



April 25, 2025

Dear

This letter is in response to the completed Request for Reconsideration form for “Grace Needs Space” by Benjamin A. Wilgus in the Cromaine District Library (CDL) collection. The concern about this title noted on the form was “sexualization/exploitation of children.”

When we met you explained to me that your main goal is to protect children from the subject matter of these particular books, which you broadly defined as containing viewpoints that, in your opinion, “will lead children to confusion about gender.” I explained to you that per library policy, only a parent may restrict what their own children read, and that public bodies may not restrict access to books based on the book’s viewpoint. You indicated that your personal views about gender confusion should take precedence over the rights of other parents in the community with whom you disagree.

After completing a staff review, I have concluded that this title was acquired in accordance with the library’s Materials Selection Policy #3010, which was provided when we discussed your concern in March 2025. This title was first available to community members in June 2023 and has circulated 11 times. It is published by Random House Graphic. It is shelved in the Juvenile Graphic Novel collection because it is a graphic novel written for children ages 8-12.

Publishers Weekly, a professional review source used by librarians when selecting titles, reviewed the title in March of 2023:

A 12-year-old discovers that even navigating the vastness of space is not as complicated as maneuvering conflicts surrounding family and friendship in this lushly illustrated adventure graphic novel. Grace, a child of divorced parents, is excited to spend time away from her mother, the chief engineer on Genova Station, with her other mother, Ba, a freighter captain who frequently travels to Titan, one of Saturn’s moons. While Grace was expecting to embark on epic adventures with Ba, she finds, instead, that Ba is too busy working to pay her any mind, much like Mom back on Genova. Grace soon befriends a group of students while exploring Titan and accompanies them on educational field trips, but when an incident results in her being left behind during an excursion, she feels as if she’s drifting even further from her parents. Through touching and natural-feeling dialogue, portrayed via saturated, full-color illustrations, Wilgus (Chronin) and Abrego (Sprite and the Gardener) skillfully highlight the enormity of the interstellar setting alongside Grace’s intimate personal realizations. Though the story takes place among the cosmos, the earthly truths surrounding love and connection proves artfully rendered. Grace and Mom are depicted with brown skin; Ba has pale skin. Ages 8–12. Agent: Eddie Schneider, JABberwocky Literary. (Apr.)

CDL’s Policy #3010, Section V part B. notes that “Responsibility for the reading material of children rests with their parents or legal guardians. Selection shall not be inhibited solely by the possibility that books may inadvertently come into the possession of children. The Library respects each individual parent’s right to supervise his/her children’s choice of reading materials. However, the Library does not have the right to act in loco parentis (in place of the parent). Therefore, a parent who chooses to restrict the materials his/her children select must accompany those children when they use the collection to impose those restrictions.

C. The Library Director is responsible for overseeing where the books are shelved and catalogued. However, the Library Board recommends that any materials that are appropriate for adults or older teens but may be considered harmful to minors, as defined by the Library Privacy Act, are shelved within the adult collection.

Review has deemed this content does not fit the definition of “*harmful to minors*” in [MCL722.674 sec.4](#). Therefore, “Grace Needs Space” will be retained in the Juvenile Graphic Novel section of the library.

Policy #3010 provides a protocol to appeal of this decision in Section IX Part F: written appeal of the Library Director’s decision may be made by the Requester to the Chair of the Library Board within ten (10) business days after the written decision is made by the Library Director. The appeal must include the specific Library Material being appealed and the reason that the Requester would like the decision reversed. Please direct an appeal to:

William Bolin
President, Cromaine District Library Board of Trustees
PO Box 308
3688 N. Hartland Rd.
Hartland, MI 48353

The Library Board will review any documentation it deems necessary to decide within sixty (60) days of receipt of the appeal. The Library Board may issue an additional extension if necessary in order to fully evaluate the material.

CDL’s Board of Trustees delegates collection development responsibilities to the library director. A staff of librarians with advanced degrees and professional credentials make collection development decisions for CDL. Ultimately, however, the responsibility of what a child reads rests with parents and guardians. Public libraries cannot be expected to interfere with parental obligations and responsibilities when it comes to deciding what a minor may read, listen to, or view. It is the right of parent/guardian to determine what materials are available for their children to read.

The Cromaine District Library serves 30,000 people in Hartland Township and portions of Brighton, Deerfield, Genoa, Oceola and Tyrone Townships. Library patrons come from a wide variety of religious, political, ethnic, and social backgrounds. Members of our community are well educated and possess a broad range of interests. Not every item the library offers will be enjoyed by every reader, listener, or viewer, but there is something for everyone at the public library. I respect your personal taste in materials and encourage you to ask CDL librarians to recommend titles that more closely match your interests.

Best,

Sarah Neidert
Director, Cromaine District Library