



Go Ask Ogre: Letters from a Deathrock Cutter

By Jolene Siana, Bonnie McLaughlin

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Teenage hell has never been captured with such intense honesty as these actual letters sent in the late '80s from a suicidal girl to the singer of her favorite band.

Go Ask Ogre peers into the world of a misfit "cutter" who lives with an abusive mother in the rust belt. A tailspin of suicidal depression and self-injury leads her to write Ogre, front man for the industrial rock band Skinny Puppy. Soon he receives a flood of elaborately illustrated letters and journals filled with Jolene's most intimate thoughts—from her most painful secrets to hilarious observations and lucid realizations about her life and those around her.

At a concert, Ogre confides to Jolene that he has saved all her letters. Nine years later, a box from Ogre arrives at Jolene's door. Re-examining the documents, she realizes that writing these letters had saved her life.

Go Ask Ogre compiles Jolene Siana's actual letters, artwork, illustrations, and ephemera into a unique and powerful story of an extremely troubled teen who made it through the worst years of her life, and, through the power of music and art, transformed herself in the process. It is heavily illustrated and full color throughout.

Critical Praise:

"Pure, lucid and engaging...more authentic for a new generation of young women than, say, the 1971 cautionary tale about drugs, *Go Ask Alice*."—Susan Carpenter, *LA Times*

"Dark, funny and touching..."—*boingboing.net*

"Cringingly confessional, persistently desperate, yet often uproariously funny. All rendered and packaged in labor-intensive psychedelic outsider graphic design. An overdue riposte to the bludgeoning morality of the fabricated *Go Ask Alice*."—Doug Harvey, *LA Weekly*

"By turns fierce, funny, heartbreakingly wise, Jolene Siana's *Go Ask Ogre*

burns onto the page in an intense collage of words and images that together create a portrait of a gifted young woman fighting to hang on to her own life and choosing an unlikely—but strangely suitable—ally for her battle."—Caroline Kettlewell, author of *Skin Game*

"Amidst the cultural and political corruption of the late 1980s, seeking and artistic teens like Jolene Siana found cathartic solace in aggressive and so-called 'morbid' bands like Skinny Puppy. That she persevered with the help of music that parents, preachers, and politicians condemned, but rarely tried to understand, is a moving lesson."—Alan Rapp, editor of *The Journey is the Destination: The Journals of Dan Eldon* and *Dan Eldon: The Art of Life*

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Go Ask Ogre: Letters from a Deathrock Cutter By Jolene Siana, Bonnie McLaughlin Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Adult/High School—When she was 17, Siana wrote a series of letters to punk rocker Ogre, the front man of the '80s band Skinny Puppy. The letters speak of depression and cutting, drug abuse and sex, music and poetry. At one concert, Ogre told her that he saved all her letters and one day would return them. True to his word, two boxes arrived at her door nine years later; inside were illustrated letters and journals filled with her most intimate thoughts and fears. Like most cutters, those who injure themselves as a physical manifestation of their inner pain, Siana felt powerless as her life spun out of control. Rereading the letters years later, she realized that expressing herself through this way had saved her life. The letters share what it's like to grow up weird and how one girl could rise above her background. Almost every page of the book is filled with heartbreakingly artwork and photos, which brilliantly link the journal entries and letters together, allowing readers to get a look inside the mind of a very creative but disturbed young woman. At the end of the book is a letter from Siana's therapist and a list of resources for teenagers who may be experiencing the same problems and emotions that the author wrote about.—*Erin Dennington, Fairfax County Public Library, Chantilly, VA*

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Review

"Cringingly confessional...yet often uproariously funny. An overdue riposte to the bludgeoning morality of the fabricated Go Ask Alice." -- *LA Weekly, June 3, 2005*

"Dark, funny and touching... -- *boingboing.net*

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"Emotionally transcendent and eerily personal...riveting...a razor-sharp vignette from one woman's emotional history." -- *LA Alternative Press*

"Jolene Siana is to be lauded for many things; number one is for rendering Go Ask Alice completely useless." -- *Hardcore Ink*

"Pure, lucid and engaging..." -- *Los Angeles Times, July 26, 2005*

From the Publisher

Awards and Recognition for Go Ask Ogre:

2006 INDEPENDENT BOOK PUBLISHERS AWARD FINALIST, Best Juvenile/Teen Young Adult Non-fiction

OFFICIAL SELECTION: New York Public Library's 2006 "Books of the Teen Age"

YALSA (Young Adult Library Services Association) 2005 "Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Readers" Award Nominee

Did you know...

Go Ask Ogre features Jolene's accounts of personal interaction with several alternative heroes from the '80s—including bailing Skinny Puppy out of jail, attending a slumber party with punk legends The Descendents, getting a pep talk from the Revolting Cocks, meeting Peter Murphy, and more.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Timothy Austin:

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have far more or little spare time? Yeah, you can choose the suitable activity to get spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a go walking, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open as well as read a book titled Go Ask Ogre: Letters from a Deathrock Cutter? Maybe it is to get best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can better than before. Do you agree with it is opinion or you have additional opinion?

Hilton Rogers:

Go Ask Ogre: Letters from a Deathrock Cutter can be one of your nice books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort to place every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing Go Ask Ogre: Letters from a Deathrock Cutter although doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest in addition to based confirm resource details that maybe you can be one among it. This great information could drawn you into brand new stage of crucial contemplating.

Robert Beaubien:

As we know that book is very important thing to add our know-how for everything. By a publication we can know everything you want. A book is a range of written, printed, illustrated or even blank sheet. Every year ended up being exactly added. This publication Go Ask Ogre: Letters from a Deathrock Cutter was filled in relation to science. Spend your spare time to add your knowledge about your technology competence. Some people has several feel when they reading a new book. If you know how big benefit of a book, you can truly feel enjoy to read a reserve. In the modern era like currently, many ways to get book you wanted.

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