



Louisiana Citizens Against Censorship

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 27, 2025

Ten graphic novels returned to shelves in St. Tammany Parish

Ten graphic novels that were removed from the shelves and placed behind the circulation desk under a 2023 board resolution in St. Tammany Parish have now been returned to the adult shelves of the library system. The books were reinstated after library staff completed a secondary review prompted by a challenge from a St. Tammany Parish resident.

The titles restored include:

- *The Good Neighbors: Book 1* by Holly Black
- *The Good Neighbors: Book 3* by Holly Black
- *Emma Volume 1* by Kaoru Mori
- *Emma Volume 3* by Kaoru Mori
- *Kase-san and Morning Glories* by Hiromi Takashima
- *Kase-san and an Apron* by Hiromi Takashima
- *Hellsing: Deluxe Edition Volume 1* by Kohta Hirano
- *Hellsing: Deluxe Edition Volume 3* by Kohta Hirano
- *Dandadan Volume 5* by Yukinobu Tatsu
- *The Walking Dead Volume 18* by Robert Kirkman

The first six titles were returned in August 2024, and the final four are scheduled to be re-shelved on Monday, July 28, 2025.

These books were among more than 100 graphic novels removed from public shelves after the St. Tammany Library Board of Control passed a resolution in 2023. That resolution directed staff to remove any graphic novel found to contain depictions of “sexual conduct” based on definitions provided by the Louisiana Attorney General. Titles were placed behind the circulation desk, and access was restricted even for all library patrons, including adults.

The policy sparked strong community opposition, from citizens and from the St. Tammany Library Alliance, which warned the targeting of one specific type of media was unconstitutional censorship. As a result of the resolution, librarians were forced to spend hours reviewing pages for potential violations instead of focusing on the mission of serving the community. Dozens of books, including some that did not meet the criteria, were pulled from the shelves, and access to these materials was severely limited.

A secondary review prompted by a resident’s formal challenge led to the return of these ten titles. However, dozens of graphic novels remain censored. Louisiana Citizens against

Censorship believes the 2023 resolution is unconstitutional and should be repealed. The resident has now formally appealed the decision and hopes all the books will eventually be returned to the shelves.

These events in St. Tammany Parish are not isolated. Similar censorship efforts have emerged across Louisiana, threatening public access to literature, art, and diverse perspectives.

Louisiana Citizens Against Censorship urges residents across the state to remain engaged in this fight. Attend your local Library Board of Control and Parish Council meetings, contact your elected officials, and speak out for the right to read.

For updates, meeting dates, and advocacy tools, visit LA-CAC.org.

Louisiana Citizens Against Censorship is an all-volunteer, grassroots 501c4 organization dedicated to fighting attempts to ban or restrict books based on subjective standards of inappropriate content. We believe that informed citizens are good citizens, and access to information is the cornerstone of a functioning democracy. To that end, we oppose any legislation aimed at restricting citizens' First Amendment Rights, as well as the right to read freely. To donate visit LA-CAC.org and click the donate button.