

Oct 8, 2023

Library Director moves physical book to Adult section but leaves sound recording of the same book in Young Adult (youth) section

- Jan 9 2023: Jan Love submits Book Reconsideration for *Out of Darkness*
- Jun 21, 2023: This book turned out to be the only one that the board actually voted to put into the Adult Section. However, the Book's sound recording (books on tape) remained in the Young Adult section and is still there as of Oct. 9, 2025.
- Oct 8, 2025: A concerned patron sent documentation and an email to all the City Council members and mayor asking the sound recording to be removed.

October 8, 2025

To: Tyler Mayor and City Council

In the continuing battle to protect our children from graphic, sexually explicit content in the Tyler public library, I am pointing out that in June of 2023, the request was made to move the book "Out of Darkness" from the Young Adult section to the Adult section (Young Adult is defined by the librarian as a section targeting ages 13 to 24).

The following is an excerpt:

*He took one of her hands in his and squeezed it. "Come on over here." .... the part of him that made him a man stuck out, reddish purple and frightening. She had never seen one before except on a baby. This was different. He lifted her hand to his mouth and licked it. Then he lowered her hand down and closed it around [his] hardness...his hand moved hers. His left hand gripped her shoulder, pressing her head tight against the hard, flat plane of his stomach. She watched her hand move back and forth like it didn't belong to her. ...A moment later, the thing leaped. Henry's whole body shuddered, and a hot mess lay across her palm and between her fingers.*

Eventually, the book was moved to the Adult section, however, the Audio Book has remained in the Young Adult section for the last two years!!! This is either incompetence or an intentional act by the former library director.

I understand she has been demoted, but as a tax payer and active voter in the city of Tyler, I do not see any reason to retain someone of this caliber who has no interest in protecting our children. I have questions and would like answers!

- Why is the age range so broad in the Young Adult section? Make a true TEEN section and put Adult content in the Adult section!
- If the materials were supposed to be moved, shouldn't ALL the material be moved?
- If this is the type of leadership in place for several years, who else is being trained to ignore citizen requests?

Please respond to my questions. I truly want to know why my tax dollars are being spent to support sexually explicit material in the section for minors!

Sincerely,

Sheryl Hazelwood

[shzlwd@prodigy.net](mailto:shzlwd@prodigy.net)

Stuart Hene is my city councilman.

# Questions to Mayor and City Council

Inbox

S

**Sheryl Hazelwood**

Wed, Oct 8, 5:19 PM (1 day ago)

to Don, Stuart, P, S, J, L, B

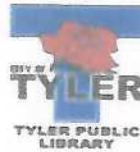
I would appreciate a prompt response to the questions I have in my attached letter.

Thank-you for your time.

Sheryl Hazelwood

Romans 15:13

**2 Attachments** • Scanned by Gmail



## 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. Your may use the back of the form if you require more space.

Author: Ashley Hope Perez

Title: Out of Darkness

Publisher: Carolrhodo, Lerner Publishing

Format: Hardcover   X   Paperback        Recording        Other       

Request Initiated by: Jan Love

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

**SEE ATTACHED EXCERPTS FROM THIS BOOK.**

These passages are not something that should be accessible to minors in the Tyler Public Library. Taxpayers in Tyler have a reasonable expectation that city employees will not knowingly place vulgar and sexually explicit books like this where it is easily viewed by minors. The intent behind doing so does, in my opinion, shows a lack of good faith and caring toward children.

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

*Early exposure to pervasively vulgar and sexually explicit behavior creates anxiety, fear and sadness in children. It also distorts young people's view of sexuality, increases the risk of porn addiction and NORMALIZES SEXUAL HARM.* The graphic details in this book teach hostility towards females. This book includes graphic verbal content describing **RAPE, INCEST, AND PEDOPHELIA**. Library patrons have a reasonable expectation that minors will not find books like this in the children's section.

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

This book should be immediately reshelfed in the Adult section on the second floor.

4) Can you recommend anything good about this material?

I would never recommend it to a minor because it would be intentionally negligent of me to do so knowing what is in this book. The reason I am submitting these excerpts is *ensure the librarian and collections department are well aware* of what they are making accessible to minors. I would definitely recommend this book to the parents of a minor so they are aware of what is being purchased by the library and placed within easy access to their children.

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 have read the Kirkus reviews and Printz Award reviews and a few other. Printz describes this 'award-winning' book as a 'bittersweet romance'. The Tyler Public Library describes it in a similar fashion, completely omitting the explicit, vulgar and graphic scenes of rape, masturbation and inappropriate sexual encounters. **I believe that these reviews are misleading and actually can encourage children to read this book, only to have them exposed to age-inappropriate content.** I have also read other online reviews that detail portions of the actual excerpts from the books. Finally, I read the book myself and can personally attest to the inappropriate content that should not knowingly be made accessible to minors.

Signature of Complainant \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Tyler Texas 75701 \_\_\_\_\_

Library Card Barcode # \_\_\_\_\_ 28957001996718 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ 903-780-8353 \_\_\_\_\_

**ACTUAL EXCERPT FROM PAGES OF THE BOOK OUT OF DARKNESS**

Better was big enough to include Rosie Lynn Horton, who sang soprano in the choir and had slightly mismatched nipples on nutmeg brown breasts that were otherwise perfect.

**MASTURBATION:** She was there when Henry came into the bathroom and closed the door behind him. She watched as he placed both hands on the wall beneath the mirror and pressed his forehead against the glass. A moment later, one of his hands slid down into his pajamas. It was like some small creature was trying to escape from his throat. His hand moved fast. His body jiggled. He kept his forehead against the mirror and his eyes closed. Then he grunted once and seemed to shudder all over.

**PEDOPHELIA:** He took one of her hands in his and squeezed it. "Come on over here." He pulled her to her feet, close to him. He shifted in his pajamas, and the part of him that made him a man stuck out, reddish purple and frightening. She had never seen one before except on a baby. This was different. He lifted her hand to his mouth and licked it. Then he lowered her hand down and closed it around the hardness his hand moved hers. His left hand gripped her shoulder, pressing her head tight against the hard, flat plane of his stomach. She watched her hand move back and forth like it didn't belong to her. ...A moment later, the thing leaped. Henry's whole body shuddered, and a hot mess lay across her palm and between her fingers.

**RAPE:** "Look at me, son," he said to Beto. "Now I'm going to show you another side of what it means to be a man. What do you do with a field of your own? You plow it." He walked over to Naomi. "Lie down," he told her. "Don't do this, Henry." Naomi's lip trembled as she spoke. She dropped to her knees. ... "Lie back. Open your legs. Stop crying. Don't try to tell me this is the first time you've done this," Henry said. "Henry," she protested, "I haven't- I've never-" "You've lied enough already," he said. Then he pushed her back until her head was on the ground. "Beto, you come here. Watch. But don't try anything. I've got the gun right here." Beto looked long enough to see the revolver his father held near his sister's face. The shotgun lay on the far side of Naomi, out of reach. Beto did not watch. But he heard. Naomi's pleas. Wash's shouts. The sound of him pulling at the ropes. Henry's fist slamming into his sister's face once, twice, three times. Henry shouting, "You like that? Keep it up, boy! Every time you holler, I'm gonna punch her again." Wash's silence. The rustle of dry leaves. His father's rapid breathing. An agony of waiting. His sister crying out in pain. And then the end of it. Henry's shudder, grunt, and gasp. Naomi's sobbing. When Beto could look, Henry was standing up and zipping his pants with one hand. "I'll be damned, girl," he said, pushing his hair back off his brow. "You were telling the truth-" "Stop this!" Wash shouted, still straining at the ropes. "You haven't had enough yet, huh?" Henry said. "I'll be getting back to you in a minute." He scooped up the shotgun and jammed the revolver into his waistband. ...Henry paused when he was facing Naomi again. Blood oozed from her lips. He left eye was swollen closed. The front of her dress was damp and smeared with blood. There were swaths of red on her arms where he had held her down. She tried to cover herself with the torn fabric of her dress. ...Then Henry crossed to where Wash was. He hit Wash again and again. He kicked him. He pummeled and jabbed and slapped. If Naomi cried out, he hit Wash harder. He used the end of the shotgun like a baseball bat. He did not stop until the only thing holding Wash up was the rope that tied him to the tree. "I think that's enough for now," Henry said. "Robbie, go untie him. I want to see him on his knees." ...When Beto undid the last knot, Wash tumbled to the ground and fell on his face. "Here's your chance to redeem yourself," Henry said to Beto. "I'm going to give you this," he stretched out the hand that was holding the shotgun, "and I'm going to hold on to this." He pulled the revolver out of the waistband of his pants. Wash pushed himself up on all fours. He coughed up blood and something white. Teeth, Beto realized. Wash crawled slowly toward Naomi. "You remember what I showed you when we went out to the woods?" Henry pressed the butt of the gun into Beto's shoulder. "If you need more shots, remember to pump it. Go on now. Aim at him. He ain't moving fast." ... "Good boy," Henry said. "Now shoot him, or I'll shoot your sister." ... "I ain't playing, boy," Henry lifted the revolver and pointed it at Naomi. ...Henry took a step toward Naomi, the gun pointed at her. "One...two...three...I ain't counting

past seven, son." "Please," Naomi gurgled. "Please don't-" "Four...five...six..." A shot rang out. Wash moaned. Naomi's eyes widened in disbelief. Beto gasped at what he'd made happen. ...Henry stared down at the gun in his hand. He hadn't known until the moment he fired that he was capable of shooting a woman. Red seeped from Naomi's thigh. ..."Tell Robbie to kill the nigger," he said to her. ...Naomi could not move. She watched the sky over Wash's shoulder with the eye that was not swollen shut. It was the same view she'd seen when Henry held her down. She had wanted it to stop. The pain. She had thought, Henry is putting himself inside me. She had vomited a little, and bile had dribbled down the side of her mouth. ...they were far enough into their dream that neither of them heard the next shot. ...The patch of red on Naomi's chest matched the one on Wash's back.

## **Out of darkness / by Ashley Hope Pérez.**

1 message

Encore <iii@typl-enc.iii.com>

Mon, Sep 29, 2025 at 3:42 PM

To:

### **Out of darkness / by Ashley Hope Pérez.**

Pérez, Ashley Hope. Minneapolis : Carolrhoda Lab, [2015]

Format: Book

Available at Adult fiction books (FIC PEREZ)

Details

Description 402 pages : illustrations ; 24 cm.

Series Tayshas Reading List, 2016-2017

Summary Loosely based on a school explosion that took place in New London, Texas in 1937, this is the story of two teenagers: Naomi, who is Mexican, and Wash, who is black, and their dealings with race, segregation, love, and the forces that destroy people.

Awards Tayshas Reading List.

New London (Tex.) -- History -- 20th century -- Fiction.

Explosions -- Fiction.

Subject Schools -- Fiction.

Race relations -- Fiction.

African Americans -- Fiction.

Mexican Americans -- Fiction.

ISBN 1467742023 (hc)

## **Out of darkness [sound recording (CD)] / Ashley Hope Pérez.**

1 message

Encore <iii@typl-enc.iii.com>

Mon, Sep 29, 2025 at 3:42 PM

### **Out of darkness [sound recording (CD)] / Ashley Hope Pérez.**

Pérez, Ashley Hope, author. New York, New York : Listening Library, [2016]

Format: Audiobook

Available at Young Adult Audiobooks (CD YA FIC PEREZ)

#### Details

Edition Library ed., Unabridged.

Description 10 audio discs (12 hr., 32 min.) ; 4 3/4 in.

Playing Time 123200

Note "Books on Tape"--Container.

Performer Read by Benita Robledo and Lincoln Hoppe.

Summary Loosely based on a school explosion that took place in Texas in 1937, tells the story of two teenagers--Naomi, who is Mexican, and Wash, who is black--and their dealings with race, segregation, love, and the forces that destroy people.

Audience Ages 14 to 17.

System Details Compact discs.

Language English.

Subject Children's audiobooks.  
Explosions -- Fiction.  
Schools -- Fiction.  
Race relations -- Fiction.  
African Americans -- Fiction.  
Mexican Americans -- Fiction.  
Young adult fiction.  
Audiobooks on CD.  
Compact discs.  
New London (Tex.) -- History -- 20th century -- Fiction.

Added Author Robledo, Benita, narrator.  
Hoppe, Lincoln, 1971- narrator.  
Listening Library.

ISBN 9780735289475  
0735289476 (CMD)

Standard No. 9780735289475

Music No. YA 2635 Listening Library