

‘Trans: When Ideology Meets Reality’ by Helen Joyce

Complaint:

To: Cleo Jones
Subject: Book Query

Hi Cleo,

I'm emailing because I've come across something and wasn't sure who to contact and thought it would be interesting to get your perspective and thoughts since you're a part of the Equalities and Diversity group. I've just seen that the libraries have a copy of Helen's Joyce's book 'Trans' on order. I'm not sure if anyone is aware but this book is filled misinformation regarding trans people, transphobia, and antisemitism (for example it suggests three Jewish billionaires are funding 'gender ideology', and that puberty blockers cause sterilisation). Just recently the Mail Online posted a review of Joyce's book with the title:

'The author brave enough to take on the trans lobby: New book warns that children are forcibly sterilised, women are at risk of rape and doctors are 'terrorised' as a result of people being allowed to choose their own gender'

These types of books do have a harmful impact on marginalised communities. We've seen this with the rise in transphobia in Scotland and the rest of the UK. **REDACTED**, I'm left feeling uneasy at the thought that we'd have books like this that seek to misinform and fuel bigotry. And **REDACTED** community, seeing a book like that in our collection does make me feel concerned **REDACTED**, and verging on feeling deeply unwelcomed in libraries. I don't believe this was ordered maliciously, I'm sure this could be just through automation, or someone genuinely is interested in learning about trans lives and trans people but doesn't know where to begin and, given the level of attention this has received, thought this book would be a good place to start. There are some fantastic books about trans lives by trans people now days such as Laura Kate Dales 'Uncomfortable Labels' or 'Gender Euphoria' which she recently edited; 'Trans Love' edited by Freiya Benson; 'They/Them/Their' by Eris Young; 'Trans Britain' edited by Christine Burns; and Shon Faye's soon to be published book 'The Transgender Issue' is supposed to be superb. There's so many great trans literature by trans people, it seems a shame to instead have a book about trans people by someone who isn't trans that seeks to spread misinformation and hate.

I'd really like to hear your thoughts and opinions on this. I'm always available to discuss this further as well if you'd like.

All the very best,

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Please note the following comments from the Libraries Strategy Officer:

Points

- This book has been selected via our supplier selection process according to criteria Library Resource Management set on behalf of Edinburgh Libraries.
- We use suppliers on the Scotland Excel contract.
- There is no 'malicious' intent or intended bias on the part of the library supplier or LRM in how books are selected. Our processes are open to scrutiny and we welcome feedback from all quarters, both internal and external

- The book has been issued by a recognised publisher
- This book has been widely reviewed and reported and has obviously divided opinion as many titles do, both historically and currently.
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Whilst the quote sent supports a negative view of the content, there are many reviews of a more positive nature which do also reflect the challenging nature of the book.

From Waterstone's website for example

'THE INSTANT SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER'

'In the first decade of this century, it was unthinkable that a gender-critical book could even be published by a prominent publishing house, let alone become a bestseller.'

Louise Perry, New Statesman'

- We purchase as wide a range of publications as our budget allows to enable customers to have choice and make their own decisions based on access to relevant printed material as well as other sources. We do not endorse individual titles.
- This title, currently on order, already has reservations on it. This would demonstrate that there is a demand within Edinburgh to read this book.
- I believe the above stock holding supports our aim to provide customers with choice and with access to a broad spectrum of information on the current debate within society. The aim is not to make anyone feel unwelcome, but the opposite, to provide material over a range of levels and subjects which will appeal and encourage more customers to become informed.
- As a library service and a resource management team we do not apply censorship. We follow CILIP guidance on censorship. If the title were found to infringe law, we would be informed by our supplier and we would make full effort to recover and withdraw any copies. However, where a legitimate right to access a resource exists, as with any title we would consider it within our normal selection practices.

'Beyond Magenta' by Susan Kuklin

Complaint:

Sent: 28 February 2022 19:47

Subject: Reader query on Beyond Magenta

Hi all,

Had an adult reader come in today at Colinton, he went directly to the teen section and picked up "Beyond Magenta"

C0048229393

He had issues with some language used on page 80 of the book, principally the references to oral sex

"I was sexually mature. What I mean by sexually mature is that I knew about sex. From six up, I used to kiss other guys in the neighbourhood, make out with them, and perform oral sex on them. I liked it. I used to love oral. And I touched their you-know-whats. We were really young, but that's what we did"

I said I would seek some advice on the matter and get back to him, I can send the book up if you would like though that paragraph seems to be what he objected to the most.

This may be exacerbated by the fact that due to the library Covid reshuffle the teen section is right beside the children's section.

There are a number of copies on the system.

Cheers

Action Taken:

Email to libraries:

Hello,

Your library has a copy of the title Beyond magenta (see details below). The title is now being treated as adult stock and needs to be filed in the adult section of the library. I have changed the relevant details on Spark, can you make the changes required for your copy. The Teen Info category label on the spine needs to be changed to FA3, then moved to the adult section.

9781406371550 Kuklin, Susan; Beyond magenta