In the **Twinkling of an Eye**

- Sarah Ellis, column editor

THE ANNOTATED PYROCODEX

by Sharon McQueen

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’Twas brillig, and the slithy [1] tomes [2]
Did gyre and gimble in the nave [3].

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[1] Many of the Alice poems are parodies of Carroll’s day. They often begin in much the same way as the original. (See The Old Man’s Comforts and How He Gained Them.) Therefore, I begin Pyrocodex in the manner of Jabberwocky.


[3] The middle part of the body of a church, used in this case as the innermost holy of a library.

[4] Of, or pertaining to, a library.


[6] Opposies are creatures of opposing viewpoints who, none the less, coexist.

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’Twas brillig, and the slithy [1] tomes [2]. Did gyre and gimble in the nave [3]. Librarious [4] nave! O, various [5] nave! Where opposies [6] and oppsies [7] have homes. [3] The middle part of the body of a church, used in this case as the innermost holy of a library. [4] Of, or pertaining to, a library. [5] Characterized by variety. [6] Opposies are creatures of opposing viewpoints who, none the less, coexist. [7] Oppsies are creatures of opposite viewpoints who, none the less, coexist. “Beware the Pyrocodex [8], my girl! What is the meaning of twinkling of an eye? Learn this English idiom along with other words and phrases at Writing Explained. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. (1 Corinthians 15: 51-52). Shakespeare
"Beware the Pyrocodex [8], my girl! The breath that burns, the eyes that latch
Onto words like Huckleberry [9], Lorax [10], and hurl [11],
And roommate [12], and Shakespeare [13], and snatch!" [14], [15]

[8] A great, fire breathing monster who lives to destroy challenged or banned books.
[9] *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens) banned for being "racially offensive.”
[10] *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss challenged in the Pacific Northwest by those involved in the logging industry.
[11] Slang term meaning to toss one’s cookies!
[13] *Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare banned because of homosexual themes that aren't there. It "encourages homosexuality" because the leading character Viola (a heterosexual woman) disguises herself as a boy.
[14] There is a theater story, possibly apocryphal, regarding a production of the musical *The Fantastiks* at a Catholic boy's school. The word "rape" is repeatedly sung in one number, but it merely means "to kidnap." Looking to suit syllable word, the priest directing the production decided upon the word "snatch." The lyrics then read:

> You can get the snatch emphatic.
> You can get the snatch polite.
> You can get the snatch with Indians,
> They all say it's new and gay.
> So you see the sort of snatch
> Depends on what you pay.

If true, this episode marks the greatest censorship blunder of all time.

[15] Vera Carp from the play *Greater Tuna*:

> "We need to send out a snatch squad…  Well, we do. We need to send out a book snatchin' squad to the Tuna High School Library to check those dictionaries. Now, we have a list of words that have been declared possibly offensive or misunderstandable to pre-college students. Now the words are: hot, hooker, coke, clap, deflower, ball, knocker and nuts. Now after much prayer and soulsearching with the Lord, the Committee has decided not to include the word snatch on this year's list. We know some of you have very strong feelings about snatch, but we just can’t afford to change our letterhead at this time."

[16] Alexander L. Taylor writing on Carroll, explains how to get "vorpal" by taking letters alternately from the words "verbal" and "gospel." While it is highly unlikely Carroll had this in mind, McQueen felt this would be descriptive for her purposes.


[19] According to Carroll, "a state of mind when the voice is gruffish, the manner roughish, and the temper huffish."

[20] According to Carroll, "If you take the 'murmur,' and 'warble,' and select the bit certainly makes 'burble'."


[22] Sharoonk is an elision of "Sharon shook and shrank!" It is used as a verb.
Sharon McQueen


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[23] You know!
[25] If you had read between the lines, you very like Dr. Seuss.
[26] Wordoosious is an adjective meaning wondrously wordy. A wondrously wordy given time.
[27] So the plural form of swine is swines. that make?! Besides, it doesn’t rhyme.
[28] Short for Pyrocodex.
[29] A common McQueenism meaning about and be wary of. While “wary” has c two, warrylings” contains three! Can you the situation then?

The wordoosious [26] blade went through and through For such must befall such swines. [27]

"And hast thou slain the Pyro-C [28]?
There’s warrylings [29] you need know –
Stay on your guard - and ever be,
For others anon will grow!"

'Twas brilling, and the slithy tomes
Did gyre and gimble in the nave.
Librarious nave! O, various nave!
Where opposies and oppsies have homes.
theaters: Film "X" would have been a nice little movie.

12 IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE "CUT OUT THE BAD BITS" 13

cussion that controlled the order in which the various pieces of information stored in the DNA would be activated and the rates
at which that information would be activated as the organism grew.