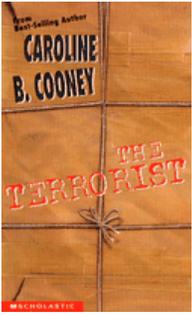


## Books on Trial: *The Terrorist*



Cooney, Caroline B. *The Terrorist*.  
Markham, Ontario: Scholastic  
Canada, Ltd., 1999. 198pp.  
ISBN 0-590-22854-4.

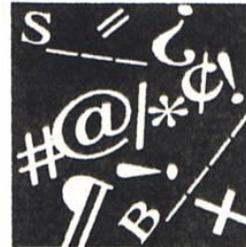
This book has been challenged by individuals who believe either the subject is not treated with enough seriousness or that it portrays a negative stereotype of the Arabic culture and, more specifically, of Islam and Islamic women; however, this is an inaccurate portrayal of the book. While it is true that the terrorist is an Islamic girl, Jehran is by no means the stereotypical, submissive Islamic woman. Instead, it is she who is the mastermind of the terrorist attack. This attack is not intended as a political statement, but rather, it is a desperate attempt by Jehran to get herself to the United States and away from the man her family wants her to marry. Again, this does not perpetuate the stereotype of the submissive Islamic girl. In the end, the terrorism is not portrayed as being planned by Arabs. In fact, it is not proven that it is done by anybody at all.

The charge of a lack of seriousness is more difficult to counter. It is not necessarily how the attack is dealt with in the book that is problematic, but rather Laura's involvement in trying to find her brother's killers and her irresponsible attempt to sneak Jehran out of England and into America. Laura involves herself in dangerous and illegal situations with no obvious consequences or difficulties. This could be a concern for those who feel that young adults are particularly impressionable; however, most teenagers are sensible enough to realize that, not only would it be far more difficult for an individual to travel on another's passport, but also that no teenager would be able to find a terrorist that the authorities cannot.

# Who's afraid of



Halloween?



Words?



Witches?



Sex?

## People who ban books. That's who.

### CELEBRATING THE FREEDOM TO READ

Source Unknown