

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.

From: **Sheryl Hazelwood** <[shzlwd@prodigy.net](mailto:shzlwd@prodigy.net)>  
Date: Wed, Oct 15, 2025 at 6:39 PM  
Subject: Re: Questions to Mayor and City Council  
To: Adriana Rodriguez <[arodriguez@tylertexas.com](mailto:arodriguez@tylertexas.com)>

Thank you for your response.

That really sounds like an exceedingly complex system of overlapping age groups. How do you determine what goes in the Juvenile section versus the Young Adult section. Have you considered something simpler like:

- Pre-school (0-5)
- Elementary (6-11 or 12)
- Teens (12 or 13 to 17)

You would still only have 3 sections without all the overlap and confusion. Keep it simple? Just a suggestion.

Sheryl Hazelwood

On Oct 15, 2025, at 4:47 PM, Adriana Rodriguez <[arodriguez@tylertexas.com](mailto:arodriguez@tylertexas.com)> wrote:

Ms. Hazelwood,

Thank you for taking the time to express your concerns regarding the placement of "Out of Darkness" within our Library's collection. Your feedback is invaluable, and I appreciate you reaching out to us.

At the Tyler Public Library, our mission is to serve children and families by providing a diverse range of educational and recreational programs in a nurturing and inclusive environment.

To ensure we provide age-appropriate materials, staff reviews books based on recommendations from esteemed professional organizations, such as Publishers Weekly and Kirkus. Our collection is organized by age categories as follows:

- Ages 0 to Junior High: Juvenile Section (first floor)
- Ages 14+: Young Adult Section (first floor)
- Ages 16+: Adult Section (second floor)
- Parenting and Family Sections (first floor) for related topics

We are also in the process of creating a dedicated **Teen section tailored for ages 12 and up**, which will be distinct from our Young Adult area for ages 14 and up.

It's important to note that "Young Adult" refers to a broad genre commonly used by publishers and includes materials generally suitable for ages 14 and older. While "Out of Darkness" is classified by its publisher as suitable for ages 13 to 18, we moved the physical book to the Adult section after receiving thoughtful community feedback through the established reconsideration request process. However, audiobooks are provided through third-party services (CloudLibrary and Libby) that follow the publisher's classifications, over which the Library has no control. Parents, however, can set access controls and PINs for their children's use to provide a tailored experience. Additionally, parents have the option to request restrictions on Library cards for anyone under 18.



We are committed to balancing access to literature with parental preferences. We value your input and encourage you to contact us with any further questions or suggestions.  
Kind regards,

**Adriana Rodríguez, CPC**  
**Public Information Officer Team Lead**  
**Called to Serve**

**From:** Sheryl Hazelwood <[shzlwd@prodigy.net](mailto:shzlwd@prodigy.net)>  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at 5:19 PM  
**To:** Don Warren <[dwarren@tylertexas.com](mailto:dwarren@tylertexas.com)>, Stuart Hene <[shene@tylertexas.com](mailto:shene@tylertexas.com)>, Petra Hawkins <[phawkins@tylertexas.com](mailto:phawkins@tylertexas.com)>, Shonda Marsh <[smarsh@tylertexas.com](mailto:smarsh@tylertexas.com)>, James Wynne <[jwynne@tylertexas.com](mailto:jwynne@tylertexas.com)>, Lloyd Nichols <[lnichols@tylertexas.com](mailto:lnichols@tylertexas.com)>, Brad Curtis <[bcurtis@tylertexas.com](mailto:bcurtis@tylertexas.com)>  
**Subject:** Questions to Mayor and City Council

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

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