

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
LIBRARY CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Chairman—Chad Scott (MBR 7)

Vice Chair—Michelle Dempsey (MBR 2)

MBR1—Nancy Bertels

MBR3—Aaron Malone

MBR4—Dorothy Denison

MBR5—Erik Palin

MBR6—Susan Hillman

ALT1— Camilla (Nan) Potts

ALT2— Sally Pollen



**AGENDA**

**ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS AND LIVE STREAMED**

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/11289539>

350 EAST DAHLIA AVE, PALMER

**REGULAR MEETING**

**5:00 PM**

**February 10, 2025**

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

A. October 14, 2024

VI. STAFF REPORTS

A. Hugh Leslie – Recreational & Library Services Manager

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – (2 Minutes Per Person)

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Materials Submitted for Reconsideration

1. Damsel; Elana K. Arnold

ISBN 978-0-06-274232-2

2. The Haters; Jesse Andrews

ISBN 978-1-4197-2018-9

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Materials Submitted for Reconsideration

1. Anne Frank's Diary: The Graphic Adaptation ISBN 978-0241978641

X. NEXT MEETING

- A. March 10, 2025

XI. MEMBERS, STAFF COMMENTS

XII. ADJOURNMENT

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
LIBRARY CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Chairman—Chad Scott (MBR 7)

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**MEETING MINUTES**

**ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS AND LIVE STREAMED**

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350 EAST DAHLIA AVE, PALMER

**REGULAR MEETING**

**5:00 PM**

**OCTOBER 14, 2024**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

A. Called to order at 5:00 pm

**II. ROLL CALL**

A. Present: Chad Scott, Nancy Bertels, Aaron Malone, Dorothy Denison, Susan Hillman, Sally Pollen, Camilla Potts (voting alternate)

B. Absent: Michelle Dempsey

**III. AGENDA APPROVAL**

A. Agenda approved unanimously

**IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

A. Mr. Malone led the Pledge of Allegiance

**V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING**

A. September 9, 2024 – Mr. Malone moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, unanimous consent.

## VI. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Jillian Morrissey – Community Development Director – Ms. Morrissey read aloud her memo on the final decision of the book “Red Hood”, it will be reshelved to the adult section.
- B. Hugh Leslie – Recreational & Library Services Manager – Mr. Leslie reminded the committee of which books are available to pick up tonight, or we can acquire the other title if they choose to review it.

## VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – (2 Minutes Per Person)

- A. Mary Robinson – Ms. Robinson reminded that the committee is an advisory committee and not an action committee. She expressed concern that district 7 is not represented.
- B. Jackie Goforth – Ms. Goforth spoke about Alaska statistics regarding STDs and her thoughts on sexuality in books.
- C. Linda Spohn – Ms. Spohn thanked the committee, expressed her discontent on Ms. Morrissey’s decisions.
- D. Kathy Kysar – Ms. Kysar spoke about the content of “Forever” and why it might be helpful for a teen. Gave several Alaska statistics regarding teen births and STD rates.

## VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Materials Submitted for Reconsideration
  1. Forever; Judy Blume ISBN 978-1-4814-1442-5
    - 4 votes to reshelve back to young adult (Bertels, Palin, Hillman, Potts)
    - 3 votes to remove from the library (Scott, Malone, Denison)

## IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Approve corrected minutes from August 12, 2024 meeting.
  1. Ms. Bertels moved to approve corrected minutes, unanimous consent.
- B. Suggestions for removing score sheet questions
  1. Ms. Morrissey mentioned in her memo that removing any questions will lose consistency in the voting process with any future reviews. All the questions will remain on the score sheet. Unanimously accepted.
- C. Materials Submitted for Reconsideration
  1. Damsel; Elana K. Arnold ISBN 978-0-06-274232-2
    - Ms. Potts moved to review “Damsel”, unanimous consent.
  2. The Haters; Jesse Andrews ISBN 978-1-4197-2018-9
    - Ms. Potts moved to review “The Haters”, unanimous consent.
  3. Anne Frank’s Diary: The Graphic Adaptation ISBN 978-0241978641
    - Postponed to next meeting by unanimous consent.

## X. NEXT MEETING

- A. December 9, 2024 – accepted unanimously.

## XI. MEMBERS, STAFF COMMENTS

A. Mr. Scott thanked the committee members, mentioned that he hopes they're actually reading the books being reviewed.

## XII. ADJOURNMENT

A. Meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm

DRAFT



# Matanuska-Susitna Borough

## Community Development Department

### Library Material Staff Report

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**Title:** Damsel

**Author:** Elana K. Arnold

**Libraries where this material is shelved:** Sutton, Willow, Big Lake

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#### **Is the material in good condition or appearance?**

- Sutton Library – Good Condition
- Willow Library - Good Condition
- Big Lake – Good Condition

#### **Is the topic of the material a priority for the collection?**

Damsel is shelved in the Young Adult (YA) sections at all three libraries. This book is a coming-of-age story that intends to tackle challenging themes with a female protagonist.

#### **Is the format of the material a priority for the collection?**

The material is a book format. Books make up the majority of inventory in all five of our public libraries.

#### **Has the material been used frequently by patrons?**

This factor depends on the library due to the size of the collection, the size of the library and length of time one patron maintains the book.

- Sutton Library shelved the book in 2019 and has been checked out seven (7) times. This is a medium rate of check out for a YA collection in a library the size of the Sutton Library.
- Willow Library shelved the book in 2018 and checked out thirteen (13) times. This is a medium rate of check out for a YA collection in a library the size of the Willow Library.
- Big Lake Library shelved the book 2023 and checked it out one (1) time. This is a low rate of check out for the YA collection in a library the size of the Big Lake Library.

#### **Is the material factually accurate?**

This book is a work of fiction and not a resource material.

#### **Has the material been superseded by a new edition or a better source?**

N/A

**Is the material relevant to the needs and interests of the community?**

Damsel is a fantasy novel that reimagines a classic fairy tale and may appeal to community library patrons.

**Can the material be easily borrowed from another source?**

It is available at all the Borough libraries through our participation in the State Library Catalog as well as an E-Book through the Alaska Digital Library.

**What is the literary, artistic, scientific, political, or educational merit of the material.**

The book is a spin on the classic fairy tale, Sleeping Beauty and explores themes of empowerment, sexuality and abuse. The author has won multiple awards for her work.

**Does the material have positive review(s) in one or more appropriate professional journals?**

Reviews are typically done in professional journals soon after the publication of the book. Staff found several reviews available at the Statewide Library Electronic Doorway Webpage, [SLED Databases - SLED Databases - Libraries, Archives, Museums at Alaska State Library](#) .

**Does the material have positive reviews from critics, patrons or staff members?**

Source	Editor Rating	User Rating	# of reviews	Notes
<a href="#">Amazon</a>		3.9 stars	468	
<a href="#">Barnes &amp; Noble</a>		3.4	14	
<a href="#">Common Sense Media</a>	Ages 16+	3 stars		
<a href="#">Goodreads</a>		3.3 stars	2,898	

**Are there sufficient materials available on the same subject?**

There are a number of coming-of-age and books that explore similar themes at the Borough Libraries.

**Does the material have a reputation and/or significance of the author, publisher or producer?**

The book won the 2019 Michael L. Printz Award Honor Book.

**Has the Mat-Su Borough School District’s (MSBSD) Library Citizens’ Advisory Committee (LCAC) reviewed this material?**

The MSBSD LCAC did not review this title.



# Matanuska-Susitna Borough

## Community Development Department

### Library Material Staff Report

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**Title:** The Haters

**Author:** Jesse Andrews

**Libraries where this material is shelved:** Willow

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**Is the material in good condition or appearance?**

The material is in good condition and appearance.

**Is the topic of the material a priority for the collection?**

The Haters is shelved in the Young Adult (YA) sections at Willow library. This story has three teenage main characters and is a coming-of-age story which are routinely selected by patrons in the YA collection.

**Is the format of the material a priority for the collection?**

The material is a book format. Books make up the majority of inventory in all five of our public libraries.

**Has the material been used frequently by patrons?**

This factor depends on the library due to the size of the collection, the size of the library and length of time one patron maintains the book. Willow shelved the book in 2016 and checked the book out fifteen (15) times. This is a medium rate of check out for a YA collection in a library the size of the Willow Library.

**Is the material factually accurate?**

This book is a work of fiction and not a resource material.

**Has the material been superseded by a new edition or a better source?**

N/A

**Is the material relevant to the needs and interests of the community?**

The Haters is a coming-of-age book and may appeal to various readers.

**Can the material be easily borrowed from another source?**

It is available at all the Borough libraries through our participation in the State Library Catalog as well as an E-Book through the Alaska Digital Library.

**What is the literary, artistic, scientific, political, or educational merit of the material.**

The book is a coming-of-age story that touches on the subjects of music, love, friendship and freedom.

**Does the material have positive review(s) in one or more appropriate professional journals?**

Reviews are typically done in professional journals soon after the publication of the book. Reviews are



typically done in professional journals soon after the publication of the book. Staff found several reviews available at the Statewide Library Electronic Doorway Webpage, [SLED Databases - SLED Databases - Libraries, Archives, Museums at Alaska State Library](#) .

**Does the material have positive reviews from critics, patrons or staff members?**

Source	Editor Rating	User Rating	# of reviews	Notes
<a href="#">Amazon</a>		4.1 stars	235	
<a href="#">Barnes &amp; Noble</a>		3.5	6	
<a href="#">Goodreads</a>		3.4 stars	1,098	

**Are there sufficient materials available on the same subject?**

There are a number of coming-of-age books at the Borough Libraries.

**Does the material have a reputation and/or significance of the author, publisher or producer?**

This book has not received any awards as of the date of this report. The book is currently on a nationally acclaimed bestseller list.

**Has the Mat-Su Borough School District's (MSBSD) Library Citizens' Advisory Committee (LCAC) reviewed this material?**

The MSBSD LCAC did not review this title.



**Matanuska-Susitna Borough**  
**Community Development Department**  
**Library Material Review Score Card**

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**Title:**

**Author:**

**Date:**

**Reviewer Name:**

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***Evaluation criteria:*** *The committee should consider the following acquisition and weeding criteria as applied to the challenged material.*

- Is the material in good condition or appearance?
- Is the topic of the material a priority for the collection?
- Is the format of the material a priority for the collection?
- Has the material been used frequently by patrons?
- Is the material factually accurate?
- Has the material been superseded by a new edition or a better source?
- Is the material relevant to the needs and interests of the community?
- Can the material be easily borrowed from another source?
- Does the material have literary, artistic, scientific, political, or educational merit?

- Does the material have positive review(s) in one or more appropriate professional journals?
- Does the material have positive reviews from critics, patrons or staff members?
- Are there sufficient materials available on the same subject?
- Does the material have reputation and/or significance of the author, publisher or producer?

***Suitability for Minors under 16*** (answer yes or no):

1. Does the material depict the following actual or simulated conduct?

- sexual penetration;
- the lewd touching of a person's genitals, anus, or female breast;
- masturbation;
- bestiality;
- the lewd exhibition of a person's genitals, anus, or female breast; or
- sexual masochism or sadism

Yes       No

2. Would the average individual, applying contemporary community standards, find that the material, *taken as a whole*, appeals to the prurient interest in sex for persons under 16 years of age?

Yes       No

3. Would a reasonable person find that the material, *taken as a whole*, lacks serious literary, artistic, educational, political, or scientific value for persons under 16 years of age?

(Note: Mark "Yes" only if the book lacks all of them)

Yes       No

4. Does the material depict actual or simulated conduct in a way that is patently offensive to the prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable for persons under 16 years of age?

Yes       No

**COMMENTS** (this may include anything related to the challenge or notes about factors contained in the above evaluation and suitability criteria):

**SUGGESTED DISPOSITION:**

- Keep the book where it is
- Reshelve the book to the young adult section
- Reshelve the book to the adult section
- Remove the book from the library
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMENTS/REASONS REGARDING SUGGESTED DISPOSITION (if any):**