

# THE BALLANTINE PUBLISHING GROUP

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Mr. Michael Caughill  
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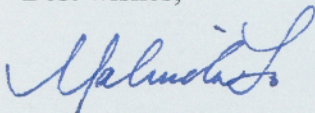
Dear Mr. Caughill:

Thank you for submitting *THE ABORTIONIST*. I really enjoyed your novel. I thought that the writing was excellent; the characters were well-drawn (I especially admired the protagonist, Elliott Stearns); and the plot was suspenseful. Although at first I was a bit hesitant about the idea of focusing the novel on the abortion issue, in the end I thought you did a great job showing both sides of the issue.

However, I was not able to garner much support for *THE ABORTIONIST* here at Ballantine. I think that the abortion issue is so touchy that it's dangerous to make it such an important element of a novel—especially a mainstream thriller. Unfortunately you run the risk of alienating many readers.

Therefore, I am returning the manuscript to you without an offer. But I sincerely wish you success in placing this novel with the right publisher.

Best wishes,



Malinda Lo  
Editorial Assistant