

## eBook technologies,inc.



**EPUB 101** 

May 11, 2009





- Introduction
  - EPUB drivers
- EPUB Overview
  - EPUB: OCF, OPS, OPF
  - EPUB "Reading System"
- EPUB Container
- EPUB Content
- EPUB FAQs
- EPUB Adoption
- EPUB Continuing Development and Futures
- Demonstration





Founded in 1996:





In 2000, acquired by:



Formed in 2004 to take technology forward:

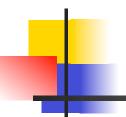






#### ETI Founders

- Garth Conboy, President
  - VP Software Engineering, SoftBook Press
  - General Manager, Gemstar eBook Group Limited
  - Member, IDPF Board of Directors
  - Co-Chair IDPF Unified Container Working Group
  - Co-Chair IDPF OEBPS Working Group
- John Rivlin, CEO
  - VP Server Systems, SoftBook Press
  - CTO, Gemstar TV Guide International
  - Co-Chair IDPF Unified Container Working Group
  - Co-Chair IDPF OEBPS Working Group



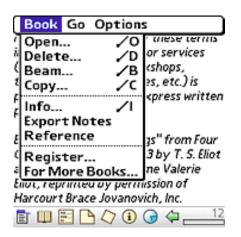


- 1998: SoftBook Press, NuvoMedia, Microsoft
- 1999: OEBF Formed IPF
- 1999: Open eBook Publication Structure 1.0 (OEBPS)
- 2002: OEBPS 1.2 Update
  - Peanut Press
  - MobiPocket
  - SoftBook/NuvoMedia/Gemstar/ETI
  - Microsoft
- But, in 2003-2005 we really had numerous not terribly compatible Reading Systems...





Peanut Press → Palm Digital Media → eReader.com → Motricty/eReader.com → Fictionwise

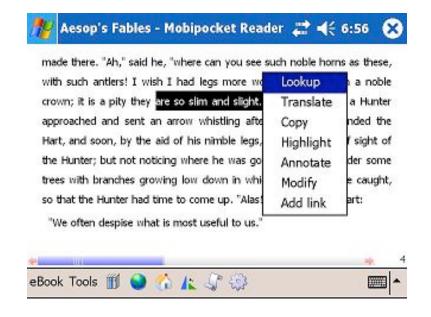


PML - Palm Markup Language ".pdb" files wrapped in eReader.com DRM





#### Mobipocket

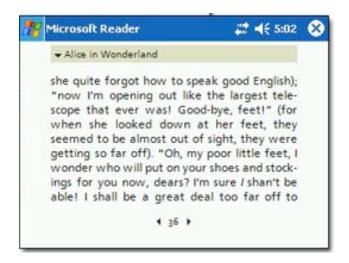


# Basically OEBPS ".prc" or ".mobi" files wrapped in Mobi DRM





Microsoft Reader (MSreader)

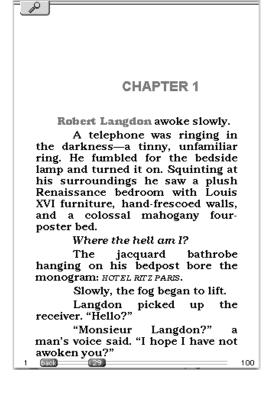


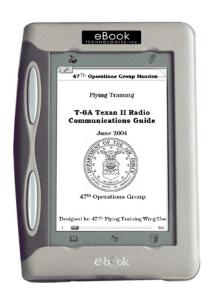
Basically OEBPS 1.2 ".lit" files wrapped in Microsoft DRM

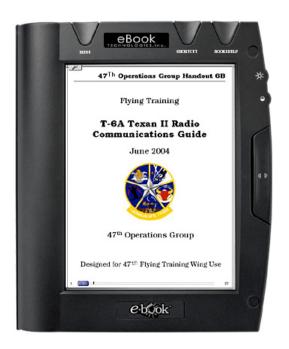




#### SoftBook Press ➡ Gemstar ➡ ETI





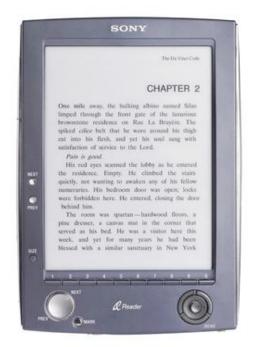


Basically OEBPS 1.2
OEBPS or ".imp" files wrapped in ETI DRM





Sony



BBeB/Xylog – Custom XML Vocabulary ".lrf" files wrapped in Sony DRM





#### Adobe



PDF Files wrapped in Adobe DRM





Where Have We Gotten To Now?

## ...EPUB





#### EPUB

The EPUB content standard allows publishers to produce and send a single digital publication file through distribution and offers consumers interoperability between software/hardware for unencrypted reflowable digital books and other publications.

#### ".epub" Extension

".epub" is the file extension for EPUB reflowable digital books and publications.

#### EPUB Acronym Soup

- Container: OCF (Open [OEBPS] Container Format)
- Markup packaging: OPF (Open Packaging Format)
- Markup content: OPS (Open Publication Structure); XHTML & DTBook
- EPUB is an OPS/OPF publication in an OCF container





EPUB "Reading System" Definition:

"A combination of hardware and/or software that accepts OPS Publications and makes them available to consumers of content. Great variety is possible in the architecture of Reading Systems. A Reading System **may** be implemented entirely on one device, or it **may** be split among several computers. ..."





- "EPUB Compliant Reading System"
- A Reading System that directly ingests EPUB as an input format
- Details
  - EPUB as input to publishing interface required
  - EPUB delivery direct to client/renderer optional
  - Internal translation of EPUB okay
  - Pre-rendering/compilation of EPUB okay
  - Application of DRM surrounding or inside EPUB optional
  - "Viable" rendering of publisher intent in content markup required





How Did We Get to EPUB?

- In 2005, Publishers and conversion houses were producing custom files for many Reading Systems
- By late 2005 the IDPF started to tackle these issues
- 2005 Industry survey:
  - eBook cost is important
  - Ability to move content between Reading Systems is important
  - Content breath is important
  - DRM is bad, or at least negatively impacts value





#### IDPF Ad Hoc Content Team

- What's holding us back?
  - OEBPS Reading Systems may start with similar source, but perform platform-specific processing or DRM wrapping
  - Publishers & conversion houses must generate multiple eBook formats for sales & distribution
  - Consumers can't generally move content from one Reading System to another
    - Fear of platform death

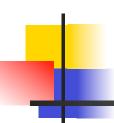
#### High level:

- Content flow is negatively impacted by conversion time and expense
- Sparse choices of content drive down consumer interest





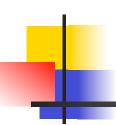
- Common OEBPS Container Working Group Chartered
   November 2005
- Mission: Standardize a Unified (across Reading System) OEBPS Content Container Format.
- Requirements/Directions:
  - Standardize the OEBPS container format
  - Publishers and conversion houses will produce only this format for entry into the distribution and/or sales channels
  - As publishers gain confidence, they will allow sales of content (perhaps after targeting or DRM-wrapping) into Reading Systems that are believed to render the content "viably"





#### Requirements/Directions:

- Standardization of DRM/rights communication is not within scope
- Participants in the distribution/sales channels will perform "lights out" platform targeting or DRM-wrapping – "just in time"
- Unsecured content may be directly exchanged between Reading Systems that support the container format
- Content interoperability between Reading Systems is a high-level goal. Exchange of non-secured content between reading system is a good first step





- OCF: OEBPS Container Format
  - ZIP-based archive of publication parts
  - Really just one extra file to point to root of publication and a defined directory structure
  - Define mechanism for inclusion of alternate renditions, cryptography, signatures and rights information
  - It's just ZIP!
- Specification approved October 2006
- When creating a ZIP archive of eBook content (old or new), make it an OCF archive – now!





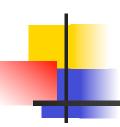
#### OEBPS Publication in ZIP Container

```
mimetype
META-INF/
   container.xml
   [manifest.xml]
   [metadata.xml]
   [signatures.xml]
   [encryption.xml]
   [rights.xml]
OEBPS/
   Great Expectations.opf
   cover, html
   chapters/
      chapter01.html
      chapter02.html
      ... HTML and other files for the
         remaining chapters ...
```





- Possible container.xml
  - Just specify root file...







 OEBPS Publication in ZIP Container With Alternate PDF Rendition

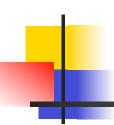
```
mimetype
META-INF/
    container.xml
    [manifest.xml]
    [metadata.xml]
    [signatures.xml]
    [encryption.xml]
    [rights.xml]
OEBPS/
    Great Expectations.opf
    ... same as in previous version ...
PDF/
    Great Expectations.pdf
```







- Possible container.xml With Alternate Rendition
  - Specify two root files...





#### OCF High-Level Takeaways

- Standard way to package eBook content for distribution, sales and interchange
- A single "container" that can be authored by publishers and conversion houses for dissemination into the channel
- A big step away from producing Reading System-targeted content (e.g. for MS, Mobi/Kindle, Sony, eReader, ETI)
- An end-user interchange/consumption format for unencrypted titles





#### Working Group Contributors & Supporters

Random House

iRex Technologies

Ball State University

Mobipocket

Benetech/Bookshare.org

Adobe Systems

eBook Technologies

Hachette Book Group USA

**WGBH** 

TriWorks Asia

Motricity, eReader.com

**DAISY Consortium** 

NetLibrary

**Publishing Dimensions** 

HarperCollins

Houghton Mifflin

Simon & Schuster

**Dolphin Computer Access** 

**Apex Publishing** 

Follett

OpenReader Consortium

OverDrive

Codemantra

Harlequin

John Wiley & Sons

Osoft.com

ContentGuard

**Lightning Source** 

Cambridge University Press

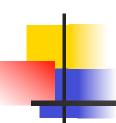
**Green Point Technology Services** 

Invited experts





- OEBPS Working Group (re-)chartered in March 2006
- Mission: Update OEBPS 1.2 to improve the adoption and viability of the standard as both a cross-reading system interchange and production format as well as a final publication delivery format.
- Requirements/Directions:
  - Align with current standards on which OEBPS was based (e.g. XML, namespaces, CSS, XHTML)
  - Support vector graphics





#### Requirements/Directions:

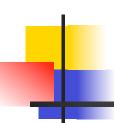
- Support embedded fonts
- Enhance OEBPS accessibility and navigation (i.e. declarative TOC)
- Maximize compatibility with prior versions of OEBPS
- Retain the open and patent-unencumbered status of OEBPS





#### Solutions (abridged):

- Current standards (XML 1.1, XML Namespaces)
  - The Basic OEBPS Document element set has been expanded.
  - All previously deprecated elements have been removed; it is now a true subset of XHTML 1.1
  - The OEBPS CSS subset has been augmented with numerous CSS2 properties and values
  - Most previously deprecated attributes have been removed
  - The OEBPS CSS subset has been augmented with a more extensive set of selectors
- Two "Preferred Vocabularies"
  - Valid XHTML (required XHTML modules)
  - Valid DTBook (NIMAS)





#### Solutions (abridged)

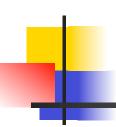
- Navigation added DAISY NCX (NIMAS)
- Vector graphics added SVG as Core Media Type
- Embedded vector fonts added @font-face CSS
- Tighter conformance requirements
- Support for OEBPS 1.2 package files is required, but not OEBPS 1.2 markup
- OEBPS becomes OPS 2.0 and OPF 2.0





#### EPUB Presentational Fidelity

- XHTML tables
- CSS box model
  - Margins, padding, borders
  - Display: inline, block, table, header, footer
  - Display: float, clear, direction, columns
- CSS visual model: min/max width/height, line height, alignment
- CSS paged media: breaks, orphans, widows
- CSS fonts & text: family, style, weight, size, decoration, alignment
- CSS embedded fonts
- Embedded images & objects: png, jpeg, gif, extensibility
- SVG







#### OPF Overview

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<package version="2.0"</pre>
 xmlns=http://www.idpf.org/2007/opf
unique-identifier="BookId">
        metadata
        manifest
        spine
        guide
</package>
```





#### OPF Metadata

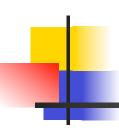
```
<package version="2.0" xmlns="http://www.idpf.org/2007/opf"</pre>
         unique-identifier="BookId">
   <metadata xmlns:dc="http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/"</pre>
             xmlns:opf="http://www.idpf.org/2007/opf">
      <dc:title>Alice in Wonderland</dc:title>
      <dc:language>en</dc:language>
      <dc:identifier id="BookId" opf:scheme="ISBN">
         123456789X
      </dc:identifier>
      <dc:creator opf:role="aut">Lewis Carroll</dc:creator>
      <meta name="price" content="USD 19.99" />
   </metadata>
</package>
```







#### OPF Manifest





#### OPF Manifest Fallbacks

```
<manifest>
        <item id="item1"</pre>
                 href="FunDoc.txt"
                 media-type="text/plain"
                 fallback="fall1" />
        <item id="fall1" fallback="fall2"</pre>
                 href="FunDoc.pdf"
                 media-type="application/pdf" />
        <item id="fall2"</pre>
                 href="FunDoc.html"
                 media-type="application/xhtml+xml" />
        <item ...>
</manifest>
```







```
<manifest>
        <item id="item1"</pre>
              href="Doc1.hpy" media-type="text/happy+xml"
               required-namespace="http://happy.com/ns/happy1/"
              fallback="item2" />
        <item id="item2"</pre>
              href="Doc1.less-hpy" media-type="text/less-happy+xml"
               required-namespace="http://happy.com/ns/happy2/"
              fallback="item2.5"
              fallback-style="css1" />
        <item id="item2.5"</pre>
              href="Doc1.htm" media-type="application/xhtml+xml"
               required-namespace="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml"
               required-modules="ruby, server-side-image-map"
              fallback="item3" />
        <item id="item3"</pre>
              href="Doc1.dtb" media-type="application/x-dtbook+xml" />
        <item id="css1"</pre>
              href="happy.css" media-type="text/css" />
```





### OPF Spine

```
<manifest>
     <item id="intro" href="intro.html"</pre>
           media-type="application/xhtml+xml" />
     <item id="c1" href="chap1.html"</pre>
           media-type="application/xhtml+xml" />
     <item id="c1-answerkey"</pre>
           href="chap1-answerkey.html"
           media-type="application/xhtml+xml" />
     <item id="f1" href="fig1.jpg"</pre>
           media-type="image/jpeg" />
     <item id="ncx" href="toc.ncx"</pre>
           media-type="application/x-dtbncx+xml" />
</manifest>
<spine toc="ncx">
     <itemref idref="intro" />
     <itemref idref="c1" />
     <itemref idref="c1-answerkey" linear="no" />
</spine>
```







### OPF Guide





### Status

- OPF 2.0 (and OPF 2.0 too) entered IDPF output process in April 2007
- Approved by membership and published as standard in September 2007
- Wide adoption (as EPUB) began in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2008





- OPS/OPF High-Level Takeaways
  - Constrained enhancements to OEBPS 1.2
    - Backward compatibility
    - Automatable forward migration
    - Enhanced presentational fidelity
    - Enhanced navigation
    - NIMAS compliance
  - Enhance cross-Reading System content flow
    - With OCF
    - With Validation and Conformance Checking
  - www.idpf.org/forums





### Working Group Members Include

Motricity/eReader.com

iRex Technologies

Somatic Digital

**Treasures Media** 

Benetech

eBook Technologies

Time Warner Book Group

Random House

NCAM/WGBH

**Publishing Dimensions** 

Simon & Schuster

Prime View International

**Adobe Systems** 

**DAISY Consortium** 

OpenReader Consortium

Codemantra

Harlequin

Osoft.com

Cambridge University Press

**Green Point Technology Services** 

Sony

**Greenwood Publishing** 

Hachette Book Group

Vital Source Technology

Invited experts





- What is the relationship between OCF and OPS/ OPF?
  - OCF is the container in which Publications are packaged for transport and potential delivery
  - OPS is Publication standard (the "markup" or "source" of a Publication) – XHTML or DTBook based
  - OPS includes OPF. OPF contains the Publication manifest (list of files, images, style sheets, et al), the "spine" (linear reading order), the metadata (title, author, language, etc.), navigation information
  - One packages or archives OPS Publications into an OCF container – this is EPUB





- What's the difference between EPUB & PDF?
  - PDF is pre-paginated and not easily re-flowed
    - "Zoom" a PDF, see the upper left
    - PDF is a print and print-archive format
  - EPUB content, like XHTML, is re-flowable
    - If paginated, when zoomed, there will be more "pages"
    - OPS is a re-flowable "electronic content" format
    - Adobe's Digital Editions has adopted EPUB for such content





- Does this mean that publishers and conversion houses can deliver one file format for distribution and sales?
  - Yes, that's the idea!
  - Getting to "one file" is the main driving force for these efforts
    - If publishers and conversion houses are producing a single target (EPUB), it will be cheaper and easier
    - Cheaper and easier conversions will induce publishers to release more content into the eBook space
    - More content will drive consumer demand and expand the market
    - An expanded market may drive down consumer cost, further driving the growth cycle





"One file" (continued)

### This transition is important – four substantive points

- 1. Will distributions and sales channels be "dumped on" to do conversion work (platform targeting and DRM wrapping)?
  - This should not be the case
  - Either Reading Systems will accept native EPUB or will "convert" (platform target) from it in a "lights out" manner
  - Once implemented by Reading Systems this will be seamless
- 2. Is this a "bug" from conversion houses? Doing one format rather than N?
  - This should not be the case
  - Whatever is lost on a per unit basis, will be made up in volume
  - As sales break-even thresholds lower, content volume will ramp up





- "One file" (continued)
  - 3. Reading Systems (really the companies that build them) must expeditiously implement these standards in a seamless and lights-out manner
    - Their business can then benefit from the increase in title flow
  - 4. Publishers should, **now**, require that their vendors support these specifications
    - Deliver one file (format) to distribution and sales
    - Kick the whole positive feedback cycle into gear





- If I want to apply DRM to eBooks, how is this done in this "new world?"
  - Much as it is today, as a final Reading System-specific step before content is delivered to consumers
  - The input to this process is the single format, rather than a previously platform-targeted format
  - Note Apple & EMI there are consumers who will buy only, or at least value more, non-DRM-ed content
  - DRM is already dropping out on audio-book content
  - Further note, conformant Reading Systems will support interchange of non-secured content





- What does EPUB mean for consumers?
  - Largely transparent to consumers
  - Consumers should see increased title availability
  - Hopefully lower cost per unit
  - Non-DRM-ed and personal content will be cross-Reading System interoperable
    - Such Reading Systems must support the new standards
    - This is very cool



# **EPUB Adoption**



### EPUB Reading Systems Include:

- Adobe Digital Editions
- Sanza/iPhone
- MobiPocket
- Kindle
- eBookwise
- Sony Reader
- BEBOOK
- Bookworm
- iRex
- ETI's eBook Technology Suite



## **EPUB Adoption**



### EPUB Producing Publishers Include:

- Hachette Book Group
- John Wiley & Sons
- Random House
- Simon & Schuster
- HarperCollins Publishers
- Penguin Group
- O'Reilly
- Macmillan
- Harlequin
- Oxford University Press
- Cambridge University Press





### EPUB Validator:

- Version 1.0.3 is current
- Active updates/maintenance in process
- http://code.google.com/p/epubcheck/
- Web accessible version "real soon now"

>>> java -jar ../epubcheck-1.0.3.jar XHtml.css3-modsel-32.Test.epub Epubcheck Version 1.0.3

ERROR: XHtml.css3-modsel-32.Test.epub/OEBPS/css3-modsel-32.xml(46): attribute "width" not allowed at this point; ignored ERROR: XHtml.css3-modsel-32.Test.epub/OEBPS/css3-modsel-32.xml(47): attribute "width" not allowed at this point; ignored

Check finished with warnings or errors!

>>> java -jar ../epubcheck-1.0.3.jar XHtml.5\_3\_2-BF-01.Test.epub Epubcheck Version 1.0.3

No errors or warnings detected

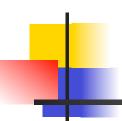




- EPUB Embedded Font Mangling Informational Document
  - Embedded font licensing
  - Power of embedded fonts
  - http://www.idpf.org/doc\_library/informationaldocs/FontManglingSpec.html

\_\_ Sample of ArtRinat: הַּיְבָמָה נִקְנֵית בְבִיאָה

Sample of ArtHadassahSQ: הַּיְבָמָה נִקְנֵית בְבִיאָה









Joint IDPF & DIASY Consortium effort



Mission:

"The objectives of the Working Group are twofold. One set of activities governs maintenance of the current EPUB Standard (OCF, OPF, and OPS), while another set of activities addresses the need to keep the Standards current and up-to-date."

- Being chartered now
- Call for participants; email: msmith@idpf.org
- Chair: George Kerscher (DAISY Consortium)
- Vice-Chair: Garth Conboy (eBook Technologies, Inc.)





### EPUB Maintenance Working Group

- Maintenance activities:
  - Resolve issues identified in current releases of the Standards
  - Release updates to the Standard that resolve issues that are determined to be errors
  - Track issues that are identified to be possible requirements for future standards development
  - Review guidelines and sample content developed in support of the Standard
  - Develop and maintain a set of tests for rendering developed by the working group





### EPUB Maintenance Working Group

- Currency activities:
  - Track technology and publish trends that could influence the future direction of the Standard
  - Recommend exploration of revisions to the Standard
  - Collect requirements for revisions to the Standard
  - Analyze requirements and determine if a revision of the Standard is to be recommended
  - Participate in working groups for the revision of the Standard





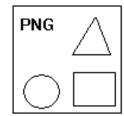
- EPUB Conformance Testing
  - Verify/test cross-Reading-System compatibility
  - Effort to be kicked off soon in the EPUB working group

Verify the src attribute for IMG element Test for assertion 13.2-2 File: 13\_2-BF-01.html

#### Source

There should be a PNG image after this sentence.
<div><img src="image.png" alt="PNG image" /></div>

There should be a PNG image after this sentence.







- What's the timeframe? When can I do only EPUB?
  - This is now!
  - Have critical mass of Reading System support
  - This transition (to single format production) should be complete in 2009
  - To facilitate:
    - Publishers: push vendors and Reading Systems to conform
    - Conversion houses: continue ramp up and support the standards
    - Reading System vendors:
      - Support the standards in your Reading Systems
      - Support cross Reading Systems exchange of non-DRM-ed content





Wide, complete and correct adoption of these standards will provide a significant boost for all involved: publishers, conversion houses, distributors, sales channels and consumers!

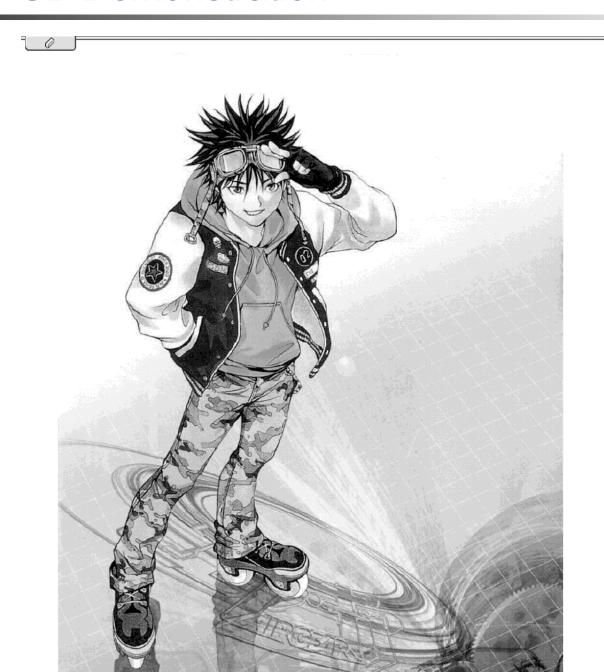




# Demonstration

















. 0

# A NATION OF WIMPS

The High Cost of Invasive Parenting

HARA ESTROFF MARANO





#### **Contents**

Title Page

**Dedication** 

**Introduction** 

ONE

Welcome to the Hothouse

TWO

Rocking the Cradle of Class

THREE

Parenting to Perfection

**FOUR** 

We're All Jewish Mothers Now

**FIVE** 

**Cheating Childhood** 

SIX

Meet Mom and Dad, the New Hall Monitors

**SEVEN** 

From Scrutiny to Fragility

**EIGHT** 

Crisis on the Campus

NINE

Arrested Development

TEN

Born to Be Stressed





0

#### Introduction

Maybe it was the cyclist in the park, trim under his sleek metallic blue helmet, cruising along the dirt path . . . at three miles an hour. On his tricycle. Wedged between Mommy and Daddy.

Or perhaps it was the playground, all rubber-cushioned surface now where kids used to skin their knees. But . . . wait a minute . . . those weren't little kids playing. Their mommies—and especially their daddies—were right in there with them, co-playing or play-by-play coaching. Few were taking it half-easy on the perimeter benches, as parents used to do, letting the kids figure things out for themselves.

How about the recent survey that found that over a third of parents are sending their kids to school with sanitizing gels, tucking the stuff in their backpacks. Parents worry that school bathrooms are no longer good enough for their children.

Then there was the teacher new to the upscale suburban Westchester town. Shuffling through the sheaf of reports certifying the educational "accommodations" he was required to make for many of his history students, he was struck by the exhaustive, well-written—and obviously costly—one on behalf of a girl who was already distinguishing herself as among the most competent of his ninth graders. "She's somewhat neurotic," he confided, "but she is bright, organized, and conscientious—the type who'd get to school to turn in a paper on time even if she were dying of stomach flu." Searching for mention of the disability he was to make allowances for, he finally found it: difficulty with Gestalt thinking. The thirteen-year-old "couldn't see the big picture." That cleverly devised defect—what thirteen-year-old can construct the big picture?—would allow her to take all her tests untimed, especially the big one at the end of the rainbow, the college-worthy SAT.

Something seemed radically different in the world of parenting.

Behold the wholly sanitized childhood, without skinned knees or the occasional C in history! Kids need to learn that you need to feel bad sometimes. We learn through experience, and we learn especially through bad experiences. Through disappointment and failure we learn how to cope. We learn what we can cope with. It motivates us to change or do better. And we seem to learn more about things through failure than by any other way.

Messing up, however, even on the playground, is wildly out of style these days. Although error and experimentation are the true mothers of success, parents are taking pains to remove failure from the equation. They are vigilant about positioning their kids directly for success, which is now deemed to run on the straight-and-narrow path of academic achievement, from the earliest age, without what seems like dilatory downtime.





#### Introduction

Maybe it was the cyclist in the park, trim under his sleek metallic blue helmet, cruising along the dirt path . . . at three miles an hour. On his tricycle. Wedged between Mommy and Daddy.

Or perhaps it was the playground, all rubber-cushioned surface now where kids used to skin their knees. But . . . wait a minute . . . those weren't little kids playing. Their mommies—and especially their daddies—were right in there with them, co-playing or play-by-play coaching. Few were taking it half-easy on the perimeter benches, as parents used to do, letting the kids figure things out for themselves.

How about the recent survey that found that over a third of parents are sending their kids to school with sanitizing gels, tucking the stuff in their backpacks. Parents worry that school bathrooms are no longer good enough for their children.

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Sample of ArtRinat:

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Sample of ArtHadassahSQ:

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GARDENS OF WATER

A Novel

Alan Drew







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#### Chapter 6

S HE WAS ACTING LIKE A FOOL. "CAN I TAKE YOUR COATS?"! Aptal! It was burning hot out! Irem spilled a plate of rice in the potted fern and poured tea into Mehmet Bey's coffee, and she was so scared, so entirely out of breath with panic, that she couldn't even bring herself to go over to where Dylan and his parents sat. She thought a month of secret meetings could be read in her face, and even though she could see that they were out of tea and that they needed dessert, she let them wait until her mother made it to that side of the room.

"Don't forget about the Americans," her mother scolded.

"They make me nervous," she said, relieved to reveal part of the truth.

"Oh, you sound like your father!" Her mother left the kitchen bearing yet another pot of tea.

in the darkness of early morning when he spoke funny gibberish in his sleep. So when she heard the knife, she held her breath until it was done, and she forgot, at least momentarily, about the American boy, Dylan.

Afterward, though, her mother and father went to İ smail and held his hand and kissed his cheeks, and she was left alone to pick up the dishes. She delivered a stack of plates and cups to the kitchen and returned to the living room for another stack. Everyone crowded around İsmail now—his white bed and clothes shining in the lamplight—and show ered him with tinsel.

For her there had been no big party, no money or fancy clothes. She simply woke up one morning two years ago with blood on her legs and stains on the sheets. When she told her mother, her mother quietly stripped the bed so as not to wake the still-sleeping the bleeding while her father waited outside the door, knocking occasionally, and complaining about being late to the bakkal.

"Irem. You're a woman," her mother had said, smiling, whispering as though it were a conspiracy. "You must stay away from the boys now."

She had gone to bed a child and awoken a woman, and she had had to stand there in the locked bathroom—the glaring white light shining down, the pad bunched uncomfortably between her legs—and listen to her mother deliver new rules in hushed tones that made her feel ashamed.

And for a week afterward her father hadn't said more than three words to her, and that was only after she finally resorted to sitting on his lap one night after dinner. "No, please, İrem," he said, brushing her off his lap. It was like she was suddenly contagious.



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### **EPUB Demonstration**



### Chapter 6

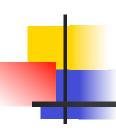
S HE WAS ACTING LIKE A FOOL. "CAN I TAKE YOUR COAT-S?"! *Aptal!* It was burning hot out! irem spilled a plate of rice in the potted fern and poured tea into Mehmet Bey's coffee, and she was so scared, so entirely out of breath with panic, that she couldn't even bring herself to go over to where Dylan and his parents sat. She thought a month of secret meetings could be read in her face, and even though she could see that they were out of tea and that they needed dessert, she let them wait until her mother made it to that side of the room.

"Don't forget about the Ameri-

ther!" Her mother left the kitchen bearing yet another pot of tea.

When the time had come for the circumcision, irem had been genuinely scared for her brother. He was babied by her parents and allowed to do whatever he wanted, but she had held him as an infant and fed him at night when her mother was exhausted and he was crying. She listened to him in the darkness of early morning when he spoke funny gibberish in his sleep. So when she heard the knife, she held her breath until it was done, and she forgot, at least momentarily, about the American boy, Dylan.

Afterward, though, her mother





### Chapter 6

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"Don't forget about the Americans," her mother





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#### **Sections**

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

#### **Most Popular**

### 'Star Trek' has galactic \$76.5M opening weekend

"Star Trek" beamed itself up to the top of the box office, earning \$76.5 million in its opening weekend. Paramount Pictures had estimated that the movie would make about \$50 million for the weekend, but figured that strong reviews helped carry it to

### US military: 44 Afghan cases of white phosphorus

The U.S. military says it has documented 44 cases where militants in Afghanistan have used white phosphorus in attacks or where the weapons have been found in caches. Maj. Jenny Willis says insurgents are using white phosphorus in mortar attacks and

### UN decries Sri Lanka 'bloodbath;' 106 children die

The United Nations condemned a "bloodbath" in Sri Lanka's northern war zone Monday after two days of shelling

Advertisemen

#### Top News Stories

#### American kills 5 fellow soldiers at clinic in Iraq



By ROBERT H. REID, Associated Press Writer (05-11) 21:06 PDT BAGHDAD, (AP) --

An American Army sergeant shot and killed five fellow soldiers following an altercation at a military counseling center in Iraq Monday, officials said. The attack drew attention to the issues of combat stress and mora

The suspect had been disarmed after an incident at the

center but returned with another weapon, according to a senior military official in Washington, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation into the shootings was ongoing.

#### Thousands flee Somalia's capital after fighting

By MOHAMED SHEIKH NOR, Associated Press Writer

(05-11) 10:54 PDT MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) --

Thousands fled their homes in Somalia's capital Monday after at least 35 were killed over the weekend in some of the worst fighting in weeks, while masked Islamic fighters were seen heading toward Mogadishu.

An Associated Press reporter saw people fleeing in taxis, pickups and trucks stacked with suitcases, mattresses, furniture and other belongings. Residents in northern Mogadishu reported sporadic fighting but there were no immediate reports of casualties Monday.

"Some of them do not know where to go. They need urgent help," said Ali Sheik Yasin Fadhaa, the vice chairman of the Elman Human Rights Organization. He said staff throughout Mogadishu had counted 5,200 people fleeing Monday. A total of 17,200 people have fled

## US journalist freed by Iran, reunited with parents



By ALI AKBAR DAREINI, Associated Press Writer (05-11) 15:10 PDT TEHRAN. Iran (AP) --

An American journalist imprisoned on espionage charges in Iran for four months was freed Monday and reunited with her smiling, tearful parents - a move that clears a major obstacle to President Barack Obama's attempts at dialogue with the top U.S. adversary in the Middle East. The United States had said the charges against Roxana Saberi, a 32-year-old dual Iranian-American citizen, were baseless and repeatedly demanded her release.





# Q&A