

Wilderness House Literary Review 8/4

Savannah Lyles

Relax and Enjoy It

or On Being a Woman of Pleasure

AS A NEOPHYTE SELF-PUBLISHED AUTHOR, I wasn't quite prepared for not one, but TWO sites banning my books! Kobo has blocked all of my books, and Apple recently banned WE'LL HAVE ALL NIGHT, allegedly for "nonconsensual sex." Nonconsensual sex? You mean like in Ovid's METAMORPHOSES? or John Cleland's FANNY HILL, MEMOIRS OF A WOMAN OF PLEASURE?

From earliest times, literature has portrayed rape. Literature should not shrink from the ugly, the stark, or the shocking. True literature should be free to cast a clear, reflecting eye on the evil that men do. Unfortunately, in our fallen state, rape is as much a part of our lives as war, disease, and every other source of human suffering. Modern portrayals of rape in literature include Toni Morrison's THE BLUEST EYE, Hubert Selby Jr.'s LAST EXIT TO BROOKLYN, and Dorothy Allison's BASTARD OUT OF CAROLINA. All are taught in schools. Your kids have been urged to read these and other books where rape is frankly depicted. No, what these "publishers" seem to be saying is that my books are not literature, that, because I didn't go to Hah-vahd or linger over tea and crumpets with Alice Munro, I'm somehow not worthy to have my books purchased by the reading public. I'm not some dumb housewife masturbating with one hand while I type with the other. I know there's a metric ton of shit out there, but I'm not the one writing it! I'm sorry, but I won't be put in my place by nameless, faceless drones arbitrarily censoring what you and I are allowed to read. Don't let the Tea Partiers resurrect Anthony Comstock, doing by corporate censorship what the First Amendment does not allow the government to do: ban books.

Fortunately, most of my books are still available on other less timid sites. But for how long?

<http://tinyurl.com/lk2ushu>