
READERS' FORUM

Just Because It's Jewish Doesn't Mean It's Kosher

This past Shabbos, there were *Kol Koreis* displayed all over shuls banning a recently published book due to misleading halachic rulings that were included in this non-fiction book. Perhaps we need "haskamos" on all Jewish books, even novels that our children and adults may read and be easily influenced by. *The Jewish Observer* once wrote that there's no guarantee that when your child buys from an Orthodox, religious Judaica book store that the material may be 100 percent kosher! The same is true when you buy from a kosher grocery store. I know of an excellent school that mistakenly suggested a book for a book report that was very questionable. They immediately removed it from their list of books.

Perhaps it's time for *Hamodia* to take the lead and review books for the Jewish community, letting us know if the contents of the book are befitting a Jewish home or school. Lately, I'm seeing more and more Jewish novels that are being published that rival the secular novels

with their sensationalizing and tragedies, etc. Are the Jewish publishers and editors being very responsible and cautious with what they print, knowing that our youth are very impressionable, or are they only concerned with what is profitable and sells?

I would like to invite publishers, editors, schoolteachers and librarians to respond to this growing problem of: "Who is taking responsibility for what our community reads?" Perhaps principals, Rabbanim and parents can share with your readers practical solutions to this growing problem. Remember, people are sometimes very gullible and naive, and are easily influenced by the printed word!

Baruch Hashem, we have a *frum*, kosher daily and weekly newspaper and magazine such as *Hamodia* that we can bring into our homes and schools.

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