



**SUBMITTED OCTOBER 31, 2023**

## Request for School Board Reconsideration of Library Media Materials

Author: Malinda Lo

Title: Last Night at the Telegraph Club

Publisher (if known):

Request initiated by: (October 31, 2023)

Telephone: Address:

City:

Zip:

**1. To what in the book/material do you object: (Please be specific; cite pages, frames of films, dialogues, etc.)?**

41) Maxine pushed Patrice back against the velvet cushions, lowering her mouth to the girl's creamy skin. "You're like me, Patrice. Stop fighting the possibility." Patrice whimpered as Maxine pressed her lips to her neck. "Max, what are you doing?" Patrice gasped. "This is shameful." "You know what I'm doing," Maxine whispered. She unbuttoned Patrice's blouse and slid the fabric over Patrice's shoulder, stroking her breasts. Patrice let out a sigh of pure pleasure. "Kiss me now," Patrice whispered. Maxine obeyed, and the sensation of Patrice's mouth against hers was a delight far beyond shame.

42) She went to bed imagining Maxine's hand on the buttons of Patrice's blouse, unbuttoning it. She slid her own hand beneath the placket of her nightgown; she felt her own warm skin beneath her fingertips. In the quiet darkness of her bedroom she felt the faint but insistent beating of her heart, and she felt its quickening. She imagined the blouse sliding off Patrice's shoulders, the pale swell of her breasts. Lily's whole body went hot. She felt the need to cross her legs against the hungry ache at the center of her body. She imagined them kissing the way Marlon Brando had kissed Mary Murphy in *The Wild One*, which she and Shirley had snuck into last February. ("Don't be such a square," Shirley had said when Lily had worried about getting caught.) But now, in Lily's imagination, Marlon Brando became Max, crushing Patrice bonelessly in her arms. And then their lips pressed together, and Lily tugged up the hem of her nightgown and pressed her fingers between her thighs, and pressed, and pressed.

81) The author explained, rather slyly, that instead of kissing, Chinese women “make love with their hands” by kissing with their fingertips instead of their lips.

94) “They kissed each other,” she reported, and saying it out loud was thrilling; it made her blush. And yet she couldn’t say the word the book had used to describe those kinds of girls: lesbian.

95) 5 “Nothing like a little affection between girls- always makes my day!” he said, laughing.  
132 Every time they spun, the gauzy fabric floated free to give a glimpse of what lay beneath

196) “I heard it’s all hookers and dykes, and you can get bennies there under the table,” Jean said with a grin.

248) The woman's body was moving in an unusual way- her shoulders were bent forward, her head dipping- and all of a sudden Lily realized the woman wasn't alone. There was another woman with her beneath the stairs, the edges of her skirt visible around the other woman's legs. They were pressed together, their heads close. Lily couldn't see exactly what they were doing, but she had a good idea.

286) She brushed her nose against Kath’s neck, and she wanted to bottle up the fragrance of her. She felt Kath’s pulse beneath her lips, and Kath’s hand cupping the back of her head, and at last, Kath’s mouth touching hers. It was still a shock to feel it: the connection between their bodies, as if it had risen from the marrow of her bones, thick and charged and sweet. Before, she had been afraid of being discovered and afraid of discovering herself, but the more they kissed, the less afraid she felt, until her fear was subsumed beneath much more powerful feelings. She wanted to touch Kath’s skin. She tugged the hem of Kath’s blouse out from her skirt and slid her hands beneath it, and finally she felt the warm skin of her back, and the quiver of Kath’s body as she touched her. Kath drew back briefly and reached for the buttons of Lily’s blouse, asking, “Can I?” Lily helped her unbutton it, and then Kath put her hand on the bare skin of Lily’s waist, and Lily closed her eyes. Kath’s hand slid up over her ribs and cupped the curve of her breast, and her thumb trailed electrically over the outline of Lily’s nipple through her bra. And then she pushed her leg between Lily’s thighs, and Lily gasped at how it felt— the pressure and the movement there—and it was exactly what she wanted. She was astonished by the way this worked between them so instinctively, as if they had been made to do this together. But Lily felt as if there were no time. She couldn’t entirely forget that they only had an hour together. A desire for something more was rising inside her as Kath moved against her, their skirts riding up as their bodies rubbed together. It felt urgent, as if they were counting down the seconds till a bomb would explode. There was no time; they had to do this right now. And she reached for the hem of her skirt and tugged it up to her hips, and she took Kath’s hand and moved it to the cleft of her body. Kath hesitated. “Are you sure?” she whispered. “Please,” Lily said, overcome. So Kath put her hand between Lily’s legs, and Lily helped her, fumbling with her underwear. It was awkward, but when Kath’s fingers touched her, they both gasped. “Am I in the right place?” Kath asked. “Yes,” Lily whispered. It all felt like the right place. Kath’s fingers rubbed and rubbed, and it was so marvelous, so intoxicating—she’d never even really touched

herself like this before—and now she was pinned against the side of the filing cabinet, and it made a dull metallic thud as her hand slapped against it. “I’m sorry,” she gasped, but she couldn’t really be sorry because it was all happening so quickly, so unexpectedly, and she clutched Kath close to her as the sensations took over, her body shuddering, and she pressed her face into Kath’s neck until it was over. There was a minute in which she breathed in and out, in and out, and Kath held her gently, her head resting against the filing cabinet. Then Kath kissed her neck and shifted herself over Lily’s thigh and whispered, “Can I—is this all right?” “Yes,” Lily said, and she leaned into Kath, holding her as she moved, feeling Kath’s wetness slide against her leg. ...How different this was from when Lily was alone in her room. How different, and how much more: an overflowing amount of more. Kath kept rocking against her thigh, her breath Page Content ragged against Lily’s cheek, and Lily stroked her hand over Kath’s hair tenderly, feeling impossibly close to her. How precious she was, and how miraculous.

## 2. Where did you first learn of this item?

On the Florida State list of books removed from Florida County School Districts.

## 3. Have you read the book in its entirety? *NO – Florida Statutes explains why these should be removed.*

Per Florida Statute:

847.0123 (b)

Any book, pamphlet, magazine, printed matter however reproduced, or sound recording that contains any matter defined in s. 847.001, explicit and detailed verbal descriptions or narrative accounts of sexual excitement, or sexual conduct and that is harmful to minors.

847.001 (6)

“Harmful to minors” means any reproduction, imitation, characterization, description, exhibition, presentation, or representation, of whatever kind or form, depicting nudity, sexual conduct, or sexual excitement when it:

(a) Predominantly appeals to a prurient, shameful, or morbid interest;

(b) Is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable material or conduct for minors; and

(c) Taken as a whole, is without serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors.

1006.34

4. Any instructional material containing pornography or otherwise prohibited by s.

**847.012 may not be used or made available within any public school.**

**In HB 1069 line item 313 it states:**

*Parents shall have the right to read passages from any material that is subject to an objection. If the school board denies a parent the right to read passages due to content that meets the requirements the school district shall discontinue the use of the material.*

The informational passages posted here from inside the book address these three points that they are NOT:

- *Free of Pornography and material prohibited under s. 847.012, F.S.*
- *Suited to student needs and their ability to comprehend the material presented.*
- *Appropriate for the grade level and age group for which the materials are used and made available.*

**4. Is there any additional information you would like us to consider in our evaluation?**

**According to:** <https://floridareprofreesdom.org/compsexed/>

"Currently, however, comprehensive sex education is far from the norm in Florida public schools as the State does not require it. Generally, abstinence-only material is used in Florida classrooms, with the core focus being on not having sex outside heterosexual marriage and no inclusion of material on birth control or safer sex."

"According to Advocates for Youth, public opinion polls consistently show that more than 80 percent of Americans support teaching comprehensive sex education in high schools and in middle or junior high schools."

**"Young People Need Sexual Health Education**

Over 1 million young people ages 15-19 live in Florida."

**"Many become sexually active as teens. It is important to provide information to protect their health and their futures before they need it."**

**According to the CDC 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, among 12th graders in Florida:**

- **52% report having had sexual intercourse**
- **17% have had 4 or more sexual partners (11% females, 21% males)**
- **44% did not use a condom the last time they had sex**

- **13% of females have been raped, 15% experienced sexual violence & 8% sexual dating violence**

*Do you want to play a part in these statistics? These people advocate for this, and big money is put behind pushing this through the publishers and authors to write it. We know it happen and cannot be stopped but do not play a hand in giving out the instructions for it. No Pornography and sexual abstinence is the LAW.*

**Florida Statute [1003.46](#) in health education states:**

- (b) Teach abstinence from sexual activity outside of marriage as the expected standard for all school-age students while teaching the benefits of monogamous heterosexual marriage.
- (c) Emphasize that abstinence from sexual activity is a certain way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, including acquired immune deficiency syndrome, and other associated health problems.
- (d) Teach that each student has the power to control personal behavior and encourage students to base actions on reasoning, self-esteem, and respect for others.

These stories glorify or make abortion and out of wedlock sexual actives to be normal. They promote this kind of behavior instead of counteracting it at the end of a story “IF” it was to be an education lesson. These are not educational. I understand that it is just supplemental reading, but it is instilling ideas of worthlessness and lack of self-esteem.

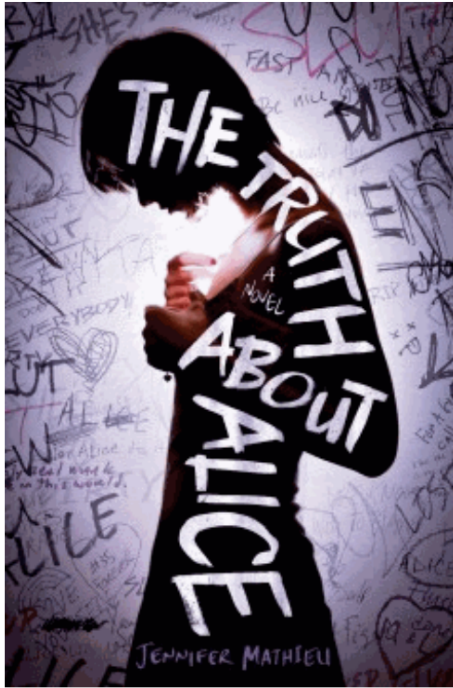
**5. What would you like the final outcome to be for this library media item or items?**

1. Remove from all Manatee School District Media Centers?

**Remove from: (4) Braden River High, (4) Manatee High, Palmetto High**

2. Remove from certain grade levels? If yes, enter grade levels: **No Copies**
3. Allow in Manatee School District Media Centers with a Parent Consent Requirement? **No Copies**

# THE TRUTH ABOUT ALICE



*Young Adult*

**By Jennifer Mathieu**

ISBN: 978-1596439092



## Summary of Concerns:

This book contains sexual nudity; sexual activities; alcohol use; and profanity.

3  
/5

**Minor Restricted**  
BookLooks Review Rating

Page	Content
1	Alice Franklin slept with two guys in the very same night in a bed IN MY HOUSE this past summer, just before the start of junior year. She slept with one and then, like five minutes later, she slept with the other one.
2	Because Alice Franklin is a slut.
10	I mean, it was one thing to be a girl who'd had sex. But it was something else entirely to be a girl who'd had sex with two guys in one night.
27	"Mark my words, man," Brandon said, "that dude is never going to get any pussy. Ever." "Not like you, King of All Pussy," I said, wishing we had more beer.
27	Old people knew him, little kids in grade school knew him, fucking Mexicans who moved here five seconds ago and didn't even know English knew him. Everybody knew Brandon Fitzsimmons. Brandon got more action than any other guy I knew. He'd even slept with Ms. Sanchez, this chick who teaches Spanish part-time at Healy High. She's like twenty-four with a pretty great body, and Brandon said he needed help with Spanish and he just showed up at her house, and according to Brandon they did it on the kitchen table while her husband was at work.
28	I'm not saying this to sound like a dick or anything, but I could probably get action with lots of girls in our class in about five seconds if I wanted to. But for some reason a lot of the girls in our class annoy the piss out of me.
29	It was like Brandon was reading my mind the afternoon of Elaine's party, because after we talked about Kurt Morelli, he said, "Speaking of pussy, you should try to get some action tonight with Maggie Daniels. Her panties get wet every single time you walk by her locker."
31	Brandon was saying something else about Alice Franklin's tits.
41	"Stay away from him. His name is Kyle Walker. We went out in middle school, and he's a total asshole."
48	"I gave him a blow job," she said.
49	I wasn't sure how Alice felt, but there was a part of me that thought giving a blow job seemed like an even bigger deal than having sex. ... I knew what Alice had done was stupid and sort of slutty even, but I was jealous she had a story to tell and, once again, I didn't.
54	That perhaps becoming The Slut Who Killed the Star Quarterback was making it difficult to focus on her studies.
62	"You need to get laid," Brandon Fitzsimmons said from the couch where he was drinking his fourth beer.
65	"Your mom has big tits? I'll have to look next time!"
66	"Let me check out your big tits," he said, gasping for air.
68	tommy and me banged Alice Franklin upstairs.
69	How Alice Franklin slept with two guys in one night in my guest bedroom. Two guys in one HOUR.
70	OMG that Alice Franklin girl is so slutty!
70	"That girl is a total slut," I said.
72	So we picked on Alice Franklin. A nobody, a slut, a killer.

Page	Content
74	<p>ATTENTION!  ALICE FRANKLIN IS A HO SLUT WHORE WO DOES IT WITH EVERYBODY!  We all laughed, all of us, and then I said, "My turn."  ALICE FRANKLIN HAS GIVEN 423 BLOW JOBS!!!!  NOW THAT'S A LOT OF DICK!</p>
78	<p>"Yeah, we really did it, man," he answered me. "Fuckin' awesome too. Alice is hot. Even with that short hair and shit." He started laughing again as he rambled on.  "Tommy didn't mind sloppy seconds?" I asked, kind of not wanting to ask but asking anyway.  "No he didn't," Brandon said. "She couldn't get enough. Me twice and Tommy once. I'm gonna have to hit that again soon."</p>
80	<p>Alice likes it fast and hard.  Alice did it with my grandpa. And she liked it!  RIP Fitzsimmons! Alice Franklin = Killer/Whore</p>
80	<p>Alice Franklin is a whore, slut, ho, bitch, and a killer, too!!!  It's the slut's fault!</p>
89	<p>The Slut Stall.  Telling people about Alice and the abortion.</p>
98	<p>"If knackered is smart boy talk for lit to the tits, then yeah, I am."</p>
103	<p>"But you didn't, uh, bang her?"  "Nope," he said. "Didn't. Bang. Alice."</p>
116	<p>I just smiled back and nodded, unable to talk. I tried to remember everything about that moment. The way the hair on his chest was so fine and blond and curled just so, just like the hair on his magnificent calves. The way his lips tasted like Sonic and vanilla Carmex. The way he put his hands on me wherever he wanted to, and I let him.  I'm doing it. I'm actually doing it. Right now at this moment I'm doing it.  It hurt. Like hell. And it was over in three minutes.  Afterward, all I wanted to do was put my clothes on. It had happened so fast that my bathing suit was still damp from swimming in the pool that afternoon. I yanked my cover-up over me and sat up on the bed, not sure what to say. Tommy reached over and grabbed his shorts. The little whisper in the back of my head that reminded me we hadn't used protection go louder all of a sudden, but I told it to shut up. Tommy hadn't mentioned using anything, and I guess I just followed his lead.  "You didn't tell me," he said.  It hurt between my legs. Ached, actually.</p>
119	<p>But the thought of telling Alice that I had slept with a guy who wasn't even my boyfriend- just a guy who'd picked me up at the pool for God's sake- was just too weird.</p>
119	<p>By the time I found out I was pregnant, Tommy Cray was a freshman at Texas Tech and I was a month and a half into my sophomore year at Healy High.</p>
125	<p>My mom never actually said, "Kelsie, you're going to have an abortion." Later on, I figured out my mom probably believed not saying it makes it like it never happened.</p>
131	<p>We'd made small talk at the pool and had sex once. That was it.</p>
131	<p>I guess he meant it in a friendly way and everything, but come on. How's tenth grade other than your abortion?</p>



Page	Content
140	There's no end to the rumors about Alice, and from what I overhear there's no end to the graffiti in the so-called Slut Stall upstairs.
152	And I'm not so small town that I don't realize that even in Manhattan, a girl like Alice Franklin would still have been considered a slut.
160	"Okay. So you told the entire school I had an abortion because one time- over a year ago- I lied to you about giving Mark Lopez a blow job because I felt stupid about it? That's why you told everyone I had an abortion?"
173	"I need to get laid," Brandon yelled, laughing. "Now where the hell is Alice Franklin's number?"
186	And maybe she did have sex with two guys in the same night, but hadn't Brandon probably had sex with five times that number of girls the summer before junior year alone?
192	So it would become easy for them to treat me like shit. So my best friend since freshman year could justify dumping me and telling everyone I had an abortion. So they could have the Slut Stall and enjoy having it.

Profanity	Count
Ass	11
Bitch	2
Dick	7
Fuck	3
Piss	9
Pussy	3
Shit	23
Tit	6