

# PROTECTING INNOCENCE



***Attorney General Jeff Landry***  
*Louisiana Department of Justice*



## **A Message from the Attorney General**

Libraries are repositories of knowledge and resources that are able to help children and adults alike solve problems, learn new skills, and hone emotional intelligence. As such, I believe that libraries should house a variety of diverse and inclusive viewpoints – not only because we are all unique individuals, but also because we must face unique problems. At the same time, children and teenagers do not have the emotional maturity of adults and may be unprepared to experience certain aspects of our world. And like Pandora opening her box, some things are better not faced too soon, because you can never unlearn something once you have witnessed it.

Unfortunately, some of the materials currently available to children in our State’s public libraries have more in common with the misery Pandora released than the hope she was able to contain. If you question whether you should also be concerned about the materials currently available to children in our State, I invite you to jump to Appendix C of this document to see excerpts. But I must warn you that those pages contain extremely graphic sexual content; and while we have done our best to preserve the intent of those images for your awareness, they are still shocking even when blurred.

I believe we must protect the innocence of Louisiana’s children, and that is why my office and I have put together this guide in response to parents and guardians around our State who are deeply concerned. We hope this document provides you with the knowledge you seek as parents, concerned citizens, and members of your community while empowering you with the tools needed to exercise your fundamental right and join this discussion...because sometimes, when you are traveling through darkness, you must be the light.

For Louisiana,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Landry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jeff Landry  
Attorney General

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# LOUISIANA LAW REGARDING PUBLIC LIBRARIES

## HOW IS MY LIBRARY CREATED?

State law, La. R.S. 25:211–224, governs the creation, control, operation, and funding of most parish and municipal public libraries in Louisiana.<sup>1</sup> A parish or municipality in Louisiana may “create, establish, equip, maintain, operate and support a public library.”<sup>2</sup> Public libraries are created by an ordinance of the governing authority of a parish or municipality, such as a police jury, parish council, or city council.<sup>3</sup>

## WHO HAS AUTHORITY OVER MY LIBRARY? WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE POLICIES IN MY LIBRARY?

Each public library is governed by a board of control. The governing authority of a parish or municipality appoints citizens of the parish or municipality as the members of the library board of control—five members for municipal libraries and five to seven members for parish libraries.<sup>4</sup> Members of a library board of control typically serve five-year terms.<sup>5</sup> The mayor or parish president, or their designee, also serves as a member of the library board of control.<sup>6</sup> Because a local governing authority appoints the members of the library board of control, the local governing authority may also remove those members at any time.<sup>7</sup>

State law also establishes the duties and powers of library boards of control, most importantly:

- “The board of control shall have authority to establish rules and regulations for its own government and that of the library not inconsistent with law . . . .”<sup>8</sup>
- “The board of control shall have authority . . . to elect and employ a librarian, and, upon the recommendation and approval of the latter, to employ assistant librarians and other employees and fix their salaries and compensation . . . .”<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> These statutes apply to all parishes and municipalities that do not operate under a home rule charter. Home rule charter jurisdictions possess the authority to create and operate public libraries without reliance on La. R.S. 25:211–224, though the libraries in some home rule jurisdictions may be created pursuant to these laws. The library statutes “are unnecessary to empower home rule governments to create libraries.” La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 17-0193. However, “once a parish has established a library pursuant to La. R.S. 25:211, it must adhere to the provisions of that title regardless of the plan of government.” La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 16-0163 (citing La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 76-1843).

<sup>2</sup> La. R.S. 25:211. A Parish or municipality *must* create a library in certain situations. *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> La. R.S. 25:212.

<sup>4</sup> La. R.S. 25:214(A) and (B).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> La. R.S. 33:1415(A).

<sup>8</sup> La. R.S. 25:215(A).

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

A library board of control's authority is no larger than what is granted in statute.<sup>10</sup> Pursuant to Article VI, Section 15 of the Louisiana Constitution, a local governing authority has "general power" over its library board of control as an entity created by the local governing authority.<sup>11</sup> However, considering the specific items of authority vested in a library board of control, above, a local governing authority may not "employ and/or discharge the librarian or other staff members [or] establish rules and regulations for government of the library board or the library."<sup>12</sup> Pursuant to its "authority to establish rules and regulations for its own government and that of the library," a library board of control possesses the exclusive authority to establish rules and regulations governing, among other things, "circulation and lending policies, acquisition of new books, . . . and such other internal matters usually associated with the operation of a library."<sup>13</sup> For example, the Attorney General's Office has advised that a library board of control, rather than a local governing authority, is the proper entity to set specific policies regarding internet access at the library.<sup>14</sup> Local governing authorities may "require reports annually or quarterly or both of the board or its president."<sup>15</sup>

### **CAN THE MEMBERS OF MY LOCAL GOVERNING AUTHORITY APPOINT THEMSELVES AS MEMBERS OF THE LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL?**

No. Louisiana's Dual Officeholding and Dual Employment Law prohibits a member of the governing authority from serving in an office that they have the authority to appoint.<sup>16</sup> The law provides that the governing authority appoints citizens to the library board of control. The governing authority may not appoint a member of the governing authority to the library board of control.

However, the law provides for representation of the governing authority on the library board of control. The president of the police jury is a member of a parish library board of control, and the mayor is a member of a municipal library board of control.<sup>17</sup> The parish president or mayor may designate another member of the governing authority to serve in his or her place.<sup>18</sup>

### **HOW IS MY LIBRARY FUNDED?**

A local governing authority holds general fiscal control over its library board of control.<sup>19</sup> As such, a local governing authority may "require a library board of control to submit

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<sup>10</sup> See La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 00-80.

<sup>11</sup> La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 16-0163.

<sup>12</sup> La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 76-1843. See also La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 16-0163 (A library board of control's "management of the library itself may supersede the authority of the Police Jury in the matters explicitly stated in La. R.S. 25:215, *et seq.*," including authority to prescribe rules and regulations for governance of the board itself and the library and selection and employment of certain personnel.).

<sup>13</sup> La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 05-0244 (quoting La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 83-765).

<sup>14</sup> La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 99-151.

<sup>15</sup> La. R.S. 25:216.

<sup>16</sup> La. R.S. 42:64(A)(1).

<sup>17</sup> La. R.S. 25:214(A) and (B).

<sup>18</sup> *Id.*

<sup>19</sup> La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 06-0160.

proposed budgets and statements of expenditures as the library board of control is not independent of budgetary control by the governing authority of the parish.”<sup>20</sup> In exercising its budgetary and fiscal control over a library board of control, a local governing authority has “the right to veto or reduce line-items” of the library budget.<sup>21</sup> However, local governing authorities cannot alter librarians’ compensation because state law vests library boards of control with the power to regulate compensation of librarians.<sup>22</sup>

State law transfers (or, in some instances, authorizes the transfer of) “[t]he administration of and accounting functions for funds of” eighteen parishes’ libraries from their parish governing authority to the applicable library board of control.<sup>23</sup>

Public libraries are primarily funded by taxes voted on by the residents of the parish or municipality. Local governing authorities may issue bonds or levy a special tax “[f]or the purpose of acquiring sites or erecting buildings thereon or additions thereto, including furniture, fixtures, and equipment, for public libraries” and may submit to the voters a proposition for a special tax for the “maintenance and support” of public libraries.<sup>24</sup> Local governing authorities pay the monthly expenses of maintaining public libraries, including the salaries of library employees, out of the library taxes collected or from the general fund.<sup>25</sup> Library boards of control must approve these expenditures before they can be made.<sup>26</sup>

### **IF I HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT MATERIALS IN MY COMMUNITY LIBRARY, WHAT ACTION CAN I TAKE?**

Many libraries have a policy allowing a patron to request that library materials be reconsidered.<sup>27</sup> The library may require you to fill out a form detailing your objection to the library material. Depending on the individual library and its policies, the request for reconsideration may be reviewed and decided by library staff, a subcommittee, or the library director. If a patron is not satisfied by the decision, many libraries allow a patron to appeal the decision to the library board of control. Contact your library to find out whether it has a reconsideration policy.<sup>28</sup>

If you are concerned about the access of minors to sexually explicit materials you can take action at different government levels.

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<sup>20</sup> La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 00-80.

<sup>21</sup> La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 05-0244.

<sup>22</sup> See La. R.S. 25:215(A).

<sup>23</sup> La. R.S. 25:215(B)(1)–(15) (St. John the Baptist Parish, Morehouse Parish, Rapides Parish, Bienville Parish, Sabine Parish, Franklin Parish, West Carroll Parish, Tangipahoa Parish, St. Tammany Parish, Beauregard Parish, St. Mary Parish, Allen Parish, DeSoto Parish, Caldwell Parish, Concordia Parish, Vermilion Parish, Acadia Parish, and Pointe Coupee Parish).

<sup>24</sup> La. R.S. 25:213(A); La. R.S. 25:217(A).

<sup>25</sup> La. R.S. 25:220.

<sup>26</sup> See La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 02-0346.

<sup>27</sup> See Appendix A.

<sup>28</sup> See Appendix A.

- **Library Board of Control:** Ask the Library Board of Control to adopt and implement policies that remove sexually explicit materials from collections intended for children, educate parents on digital content sources that may contain sexually explicit materials, and create a library card system that allows parents or guardians to choose whether a minor can check-out sexually explicit materials physically available in the library. A sample letter to a library board of control is provided in Appendix C. Model Policy Language that can be used by the Library Board of Control is included in this guide.
- **Local Governing Authority:** Ask the governing authority to adopt a resolution requesting that the library board of control adopt and implement policies that remove sexually explicit materials from collections intended for children, educate parents on digital content sources that may contain sexually explicit materials, and create a library card system that allows parents or guardians to choose whether a minor can check-out sexually explicit materials physically available in the library. A sample letter to a local governing authority and a model resolution is provided in Appendix C.
- **Louisiana Legislature:** Ask legislators to enact laws that require libraries to adopt and implement policies to limit the access of minors to sexually explicit materials. This guide provides model legislation language and Appendix B includes a sample letter to a legislator.
  - You can find your Louisiana Legislators here:  
<https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/findmylegislators.aspx>
- **U.S. Congress:** Ask your congressional representative and senator to enact legislation directing the Library of Congress to incorporate more a specific method of categorization of children’s and young adult books, to adequately identify sexually explicit books directed to children and young adults.

## IF I HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT MATERIALS IN MY SCHOOL LIBRARY, WHAT ACTION CAN I TAKE?

The Louisiana Department of Education instructs school districts to establish a materials selection policy consistent with the state minimum requirements established by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.<sup>29</sup>

The school district materials selection policy should address the following: philosophy and broad goals of library collections based on local context, responsibility for selection of materials, selection principles, objectives, and criteria and for materials, selection of sensitive materials, policy in regard to gifts and donations, tools used in selection, procedures for handling questions or complaints, and a form for use by citizens to request reconsideration of materials.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> Department of Education, “Guidelines for Library Media Programs in Louisiana Schools” p. 22 available at [https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/teacher-toolbox-resources/guidelines-for-library-media-programs-in-louisiana-schools.pdf?sfvrsn=bae48f1f\\_24](https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/teacher-toolbox-resources/guidelines-for-library-media-programs-in-louisiana-schools.pdf?sfvrsn=bae48f1f_24). See also BESE bulletin 741, Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators, LAC 28: CXV.1705 available at <https://bese.louisiana.gov/policy>.

<sup>30</sup> *Id.*

If you are concerned about material in your school library, contact your school district and request a copy of the materials selection policy for information on how to request reconsideration of materials.

### **WHERE CAN I FIND MY LIBRARY'S POLICIES?**

See Appendix A for your library's policies or contact your library directly to request a copy of their policies. Library policies are a public record and should be available to citizens upon request.



## **EXAMPLES OF SEXUALLY EXPLICIT MATERIALS IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES**

Parents and guardians have the right and responsibility to guide and direct the reading, listening, and viewing choices of their own minor children. However, in order to make educated and informed decisions, parents and guardians rely on the collections curated by their public libraries. Books and other library resources should include a variety of diverse and inclusive viewpoints. However, the goal of providing a variety of viewpoints does not require the library to include unrestricted access to sexually explicit materials in collections available to minors. Although sexually explicit materials may fall short of material prohibited by criminal laws, parents and guardians still have the right to limit their child’s exposure to sexually explicit materials. Furthermore, parents ought to be able to expect that public libraries will not include sexually explicit materials in any collection intended for children.

Libraries should adopt and implement policies that remove sexually explicit materials from collections intended for children, educate parents on digital content sources that may contain sexually explicit materials, and create a library card system that allows parents or guardians to choose whether a minor can check-out sexually explicit materials physically available in the library.

The following listing of books contains examples of “sexually explicit materials” (as defined in the model library policies and model legislation found later in this report) available to children in one or more public libraries in Louisiana. Appendix C includes illustrative excerpts from these books.

<b>Book Name</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>ISBN</b>	<b>Library of Congress</b>
<b>Fun Home</b>	<b>Alison Bechdel</b>	<b>9780618871711</b>	<b>PN6727.B3757 Z46 2006</b>
<b>Gender Queer: A Memoir</b>	<b>Maia Kobabe</b>	<b>9781549304002</b>	<b>HQ77.8.K628 K63 2019</b>
<b>Breathless</b>	<b>Jennifer Niven</b>	<b>9781524701963</b>	<b>PZ7.N6434 Br 2020</b>
<b>The Lawn Boy</b>	<b>Jonathan Evison</b>	<b>9781616209230</b>	<b>PS3605.V57 L39 2018</b>
<b>Blankets</b>	<b>Craig Thompson</b>	<b>9781770462182</b>	<b>PN6727.T48 B58 2003b</b>
<b>The "V" Word</b>	<b>Amber Keyser</b>	<b>9781582705217</b>	<b>HQ21 .V185 2016</b>
<b>Jack of Hearts</b>	<b>L.C. Rosen</b>	<b>9780316480512</b>	<b>PZ7.1.R67 Jac 2018</b>
<b>All boys Aren't Blue</b>	<b>George M. Johnson</b>	<b>9780374312718</b>	<b>HQ76.27.A37 J644 2020</b>
<b>The Bluest Eye</b>	<b>Toni Morrison</b>	<b>9780307386588</b>	<b>PS3563.O8749 B55 2007</b>

## MODEL LIBRARY POLICY LANGUAGE

This suggested Model Library Policy Language is intended to be used to amend or supplement a library's existing policies in areas such as Collection Development, Selection Criteria, Patron Cards, Electronic Resources, and Internet Access. A review of library policies across the State reveals that almost all libraries already have existing policies in these areas, but lack language that preserves a parent or guardian's right to control and limit their child's exposure to sexually explicit materials. See Appendix A. If a library does not have preexisting policies we suggest that the Library Board of Control in consultation with their attorney adopt comprehensive policies in these areas and incorporate the Model Library Policy Language in order to preserve a parent or guardian's right to control and limit their child's exposure to sexually explicit materials.

### SAMPLE LANGUAGE FOR POLICY DEFINITIONS

*Sexually Explicit Materials* – includes textual, visual, or audio materials or material accessed via any other medium that depict or describe *sexual conduct*.

*Sexual Conduct* – any of the following:

- (a) Masturbation or lewd exhibition, actual, simulated, or animated, of the genitals, pubic hair, anus, vulva, or female breast nipples;
- (b) Sadomasochistic abuse, meaning actual, simulated or animated, flagellation, or torture by or upon a person who is nude or clad in undergarments or in a costume that reveals the pubic hair, anus, vulva, genitals, or female breast nipples, or in the condition of being fettered, bound, or otherwise physically restrained, on the part of one so clothed;
- (c) Actual, simulated, or animated touching, caressing, or fondling of, or other similar physical contact with a pubic area, anus, female breast nipple, covered or exposed, whether alone or between humans, animals, or a human and an animal, of the same or opposite sex, in an act of apparent sexual stimulation or gratification;
- (d) Actual, simulated, or animated stimulation of a human genital organ by any device whether or not the device is designed, manufactured, or marketed for such purpose; or
- (e) Actual, simulated, or animated ultimate sexual acts, whether between human beings, animals, or an animal and a human being.

## **SAMPLE LANGUAGE FOR COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

Libraries typically divide collections by age. The names of the collections and specific ages vary by library and may include collections for Children, Tween, Young Adult/Juvenile, and/or Teen. These distinct collections help guide parents and guardians of minor children to age-appropriate material and can help safeguard minors from receiving *sexually explicit materials* without their parent's consent.

### **A. Children's Collection**

*Sexually explicit materials* shall not be included in the Children's Collection.

### **B. Young Adult Collection**

*Sexually explicit material* in the Young Adult Collection shall be maintained separately and can be checked out using the following patron cards only: Juvenile Card, Juvenile Unrestricted Card, and Adult Card.

\*\*Some libraries may also have a Tween Collection. For Tween or similarly aged collections, we suggest using the same language as provided for in the "Young Adult Collection."

### **C. Criteria - Acquisitions (whether purchased or donated)**

In addition to criteria already enumerated in the library's existing policy, the following criteria may be added:

- In selecting materials, the Director shall consider the community standards for the population served by the library.
- In selecting materials for the Young Adult/Tween/Teen Collections, if the material contains *sexually explicit material* the Director shall consider whether the same objective can be met by the selection of materials that do not contain *sexually explicit materials*.
- The Director shall obtain the approval of the Board prior to acquiring *sexually explicit material* for the Young Adult/Tween/Teen Collections.

## **SAMPLE LANGUAGE FOR PATRON CARD POLICY**

### **A. Materials physically located in the Library**

#### **Juvenile Full Restriction Card**

- Cardholders may only check out any book, audiobook, music CD, magazine, or DVD in the Children's Collection.

#### Juvenile Semi Restriction Card

- Cardholders may only check out any book, audiobook, music CD, magazine, or DVD in the Children's Collections.
- Cardholders may also check out books in the Young Adult/Tween/Teen Collections.

#### Juvenile Card

- Cardholders may check out any book, audiobook, music CD, or magazine in the library.
- Cardholders may check any DVDs except R and NC-17 rated.

#### Juvenile Unrestricted Card

- Cardholders may check out any book, audiobook, music CD, or magazine in the library.
- Cardholders may check out R-rated DVDs with parental permission.
- Cardholders may not check out NC-17 rated DVDs.

#### Digital Access permission or card

- Required for juvenile access to digital library services.

### **B. Digital Content Services / Electronic Resources**

Libraries utilize a variety of digital content sources that may contain *sexually explicit materials* that are outside of the library's regulatory control. For example, e-magazines, e-books, and e-audiobooks that contain *sexually explicit materials* are available through some digital library services available to minors. Additionally, many digital content services do not have the functionality to limit minors from viewing R and NC-17-rated movies.

Because many digital content sources lack the functionality to ensure minors do not have access to sexually explicit materials, a separate digital access permission or card should be required to access digital content sources. Due to the variations of digital content sources, the library should furnish parents with a guide explaining the sources and content that are accessible to children so that the parent can make an informed decision on whether to grant their child digital access permission.

# MODEL LEGISLATION

1 AN ACT to enact R.S. 25:225-227, relative to the adoption and implementation of library  
2 policies for sexually explicit materials; to define terms; and to provide for related matters.

3

4 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

5 Section 1. R.S. 25:225, R.S. 25:226, R.S. 25:227 are hereby enacted to read as  
6 follows:

7 §225 Policy

8 The legislature recognizes the fundamental right of parents to make  
9 decisions as to the care, custody and control of their children. This fundamental  
10 right includes the right to decide the upbringing and education of children under  
11 their control. Parents have the right to guide and direct the reading, listening, and  
12 viewing choices of their own minor children. Many libraries lack adequate policies  
13 addressing the access of minors to sexually explicit materials. In furtherance of  
14 this fundamental right, it is the intent of the legislature to require libraries to adopt  
15 and implement policy language to limit the access of minors to sexually explicit  
16 materials.

17 \* \* \*

18 §226 Definitions

19 The following words and terms when used in this Part shall have the  
20 following meanings:

21 (1) "Sexually Explicit Materials" means textual, visual, or audio materials or  
22 material accessed via any other medium that depict or describe sexual conduct.

23 (2) "Sexual Conduct" means any of the following:

1           (a) Masturbation or lewd exhibition, actual, simulated, or animated, of the  
2 genitals, pubic hair, anus, vulva, or female breast nipples;

3           (b) Sadomasochistic abuse, meaning actual, simulated or animated,  
4 flagellation, or torture by or upon a person who is nude or clad in undergarments  
5 or in a costume that reveals the pubic hair, anus, vulva, genitals, or female breast  
6 nipples, or in the condition of being fettered, bound, or otherwise physically  
7 restrained, on the part of one so clothed;

8           (c) Actual, simulated, or animated touching, caressing, or fondling of, or  
9 other similar physical contact with a pubic area, anus, female breast nipple,  
10 covered or exposed, whether alone or between humans, animals, or a human and  
11 an animal, of the same or opposite sex, in an act of apparent sexual stimulation or  
12 gratification;

13           (d) Actual, simulated, or animated stimulation of a human genital organ by  
14 any device whether or not the device is designed, manufactured, or marketed for  
15 such purpose; or

16           (e) Actual, simulated, or animated ultimate sexual acts, whether between  
17 human beings, animals, or an animal and a human being.

18 \* \* \*

19 §227 Mandatory policy language for sexually explicit materials in libraries

20           A. No later than January 1, 202 , every library established pursuant to the  
21 provisions of this Part, or pursuant to the authority conferred by La. Const. art. VI,  
22 §5, shall develop and institute a policy to limit the access of minors to sexually  
23 explicit materials.

1           B. At a minimum, the policy developed and instituted shall:

2           (1) Contain a requirement that community standards for the population  
3 served by the library be considered when acquiring library materials through  
4 donation or purchase.

5           (2) Create a system that allows parents or guardians to choose a library  
6 card that indicates whether a minor is permitted to check-out sexually explicit  
7 materials or collections that contain sexually explicit materials physically available  
8 in the library.

9           (3) Contain a description of the digital content sources available to minors.  
10 The description shall include whether the digital content source restricts sexually  
11 explicit materials.

12           C. The policy language required by this section may be satisfied by the  
13 amendment of existing library policies.

14           D. The governing authority of any parish or municipality with a library that  
15 fails to institute policies in compliance with this Section may withhold, during the  
16 period of noncompliance, the payments otherwise required by R.S. 25:220.

17           E. Any library that fails to institute a policy in compliance with this Section  
18 shall be prohibited from incurring debt and submitting any tax proposition to the  
19 electorate during the period of noncompliance. The State Bond Commission shall  
20 not consider any application for the incurrence of debt or any application for the  
21 levying of any tax where the proceeds of such debt or tax would directly benefit  
22 any library that fails to institute a policy in compliance with this Section unless and  
23 until the library comes into compliance with this Section.



## **APPENDIX A**

### **Individual Library Policies**

\*\*\*Some links within the LADOJ website and this document may lead to other sites that we believe may be useful or informative. The LADOJ website does not incorporate any materials appearing in such linked sites by reference. These links to third party sites or information are not intended as, and should not be interpreted by you as, constituting or implying our endorsement, sponsorship, or recommendation of the third party information, products, or services found there. The LADOJ does not maintain or control these sites and accordingly make no guarantee concerning the accuracy, reliability, or currency of the information found there.\*\*\*

Acadia Parish Library	<a href="https://acadiaparishlibrary.org/about-us/policies/">https://acadiaparishlibrary.org/about-us/policies/</a>
Allen Parish Library	Contact Library Directly 318-491-4543 <a href="http://allen.lib.la.us/">http://allen.lib.la.us/</a>
Ascension Parish Library	<a href="https://myapl.libnet.info/policies">https://myapl.libnet.info/policies</a>
Assumption Parish Library	<a href="https://assumptionlibrary.com/policies/">https://assumptionlibrary.com/policies/</a>
Audubon Regional Public Library (East Feliciana Parish & St. Helena Parish)	Contact Library Directly 225-683-8753 <a href="http://audubonregional.net/">http://audubonregional.net/</a>
Avoyelles Parish Library	<a href="https://avoyelles.lib.la.us/library-policies-page/">https://avoyelles.lib.la.us/library-policies-page/</a>
Beauregard Parish Library	<a href="https://library.beau.org/policy/">https://library.beau.org/policy/</a>
Bienville Parish Library	<a href="https://bienvillelibrary.org/services">https://bienvillelibrary.org/services</a>
Bossier Parish Library	<a href="https://bossierlibrary.org/about/policies">https://bossierlibrary.org/about/policies</a>
Calcasieu Parish Library	<a href="https://calcasieulibrary.org/library-policies-6007">https://calcasieulibrary.org/library-policies-6007</a>
Caldwell Parish Library	<a href="https://caldwellpubliclibrary.org/files/ugd/f0e5c0_328aae8361ab4728b403459feaa8d2a9.pdf">https://caldwellpubliclibrary.org/files/ugd/f0e5c0_328aae8361ab4728b403459feaa8d2a9.pdf</a>
Cameron Parish Library	Contact Library Directly

	337-775-5421 <a href="http://cameron.lib.la.us/">http://cameron.lib.la.us/</a>
Catahoula Parish Library	<a href="http://catahoulalibrary.org/library-services/">http://catahoulalibrary.org/library-services/</a>
Claiborne Parish Library	<a href="https://cplibrary.org/loan-policies">https://cplibrary.org/loan-policies</a>
Concordia Parish Library	<a href="https://concordialibrary.org/library-policies/">https://concordialibrary.org/library-policies/</a>
Desoto Parish Library	<a href="https://desotoparishlibrary.org/about-us/public-policies">https://desotoparishlibrary.org/about-us/public-policies</a>
East Baton Rouge Parish Library	<a href="https://ebrpl.com/libraryservices/LibraryPolicies.html">https://ebrpl.com/libraryservices/LibraryPolicies.html</a>
East Carroll Parish Library	Contact Library Directly 318-559-2615 <a href="https://ecplib.org/">https://ecplib.org/</a>
Evangeline Parish Library	<a href="https://evangelinelibrary.org/policies-and-procedures/">https://evangelinelibrary.org/policies-and-procedures/</a>
Franklin Parish Library	Contact Library Directly 318-435-4336 <a href="https://franklinparishlibrary.org/">https://franklinparishlibrary.org/</a>
Grant Parish Library	<a href="https://grantparishlibrary.org/uploads/3/4/8/2/34824556/5_public_service_policies_2.pdf">https://grantparishlibrary.org/uploads/3/4/8/2/34824556/5_public_service_policies_2.pdf</a>
Iberia Parish Library	<a href="https://iberialibrary.org/wp/library-policies/">https://iberialibrary.org/wp/library-policies/</a>
Jackson Parish Library	<a href="https://jacksonparishlib.org/files/ugd/f1bc6e_5737b9e6af4f4a4196389fa8f8148de1.pdf">https://jacksonparishlib.org/files/ugd/f1bc6e_5737b9e6af4f4a4196389fa8f8148de1.pdf</a>
Jefferson Davis Parish Library	<a href="https://jdplibrary.org/faq/">https://jdplibrary.org/faq/</a>
Jefferson Parish Library	<a href="https://jplibrary.net/policies">https://jplibrary.net/policies</a>
Jennings Carnegie Public Library	Contact Library Directly 337-821-5517 <a href="http://jenningscarnegieliibrary.com/">http://jenningscarnegieliibrary.com/</a>
Krotz Springs Municipal Public Library	Contact Library Directly 337-566-8190 <a href="https://krotzsprings.org/krotz-springs-municipal-public-library">https://krotzsprings.org/krotz-springs-municipal-public-library</a>
Lafayette Public Library	

	<a href="http://lafayettepubliclibrary.org/?page_id=1639">http://lafayettepubliclibrary.org/?page_id=1639</a>
Lafourche Parish Library	<a href="https://lafourche.org/policies">https://lafourche.org/policies</a>
LaSalle Parish Library	<a href="https://lasalle.lib.la.us/privacy-policy-1">https://lasalle.lib.la.us/privacy-policy-1</a> <a href="https://lasalle.lib.la.us/electronic-access-policy">https://lasalle.lib.la.us/electronic-access-policy</a> <a href="https://lasalle.lib.la.us/meeting-room-policy">https://lasalle.lib.la.us/meeting-room-policy</a>
Lincoln Parish Library	<a href="https://mylpl.org/policies/">https://mylpl.org/policies/</a>
Livingston Parish Library	<a href="https://mylpl.info/about-us/library-policies">https://mylpl.info/about-us/library-policies</a>
Madison Parish Library	Contact Library Directly 318-574-4308 <a href="https://yourmpl.info/">https://yourmpl.info/</a>
Morehouse Parish Library	Contact Library Directly 318-281-3696 <a href="https://morehouseparishlibrary.com/">https://morehouseparishlibrary.com/</a>
Morgan City Public Library	<a href="http://morgancitylibrary.com/index.php/about-us/library-policies/borrowers-policy.html">http://morgancitylibrary.com/index.php/about-us/library-policies/borrowers-policy.html</a>
Natchitoches Parish Library	<a href="http://youseemore.com/natchitoches/contentpages.asp?loc=48">http://youseemore.com/natchitoches/contentpages.asp?loc=48</a>
New Orleans Public Library	<a href="https://nolalibrary.org/policies/">https://nolalibrary.org/policies/</a>
Opelousas-Eunice Public Library	Contact Library Directly 337-948-3694 <a href="http://opelousaseunicepubliclibrary.org/">http://opelousaseunicepubliclibrary.org/</a>
Ouachita Parish Library	<a href="https://oplib.org/sex-offender-policy">https://oplib.org/sex-offender-policy</a> <a href="https://oplib.org/meeting-room-policy">https://oplib.org/meeting-room-policy</a>
Plaquemines Parish Library	<a href="https://pplcrd.wordpress.com/plaquemines-parish-library-borrowing-policies/">https://pplcrd.wordpress.com/plaquemines-parish-library-borrowing-policies/</a>
Pointe Coupee Parish Library	<a href="https://pointe-coupee.lib.la.us/pointe-coupee-library-policies/">https://pointe-coupee.lib.la.us/pointe-coupee-library-policies/</a>
Rapides Parish Library	<a href="https://rpl.org/index.php/about/policies/">https://rpl.org/index.php/about/policies/</a>
Red River Parish Library	Contact Library Directly

	318-932-5614 <a href="https://redriverparishlibrary.org/">https://redriverparishlibrary.org/</a>
Richland Parish Library	Contact Library Directly 318-728-4806 <a href="http://richlandparishlibrary.org/">http://richlandparishlibrary.org/</a>
Sabine Parish Library	<a href="https://sabineparishlibrary.org/policies/">https://sabineparishlibrary.org/policies/</a>
St. Bernard Parish Library	Contact Library Directly 504-279-0448 <a href="http://mysbpl.org/">http://mysbpl.org/</a>
St. Charles Parish Library	<a href="https://myscpl.org/policies">https://myscpl.org/policies</a>
St. James Parish Library	Contact Library Directly 225-265-9066 <a href="http://stjamesla.com/library">http://stjamesla.com/library</a>
St. John the Baptist Parish Library	<a href="https://stjohnlib.com/policies/">https://stjohnlib.com/policies/</a>
St. Martin Parish Library	<a href="https://stmartinparishlibrary.org/about-the-library/policies-faqs/">https://stmartinparishlibrary.org/about-the-library/policies-faqs/</a>
St. Mary Parish Library	Contact Library Directly 337-828-5364 <a href="https://stmaryparishlibrary.org/">https://stmaryparishlibrary.org/</a>
St. Tammany Parish Library	<a href="https://sttammanylibrary.org/library-policies/">https://sttammanylibrary.org/library-policies/</a>
Shreve Memorial Library (Caddo Parish)	<a href="https://shreve-lib.org/DocumentCenter">https://shreve-lib.org/DocumentCenter</a>
South St. Landry Community Library (St. Landry Parish)	<a href="http://southstlandrylibrary.com/library-forms-policies-and-procedures/">http://southstlandrylibrary.com/library-forms-policies-and-procedures/</a>
Tangipahoa Parish Library	Contact Library Directly 985-748-7151 <a href="http://tangilibrary.com/">http://tangilibrary.com/</a>
Tensas Parish Library	Contact Library Directly 318-766-3781 <a href="https://tensaslibrary.org/">https://tensaslibrary.org/</a>
Terrebonne Parish Library	<a href="https://mytpl.org/library-policies/">https://mytpl.org/library-policies/</a>
Union Parish Library	Contact Library Directly 318-368-9226 <a href="http://unionparishlibrary.com/">http://unionparishlibrary.com/</a>
Vermilion Parish Library	<a href="https://vermilionparishlibrary.com/library-policies/">https://vermilionparishlibrary.com/library-policies/</a>

Vernon Parish Library	Contact Library Directly 337-239-2027 <a href="http://youseemore.com/VernonParish">http://youseemore.com/VernonParish</a>
Washington Municipal Library (St. Landry Parish)	Contact Library Directly 337-826-7336
Washington Parish Library	<a href="https://washingtonparishlibrary.info/user-policy-library-cards-and-borrowing/">https://washingtonparishlibrary.info/user-policy-library-cards-and-borrowing/</a> <a href="https://washingtonparishlibrary.info/electronic-resources-access-policy/">https://washingtonparishlibrary.info/electronic-resources-access-policy/</a>
Webster Parish Library	<a href="http://websterparishlibrary.org/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=203&amp;Itemid=279">http://websterparishlibrary.org/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=203&amp;Itemid=279</a>
West Baton Rouge Parish Library	<a href="https://wbrpl.com/statements-and-policies/">https://wbrpl.com/statements-and-policies/</a>
West Carroll Parish Library	Contact Library Directly 318-428-4100 <a href="http://youseemore.com/wcpl/">http://youseemore.com/wcpl/</a>
West Feliciana Parish Library	<a href="https://wfplibrary.org/policies">https://wfplibrary.org/policies</a>
Winn Parish Library	<a href="https://winnlibrary.org/about-us">https://winnlibrary.org/about-us</a>

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Sample Letters**

\*\*\*This material is intended as an example which you may use in developing your own form. It is not considered legal advice and is not a substitute for the particularized advice of your own counsel. Anyone seeking specific legal advice or assistance should retain an attorney.\*\*\*

## **A. Library Board of Control Sample Letter**

**(Date)**

**(Name of Parish or Municipality)** Library Board of Control  
**Address**  
**(City), Louisiana (Zip Code)**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you as a resident of **(name of parish or municipality)** and a concerned citizen. The current library policy is insufficient to ensure that minors do not have unrestricted access to sexually explicit materials.

The importance of the role that libraries play in our community and in educating our children is unquestionable. Libraries should be safe places for children to develop a lifelong love of reading, discover intellectual passions, and pursue dreams for a fulfilling career – not where they are exposed to books that contain extremely graphic sexual content that is far from age appropriate for young audiences.

I ask that you adopt and implement policies that remove sexually explicit materials from collections intended for children, educate parents on digital content sources that may contain sexually explicit materials, and create a library card system that allows parents or guardians to choose whether a minor can check-out sexually explicit materials physically available in the library.

Sincerely,

**(your name)**



## **B. Local Governing Authority Sample Letter and Resolution**

**(Date)**

**(Name of Parish or Municipality) Governing Authority  
Address  
(City), Louisiana (Zip Code)**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you as a resident of **(name of parish or municipality)** and a concerned citizen. The current library policy is insufficient to ensure that minors do not have unrestricted access to sexually explicit materials.

The importance of the role that libraries play in our community and in educating our children is unquestionable. Libraries should be safe places for children to develop a lifelong love of reading, discover intellectual passions, and pursue dreams for a fulfilling career – not where they are exposed to books that contain extremely graphic sexual content that is far from age appropriate for young audiences.

I ask that you adopt the following resolution requesting that the library board of control adopt and implement policies that remove sexually explicit materials from collections intended for children, educate parents on digital content sources that may contain sexually explicit materials, and create a library card system that allows parents or guardians to choose whether a minor can check-out sexually explicit materials physically available in the library.

Sincerely,

**(your name)**

Encl. Draft Resolution

## RESOLUTION

The following Motion and Resolution was offered by \_\_\_\_\_ who moved for its adoption, and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ at the \_\_\_\_\_, meeting of the Council of the Parish (or Municipality) of \_\_\_\_\_, State of Louisiana (the "Council"):

WHEREAS, parents have the right and responsibility to guide and direct the reading, listening, and viewing choices available to their minor children in libraries and rely on the collections curated by libraries to help them make educated and informed decisions; and

WHEREAS, the **(name of parish or municipal library)** lacks adequate policies to address the access of minors to sexually explicit materials physically located in the library; and

WHEREAS, the **(name of parish or municipal library)** lacks adequate policies to address sexually explicit materials in digital content sources subscribed to by the library;

WHEREAS, the library board requires a policy that removes sexually explicit materials from collections intended for children and create a library card system that allows parents and guardians to control and limit their child's exposure to sexually explicit materials; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council hereby urges the library control board to adopt and implement policies that remove sexually explicit materials from collections intended for children, educate parents on digital content sources that may contain sexually explicit materials, and create a library card system that allows parents or

guardians to choose whether a minor can check-out sexually explicit materials physically available in the library.

The vote, in open meeting, on the resolution was as follows:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the \_\_\_\_\_ in regular session duly convened on \_\_\_\_\_, 2023, and that same has not been rescinded or repealed.

\_\_\_\_\_, Louisiana, this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary Treasurer

### **C. State Legislator Sample Letter**

**(Date)**

**(Full Name of Representative or Senator)  
Address  
(City), Louisiana (Zip Code)**

Dear **(Name of Representative or Senator)**:

I am writing to you as a resident of **(name of parish)** and a concerned citizen. Libraries across the State of Louisiana lack policies addressing the access of minors to sexually explicit materials including graphic novels, erotica, and R and NC-17 movies.

Parents have a fundamental right to make decisions as to the care, custody and control of their children. This fundamental right includes the right to decide the upbringing and education of children under their control. However, many libraries across the State of Louisiana lacks adequate policies to address the access of minors to sexually explicit materials physically located in the library and do not have a library card system in place that allows a parent or guardian to choose whether a minor can check-out sexually explicit materials physically available in the library.

I urge you to sponsor a bill to enact the attached proposed legislation requiring libraries to adopt and implement policies that remove sexually explicit materials from collections intended for children, educate parents on digital content sources that may contain sexually explicit materials, and create a library card system that allows parents or guardians to choose whether a minor can check-out sexually explicit materials physically available in the library.

Sincerely,

**(your name)**

## **D. Congress Sample Letter**

**(Date)**

The Honorable **(Full Name)**  
**(Room #) (Name) (Senate or House)** Office Building  
United States **(Senate or House of Representatives)**  
Washington, DC **(20510 for Senate; 20515 for House)**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

I am writing to you as a constituent and concerned parent. The Children's Young Adults' Cataloging Program (CYAC) within the Library of Congress is insufficient for citizens to identify sexually explicit materials in books intended for children. CYAC classifies the majority of juvenile fiction in large, overarching categories as opposed to more easily identifiable subcategories.

The Library of Congress already classifies adult books into categories such as Sex Instruction and Sexual Ethics (HQ31-64), Sadism. Masochism. Fetishism, etc. (HQ79), Prostitution (HQ101-440.7), and Erotica (HQ450-472). However, these very same subjects in children and juvenile fiction are not classified to provide adequate information as to whether the books contain sexually explicit materials, which parents may find inappropriate for children or young adults.

I ask that you propose legislation, which directs the Library of Congress through the CYAC to incorporate more a specific method of categorization of children's and young adult books, which adequately identifies sexually explicit books directed to children and young adults.

The importance of the role that libraries play in our community and in educating our children is unquestionable. Libraries should be safe places for children to develop a lifelong love of reading, discovery intellectual passions, and pursue dreams for a fulfilling career – not where they are exposed to books that contain extremely graphic sexual content that is far from age appropriate for young audiences.

Sincerely,

**(your name)**

**APPENDIX C**  
**Excerpts from Books Accessible to**  
**Children in Louisiana Public Libraries**

\*\*\* WARNING: The following pages contain extremely graphic sexual content. While we have taken measures to blur out some of the licentious material, they remain far from age appropriate for young audiences. \*\*\*

NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD FINALIST

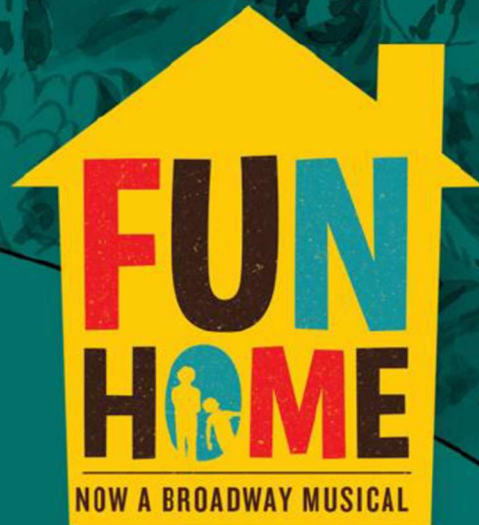
# Fun Home

A FAMILY TRAGICOMIC



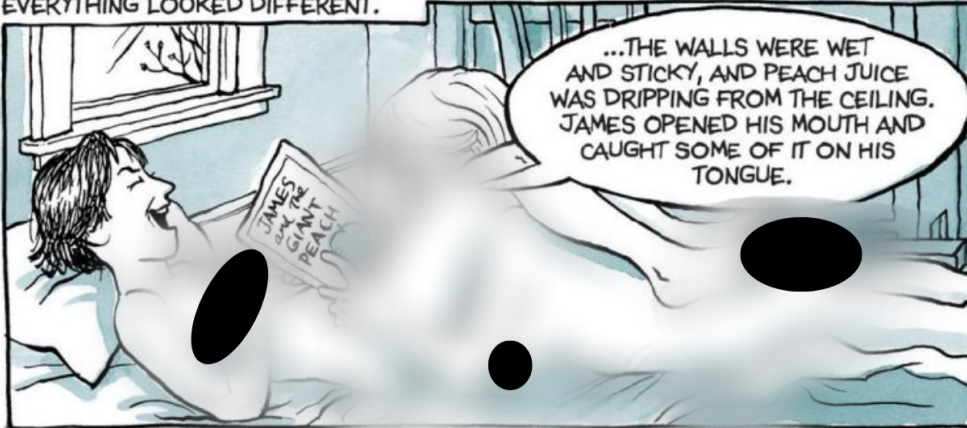
“A splendid autobiography . . .  
refreshingly open and generous.”

— *Entertainment Weekly*



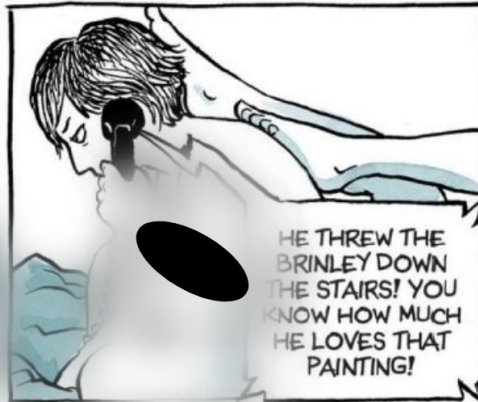
ALISON BECHDEL

...OTHERS AS PORNOGRAPHY. IN THE HARSH LIGHT OF MY DAWNING FEMINISM, EVERYTHING LOOKED DIFFERENT.



THIS ENTWINED POLITICAL AND SEXUAL AWAKENING WAS A WELCOME DISTRACTION.

THE NEWS FROM HOME WAS INCREASINGLY UNSETTLING.



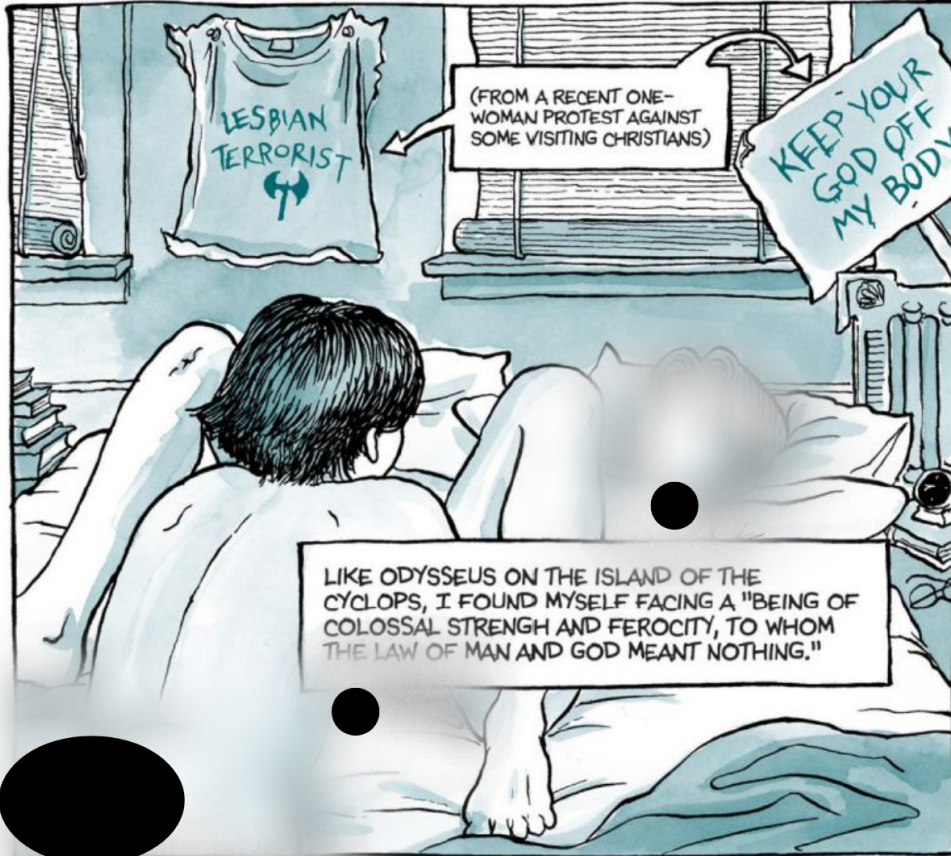
SOON AFTER JOAN AND I HAD MOVED IN TOGETHER FOR THE SUMMER, I GOT MOM'S CALL ABOUT THE DIVORCE.

AND TWO WEEKS AFTER THAT, THE CALL ABOUT THE ACCIDENT.





VEERING TOWARD SCYLLA SEEMED MUCH THE SAFER ROUTE. AND AFTER NAVIGATING THE PASSAGE, I SOON WASHED UP, A BIT STUNNED, ON A NEW SHORE.

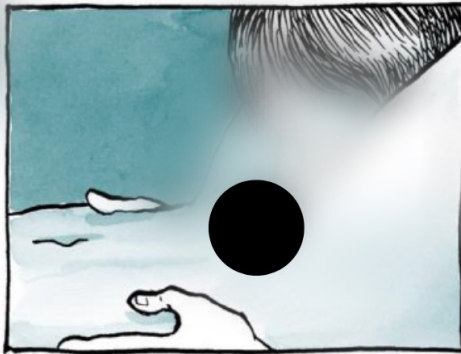


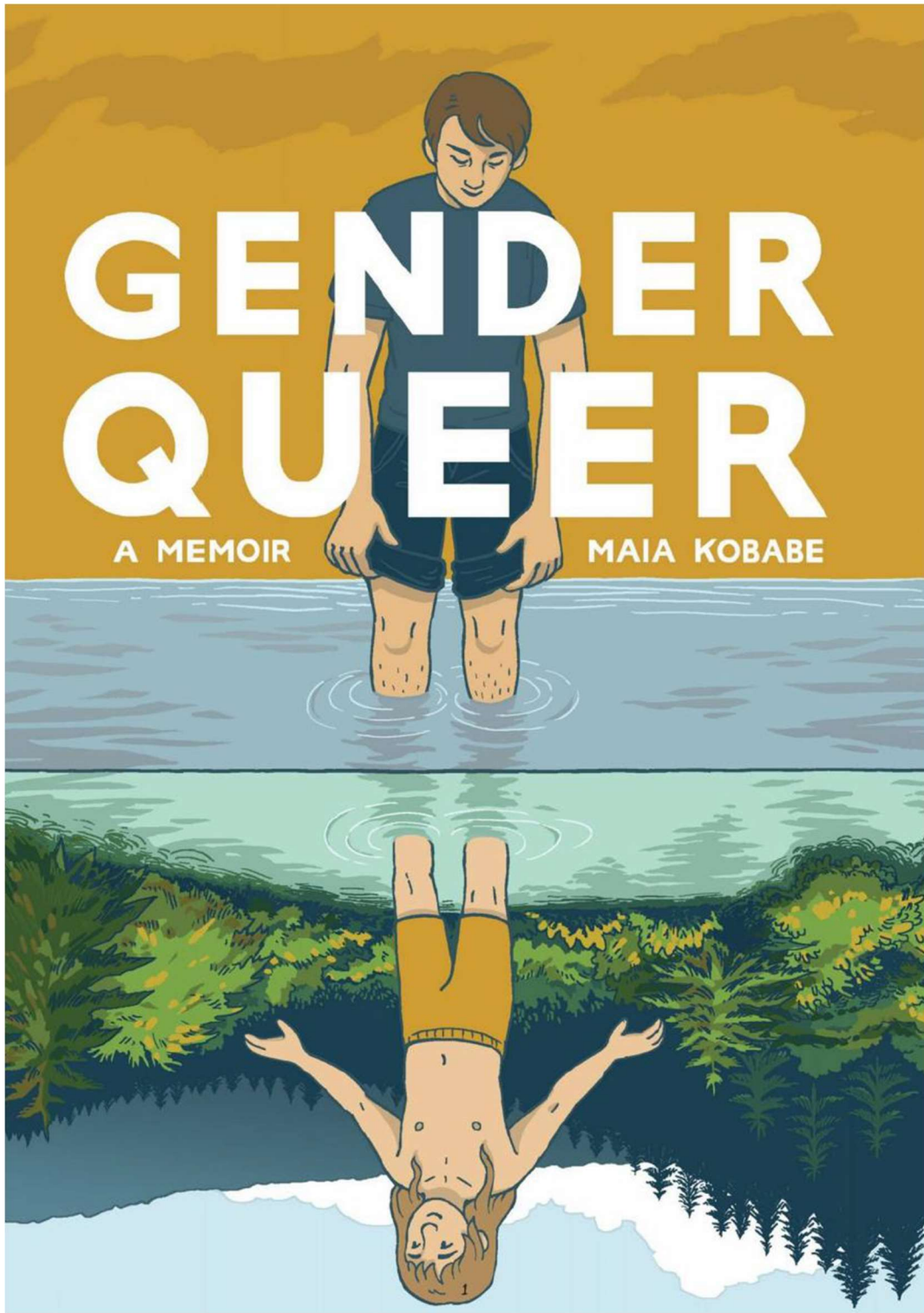
(FROM A RECENT ONE-WOMAN PROTEST AGAINST SOME VISITING CHRISTIANS)

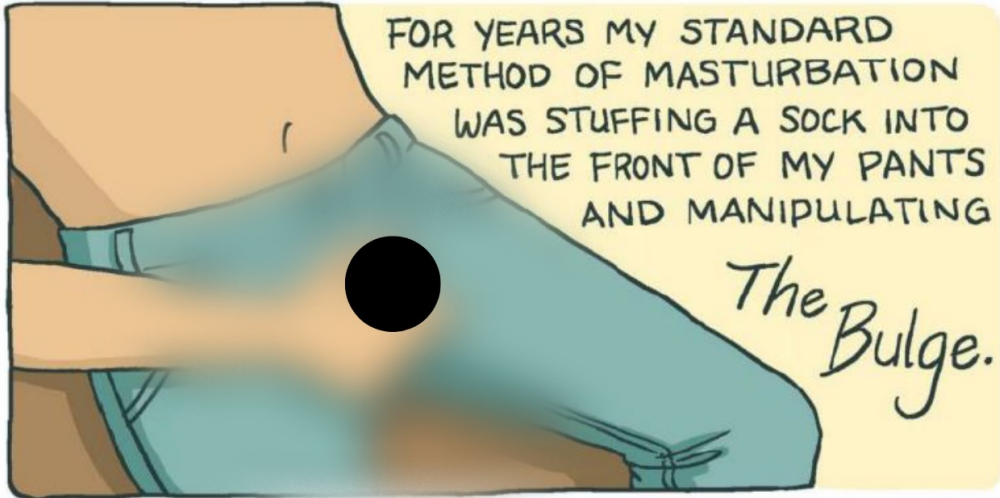
LIKE ODYSSEUS ON THE ISLAND OF THE CYCLOPS, I FOUND MYSELF FACING A "BEING OF COLOSSAL STRENGTH AND FEROCITY, TO WHOM THE LAW OF MAN AND GOD MEANT NOTHING."

IN TRUE HEROIC FASHION, I MOVED TOWARD THE THING I FEARED.

YET WHILE ODYSSEUS SCHEMED DESPERATELY TO ESCAPE POLYPHEMUS'S CAVE, I FOUND THAT I WAS QUITE CONTENT TO STAY HERE FOREVER.







FOR YEARS MY STANDARD METHOD OF MASTURBATION WAS STUFFING A SOCK INTO THE FRONT OF MY PANTS AND MANIPULATING

*The Bulge.*



THIS WOULD EVOLVE INTO *HIP-THRUSTING* WHILE THINKING OF MY LASTEST GAY SHIP ...



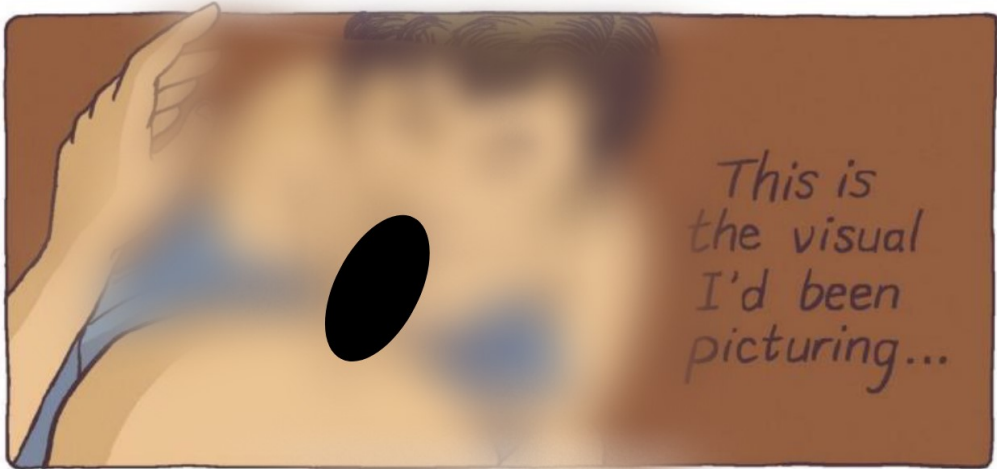
MEMORABLY, I GOT OFF ONCE WHILE DRIVING JUST BY RUBBING THE FRONT OF MY JEANS AND IMAGINING GETTING A

*Blow JOB.\**

\* I PROMISE I'M A REALLY SAFE DRIVER.

FAST-FORWARD: WE'VE BEEN DATING FOR TWO MONTHS. WE'VE MADE OUT, WE'VE HAD SEX, WE'VE MOVED ON TO SEXTING AT WORK.





JENNIFER NIVEN

#1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *All the Bright Places*



Breathless

Excerpts:

Page 13-

Suddenly there's something hard and damp against my thigh, and I shift a little so he can't slide it in.

"Claude..."

His voice is blurred, like he's out of focus, and my name sounds like Clod which I hate. I feel momentarily bad because I was never going to have sex with him. It always ends the same way—him coming into the air or into his shirt or onto himself or against my leg.

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. His face is half lit from the sliver of moon that shines through the crack in the door. I'll give him this: he's pretty goodlooking and he smells nice. And for whatever reason he seems to like me. From what he can tell right now, I'm still in it. I haven't told him to stop or pushed him away. Until he strays a little too far from my leg and I go, "Slow it down, cowboy." He's going to tell his friends either that I'm a tease or that we did it. I wish I could explain that it's not about teasing or doing it; it's about the possibility. It's the almost. It's the Maybe this time, the Maybe he's the one. I want to say, For a few minutes I make you greater than yourself, and I'm greater than myself and we're greater than this barn because we are all this possibility and almostness and maybe.

But you can't explain things like almostness to a guy like Shane, so 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.

Page 174:

Wednesday says, "My sister believes it doesn't technically count as sex unless it's a penis and a vagina. Like, if she does anal, she's still a virgin." Emory stares at her. "So then, according to her, nothing counts except hetero sex?"

Page 199:

Then I can feel him. All of him. And it hurts a little, but that's more the surprise again of having another body in your body the getting used to something new. But it's funny how fast my body adapts. It's like, Oh, hello there Why haven't we done it like this sooner?

And I'm into it. And he's into it. And he's literally in it, as in my vagina. (Vagina, really? I mean, penis? Like, why are these words so completely unsexy?)

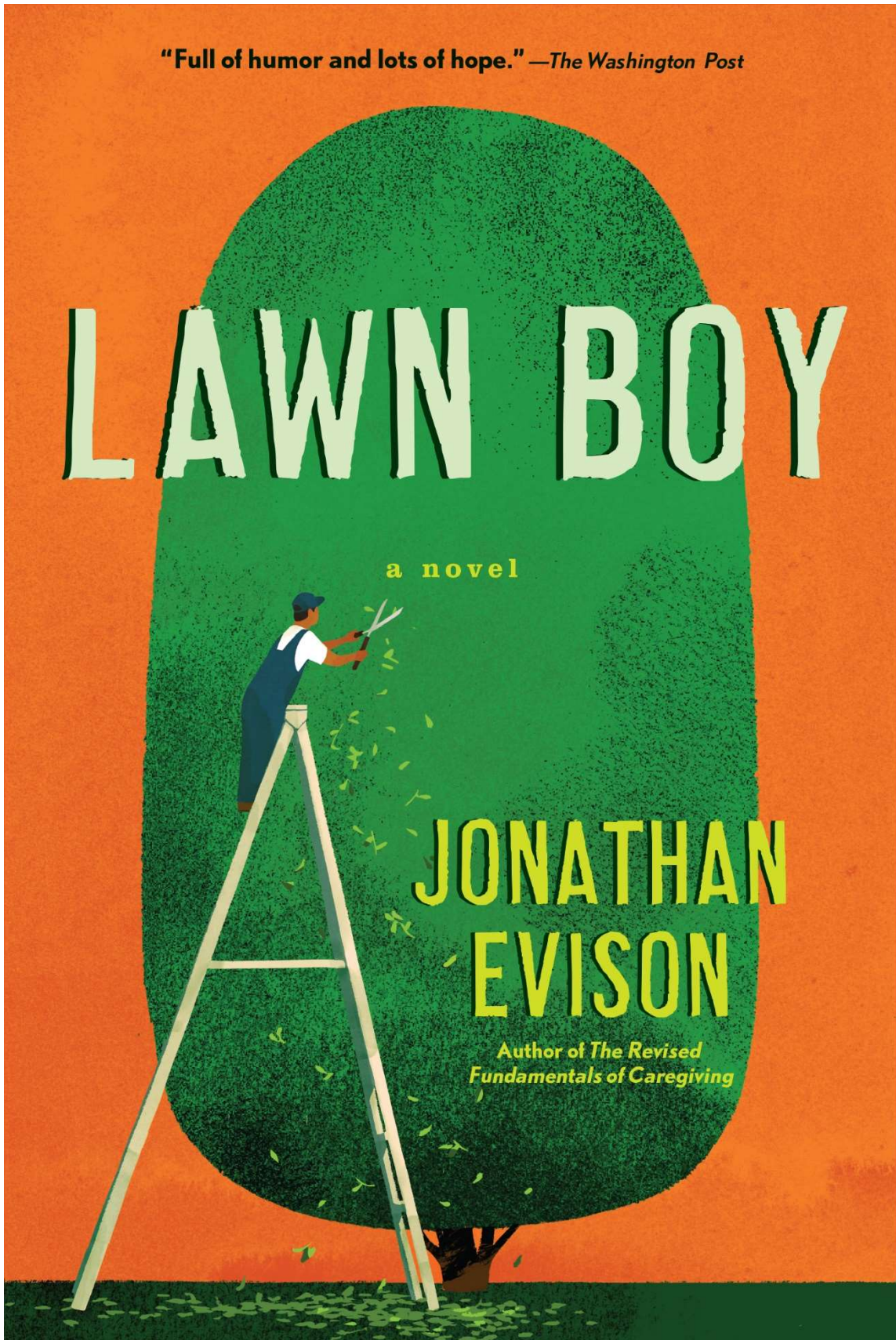
"Full of humor and lots of hope." —*The Washington Post*

# LAWN BOY

a novel

JONATHAN  
EVISON

Author of *The Revised  
Fundamentals of Caregiving*





Excerpts:

Page 30-

Placing her knee between my legs, she wrestled off her sweater and unbuttoned her blouse and pulled off her panties, and she climbed on top of me before I even had a chance to savor the moment. I'm not saying I wasn't grateful. To this day, I remain grateful to Gina Costerello and whatever whim, or combination of alcohol and restlessness, prompted her to unbutton my jeans and straddle me in the passenger's seat of that Malibu. And don't get the idea that it didn't feel good, either. It was a revelation, a delirious paroxysm like I'd never known, a welling of rapture from my heels to my temples. The experience literally emptied me. For ninety seconds after Gina climbed off me, roughly the time it took to get her clothes back on, I felt shucked like an oyster as I gathered my breath.

Page 94 –

"What if I told you I touched another guy's dick?" I said.

"Pfff." Nick waved me off and turned his attention back to his beer.

"What if I told you I sucked it?"

"Will you please just shut up already?"

"I'm dead serious, Nick."

"Well, I'd say you were a fag."

"I was ten years old, but it's true. I put Doug

Goble's dick in my mouth."

"The real-estate guy?"

"Yeah."

Nick looked around frantically. "What the fuck are you talking about, Michael?"

"I was in fourth grade. It was no big deal."

Cringing, Nick held his hands out in front of him in a yield gesture. "Stop."

"He sucked mine, too."

Page 171:

All I could think about while he was chatting me up over the rim of his cappuccino was his little salamander between my fourth-grade fingers, rapidly engorging with blood. Was he expecting me to do it again?

...Why would Doug Goble buy me coffee after all these years if it didn't have something to do with touching penises?

# Blankets



*a graphic novel by*  
**CRAIG THOMPSON**







Mingled with her perfumed hair, the burning candle, and a new scent-foreign to me- that RADIATED from her body.



"For as often as you drink this cup..."

True Stories about First-Time Sex

# The V-Word



Amber J. Keyser

Excerpts:

Page 5-

By accident, I discovered just the right way to ride my bike so that the seat vibrated against the mound of my crotch. It seemed my panties were always damp, and I masturbated often—in the bath, in the hot tub, in my bed at night. I imagined what it would feel like to have oral sex. But in this stew of horniness, I also worried that something was wrong with me for thinking about sex so much.

Page 7 –

I slid down under the covers, my cheek against his taut belly. And there was his penis. Hard inside but shockingly soft and smooth on the surface. I put my lips on the velvety end of his penis and took him in my mouth. After a while— who knows how much time passed—we changed places. And his mouth was hot and wet on the slit of my vulva. The new best thing ever.

Page 12 –

We pull down his boxers and a second later I feel him in my mouth. Under my palms his thighs are trembling, but what I'm doing is solid and clear. Honest. I hear the sound of him sucking in his breath, then a sighing noise from deep in his chest. Every sound he makes tells me how it feels.

I feel everything too, and not just with my brain, which is reeling with excitement and a kind of crazed curiosity. Physically, I am right there with him. Feeling through his body how good it feels. Tasting everything, smelling everything. These aren't tastes or smells I can name but they're familiar. Like I should have known them. Like I'd always known them.

Like things that are private and exclusive.

Like being an adult: an acquired taste.

Sweet, salty, sour, bitter. The way his body tenses. The way he breathes, soft, then hard. It's perfect. It feels like something I'm creating, not just a thing that's happening. When he comes, which is just a few minutes into it, I swallow it all—the sweet, salty, sour, bitter. All Of it.



L. C. ROSEN



SOMETIMES COMING  
OUT IS EASY...

# JACK OF HEARTS



...STAYING  
OUT IS HARD

(AND OTHER PARTS)



Excerpts:

Page 16-

Dear Jack of Hearts, My boyfriend really wants to do anal. We've been together for a few months, and I totally love him, and it's not like we're virgins. But I'm nervous about the buttsex. Does it hurt? Is it even fun for girls? Should I do it just to make him happy?

Page 24 –

My first time getting it in the butt was kind of weird. ...I was a freshman, and it was winter break, right before everyone left for vacation- a big holiday blowout party. There was this senior from another school, and we were drinking and flirting, and eventually we took off together. His parents were home, and my mom was home, so he got us a room at a hotel nearby. Ordered up champagne to be fancy. Now, before this, I'd sucked my share of dicks and had gotten plenty of blowjobs, handjobs, every kind of job, but the only buttsex I'd had was with this junior who was totally in love with my cock and he'd just hopped aboard. And he'd taken control then. Total bossy bottom. I'd pretty much just aid back and enjoyed. So, as far as I knew, anal was pretty easy- like porn easy.

So he bends me over the bed and drizzles some lube on my ass. I made him wear a condom, of course. And he starts pushing it in. And WOW, that hurts. I tell him to stop, it hurts, and he says he'll go slower. I say okay because he's already in, and I'm thinking, I'm gay, so this is something I have to learn how to do, right? So he slows down and pushes in, and eventually it starts to feel good- like, really good. He's hitting the right spot, nerve endings are all aglow.

Eventually he finishes and pulls out, and the condom, or course, is covered in shit. And he gets mad at me, like it's my fault. I didn't know about how to clean up down there. He makes me take the crap-covered condom off him and flush it, and then he showers alone.

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And now, since you've made it through talking and erections, finally, some blowjob tips: (1) Use your lungs to suck, not your lips to pull. You're not trying to yank the dick off with your mouth, you're trying to make it feel good. (2) Use your tongue. Lots of different ways. Ask him what works as you're trying them. (3) Use your hands- stroke the shaft if it's too big to swallow, or grip his balls, or touch his taint, or finger his ass. Don't forget you have hands. (4) Each dick is different, and sometimes the same dick is different day to day. So always try new things- suck the head, lick the shaft, or vice versa. Listen for his moans and breathing, juggling what parts of your mouth you're using and what parts of him you're using them on.

A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER



ALL  
BOYS  
AREN'T  
BLUE

A MEMOIR-MANIFESTO

GEORGE M. JOHNSON

Excerpts:

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"Yeah." But I laughed and said, "Get your hand off my butt." You giggled. "That's not my hand." "You're lying," I said. You then placed both hands on my hips, as we lay side by side. There was still something poking me. You were fully erect at this point. I was nervous. "We gonna get in trouble." "You can't tell anybody, okay?" you said. "You promise that you not gonna tell anyone?" I promised. You then grabbed my hand and made me touch it. It was the first time I had ever touched a penis that wasn't my own. I knew what was happening wasn't supposed to happen. Cousins weren't supposed to do these things with cousins. But my body didn't react that way. My body on the inside was doing something, too.

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We sat there for about ten minutes before you finally stood up. You then had me stand up with you. At this time, you were much taller than me, probably by a good foot. You told me to take-off my pajama pants, which I did. You then took off your shorts, followed by your boxers. There you stood in front of me fully erect and said, "Taste it." At first, I laughed and refused. But then you said, "Come on, Matt, taste it. This is what other boys like us do when we like each other." I finally listened to you.

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I unzipped my pants and began to pee in the stand-up urinal in the corner. I was there for about ten seconds before I felt someone come up behind me. At first, I froze because I didn't know what was happening. He put both his hands around me and then moved down to touch my genitals. I could feel every nerve in my body start to tingle. I didn't know who was behind me, but I knew that I was being violated.

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As we kissed, he began unzipping my pants. It was clear to me in this moment that he wasn't new to this. He reached his hand down and pulled out my dick. He quickly went to giving me head. I just sat back and enjoyed it as I could tell he was, too. He was also definitely experienced in what he was doing, because he went to work quite confidently. He then came up and asked me if I wanted to try on him. I said sure. I began and he said, "Watch your teeth." I didn't want to let him know I was inexperienced. So, I slowed down and took my time and luckily got into a good rhythm. He didn't know I was a virgin, and I did my best to act dominant like my favorite porn star. I was an actor, and this was my movie.

I remember the condom was blue and flavored like cotton candy. I put some lube on and got him up on his knees, and I began to slide into him from behind. I tried not to force it because I imagined that it would be painful; I didn't want this moment to be painful. So I eased in, slowly, until I heard him moan.

The  
Bluest  
Eye

*A novel by*

**Toni Morrison**

WINNER OF THE NOBEL PRIZE

WITH A FOREWORD BY THE AUTHOR

Excerpts:

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While he moves inside her, she will wonder why they didn't put the necessary but private parts of the body in some more convenient place- like the armpit, for example, or the palm of the hand. Someplace one could get to easily, and quickly, without undressing. She stiffens when she feels one of her paper curlers coming undone from the activity of love; imprints in her mind which one it is that is coming loose so she can quickly secure it once he is through. She hopes he will not sweat the damp may get into her hair; and that she will remain dry between her legs—she hates the glucking sound they make when she is moist. When she senses some spasm about to grip him, she will make rapid movements with her hips, press her fingernails into his back, suck in her breath, and pretend she is having an orgasm. She might wonder again, for the six hundredth time, what it would be like to have that feeling while her husband's penis is inside her

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He put his head down and nibbled at the back of her leg. His mouth trembled at the firm sweetness of the flesh. He closed his eyes, letting his fingers dig into her waist. The rigidness of her shocked body, the silence of her stunned throat, was better than Pauline's easy laughter had been. The confused mixture of his memories of Pauline and the doing of a wild and forbidden thing excited him, and a bolt of desire ran down his genitals, giving it length, and softening the lips of his anus. Surrounding all of this lust was a border of politeness. He wanted to fuck her tenderly. But the tenderness would not hold. The tightness of her vagina was more than he could bear. His soul seemed to slip down to his guts and fly out into her, and the gigantic thrust he made into her then provoked the only sound she made—a hollow suck of air in the back of her throat. Like the rapid loss of air from a circus balloon. Following the disintegration—the falling away—of sexual desire, he was conscious of her wet, soapy hands on his wrists, the fingers clenching, but whether her grip was from a hopeless but stubborn struggle to be free, or from some other emotion, he could not tell. Removing himself from her was so painful to him he cut it short and snatched his genitals out of the dry harbor of her vagina. She appeared to have fainted. Cholly stood up and could see only her grayish panties, so sad and limp around her ankles. Again the hatred mixed with tenderness. The hatred would not let him pick her up, the tenderness forced him to cover her. So when the child regained consciousness, she was lying on the kitchen floor under a heavy quilt, trying to connect the pain between her legs with the face of her mother looming over her.

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The little girls are the only things I'll miss. Do you know that when I touched their sturdy little tits and bit them—just a little—I felt I was being friendly? I didn't want to kiss their mouths or sleep in the bed with them or take a child bride for my own. Playful, I felt, and friendly. ...Two of them, Doreen and Sugar Babe, they'd come together. I gave them mints, money, and they'd eat ice cream with their legs open while I played with them. It was like a party. And there wasn't nastiness, and there wasn't any filth, and there wasn't any odor, and there wasn't any groaning—just the light white laughter of little girls and me.

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