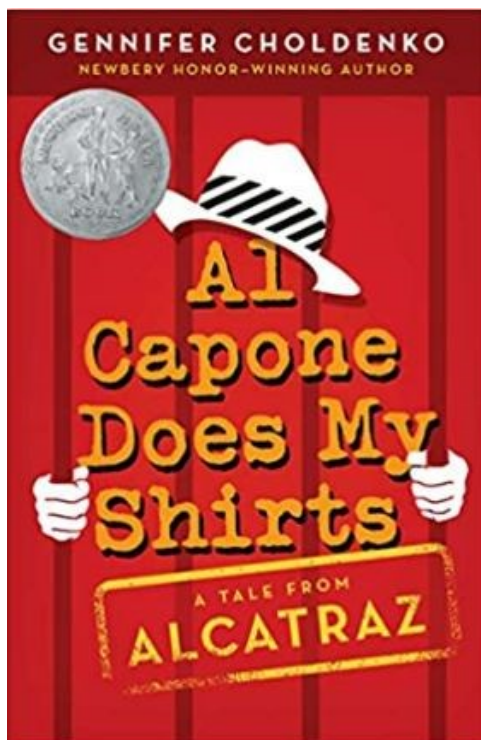


AL CAPONE DOES MY SHIRTS



Juvenile

By Gennifer Choldenko

ISBN: 0-399-23861-1

Book Summary:

A young boy cares for his autistic sister who has befriended a prisoner on Alcatraz Island where they live.

Summary of Concerns:

This book contains controversial social commentary; non-sexual nudity; and inexplicit sexual activities.

2/5

Teen Guidance
BookLooks Review Rating

Page	Content
10	What they say about females being the weaker sex is the biggest lie in the world.
15	<p>After dessert, Al's men lock the doors and Capone beats the traitors to death with a baseball bat.</p> <p>...Favorite word for murder: "Rub-out"—often in front of many witnesses who then develop "gangster amnesia."</p>
17	<p>"What's the matter with your sister?"</p> <p>..."She retarded?" the girl asks. "None of your business," I tell her. The girl has freckles and full lips like a movie star. She winds her long dark hair around her finger and looks at me through half-shut eyelids. Something about the way she does this makes me glance down to make sure my fly is buttoned. When I look up again, she's staring at Natalie.</p> <p>"Stop looking at her like that!" I say.</p> <p>"That's Piper. Remember? I told you about her!" Theresa says.</p> <p>"So, not retarded. Stupid, then?" Piper asks.</p> <p>"Look, could we drop this already?"</p> <p>"I'm just asking a simple question," Piper says.</p> <p>"Not in front of Natalie," I whisper.</p> <p>She shrugs and walks behind the morgue. Theresa and I follow. Nat stays put.</p> <p>"How would you like it if I asked, are you stupid?"</p> <p>"I would just say no." Piper flips her hair behind her shoulder.</p> <p>"No, she's not stupid," I say.</p> <p>"Prove it."</p> <p>"Uhhh." I clench my fists. I'd really like to give this Piper girl a pounding.</p> <p>"See, I knew she was retarded," Piper tells Theresa.</p>
76	<p>"Did you see that shiv?" "What's a shiv?" the girl asks. "It's a dagger made of old silverware, or carved out of a pot handle. The cons use them to stab each other or kill our dads," Piper says, though she barely looks at the girl, as if relaying this information is not her aim at all.</p>
77	<p>"So, what happened?" Scout asks. "With the shiv in the library book?" The girl seems proud of herself for knowing the word now. "Like I said, somebody sliced up a guy. Maybe killed him."</p>
84	<p>"Moose!" My mother's eyes are like the lit end of a cigarette burning into me.</p>
92	<p>"Hot," she says.</p> <p>"Yeah, I know, but you can't wear your bathing suit. Put on something cool, but not that."</p> <p>"HOT!" she shouts.</p> <p>"Okay, okay, you're hot, I'm hot too."</p> <p>"Moose cool. Moose bathing suit."</p> <p>"You're a girl, Natalie. And it's . . . it's, you've got, you know, girl parts you have to keep covered up. It's not like home." How do I explain this to her?</p> <p>"Moose cool!" she repeats. There is no arguing with this.</p> <p>...I'm just thinking I'm wasting my breath when Natalie starts to take off her suit. I walk out of my room and close the door. "All done, Nat?" I ask when I hear her come out.</p> <p>When I turn around she's standing in the living room, totally naked.</p>

Page	Content
	<p>I can feel my whole face get red. Even the tips of my ears burn. I don't want to see my sister naked. "No! You can't do that!" I run to the front window and yank the drapes closed.</p> <p>Now she's in the kitchen, lying on the cool floor. At least this is better. It isn't so bad from the back.</p> <p>I think about the time we took Natalie to my cousin Cricket's wedding. It was boiling that day too, and right in the middle of the ceremony, Natalie took all her clothes off. But she wasn't so old. It wasn't like now.</p> <p>...I have five minutes to get out the door and a crazy naked sister on the floor. How does my mom get her dressed, anyway?</p> <p>"You can take your buttons outside. But only if you wear your blue dress." I get the button box from where my mom has hidden it inside the radio cabinet. What else am I supposed to do? I shake the buttons down by her ear and try to pull the dress over her head. She doesn't take it off.</p> <p>"You have to wear your underwear too. I won't look."</p> <p>She doesn't move a muscle. Her bare skin looks so white against the floor.</p> <p>"Come on, Nat," I plead.</p> <p>"Swim," she says.</p> <p>"You want to go swimming?"</p> <p>"Natalie swimming." "Okay. Here's what we'll do. If you wear your blue dress and your underwear, I'll take you swimming."</p>
95	<p>"Every day," I mutter, glancing back at Natalie, who is using her dress to fan herself. We all get a good look at her ruffled underwear. Thank goodness she put it on.</p> <p>"She better not do that when the cons are around," Annie says.</p>
100	<p>"If you were a girl, I'd give you a big sloppy kiss," I say.</p>
163	<p>"If he won't talk to you, what makes you think he'll talk to Natalie?" I ask.</p> <p>"Because he did already, idiot!"</p> <p>"Jeez, Piper, why do you go sticking your nose in this?"</p> <p>"What are you all bent out of shape about?" Piper asks, shifting her books to the other arm. "She's not pregnant, right?"</p> <p>"Piper! For crying out loud!"</p> <p>"You do know about the birds and the bees, don't you?"</p> <p>"Shut up, Piper! Just shut up!"</p> <p>"Did you ask her at least?"</p> <p>"Look, this is off limits." I make a flattening gesture with my hands. "I just have to keep her safe until the Esther P. Marinoff interview."</p>