

Subject: Formal Complaint
Date: Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at 8:14:18 PM Central Daylight Time
From: Suzan Tisdale
To: Carol Ritter
Attachments: Screen Shot 2019-08-27 at 6.26.52 PM.png, Screen Shot 2019-08-27 at 6.16.39 PM.png, Screen Shot 2019-08-27 at 6.16.19 PM.png, Screen Shot 2019-08-27 at 6.16.03 PM.png, Screen Shot 2019-08-27 at 6.15.54 PM.png, Screen Shot 2019-08-27 at 6.15.44 PM.png, Screen Shot 2019-08-27 at 6.15.06 PM.png, Screen Shot 2019-08-27 at 6.13.57 PM.png, Screen Shot 2019-08-27 at 6.15.44 PM.png, Screen Shot 2019-08-27 at 6.13.57 PM.png, Screen Shot 2019-08-27 at 6.15.06 PM.png, Screen Shot 2019-08-27 at 6.13.44 PM.png, Screen Shot 2019-08-27 at 6.13.29 PM.png, Screen Shot 2019-08-27 at 5.57.14 PM.png, Screen Shot 2019-08-27 at 5.30.06 PM.png, Screen Shot 2019-08-27 at 5.29.54 PM.png, Screen Shot 2019-08-27 at 5.29.47 PM.png, Screen Shot 2019-08-27 at 5.29.21 PM.png, Screen Shot 2019-08-27 at 5.29.13 PM.png, Screen Shot 2019-08-27 at 5.28.55 PM.png, Screen Shot 2019-08-27 at 5.28.48 PM.png, Screen Shot 2019-08-27 at 5.28.39 PM.png, Screen Shot 2019-08-27 at 5.26.04 PM.png, Screen Shot 2019-08-27 at 5.21.32 PM.png, Screen Shot 2019-08-27 at 5.21.25 PM.png, Screen Shot 2019-08-27 at 5.21.14 PM.png, Screen Shot 2019-08-27 at 5.21.07 PM.png, Screen Shot 2019-08-27 at 5.20.56 PM.png, Screen Shot 2019-08-27 at 5.20.47 PM.png, Screen Shot 2019-08-27 at 5.20.40 PM.png, Screen Shot 2019-08-27 at 5.20.30 PM.png, Screen Shot 2019-08-27 at 5.20.00 PM.png

Attached, please find my formal complaint. Please let me know if you need further information.

Thank you,

Suzan



Rhode rated it ★★★★★
Shelves: not-for-me

Aug 24, 2019

Note to self: This author just published a 12-minute video defending well-documented racist Sue Grimshaw. Don't buy or read her stuff. Ever.

[Like](#) · [see review](#)

Mr Eric Horton



Courtney!!! Milan 🐼 @courtneymilan · Aug 25

Replying to @courtneymilan

I have heard many stories of rejection letters. I know what a rejection from the higher ups looks like. "I love it, but marketing mixed it" or something like that.

I have heard of some of Sue's rejections and they don't look like that.

🗨 1 ↺ 1 ❤ 40 ↗



Courtney!!! Milan 🐼 @courtneymilan · Aug 25

You don't get to slide away with generalities.

🗨 1 ↺ ❤ 41 ↗




Courtney!!! Milan 🐼 @courtneymilan · Aug 25

P.S. We aren't going to play the "NY just publishes what sells" when what sells according to NY is a thing they learned by talking to vendors including... Sue Grimshaw, when she was a buyer at Borders? Cool cool.

🗨 2 ↺ 8 ❤ 61 ↗




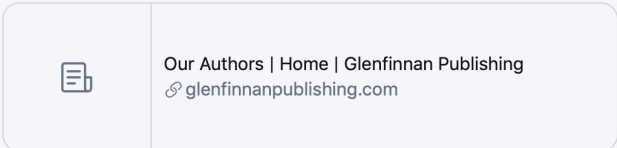
Suzan Tisdale *IWriteMyOwnBooks* @SuzanTisdale · Aug 25

 Replying to [@courtneymilan](#)
None. As far as I know none have submitted to us.

5 1

1 more reply

 **Janette** @JanetteKirchner · Aug 25
Replying to [@courtneymilan](#)
A list of Glenfinnan publishing's authors, including pictures:



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1 more reply

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 **Courtney!!! Milan** 🦖 @courtneymilan · Aug 25
Okay but what authors of color with amazing voices have you published?
🙄

 **Suzan Tisdale** *IWriteMyOwnBooks* @SuzanTisdale · Aug 25
I never said there wasn't a problem with New York's traditional publishing houses and how they treat authors of color and authors as a whole. These problems have been around for decades and continue to this day.

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3 10 89

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 **Courtney!!! Milan** 🦖 @courtneymilan · Aug 25
This is a great catch-up on the Tisdale/Grimshaw matter.

 **Laura Vivanco** @DrLauraVivanco · Aug 25
I've typed up a transcript of Suzan Tisdale's comments on the "little fiasco" re Sue Grimshaw. I've also tried to provide background info and details of the responses to Tisdale's video:
teachmetonight.blogspot.com/2019/08/racism...
I felt it important to record this episode in the genre's history.

3 22

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Courtney!!! Milan 🐼 @courtneymilan · Aug 25

I don't know how to say this more plainly, but if you think that people are white until proven otherwise, you have a race problem.

5 54 287

[Show this thread](#)



Courtney!!! Milan 🐼 @courtneymilan · Aug 25

2. In her video she said they don't track (or consider) race when reading submissions.

It is *incredibly* telling that she thinks that the race of people she doesn't know is white.

3 21 194

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Courtney!!! Milan 🐼 @courtneymilan · Aug 25

1. If authors of color truly aren't submitting, it's because they don't know about your house, and that's a sign of marketing failure.

There are SO MANY readers of color who devour historicals. That people don't know who you are? Yikes.

1 26 190

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Courtney!!! Milan 🐼 @courtneymilan · Aug 25

So.... Two things here.



Okay but what authors of color with amazing voices have you published? 🤔



Suzan Tisdale *IWriteMyO... · 4h

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Courtney!!! Milan 🐼 @courtneymilan · Aug 25

I really do think that nothing Suzan says will be right, but it's not because we're being nitpicky, it's because she's starting from a place where she thinks that showing her ass is a hands-down argument-winner, and so no matter what the situation, out the ass comes.

3 8 160

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Courtney!!! Milan 🐼 @courtneymilan · Aug 25

Because if we don't break it down—if people don't start understanding that racism is not one thought, one way you misspeak, but the entire way

your processes are structured—we won't break through.

1 42 197

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Courtney!!! Milan 🐵 @courtneymilan · Aug 25

And we have to talk about the assumptions that institutions build into their decision-making process that are harmful to marginalized people in publishing.

1 10 111

[Show this thread](#)



Courtney!!! Milan 🐵 @courtneymilan · Aug 25

I'm not trying to gotcha, but you're trying to run a publisher. An *institution.* Your processes *matter* and they help shape the business.

1 11 141

[Show this thread](#)



Courtney!!! Milan 🐵 @courtneymilan · Aug 25

And I know she's going to say "argh, everything I say is wrong no matter what I say, so why even bother trying to converse?!"

1 3 81



Courtney!!! Milan 🐵 @courtneymilan · Aug 25

I seriously can't get over "they never saw her eyes in China because she was always looking down." What. What is this. How did Chinese women not bump into things. How did Chinese women read. Where did she get an education if she couldn't like, look at anything.

8 11 170

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Courtney!!! Milan 🐵 @courtneymilan · Aug 25

As a half-Chinese person with brown eyes, seriously fuck this piece of shit.

Thanks.

10 9 223

[Show this thread](#)



Courtney!!! Milan 🐵
@courtneymilan

Replying to @courtneymilan and @SuzanTisdale

I also don't trust your good faith at this point, and that's a sticking point. You laughingly claimed in your video that we were all lying about K-Matt, but you know that people were largely talking about her work at Borders, which you have never addressed.

11:20 PM · Aug 25, 2019 · Twitter for iPhone

18 Likes

Retweet Like Share



Courtney!!! Milan 🐵 @courtneymilan · Aug 25

Replying to @courtneymilan and @SuzanTisdale

You know that the issue was not her liking one tweet by African American

you know that the issue was not her liking one tweet by African American women, but that's what you said in your video.

How do you expect me to have a conversation with someone who cannot admit facts because they are inconvenient?

1 21



Courtney!!! Milan 🐦 @courtneymilan · Aug 25

And why are you offering to talk to me when you are blocking Black women who are saying the same things as me?

It doesn't look good.

2 21



Suzan Tisdale *IWriteMyOwnBooks* @SuzanTisdale · Aug 26

I've not blocked anyone.

1



Courtney!!! Milan 🐦 @courtneymilan · Aug 26

I stand corrected; I thought I remembered that you had, but can't find the tweets. Sentiment remains the same if you replace with "ignored."

9

200 200 200 200



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21



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8



11



170



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Courtney!!! Milan 🐼 @courtneymilan · Aug 25

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9



223



[Show this thread](#)



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1 18



Jackie "#RomanceForRoe Anthology" Barbosa @jackiebar... · 18h

Replying to @SuzanTisdale and @courtneymilan

This really looks like you only care about the opinions of authors with substantial followings.

And it's a really bad look.

5



You can't see this Tweet because they've blocked you.



azteclady @HerHandsMyHands · Aug 25

I am betting this other editor is also "a lovely Christian" and "no more a racist" than Suzan Tisdale.

1 5

You can't see this Tweet because they've blocked you.



Laura Vivanco @DrLauraVivanco · Aug 25

Pastiche Scottishness is presumably on-brand, given it's "Glenfinnan Publishing" and the company's logo involves Celtic-style designs.

1 4



Laura Vivanco @DrLauraVivanco · Aug 26

Oh my goodness. Have just seen that this publisher says they're looking for

All types of Historical Romance: Highlander, Regency, Medieval, Victorian, Tudor, Ancient, Roman, etc.

"Highlander" is not a historical period: the Highlands are a place in Scotland.

1 1 4



azteclady @HerHandsMyHands · Aug 26

We rest our "they are looking for the white fantasy" case, your honor.

1 1 4

- 3 12
-  **Violet Bilbao [On Semi-Hiatus]** @violetheart08 · Aug 25
WTF.
-  **Rhonda Deal** @RJDeal · Aug 25
Replying to @courtneymilan
I guess blue American eyes must not be as genetically potent as blue English eyes because my half-Chinese nephews have brown eyes, too.
-  **Maia the Bee** 99 @semirose · Aug 25
Replying to @courtneymilan
Like!!! The only mixed person I know with something other than brown eyes is my one cousin who is super white-passing and even she has hazel eyes
-  **Nikki Prince** @AuthorNPrince · Aug 25
Replying to @courtneymilan
I have a brother and two sisters that were adopted from the Philippines and their eyes are indeed brown and beautiful.
-  **wtfknhell-** @flutterfli007 · Aug 25
Replying to @courtneymilan
Yeahhhh. Anything with an 'exotic' lover is cringe worthy, especially in historical romance. Just keep it European please, thanks. Even then, the Spanish and Italian character tropes can be quite offensive.

-  **Chrissy** @ChrissyAWriting · Aug 25
Replying to @courtneymilan
It's disgusting. Has she been described as exotic or exotically beautiful yet? My mixed race daughter gets that a lot from white people.
-  **Courtney!!! Milan** 🐶 @courtneymilan · Aug 25
Ding ding ding we have a winner.
- softening her expression. Usually, her braid was pulled back and her features starkly revealed. They were striking; her high molded cheekbones and narrow chin, straight nose and well-shaped lips revealed the best of both her Chinese and her English heritage. But combined with her natural reserve, her face had seemed exotic and coldly lovely—unattainable. Now, curtained by hair shimmering in the morning sun. she looked

warm, mysterious, and accessible.

3 12



TJ Ryan @tj_ryan90 · Aug 25

Replying to @courtneymilan

This is all flaming hot trash, but the frequency of mixed Asian characters having light eyes makes me think all of these authors skipped middle school science.

2 6



TJ Ryan @tj_ryan90 · Aug 25

(The book is flaming hot trash not your tweets ahhhhhhh)

3



Celia Wolff @CeliaWolff · Aug 25

Replying to @courtneymilan

Wow... and... I feel like what I learned about genetics in 7th grade makes the blue eyes thing not just racist but extremely unlikely.

4



Courtney!!! Milan @courtneymilan · Aug 25

Why are they just realizing that she's foreign, when they KNOW HER?

BECAUSE IN CHINA THEY NEVER SAW HER EYES BECAUSE SHE WAS ALWAYS LOOKING DOWN.

Madam Chin lifted her head in a small gesture of defiance. "You know how the women of the household behave. We remain inside the walls of the women's compounds; we are demure and quiet, as our mothers have trained us to be. We walk with eyes lowered politely, and may not look higher than a man's breast. Young unmarried women are even more modest and submissive, so they will make good wives." She drew a deep breath. "Wan Li-an was one of the most polite, the most modest. She rarely spoke a word

5 3 65



Courtney!!! Milan @courtneymilan · Aug 25

As a half-Chinese person with brown eyes, seriously fuck this piece of shit.



Courtney!!! Milan 🐼 @courtneymilan · Aug 25

This wouldn't be complete without the Chinese people literally talking in stiff, unnatural English to each other so the white people can understand them!

Liam knows this family—she met them in China! But they now realize that DUN DUN DUN she is partially white!

DRAMZ ENSUES.

“It is the daughter of Wan Ke-ming,” the stranger exclaimed. “I visited their house in Peking often enough to know.” She spoke in English, stiffly, unnaturally. Both she and her husband had gone pale and rigid, while the girls stood, hands clasped before them, staring at the warped boards of the dock, as was appropriate.

“She is one of *Them*,” Chin Yun hissed to his wife. He, too, used awkward English. Lian wondered why. He did not point to the undeniable



5



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57



Courtney!!! Milan 🐼 @courtneymilan · Aug 25

Here she is, meeting another Chinese family in London.

I'm gonna be honest: I don't know how I feel about “bronze” as the “standard” for Chinese skin (prior tweets), but I **do** know how I feel about “yellow.”

And about almond eyes.

theless, their thick blue-black hair and bronze faces, turned slightly yellow by the London climate, were unmistakably Chinese, as were their slanted almond eyes.



7



4



78





Courtney!!! Milan 🐼 @courtneymilan · Aug 25

Here is our half-Chinese woman remembering her past, where she is explicitly told that the future is the West, and that for Chinese women, compliance is the rule.

SIGH.

She liked the feeling of Mairi's warm fingers on her chilled ones.

"Remember, Lian, as I told my Charlie when he feared he'd lost hope, that our hearts are stronger than we believe." She paused for an instant, shifting to face Lian directly. "But we were talkin' of ye, no' me," Mairi reminded her gently. "You've spoken of goin' to America. Is't truly what ye want?"

Lian frowned, perplexed. The concept of her future was too huge, too all-encompassing to think about. "No one has ever asked me what I want." She realized the older woman would find that odd, perhaps incomprehensible. Because Mairi, Ailsa, her granddaughter Alanna, and in the end, even Charles, had chosen their own paths. Lian sat up, intrigued in spite of herself. She did not dare give voice to the new thought that had caught her off guard, inspired in her a flicker of longing.

She could still hear clearly Ke-ming's voice, rough with emotion on that last night in China.

I am a captive of my own history, but I have raised you to be free, to move toward the future—and the future is the West.

"I was no' askin' what your parents wanted, but what ye want for yourself."

"It is not important. It is not a question I ask myself. In China *shun*, compliance, is the rule for women."

"You're no' in China now, Lian. You're free to do as ye please." Mairi nodded toward the towering black and silver mountains in the distance. "There's a whole world out there, waitin'. Do ye really think your mother would've wanted ye to go to a strange country where ye had no friends, no relatives, no future, if ye wished otherwise?"

Lian looked away. "My mother chose that I come here."

4

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52

↑



Courtney!!! Milan 🐼 @courtneymilan · Aug 25

This book is like a bingo card of OH GOD DID YOU REALLY.

Start out with the heroine, who is the obligatory blue-eyed half-Chinese woman.

toward Geneva and Lian, her newly discovered half-sisters, in amazement and affection.

Lian was twenty-five, tall and lithe, with the thick black hair and bronze skin of the Chinese, while Geneva was eighteen, small and slender, with translucent skin and fine blond hair that refused to stay bound. At thirty-eight, Ailsa had the sturdy wholesome beauty of a woman of the glen, with her sun-browned skin and scattered freckles, her strong legs and callused feet, which had carried her over this very burn many times

10

16

71

↑



Courtney!!! Milan 🐼 @courtneymilan · Aug 25

I mean.... that doesn't really happen. (Genevra is half-Indian and also blue-eyed.) But also... like. Of course. This is like such a standard racist trope. WHY.

7

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77

↑



Courtney!!! Milan 🐉 @courtneymilan · Aug 25

And we've been talking about Sue Grimshaw?

Someone sent me a link to a book written by the other editor, Kathryn Lynn Davis, and is a fucking racist mess.



3



7



65



← **Thread**



Courtney!!! Milan 🐉 @courtneymilan · Aug 25

Okay, so you know how Glenfinnan publishing has two editors listed on this page?



Our Team | Home | Glenfinnan Publishing
glenfinnanpublishing.com



1



18



74



Courtney!!! Milan 🐉 @courtneymilan · Aug 25



1



18



74



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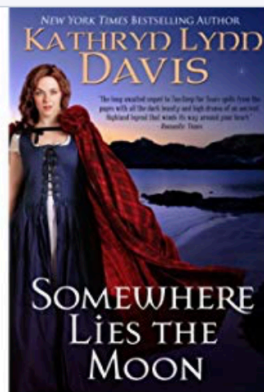


65



Courtney!!! Milan 🐉 @courtneymilan · Aug 25

Here's the book. I didn't finish the sample. I didn't need to.



★★★★★ (34 Reviews)

Somewhere Lies the Moon (Too Deep for Tears Trilogy Book 3)

"Excellent...Provocative and emotionally intense."--

Rendezvous"Populated by characters infused with a mystical quality ...

amazon.com



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34





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7 4 78



Courtney!!! Milan 🐼 @courtneymilan · Aug 25

Note that this is Lian's point of view. She was raised in China. She only describes the Chinese people by skin color/eye slant, not the white people.

She's literally describing absolutely normal people to her as if she were a white woman talking about a foreigner.

4 14 183



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5 3 65



Courtney!!! Milan 🐼 @courtneymilan · Aug 25

As a half-Chinese person with brown eyes, seriously fuck this piece of shit.

Thanks.

10 9 223

8 11 170



Courtney!!! Milan 🐼 @courtneymilan · Aug 25

Oh, I was searching for something else and found this:

In China, women didn't learn anything.

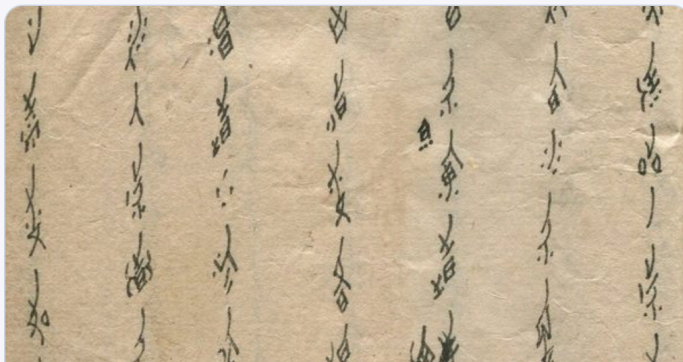
then." In China, no woman was taught much more than cooking and sewing and the graceful art of pleasing her husband. "First Daughter also tells me you were friends, that you cared for my children when others did not. I am grateful. But more than that, I would ask a great favor."

2 2 50



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CONTRAST THIS WITH ACTUAL REALITY, here is a script that only women in China learned.



Remembering Nüshu, the 19th-Century Chinese Script Only Women ...

This gender-specific practice continues to fade with time.

atlasobscura.com

4 15 134

4 15 134



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Also, did you know Chinese people don't touch? Not even friends and sisters. It's impolite you know.

Lian felt the grip of Ailsa and Genevra's hands holding her back, keeping her near them. She did not allow herself to return their grasp. To touch them now, though they be sisters, friends, the keepers of her dreams and nightmares, was against every rule of politeness and dignity. In

3 55



Courtney!!! Milan 🐵 @courtneymilan

I've said this before and I'll say it again: Don't write books about how much a culture not your own sucks. Just don't. You're not going to get it right and you're going to sound like a fucking racist.

7:55 PM · Aug 25, 2019 · [Twitter Web App](#)

← Thread



Courtney!!! Milan 🐵 @courtneymilan

but also:

THIS IS SET IN EUROPE
IN 1870s
WELL KNOWN AS A
BASTION FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS

8:00 PM · Aug 25, 2019 · [Twitter Web App](#)

3 Retweets 127 Likes

5



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Replying to @courtneymilan

We are *literally* talking about England, a country that had serious discussions as to whether it was ethical for women to have higher education because maybe they would go mad if they learned Latin.

2 5 126



Courtney!!! Milan 🐵 @courtneymilan · Aug 25

Don't "but in China, women had to learn nothing but pleasing their husbands!" me.

3 2 101



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