



## Go Ask Ogre: Letters from a Deathrock Cutter

By Jolene Siana, Bonnie McLaughlin

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

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 beautiful 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:

#### Alma Saunders:

What do you think about book? It is just for students because they're still students or the item for all people in the world, what best subject for that? Just you can be answered for that issue above. Every person has several personality and hobby for every single other. Don't to be obligated someone or something that they don't wish do that. You must know how great along with important the book Go Ask Ogre: Letters from a Deathrock Cutter. All type of book is it possible to see on many solutions. You can look for the internet methods or other social media.

#### Brian Wallace:

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#### Jamie Treat:

Many people spending their period by playing outside having friends, fun activity with family or just watching TV all day every day. You can have new activity to invest your whole day by examining a book. Ugh, do you consider reading a book really can hard because you have to accept the book everywhere? It ok you can have the e-book, delivering everywhere you want in your Smartphone. Like Go Ask Ogre: Letters from a Deathrock Cutter which is getting the e-book version. So , why not try out this book? Let's notice.

#### Ingrid Baumbach:

That e-book can make you to feel relax. This book Go Ask Ogre: Letters from a Deathrock Cutter was vibrant and of course has pictures on the website. As we know that book Go Ask Ogre: Letters from a Deathrock Cutter has many kinds or category. Start from kids until teenagers. For example Naruto or Detective Conan you can read and feel that you are the character on there. So , not at all of book are generally make you bored, any it makes you feel happy, fun and rest. Try to choose the best book for you and try to like reading which.

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