

WARNING: Graphic Content

The following images and/or content may be
disturbing to some viewers.
Viewer discretion is strongly advised.



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TV-MA	GL	GRAPHIC LANGUAGE
AND CONTAINS	GV	GRAPHIC VIOLENCE
	N	NUDITY

WARNING
THE FOLLOWING FILM CONTAINS
SCENES OF A DISTURBING NATURE.
VIEWER DISCRETION ADVISED.

RESTRICTED
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15



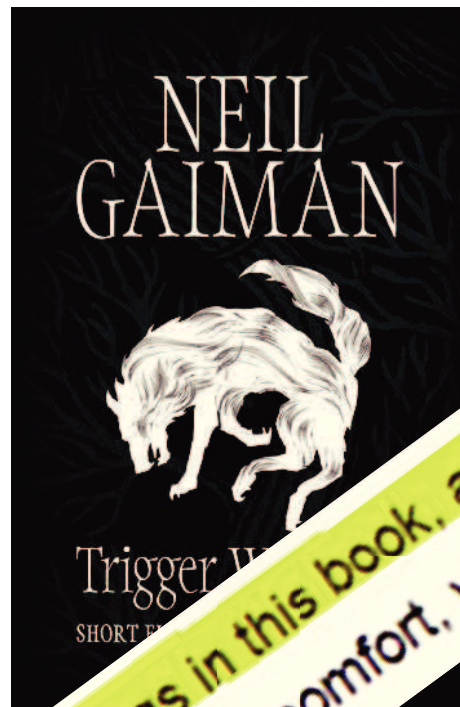
WARNING:

Last Presentation Before Lunch





“The Year’s Most Controversial High-End Debate”



I wondered, reading about the
a trigger warning on my fir
doing it. And then I d

There are th
here, te
kin

There is death and pain in
they would be justified in
night upset you. There is death and pain in
all kinds, cruelty, even abuse. There is
even a handful of happy endings. (Few stories end
after all.) And there's more than that: I know a lady called
tentacles, and who genuinely needs warnings for things that
em, especially tentacles with suckers, and who, confronted with an
quid or octopus, will dive, shaking, behind the nearest sofa. There is an
tentacle somewhere in these pages.

Many of those stories end badly for at least one of the people in them. Consider
yourself warned.

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Excerpt from *Trigger Warning: Short Fictions and Disturbance* by Neil Gaiman.

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HarperCollins Publishers. All rights reserved.

There are things in this book, as in life, that might upset you. There is death and pain in
here, tears and discomfort, violence of all kinds, cruelty, even abuse. There is

Trigger warning: This page recounts factual events

40 COMMENTS

POSTED: Wednesday, September 30, 2015, 12:16 AM

WARNING! This is a warning to any delicate college student who might start to read this column. The brainwashing and silliness you receive at your school might make you unable to handle the subject matter. You have been warned.

In fact, this nonsense has gotten so pervasive that the faculty of American University passed a resolution stating that trigger warnings are wholly incompatible with the intellectual environment the university is trying to create. For some people, they try to equate trigger warnings on campuses with the soldiers who suffer PTSD from war.

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On Trigger Warnings

TRIGGER WARNINGS

A current threat to aca

A current threat to academic freedom...the specific call for “trigger warnings” began in the blogosphere as a caution about graphic descriptions of rape on feminist sites, and has now migrated to university campuses in the form of requirements or proposals that students be alerted to all manner of topics that some believe may deeply offend and even set off a PTSD response in some individuals

Trigger History

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
“triggers”

http://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/PTSD-overview/basics/symptoms_of_ptsd.asp

blogs in 1990s and 2000s

“This might be triggering...”

– often related to rape, or
self-harm, or eating
disorders, or trauma

Facebook, Tumblr, and other social
media



Chelsea
@chelseacomics

 Follow

@shondarhimes I just wish there'd been a trigger warning at the end of the commercial break. That's my major complaint.

6:11 PM - 18 Nov 2013

Trigger Warnings on Campus

A.S. Resolution Policy Aims to Protect Students From PTSD Triggers

March 7, 2014 at 12:26 pm by Jessy Diamba

The Associated Students Senate and Office of the Student Advocate General are working together to implement a guideline advising professors to alert students of class content that can potentially “trigger” symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in those who have experienced traumatic experiences such as sexual abuse or fighting in war.

Trigger Warnings on Campus

2014: Oberlin proposal:

Professors asked to “remove triggering material when it does not contribute directly to the course learning goals” and to “[i]ssue a trigger warning” when such material could not be eliminated all together...

“[a]nything could be a trigger - a smell, song, scene, phrase, place, person and so on....”

Trigger Warnings on Campus

2014: Oberlin proposal:

Professors asked to “

This section of the resource guide is currently under revision. The Task Force thanks those who have provided feedback and reaffirms our commitment to supporting survivors of sexualized violence in all aspects of campus life, including the classroom

“[a]nything could be a trigger - a smell, song, scene, phrase, place, person and so on....”

Trigger Warnings on Campus



April, 2015

survivor...student described being triggered while reading [Metamorphoses] detailed accounts of rape

... said her professor focused on the beauty of the language and the splendor of the imagery.

As a result, [she]completely disengaged ... did not feel safe in the class. When she approached her professor ... she was essentially dismissed, and her concerns were ignored.

Trigger Warnings on Campus

Columbia Denies Students' Request for Trigger Warnings, But Randomly Switches up Required Reading List

7.1.15

... current syllabi contains violent sexual acts that some might consider upsetting. Ovid's *Metamorphoses*... Nabokov's *Lolita*...



Trigger Warnings on Campus

AU Faculty Senate Resolution 9.15

Faculty may advise students before exposing them to controversial readings and other materials

...Faculty Senate **does not endorse offering “trigger warnings”** or otherwise labeling controversial material in such a way that students construe it as an **option to “opt out”**

The Case for Notice

“coddling or “swaddling”

v.

pedagogically sound/useful
practice that allows students to
prepare for class content and be in
a position to discuss and engage
with the material ...

Why I Use Trigger Warnings

By KATE MANNE SEPT. 19, 2015

The Case for Notice

Trigger warnings allow me to have a conversation, to say, “this is not a class a bout your personal life...This actually helps to make the class more academic. And it has the benefit of letting students prepare for what might come.”

The Case for Notice

...we can't foresee every instance of potentially triggering material....[some] are easy enough to anticipate... depictions or discussions of the very kinds of experiences that often result in PTS [or] a clinical disorder. With appropriate warnings in place, vulnerable students may be able to employ effective anxiety management techniques, by meditating or taking prescribed medication.

Sample “Course Notes”

A quick heads-up. The reading for this week contains a graphic depiction of a sexual assault...

At times we will be discussing material... If you are aware of particular material that may be traumatizing to you, I'd be happy to discuss before class. Likewise if you ever wish to discuss your reactions afterward, I would welcome that as an appropriate part of our coursework.

If you ever feel the need to step outside during class for this reason, you may always do so without penalty. You will, however, be responsible for any material you miss. Please make arrangements to get notes from another student or see me individually to discuss the situation.

Sample “Course Notes”

Course Content Note

At times this semester we will be discussing historical events that may be disturbing, even traumatizing, to some students. If you ever feel the need to step outside during one of these discussions, either for a short time or for the rest of the class session, you may always do so without academic penalty. (You will, however, be responsible for any material you miss. If you do leave the room for a significant time, please make arrangements to get notes from another student or see me individually.)

If you ever wish to discuss your personal reactions to this material, either with the class or with me afterwards, I welcome such discussion as an appropriate part of our coursework.

What to Do?

Be open minded

“content note”
instead of
“trigger warning.”

Don't mandate but don't discourage
“trigger warnings” or notes

The good teachers know how to handle
classrooms and content

What to Do?

Be sensitive to legitimate
requests:
disabilities (PTSD,
anxiety) history of abuse
or assault

Refer
troubled students

Lunch!

