

HANOVER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Title: VALIANT LADIES

Author(s): MELISSA GREY

Publisher/Producer: FEIWEL & FRIENDS Copyright: _____

Please check type of material:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| ☒ Book | ☐ Recording |
| ☐ Film | ☐ Video |
| ☐ Software | ☐ Other: _____ |

Please check type of reading:

- ☐ Assigned
☒ Voluntary GIVEN IN LIBRARY AND RECOMMENDED (JAN 6, 2023)

Request initiated by: Rachel S.B. Azurdia

Address: _____

Telephone (H): _____ Telephone (alt.): _____

School: MECHANICSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL Student Grade/Age (if parent): GRADUATE

Do you represent:

- ☒ Yourself
☐ An organization: _____
☐ Other group: _____

The following questions are to be answered after the individual has read, viewed, or listened to the instructional material in its entirety. If sufficient space is not provided, attach additional sheets. (Please sign your name to each additional attachment.)

What do you object to in the material? (Please be specific, cite pages, etc.) _____

Please refer to separate sheets attached.

What do you believe is the theme or purpose of this material? It is a lesbian

romance filled with mystery and
action promoting the idea of
seeking what feels good, right, and

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true.
It promotes one to act on impulse,
desire, and feeling. (p342) It is also
promoting the lesbian lifestyle
and vulgar language.

What do you feel might be the result of a student using this material?

It promotes vengeance and acting on impulse (murder and sexual relations).
It paints an enticing or curiosity provoking interest in alternative lifestyles. It promotes debauchery and drunkenness along with the use of profanity.

For what age group would you recommend this material?

Adult use
at a public library ~ Honestly, I do not recommend this based on content and profanity.

What is good in this material? Please comment.

The story captures ones attention and is very intriguing.

Would you care to recommend other instructional material of the same subject and format?

no

Have you been able to discuss this work with the teacher or librarian? If so, please indicate date of discussion below.

Date discussed with Teacher: via email 1/30/23, 1/31/23, 2/1-3/23, ^{PSBA}

Date discussed with Librarian: phone 1/3/23 (I believe) LIBRARIAN CALLED ME. ^{THURGOOD}

Date discussed with Principal: phone 1/4/23
email (1st date?), 1/31/23, 2/3-4/23
^{online email}

Signature of Complainant:

Date:

2/9/23

Please return completed form to the school principal.

Objections to Material:

This book has no table of contents; therefore, it is difficult to refer to specific pages as requested. I object to the following subject matter: elicit and repetitive profanity, scenes in taverns and brothels (lifestyles and principles therein portrayed as viable coping methods), "Justice" or "Vengeance" procured by murder, dark evil thoughts of homicide, and the romance depicted between two women (Ana and Kiki).

- **Profanity** – It begins on the first page in the second sentence with "shithole" used twice. The names of Jesus and God are flippantly used in vain. Throughout the entire book profanity is repeated. A few examples are as follows: Fucking (p.118); Fuck it, Bullshit (p.180); Goddammit (p.152); Dammit, what crawled up your ass, and Fuck (p.159). Once Ana was drinking on the rooftop of a brothel with a prostitute and friend whom she kisses while trying to drown her sorrows in alcohol. She throws the empty bottle off the roof hitting and almost killing a man. She shouts, "Sorry. Fuck you!" These are just a few examples many other words such as Son of a bitch and asshole are used as well.
- **Scenes in Taverns and Brothels** – It promotes the use of alcohol to drown out sorrow or to escape reality (pgs.100, 162-163, & 319). Rosalita, a prostitute that Ana and Kiki rescue is made to look like a hero and a valiant person in the end because she returns to the brothel (no longer as a worker) to "protect" the workers while she will actually be pimping them out.
- **Justice or Vengeance procured by Homicide** – Due to "injustice" Ana and Kiki murder people in cold blood. They are seemingly portrayed as "heroes" because they have a "good" reason for killing their victims. Towards the end there is an altar scene where Ana is to be sacrificed with a dagger and she is branded with a previously described demonic symbol of power (p.341-345).
- **Dark Evil Thoughts** – There are dark evil thoughts throughout, but one example stands out. Ana is drinking "to survive the night without murdering one or two people (p.100)." In chapter 10 on the first page, Ana describes her desire to murder a man betrothed to Kiki (whom she loves) as if she were "disemboweling wild game." Another portion of the story explicitly describes Kiki slitting a man's throat and the blood spirting out (maybe p.190). There was also an account at the very beginning of the story about how to kill a man by slitting the object through his ribs. There are other accounts as well.
- **Romance Depicted between Two Women, Ana and Kiki** – From the beginning the book describes the desire of the two main characters, Ana and Kiki, for one another. It begins with admiration, desire, and lust. The first time Ana kisses Kiki is described on page 48. I quote, "If Everyone knew how good this was, they would never do anything else." They kiss several times throughout the book (p.254-255). Another intimate moment is described when Ana raises Kiki's skirt to place a dagger around her thigh (p. 258). Nearing the end of the story, Ana and Kiki spend an incredible and unforgettable night together naked in bed (p.316-317, 261)

In short, this book fixates on homicides, drunkenness, brothels, debauchery, and a lesbian romance. It promotes acting on one's unrestrained impulses, desires, and feelings for decision making. It describes alcohol as an escape from reality and a viable coping method. It justifies evil as good, and it abounds with profanity while promoting alternative lifestyles.

"Valiant Ladies"

By Melissa Grey

Objection by Rachel Azurdia

February 10, 2023

Public Schools should promote the development of intellect, academic achievement, good character development, respect for authority, and social cohesion. The ultimate goal is to prepare students to make wise decisions and display responsible behavior for the purpose of securing future employment. It should prepare them for a career.

The content of "Valiant Ladies" is in no way constructive in building and equipping our next generation to be good, responsible, successful, and law-abiding citizens. Public School aims are in no way met through this literature; in contrast, it undermines the developmental goals of schools and educators. I hope that this and other similar books will be reconsidered and removed from our public-school libraries.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rachel S.B. Azurdia

