



Statement of Concern about Library Resources

Intellectual freedom in a public library necessitates selecting some materials that may be considered controversial by some individuals or groups. Reasons often cited for materials considered offensive include use of profanity, divergent viewpoints, controversial authors, sexual content, and depictions of violence and criminal acts. The acquisition of such materials does not imply approval or endorsement of their contents. The selection criteria used by the St. Tammany Parish Library must remain broad and flexible in order to provide a collection that supports the broad range of interests and diverse backgrounds of the citizens of St. Tammany Parish.

Date December 23, 2022

Name Connie Phillips

[Redacted]

City Mandeville State LA Zip 70471

[Redacted]

Representing (self) St. Tammany Parish Library Accountability Project (organization)

1. Resource on which you are commenting:

- book Book Newspaper Other
Magazine Content of Library Program
Audiovisual Electronic Resource

2. Title The Moon Within

Author/Producer Aida Salazar

3. What brought this title to your attention?

Content violates the state obscenity statues
This is offensive to the average adult applying St. Tammany Parish community standards.
online reviews about grooming, research that you have it in your library

4. Did you review the entire item? If not, what sections did you review?

yes
19 Quieta, there's nothing to be ashamed of, Celi—it's cause for celebration! What?
What's a celebration? Papi asks. Breasts, our girl is growing breasts! Mima's high
pitch sears my ears. Awesome! Juju chimes in. When I'm eleven, will I grow some
too? Shut up! You little ... I strike. Celi. Papi warns. but then turns to Juiu. It isn't

5. What course of action do you recommend in regard to this resource?

Restrict access to minors as outlined in statute above. Require parent to check out for minor. The book should be shelved in a section where minors do not have access. A separate place in the library. A room or some section where minors do not have entry without parent and minors cannot check out. D.A. Warren Montgomery has instructed you to have a separate place where minors cannot go so shelve it in this section.

6. Please state your reasons for making this recommendation. To what in the resource do you object? Please be specific: cite pages, scenes or sections. Consider commenting on the resource as a whole, as well as being specific on the matters which concern you.

Violates Content violates the state obscenity statues
2021 Louisiana Laws - offensive to the average adult applying St. Tammany Parish community standards.

Stop sexualization of our kids.

7. In its place, what materials would you recommend on this topic?

Something that does not promote the grooming of children. Stop talking to our children about what sex they might be. leave our kids alone.

NOTE:

This statement will be referred to a Library Resource Review Committee. You will be advised in writing of the committee's decision. Thank you for your concern and input.

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yes

19 Quieta, there's nothing to be ashamed of, Celi—it's cause for celebration! What? What's a celebration? Papi asks. Breasts, our girl is growing breasts! Mima's high pitch sears my ears. Awesome! Juju chimes in. When I'm eleven, will I grow some too? Shut up! You little ... I strike. Celi, Papi warns, but then turns to Juju, It isn't likely, mijo. They're mammary glands designed to nurse young. Remember, like the mama goats we saw? You mean, like goat teats? Juju cracks up lets out his annoyingly loud goat bleat, Celi's got teats!

30 Before our last performance a couple of weeks ago Magda waited for one of the bathroom stalls to be free. Auburn-haired Aurora says, You can't really be in the girls' bathroom. Magda chuckles back. Course I can. I'm a girl. She knew what Aurora was hinting at because others often asked her about how much boyiness she had versus girliness. Mima was in the bathroom too brushing my hair into a tight bun that stretched my eyes like rubber bands and we quietly looked on. Aurora raised her screechy voice and blurted, My mom says you hate yourself and that's why you want to be a boy.

38 Flor is the name Mima has called my down-there girl parts since I was very little when she taught me to wash myself. She held a mirror between my legs let me inspect between the petals and ask questions: Why does it look like that? Why is this button here and opening there? This little one here is for your pee— remember to wipe front to back to keep it healthy. This one here is your birth canal—the place where babies pass as they are born—which leads to the uterus where they grow. And this button here is only for you—it's your happy button. You get to choose when to push it. ...I didn't think too much about it all back then and am only sometimes reminded when I feel a sparkly tickle in my flor when we go down a big hill or I'm on a carnival ride. Lately, the tingle happens when I think of Iván. Butterflies flutter first in my panza and then they make their way down in a trickle to my flor. I wonder if anyone can tell that my flor is sparkling?

59 She must have seen my face splatter on the ground. No, I mean, he's like a boy I want to be. Oh, not that you want to be with? No, nerd, not at all! If I could, I'd give up being a girl to be a boy like him right now. If I could, I'd jump right into his skin. ...In a split second I realize no one ever stuck her in a dress and we never played dolls or spread pintura on our lips. We talk about funny things, outdoor things, bomba drums, and we laugh. A girl not interested in frilly dresses nor makeup messes but warm and kind and funny and smart.

72 I climb out of the tub and dry myself off. I catch my reflection in the mirror and I can't pretend anymore. There they are: the fuzzy hair, the tulip breasts, my growing thighs. Mima says I'm flowering early and it's true, my body is on the way to look like hers blooming like a flower I don't want to be.

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101 His eyes shift from mine to Magda's. What kind of dude name is Magda? he blurts. It's short for Magdalena I defend. Magda holds my shoulder so she can speak. Everyone's always called me Magda and the dude clothes is just who I am. So you're a girl? You look straight-up like a boy! ...Like I said, I dress like who I am. Iván snorts and continues to snicker. Oh snap, I thought only men could drum in bomba! Well at least that's what Aurora told me. That you're just faking it.

119 When Teresa speaks finally the words that come out of her are foreign.... Our child has arrived at a new truth. A real self, an authentic self, the reality always meant to be. Marco is his true name. Magda is part of his historia, the earlier chapters of girlhood. Also born a boy energy into the body of a girl it is the wisdom of the sacred masculine placed in the body of the divine feminine. We could not claim it for him until he was ready to understand on his own. In our ancestral Mexica tradition, Ometeotl is our Creator spirit that is neither female nor male but both—divine duality. Marco has Ometeotl energy a person who inhabits two beings the female and the male at once. Though we can't be certain how our ancestors felt about people of two energies because there is so much we don't know so much we are still learning as new Mexica, we regard it an honor to be a reflection of the Creator. I look over at Magda and fight confusion a boy in the body of a girl? I have always known that she was different a tomboy for sure, more free than anything else but simply Magda, Magdalena Teresa Sánchez. Not Marco Sánchez! ...Mima taps me back to attention when Luis begins to speak. From what we do know people who danced between or to other energies than what they were assigned at birth were sometimes called xochihuah. Xochitl is the word for flower in Nahuatl and a xochihuah is the one who bears flowers. They were known to worship t the temple of Xochipilli, the flower prince god who protected people of all gender identities and queer folks. Marco, my son, carries the blossoms of his truth inside him as a sacred xochihuah. A sho-chee-wah? I stretch to pronounce unable to hide my unraveling thoughts. Yes, a xochihuah, my truth Magda assures. I look up to the light of hopeful you-understand-me eyes and all of a sudden I do somehow and it's easy. I pause only to find my own it's-all-right look to offer. I see Magda's hands shake a little when she says, Being Marco feels good even if I have two energies. My parents say that I don't have to decide yet. That's part of my road to figuring it all out. But I feel more boy than girl at the moment. And because I can be both I'm going with Marco for right now. Then Teresa turns to me, We need your help to make his transition as a xochihuah safe and loving within the community. And though we don't know how we will reveal it there will be those who will judge. We need everyone's support and no one more than yours, Celi.

129 Hey, Magda, can your hair get any butchier? ...I'm Mar, not Magda, you idiot! And I can't be a butch when I'm ... He pauses as if wasting his breath, Can you be any stupider, Iván? Marco finishes.

155 My comadre, Chuyina, had a similar but different experience. Her family in Mexico never understood her ways, that she would leave being a man to be Page Content herself, a woman. Her father threw her out of the house. So she had to come pa'l Norte where she thought no one would judge her but sometimes they still do.

178 Will you come? I don't know. It's for women only right? She said it was okay because you're a xochihuah with boy and girl energies it's more sacred and stuff. I guess she's right. You know what my dad told me? He said that some Mexica priests were xochihuah too and were revered for it. That shreds, que no? See! It's perfect. My dad also said that if I wanted to we could do a Temazcal ceremonia for me. You mean, like do a sweat lodge and pray all night kinda thing. Yeah, but for xochihuah. 'Cept we haven't figured out how it will work. That's hecka cool. ...It sort of trips me out to think about when I'll get my moon. It's not as bad as it sounds. Don't get me wrong. Not because of what you said, but because for me, it'll be like going back against what I've gained. It will take me back to being only the girl I used to be. What if it erases my boyness? I just want to continue to be me, the Marco and Magda me, I mean. I hear ya. I nod but I feel the opposite about myself. I don't say it out loud. I'm done hurting his feelings. I do want to go back to the girl I used to be.

181 Marco's a xochihuah and a reflection of the Creator, Omteotl. That Aztec calendar on your board well, guess what? The Mexica's number one creator spirit is Omteotl who's both male and female just like Marco. And if you are too stupid to see that he's supposed to be honored and respected because of this, then you have no business having that calendar on your board and no business talking to me!

184 Xochipilli / Xochiquetzal—Mexica flower prince and princess of the arts and all genders Omteotl—Mexica creation spirit in divine balance

197 And we are also gathered in this circle to celebrate a sacred member of our community, Marco Magdalena Sánchez, who today we publicly honor for being a xochihuah, the one who bears flowers who is a reflection of our Creator, Omteotl, and holds both the female energy and the male energy in harmony.

201 As a reflection of Omteotl you are fluidity in motion. You may bleed like a woman and you may move as a man in the world as you have chosen to do now. Wherever you decide to thrive remember that you are perfection in the crossroads. ...Teresa then steps back and asks Marco to speak. Ever since I was little, I felt like there was more to me than what people saw. I didn't know how to explain it until I learned about the xochihuah and Omteotl. Duality seems like me on some days but most days, I feel more boy than girl. To be honest, I'm still trying to figure out where I'll end up—a boy, a girl, or both—but I can say this: I feel lucky to have this spiritual path to guide me. I just want my family and friends to understand me to accept me for who I am and who I will be.

211 Similarly, it was precolonial indigenous ideas that inspired me to write a genderfluid character like Marco. As a cisgender Xicana, disappointed with the often negative way that some in my community view and treat gender-expansive people, my intention was to offer an alternative. Mesoamericans had a broader understanding of gender and some evidence shows us that xochihuah (sho-cheewah) were more often seen through a sacred lens, with respect. Though we can't be certain if it was otherwise, my challenge to my community is to use some of this ancestral wisdom as a guide to embrace xochihuah, and to reject intolerance. To young gender-expansive readers, please know that within these pages you are seen, you have a place, and you are held in love. ...And if those traditions do not honor you, then use that source as inspiration to correct a wrong and create something meaningful for you the girls, women, and gender-expansive people in your community.

216 Use this calendar to track the cycles of your body and heart with the cycle of the moon. This can be started at any time and used every month. Use this diagram to copy into your own monthly moon journal. Important: you do not need to menstruate to see how the moon affects you! To begin, find the phase of the moon in the sky and mark that as your first day. Quiet your mind and think about what is happening inside of you. Use the spaces (see sample) to fill in a word(s) or symbol(s) to show how your body and heart feel on that day. Be as creative as you'd like! Repeat the following day until you've filled the entire month. Then, repeat the next month. On the beautiful day your moon cycle arrives, make a new chart. Look to find where the moon is and mark that as your first day. Your moon might land on a waxing moon or a last quarter moon. This is okay! Start there and keep going throughout your cycle. The important thing is to find your connection to the celestial moon, to see what sort of dance you and Luna create!