

# Manifesto

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To you zealots and bigots and false patriots who live in fear of discourse. You screamers and **banners and burners** who would force books off shelves in your brand name of greater good.

You say you're afraid for children, innocents ripe for corruption by perversion or sorcery on the page. But sticks and stones do break bones, and **ignorance is no armor**. You do not speak for me, and will not deny my kids magic in favor of miracles.

You say you're afraid for America, the red, white, and blue corroded by terrorists, socialists, the sexually confused. But **we are a vast quilt of patchwork cultures and multi-gendered identities**. You cannot speak for those whose ancestors braved different seas.

You say you're afraid for God, the living word eroded by Muhammed and Darwin and Magdalene. But the omnipotent sculptor of heaven and earth designed intelligence. Surely **you dare not speak for the father, who opens his arms to all**.

A word to the unwise. Torch every book.  
Char every page. Burn every word to ash.  
**Ideas are incombustible**. And therein lies your real fear.

—ELLEN HOPKINS, author of *Perfect*

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us.**

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