within the collection, it has gone on to receive a number of other recognitions including the Gustav-Heinemann Peace Prize of 2009 and Children's Literature Council's Choice award.

As of this date, Tyler Public Library has one copy which is housed within our Young Adult collection and has circulated 45 times. Kirkus recommends the title to teen and young adult audiences while others recommend middle grade and young adult. Per publishers and professional review journals, the Library

chose to house the item within the Young Adult section which holds materials recommended for ages 14+ or High School and Young Adult audiences.

A rating website, Common Sense media, collects ratings and reviews from both parents and kids. According to this website, these groups rate it appropriate for the following: Rated for ages 13+ by Kids on Common Sense Media; Rated ages 16+ by Parents on Common Sense Media; and Rated ages 14+ by Common Sense Media. While the subject matter is heavy and serious, the City Committee responsible for reviewing your request for reconsideration determined, in accordance with the Library's Collection Development Policy, that *Sold* by Patricia McCormick is appropriately placed within the Young Adult section as it meets several qualifications already listed and it is concerned with a subject that even American children have faced.

The Tyler Public Library believes that it is important for caregivers, parents, guardians, and grandparents to be guides to their children for the materials they check out. Per the Library's Circulation Policy, parents (or legal guardians) wishing to restrict their children's borrowing of library materials may do so at any time. We understand that not all persons will agree on what should be available to whom, the City of Tyler is bound by federal court decisions regarding the First Amendment, and no one set of beliefs or values can serve as the lens for developing a well-rounded library collection. However, the Tyler Public Library respects all citizen comments and seeks to serve the entirety of the City of Tyler while also making memberships available for purchase to those who reside within Smith County.

In conclusion, the Tyler Public Library finds that the inclusion of *Sold* by Patricia McCormick within the Tyler Public Library's Young Adult collection is in accordance with the Library's Collection Development Policy. Accordingly, the City's Committee has determined that *Sold* should remain shelved in the Young Adult collection (ages 14+).

As outlined within our Collection Development Policy, if you disagree with the City Librarian and the Committee's decision as explained herein, you may appeal the decision to the Library Board who will review the request within 90 days. Per Section VIII. of the Collection Development Policy:

In making its decision, the Library Board will consider professional reviews and will employ all of the criteria of selection listed in the Library's Collection Development Policy, including the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read Statement, and Freedom to View Statement and The Texas Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Statement.

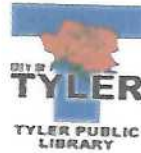
All meetings of the Library Board are open to the public and are posted according to the Texas Open Meetings Law. Should you wish to appeal this matter, you are welcome to appear and/or speak at a Library Board meeting. Complainants will be notified in writing of the Library Board's decision in the matter.

Sincerely,



Ashley Taylor

City Librarian



Tyler Public Library

Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Material

Thank you for bringing an item to our attention you feel may not have merit. The Collection Development Committee will examine the material in an attempt to be objective, but they need your help to determine specifically the objection. Your Help in this matter is appreciated. We hope you will continue to support the library in its efforts to bring a well-balanced and meaningful collection together for every citizen of Tyler.

Please complete the follow form. You may use the back of the form if you require more space.

Author: Jennifer Nevin

Title: Breathless

Publisher: Simon & Schuster

Format: Hardcover ☒ Paperback ☐ Recording ☐ Other ☐

Request Initiated by: Barbara Dorsey

1) To what in the item do you object? Please be specific, citing pages:

Here are just a few examples of objectional excerpts from this book. It currently resides in the Young Adult section which is for ages as young as 13. Why would *anyone* want a child to read such graphic descriptions of sexual activity as well as themes that would encourage sex as a way of gaining confidence?

"...I've officially given a few hand jobs and three or four unsuccessful blow jobs, had five and a half orgasms—not including the ones I've given myself—and made out with three boys, counting this one."

"...Shane is staring at me and his eyes are rolling and his breath is coming faster and faster, and he's humping my leg like a dog..."

"...I maneuver my lower half away from him, and that's when he groans and explodes. All over my inner thigh. And this is where I freak out a little, because I swear I can feel some of it dripping into me, and I roll over fast, pushing him away..."

2) What do you feel might be the result of using this material?

Children should not be exposed to sexually explicit, profane or indecent content. Mental health experts agree that providing sexual, age-inappropriate material can have lasting negative effects on children. Sexually explicit materials negatively impact cognitive, emotional and social well-being of children. **Is there ever a good reason to provide sexually explicit material to a minor?**

3) For what age group would you recommend this material?

The Tyler Public Library has a well-established and documented record of putting adult sexually erotic material in areas where children as young as 13 are encouraged to browse and check out books. This book should be immediately removed from the first floor of the library.

4) Can you recommend anything good about this material?

What I can recommend is that it simply be relocated to the adult section. This book is about an 18-year-old who is dealing with life-changing crises in her family life and how she tries to deal with it. It is disturbing that she thinks having sex is productive way to deal with her emotions. A dominant theme is that this young girl seems sex-obsessed with losing her virginity. Do 13+ year old girls need to read that having sex will help them gain confidence?

5) Did you read, view or listen to this item in its entirety?

Yes. But the more important question is will you read this book in its entirety?

6) Are you aware of the reviews received by this material? The librarian will be happy to help find them.

Yes, I am. Here's one for you: *"Meet Claud(ine), a teen whose coping mechanism is limiting her emotional experience to feeling angry and/or horny. The end."* Here's another one: *It's immature, unproductive and destructive.* And another one: *I don't think this is YA book as it talks ALOT about sexI am hugely disappointed and sadly won't be recommending it.*

Signature of Complainant _____ Barbara Dorsey _____

Address _____ Tyler, Texas _____ 75701 _____

Library Card Barcode # _____

Phone _____

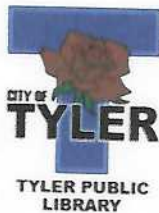
From: "Ashley Taylor" <ataylor@tylertexas.com>
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2024 7:48am
To: "Pamela Vinny" <sgvinny@velociter.net>
Subject: Request for Reconsideration

Dear Ms. Cookson,

This email is to inform you that your Request for Reconsideration of *Gabi, A Girl in Pieces* is in review via committee. Additional time beyond the 30 days may be warranted due to the influx of requests received the same day. Our goal is to still maintain a response within 30 business days of receipt which would issue a response by February 23rd.

If you have questions regarding the committee's process for review, please do not hesitate to ask.

Respectfully,



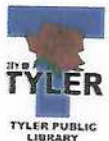
Ashley Taylor

City Librarian / Library Director
City of Tyler

Tyler Public Library
201 S. College Ave.
Tyler, TX 75702
903-593-READ (7323)

ataylor@tylertexas.com | www.TylerLibrary.com

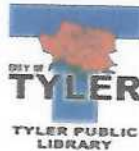
One attachment • Scanned by Gmail



Ashley Taylor

City Librarian / Library Director
City of Tyler
Tyler Public Library
201 S. College Ave.
Tyler, TX 75702
903-593-READ (7323)

unable to obtain
response from
library - Book is
still in YA section
10/8/2025



Tyler Public Library

Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Material

Thank you for bringing an item to our attention you feel may not have merit. The Collection Development Committee will examine the material in an attempt to be objective, but they need your help to determine specifically the objection. Your help in this matter is appreciated. We hope you will continue to support the library in its efforts to bring a well-balanced and meaningful collection together for every citizen of Tyler.

Please complete the following form. You may use the back of the form if you require more space.

Author: Isabel Quintero
Title: Gabi, A Girl in Pieces
Publisher: Random House
Format: Hardcover _____ Paperback _____ Recording _____ Other _____
Request Initiated by: Pamela Vinny Cookson

1) To what in the item do you object? Please be specific, citing pages. *

I object to the distribution, promotion and endorsement of sexually explicit materials to minors by the Tyler Public Library. Just a few examples of this are below – there are many other passages similar to this contained in this book:

"Your mom would be **fucking my fat ass**. So shut your trap and do your job, Kmart. Pg15
Georgina just smirked at us and said, "Well, Gabi, I know this isn't for you. **No one would be fucking your fat ass**. So, I guess, the winner is...Cindy! P15
The things is that **high school boys are young, dumb and full of cum**. P 116
Sebastian told us about how he practically had sex with Pedro. Well, I guess he did **because going down on someone probably counts as sex. Although I think that's pretty gross. I mean guys pee from there!** P 153
.... "Oh no! **You couldn't fuck me, German**. Not with that small of a package. And didn't I hear that you had some sort of herpes or something that **you can only get from having sex with livestock?**" P 285
..."**Are you going to rape me like you did Cindy?** You **fucking asshole!** Wannabe player! You ain't gonna do shit to me!" P 285

**Note that different formats (i.e., paperback vs. hardcover) of this book will have different page numbers and recordings likely have no page numbers at all.*

2) What do you feel might be the result of using this material? *There is never a reason to promote, distribute or otherwise endorse providing written descriptions or visual portrayal of sexually explicit, pervasively vulgar content to minors (whether either in e-books, recordings, or physical books). This library has a documented history of providing adult rated sexually explicit material in the teens*

section for years. Children who have experienced sexual abuse do not gain from re-living such abuse. All children and teens deserve a safe space to browse that is free from the sexual indoctrination and grooming courtesy of the Tyler Public Library's distribution and promotion of books such as this directly to minors.

- 3) For what age group would you recommend this material? *This book contains materials that are NOT appropriate for children, minors or teens. It should not be grouped together, marketed or promoted as if this is reasonable material for young minds. This type of material should not be distributed, promoted, displayed or shelved in areas of the library in which minors have easy access.*
- 4) Can you recommend anything good about this material? *This book is age-inappropriate for minors.*
- 5) Did you read, view or listen to this item in its entirety? *I read enough of this book to know that it contains sexually explicit, pervasively vulgar passages that are not appropriate for minors, young children or teens.*
- 6) Are you aware of the reviews received by this material? *The librarian will be happy to help find them. Yes. The opinions of 'professional reviewers' are largely irrelevant once the ACTUAL CONTENT of this material is considered.*

Signature of Complainant Pamela Venny Cookson

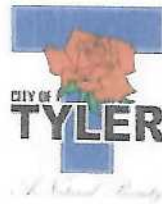
Address 15080 CR 1104 Jellison TX 75762

Library Card Barcode # 28957002032166

Phone 209-612-5091

1/3/2024

Tyler Public Library
201 South College Avenue
Tyler, Texas 75702



(903) 593-READ (7323)
(903) 531-1FAX (1329)
www.tylerlibrary.com

Ms. Pamela Vinny Cookson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Re: Review of Request for Reconsideration, Tyler Public Library

Dear Ms. Pamela Vinny Cookson,

Thank you for your interest in the Tyler Public Library and for submitting a Request for Reconsideration regarding your concern for *Gabi, A Girl in Pieces* by Isabel Quintero. A copy of your Request for Reconsideration is enclosed. Per our process described in the Library's Policy, the request and item were reviewed via committee and the results are as follows.

The Tyler Public Library first added this book to its Young Adult collection (ages 14+, or High School and Young Adult audiences), separate from its Children's collection (birth – age 18), in July of 2015 on the basis that it met the following specific criteria as outlined in the adopted Collection Development Policy:

- The work was reviewed favorably in professional journals including School Library Journal, Publishers Weekly, and Kirkus
- Awards and Recognitions and/or popularity of the author
 - 2015 The Amelia Bloomer Book List
 - 2015 William C. Morris Award for YA debut novel
 - School Library Journal Best Books 2014
 - 2015 Tomás Rivera Award
 - 2015 Paterson Prize for Books for Young People, Grades 7-12
 - Booklist Best Books of 2014
- The work was judged on the basis of the work as a whole, not a part taken out of context

Library staff consider professional reviews, awards, and credentials in the process of selecting materials for each collection within the Library. Library staff also take recommendations through public input processes. When reviewing material for younger audiences Library staff also look at age content recommendations made available by the publishers and professional reviewers. Professional reviewers such as School Library Journal, Publishers Weekly, and Kirkus have rated this book with a content rating of 14+ or High School and Young Adult Audiences.

While the book contains some mature themes including teen pregnancy, family drug use, and LGBT themes, the Committee responsible for reviewing your request determined, in accordance with the standards established within the Library's Collection Development Policy that *Gabi, A Girl in Pieces* by

Isabel Quintero is appropriately placed within the Young Adult section (separate from the Children's area) as it meets several qualifications already listed.

The Tyler Public Library believes that it is important for caregivers, parents, guardians, and grandparents to be guides to their children for the materials that they check out. Per the Library's Circulation Policy, parents (or legal guardians) wishing to restrict their children's borrowing of library materials may do so at any time. We understand that not all persons will agree on what should be available to whom, the City of Tyler is bound by federal court decisions regarding the First Amendment, and no one set of beliefs or values can serve as the lens for developing a well-rounded library collection. However, the Tyler Public Library respects all citizen comments and seeks to serve the entirety of the City of Tyler.

In conclusion, the Tyler Public Library finds that the inclusion of *Gabi, A Girl in Pieces* within the Tyler Public Library's Young Adult collection is in accordance with the Library's Collection Development Policy. Accordingly, the City's Committee has determined that *Gabi, A Girl in Pieces* should remain shelved in the Young Adult collection (content level ages 14+, High School and Young Adult audiences). If you are dissatisfied with the decision, the City of Tyler Code of Ordinances, Chapter 1, Article IV, Sec. 1-33 (copied below), sets forth the process to appeal this decision to the City Manager for a final decision.

Sec. 1-33. Procedure before City Manager or designee.

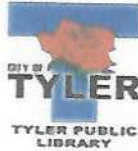
- a. Any person aggrieved by the decision of a Department Leader or designee may appeal such decision to the City Manager. Such appeal must be filed with the City Manager within thirty (30) business days after the decision of the Department Leader or designee, otherwise, the decision of the Department Leader or designee is final.*
- b. Such appeal shall be in writing and shall succinctly state the problem or objection of the aggrieved party and the aggrieved party's understanding of the decision of the Department Leader or designee. An appeal stays all proceedings in furtherance of the action that is appealed until a final decision is reached.*
- c. The City Manager or designee shall not be the decision maker whose decision is being appealed. The City Manager (or acting City Manager in absence), or designee, shall render a written decision within ten (10) business days after receipt of the written appeal or the latest amended appeal. If, however, the City Manager or designee determines that there is not sufficient data upon which to base a decision, further written information may be requested from the aggrieved party, in which event the ten-business day time limit shall run from the date on which the completed information is received.*
- d. The City Manager or designee may refer the controversy to an appropriate advisory group or City board for recommendation, in which event the time limit of subpart c., above, shall not apply. For purposes of this section, the term "advisory group" shall mean a group of City employees appointed by the City Manager or designee to provide advice regarding a specific appeal. No employee serving on the advisory group shall be the decision maker whose decision is being appealed. "Appropriate City board" shall mean one of the specific City Boards established by the City Council in Section 1-20, and having objectives or functions associated with the specific City Department to which the appeal was made. The advisory group or City board to which the matter is referred shall consider the matter within sixty*

- (60) business days after the matter is referred to it, and shall provide a recommendation to the City Manager or designee. All considerations under this Article by a City board shall be in a public hearing. The City Manager or designee shall render a decision within ten (10) business days after the appropriate advisory group or City board gives its recommendation. (Ord. No. O-98-45, 5/27/98) (Ord. No. 0-2012-71; 9/26/12) (Ord. No. 0-2016-44; 5/11/16)*
- e. At the conclusion of the review, the City Manager or designee shall either:*
- 1. Sustain the decision of the Department Leader or designee, or*
 - 2. Render an appropriate decision*
- f. The decision of the City Manager or designee regarding an appeal under this Article shall be final. (Ord. No. O-98-45, 5/27/98) (Ord. No. 0-2012-71; 9/26/12) (Ord. No. 0-2020-45; 5/13/20)*

Sincerely,



Ashley Taylor
City Librarian



Tyler Public Library

Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Material

Thank you for bringing an item to our attention you feel may not have merit. The Collection Development Committee will examine the material in an attempt to be objective, but they need your help to determine specifically the objection. Your help in this matter is appreciated. We hope you will continue to support the library in its efforts to bring a well-balanced and meaningful collection together for every citizen of Tyler.

Please complete the following form. You may use the back of the form if you require more space.

Author: Julie Murphy

Title: Ramona Blue

Publisher: Baltzer + Bray

Format: Hardcover _____ Paperback _____ Recording _____ Other _____

Request Initiated by: Sharon Guthrie

1) To what in the item do you object? Please be specific, citing pages. *

*I object to the distribution, promotion and endorsement of sexually explicit materials to minors by the Tyler Public Library. **Just a few examples of this are below – there are many other similar passages contained in this book:***

"... He drags his fingers along my side, pulling my shift up as he does, and every inch of my skin begs for him as he connects the dots all over my upper body. it's not a matter of if we will have sex. It's a matter of when. ... **His fingers begin to roam again, and it's not long before my skirt is rucked up around my waist and his hand is discovering places it's never been.** P190

"...I pull him up by his biceps and he's on top of me. ... I slip my hands under the elastic waist of his sweatpants and run my fingers down along his thighs... I place his hands on the button of my jeans and nod. ... soon we're both sitting there on his bed, completely naked." P197

"How can I say '**Eat a dick,** EHS' but in a more eloquent way?" asks Ruthie. P215

**Note that different formats (i.e., paperback vs. hardcover) of this book will have different page numbers and recordings likely have no page numbers at all.*

2) What do you feel might be the result of using this material? *There is never a reason to promote, distribute or otherwise endorse providing written descriptions or visual portrayal of sexually explicit, pervasively vulgar content to minors (whether either in e-books, recordings, or physical books). This library has a documented history of providing Adult Rated Sexually Explicit material in the teens section for years All children and teens deserve a safe space to browse that is free from the sexual*

indoctrination and grooming that can occur courtesy of the Tyler Public Library's distribution and promotion of books such as this directly to minors.

- 3) For what age group would you recommend this material? *This book contains materials that are NOT appropriate for children, minors or teens. It should not be grouped together, marketed or promoted as if this is reasonable material for young minds. This type of material should not be distributed, promoted, displayed or shelved in areas of the library in which minors have easy access.*
- 4) Can you recommend anything good about this material? *This book is age-inappropriate for minors.*
- 5) Did you read, view or listen to this item in its entirety? *I read enough excerpts from this book to know that it contains sexually explicit, pervasively vulgar passages that are not appropriate for minors, young children or teens.*
- 6) Are you aware of the reviews received by this material? *The librarian will be happy to help find them. Yes. The opinions of 'professional reviewers' are largely irrelevant once the ACTUAL CONTENT of this material is considered.*

Signature of Complainant

Sharon Guthrie

Address

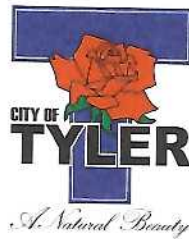
6808 Gleneagles Ave, Tyler 75703

Library Card Barcode #

Phone

903-581-6195

1/3/2024



Ms. Sharon Guthrie
6808 Gleneagles Dr
Tyler, TX 75703

Re: Review of Request for Reconsideration; Tyler Public Library

Dear Ms. Sharon Guthrie,

Thank you for your interest in Tyler Public Library and for submitting a Request for Reconsideration regarding your concern for *Ramona Blue* by Julie Murphy. A copy of your Request for Reconsideration is enclosed. Per our process as described in the Library's Policy, the request and item were reviewed by the Collection Development Committee ("Committee") and the results of the review are as follows.

The Tyler Public Library first added this book to its Young Adult collection (ages 14+, or High School and Young Adult audiences), separate from its Children's collection (birth – age 18), in May of 2017 on the basis that it met the following specific criteria as outlined in the adopted Collection Development Policy:

- The work was reviewed favorably in professional journals such as Publisher's Weekly, Kirkus, and School Library Journal
- Awards and recognition and/or popularity of the author
 - Cybils Award nominee, 2017, Young Adult Fiction
 - New York Times bestselling author
- Harper Collins/Balzer Bray markets this book as a Young Adult read, which matches review recommendations for age content level being 14+
- The work was judged on the basis of the work as a whole, not a part taken out of context.

Library staff consider professional reviews, awards, and credentials in the process of selecting materials for each collection and area of the Library. Library staff also take recommendations through the public input process, Request to Buy. When reviewing material for younger audiences Library staff also review age content recommendations. Professional reviewers have rated the content of this work for high school and up. The Library chose to house this book within the Young Adult section which holds materials whose content recommendation is ages 14+ or High School and Young Adult Audiences. Since its inclusion within the Young Adult Section, the book has circulated 14 times.

While the book has some mature content regarding family life and relationships, the Committee responsible for reviewing your request determined, in accordance with the standards established in the Library's Collection Development Policy, that *Ramona Blue* by Julie Murphy is appropriately placed within the Young Adult section (separate from the Children's section) as it meets several qualifications already listed.

The Tyler Public Library believes that it is important for caregivers, parents, guardians, and grandparents to be guides to their children for the materials that they check out. Per the Library's Circulation Policy, parents (or legal guardians) wishing to restrict their children's borrowing of library materials may do so at any time. We understand that not all persons will agree on what should be available to whom, the City of Tyler is bound by federal court decisions regarding the First Amendment, and no one set of beliefs or values can serve as the lens for developing a well-rounded library collection. However, the Tyler Public Library respects all citizen comments and seeks to serve the entirety of the City of Tyler.

In conclusion, the Tyler Public Library finds that the inclusion of *Ramona Blue* by Julie Murphy within the Tyler Public Library's Young Adult collection is in accordance with the Library's Collection Development Policy. Accordingly, the City's Committee has determined *Ramona Blue* should remain shelved in the Young Adult collection (content level ages 14+, High School and Young Adult audiences). If you are dissatisfied with the decision, the City of Tyler Code of Ordinances, Chapter 1, Article IV, Sec. 1-33 (copied below), sets forth the process to appeal this decision to the City Manager for a final decision.

Sec. 1-33. Procedure before City Manager or designee.

- a. Any person aggrieved by the decision of a Department Leader or designee may appeal such decision to the City Manager. Such appeal must be filed with the City Manager within thirty (30) business days after the decision of the Department Leader or designee, otherwise, the decision of the Department Leader or designee is final.*
- b. Such appeal shall be in writing and shall succinctly state the problem or objection of the aggrieved party and the aggrieved party's understanding of the decision of the Department Leader or designee. An appeal stays all proceedings in furtherance of the action that is appealed until a final decision is reached.*
- c. The City Manager or designee shall not be the decision maker whose decision is being appealed. The City Manager (or acting City Manager in absence), or designee, shall render a written decision within ten (10) business days after receipt of the written appeal or the latest amended appeal. If, however, the City Manager or designee determines that there is not sufficient data upon which to base a decision, further written information may be requested from the aggrieved party, in which event the ten-business day time limit shall run from the date on which the completed information is received.*
- d. The City Manager or designee may refer the controversy to an appropriate advisory group or City board for recommendation, in which event the time limit of subpart c., above, shall not apply. For purposes of this section, the term "advisory group" shall mean a group of City employees appointed by the City Manager or designee to provide advice regarding a specific appeal. No employee serving on the advisory group shall be the decision maker whose decision is being appealed. "Appropriate City board" shall mean one of the specific City Boards established by the City Council in Section 1-20, and having objectives or functions associated with the specific City Department to which the appeal was made. The advisory group or City board to which the matter is referred shall consider the matter within sixty (60) business days after the matter is referred to it, and shall provide a recommendation to the City Manager or designee. All considerations under this Article by a City board shall be in a public hearing. The City Manager or designee*

shall render a decision within ten (10) business days after the appropriate advisory group or City board gives its recommendation. (Ord. No. O-98-45, 5/27/98) (Ord. No. 0-2012-71; 9/26/12) (Ord. No. 0-2016-44; 5/11/16)

e. At the conclusion of the review, the City Manager or designee shall either:

1. Sustain the decision of the Department Leader or designee, or

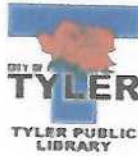
2. Render an appropriate decision

f. The decision of the City Manager or designee regarding an appeal under this Article shall be final. (Ord. No. O-98-45, 5/27/98) (Ord. No. 0-2012-71; 9/26/12) (Ord. No. 0-2020-45; 5/13/20)

Sincerely,



Ashley Taylor
City Librarian



Tyler Public Library

Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Material

Thank you for bringing an item to our attention you feel may not have merit. The Collection Development Committee will examine the material in an attempt to be objective, but they need your help to determine specifically the objection. Your help in this matter is appreciated. We hope you will continue to support the library in its efforts to bring a well-balanced and meaningful collection together for every citizen of Tyler.

Please complete the following form. You may use the back of the form if you require more space.

Author: Erika L. Sanchez

Title: I am not your perfect Mexican daughter

Publisher: Knopf Books

Format: Hardback _____ Paperback _____ Recording _____ Other _____

Request Initiated by: Sharon Guthrie

1) To what in the item do you object? Please be specific, citing pages. *

*I object to the distribution, promotion and endorsement of sexually explicit materials to minors by the Tyler Public Library. **Below are just a few examples of sexually vulgar excerpts – there are many other similar passages contained in this book:***

"And who is there for me to have sex with? Please, tell me. Am I supposed to just bang any loser I see?" P 129

"Just because you have sex with everything with a penis attached to it doesn't mean you're better than me." P 129

...Lorena says I have to **shave my pussy** before I go. ...Lorena sighs. "You have to, or else he's going to get grossed out." P193

**Note that different formats (i.e., paperback vs. hardcover) of this book will have different page numbers and recordings likely have no page numbers at all.*

2) What do you feel might be the result of using this material? *There is never a reason to promote, distribute or otherwise support providing written descriptions or visual portrayal of sexually explicit, pervasively vulgar content to minors (whether either in e-books, recordings, or physical books). This library has a documented history of providing Adult Rated Sexually Explicit material in the minor's section for years. All children and teens deserve a safe space to browse that is free from the sexual*

abuse. All children and teens deserve a safe space to browse that is free from the sexual indoctrination and grooming that can occur courtesy of the Tyler Public Library's distribution and promotion of books such as this directly to minors.

- 3) For what age group would you recommend this material? *This book contains materials that are NOT appropriate for children, minors or teens. It should not be grouped together, marketed or promoted as if this is reasonable material for young minds. This type of material should not be distributed, promoted, displayed or shelved in areas of the library in which minors have easy access.*
- 4) Can you recommend anything good about this material? *This book is age-inappropriate for minors.*
- 5) Did you read, view or listen to this item in its entirety? *I read enough excerpts from this book to know that it contains sexually explicit, pervasively vulgar passages that are not appropriate for minors, young children or teens.*
- 6) Are you aware of the reviews received by this material? The librarian will be happy to help find them. *Yes. The opinions of 'professional reviewers' are largely irrelevant once the ACTUAL CONTENT of this material is considered.*

Signature of Complainant

Sharon Guthrie

Address

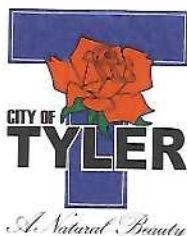
6808 Gleneagles Dr. Tyler

Library Card Barcode #

Phone

903-581-6795

1/3/2024



REC'd
May 18 2024

Ms. Sharon Guthrie
6808 Gleneagles Dr.
Tyler, TX 75703

Re: Review of Request for Reconsideration, Tyler Public Library

Dear Ms. Sharon Guthrie,

Thank you for your interest in the Tyler Public Library and for submitting a Request for Reconsideration regarding your concern for *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* by Erika Sanchez. A copy of your request is enclosed. Per our process described in the Library's Policy, the request and item were reviewed via committee and the results are as follows.

The Tyler Public Library first added this book to its Young Adult collection (ages 14+, or High School and Young Adult audiences), separate from its Children's collection (birth – age 18), in October of 2017 on the basis that it met the following specific criteria as outlined in the adopted Collection Development Policy:

- The work was reviewed favorably in professional journals including Publishers Weekly, School Library Journal, and Kirkus
- Awards and Recognitions and/or popularity of the author
 - New York Times Bestselling author
 - Finalist, National Book Awards 2017 for Young People's Literature
 - Time 100 Best YA Novels of all Time
 - School Library Journal Best Books of the Year, 2017
 - International Latino Book Awards, 2017
- The work was judged on the basis of the work as a whole, not a part taken out of context

Library staff consider professional reviews, awards, and credentials in the process of selecting materials for each collection within the Library. Library staff also take recommendations through public input processes. When reviewing material for younger audiences Library staff also look at age content recommendations made available by publishers and professional review journals. Professional journals such as School Library Journal, Publishers Weekly, and Kirkus have all rated *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* to have a content rating of 14+ or High School and Young Adult Audiences.

While the book contains some strong language, the Committee responsible for reviewing your request determined, in accordance with the standards established within the Library's Collection Development Policy that *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* by Erika Sanchez is appropriately placed within the Young Adult section (separate from the Children's area) and meets several qualifications already listed.

The Tyler Public Library believes that it is important for caregivers, parents, guardians, and grandparents to be guides to their children for the materials that they check out. Per the Library's Circulation Policy, parents (or legal guardians) wishing to restrict their children's borrowing of library materials may do so at any time. We understand that not all persons will agree on what should be available to whom, the City of Tyler is bound by federal court decisions regarding the First Amendment, and no one set of beliefs or values can serve as the lens for developing a well-rounded library collection. However, the Tyler Public Library respects all citizen comments and seeks to serve the entirety of the City of Tyler.

In conclusion, the Tyler Public Library finds that the inclusion of *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* within the Tyler Public Library's Young Adult collection is in accordance with the Library's Collection Development Policy. Accordingly, the City's Committee has determined that *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* should remain shelved in the Young Adult collection (content level ages 14+, High School and Young Adult audiences). If you are dissatisfied with the decision, the City of Tyler Code of Ordinances, Chapter 1, Article IV, Sec. 1-33 (copied below), sets forth the process to appeal this decision to the City Manager for a final decision.

Sec. 1-33. Procedure before City Manager or designee.

- a. Any person aggrieved by the decision of a Department Leader or designee may appeal such decision to the City Manager. Such appeal must be filed with the City Manager within thirty (30) business days after the decision of the Department Leader or designee, otherwise, the decision of the Department Leader or designee is final.
- b. Such appeal shall be in writing and shall succinctly state the problem or objection of the aggrieved party and the aggrieved party's understanding of the decision of the Department Leader or designee. An appeal stays all proceedings in furtherance of the action that is appealed until a final decision is reached.
- c. The City Manager or designee shall not be the decision maker whose decision is being appealed. The City Manager (or acting City Manager in absence), or designee, shall render a written decision within ten (10) business days after receipt of the written appeal or the latest amended appeal. If, however, the City Manager or designee determines that there is not sufficient data upon which to base a decision, further written information may be requested from the aggrieved party, in which event the ten-business day time limit shall run from the date on which the completed information is received.
- d. The City Manager or designee may refer the controversy to an appropriate advisory group or City board for recommendation, in which event the time limit of subpart c., above, shall not apply. For purposes of this section, the term "advisory group" shall mean a group of City employees appointed by the City Manager or designee to provide advice regarding a specific appeal. No employee serving on the advisory group shall be the decision maker whose decision is being appealed. "Appropriate City board" shall mean one of the specific City Boards established by the City Council in Section 1-20, and having objectives or functions associated with the specific City Department to which the appeal was made. The advisory group or City board to which the matter is referred shall consider the matter within sixty (60) business days after the matter is referred to it and shall provide a recommendation to the City Manager or designee. All considerations under this Article by a City board shall be in a public hearing. The City Manager or designee shall render a decision within ten (10) business days after the appropriate advisory group or City board

gives its recommendation. (Ord. No. O-98-45, 5/27/98) (Ord. No. 0-2012-71; 9/26/12) (Ord. No. 0-2016-44; 5/11/16)

e. At the conclusion of the review, the City Manager or designee shall either:

1. Sustain the decision of the Department Leader or designee, or

2. Render an appropriate decision

f. The decision of the City Manager or designee regarding an appeal under this Article shall be final. (Ord. No. O-98-45, 5/27/98) (Ord. No. 0-2012-71; 9/26/12) (Ord. No. 0-2020-45; 5/13/20)

Sincerely,



Ashley Taylor
City Librarian

(Ord. No. O-98-45, 5/27/98) (Ord. No. 0-2012-71; 9/26/12) (Ord. No. 0-2020-45; 5/13/20)

Sincerely,