

U UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

IN RE “A MILLION LITTLE PIECES”
LITIGATION

06 MD 1771 (RJH)
ALL CASES

ORDER

**ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT**

The motion of Plaintiffs Marcia Vedral, Michele Snow, Jimmy Floyd, Jill Giles, Diane Marolda, Pilar More, Shera Paglinawan, Wendy Shaw, and Ann Marie Strack (“Plaintiffs”) for preliminary approval of their class action settlement with all of the defendants in the above matter, including defendants Random House, Inc. and James Frey (collectively “Defendants”), came on for hearing on April 6, 2007.

Having considered Plaintiffs’ moving papers, the signed Settlement Agreement and Release attached as Exhibit A to Plaintiffs’ Memorandum in Support of Plaintiffs’ Motion for Preliminary Approval (the “Settlement Agreement”), the supplemental submissions by all counsel, and all other documentary and oral evidence submitted concerning Plaintiffs’ motion, including the opposition to Preliminary Approval filed by Plaintiff Sarah Rubenstein, due notice having been given and the Court being duly advised in the premises, the Court hereby makes the following preliminary findings of fact:

(a) The settlement proposed in the Settlement Agreement has been negotiated at arms length and is preliminarily determined to be fair, reasonable, adequate, and in the best interests of the Settlement Class (as defined below).

(b) The Class Notice (as described in the Settlement Agreement) fully complies with Rule 23 and due process, constitutes the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and is due and sufficient notice to all persons entitled to notice of the settlement of this lawsuit.

(c) The Class Action Fairness Act notices, (“CAFA Notices”) provided by each defendant fully comply with 28 U.S.C. § 1715. The CAFA Notices were timely delivered; the settlement agreement was filed in court on January 4, 2007, and the appropriate federal and state officials were served with the CAFA Notices on January 11, 2007.

Based upon the findings of fact and the Court’s review of the Motion for Preliminary Approval and all of its attachments (including the settlement agreement),

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The settlement proposed in the Settlement Agreement has been negotiated at arms length and is preliminarily determined to be fair, reasonable, adequate, and in the best interests of the Settlement Class.

2. The following class (the “Settlement Class”) is conditionally certified pursuant to Rule 23(b)(3):

All persons who purchased the book A Million Little Pieces, in any format (including, but not limited to, in hardback, trade paperback, cassette, CD, or any other electronic media), on or before January 26, 2006.

3. Plaintiffs Marcia Vedral and Michele Snow are designated as class representatives of the Settlement Class.

4. The following firms are appointed as Settlement Class Counsel: Larry D. Drury, Ltd., Brodsky & Smith, LLC, Law Offices of Thomas M. Mullaney, Myers & Company,

P.L.L.C., Thomas E. Pakenas, Napoli Bern Ripka, LLP, Statman, Harris, Siegel & Eyrich, LLC, Zimmerman and Associates, P.C., and DiTommaso & Lubin, PC.

5. Larry D. Drury, Ltd. and Brodsky & Smith, LLC are appointed as “Co-Lead Class Counsel” and Thomas M. Mullaney is appointed as “Liaison Class Counsel.” Co-Lead Class Counsel shall speak for Plaintiffs at all conferences; delegate responsibilities for all future tasks; maintain contemporaneous attorneys’ fees itemization and insure that there is no unnecessary and/or duplicative work performed; and perform such other duties as may be expressly authorized or required by further Order of Court. Liaison Class Counsel shall be responsible for coordinating all future appearances on behalf of Plaintiffs and for the dissemination of notices and orders of this Court, be available and responsible for communications to and from this Court, including distributing orders and other directions from the Court to counsel.

6. In the event that (i) the Settlement Agreement is terminated pursuant to its terms; (ii) Defendants withdraw from the Settlement Agreement; (iii) the Settlement Agreement, Preliminary Approval Order, and Final Judgment and Order are not approved in all material respects by this Court; or (iv) the Settlement Agreement, Preliminary Approval Order, and Final Judgment and Order are reversed, vacated, or modified in any material respect by this or any other court, then (a) all orders entered pursuant to the Settlement Agreement shall be vacated, including, without limitation, the certification of the Settlement Class, and all other relevant portions of this Order, (b) the instant action shall proceed as though the Settlement Class had never been certified, and (c) no reference to the prior Settlement Class, or any documents related thereto, shall be made for any purpose; provided, however, that if the Parties to the Settlement Agreement agree to jointly appeal an adverse ruling and the Settlement Agreement and Final

Judgment and Order are upheld on appeal, then the Settlement Agreement and Final Judgment and Order shall be given full force. Defendants retain the right to oppose class certification if the settlement is vacated, and the doctrines of res judicata and collateral estoppel shall not be applied.

7. Notice of the settlement shall be given to Settlement Class Members in the manner set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

8. The form of Notice that Defendants will provide is attached as Exhibit A. Defendants will send the Notice by first-class mail to each Settlement Class Member that purchased the Book directly from Random House. For all other persons, Notice will be affected by various publications. Defendants may make changes to the sample Notice either by agreement with Settlement Class Counsel or with Court approval. The sending of the Notice by mail shall constitute the "Class Notice." This Class Notice fully complies with the requirements of Rule 23 and due process, constitutes the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and is due and sufficient notice to all persons entitled to notice of the settlement of this lawsuit.

9. Each Defendant mailed the CAFA Notice to the appropriate federal and state officials. The CAFA Notices fully comply with 28 U.S.C. § 1715 and were timely served.

10. Members of the Settlement Class shall have until August 23, 2007, to opt out of the Settlement Class, as set forth in the Settlement Agreement and paragraph 14 of this Order.

11. Members of the Settlement Class shall have until August 23, 2007, to file with this Court a written objection to the settlement, as set forth in the Settlement Agreement and paragraph 15 of this Order, and shall otherwise have no right to object to the Settlement

Agreement. Only Settlement Class Members shall have the right to object to the proposed settlement.

12. Co-Lead Class Counsel shall submit to the Court a list of the individual members of the Settlement Class seeking to opt out by September 7, 2007.

13. The final hearing to determine whether the settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and whether it should be approved by the Court, will be conducted on **Friday, November 2, 2007, at 10:00 a.m.** in the courtroom of the Honorable Richard J. Holwell, Courtroom 17B, 500 Pearl Street, New York, New York 10007.

14. A request for exclusion from the Settlement Class must be in writing and state the name, address, and phone number of the person(s) seeking exclusion. Each request must also contain a signed statement that: "I/we hereby request that I/we be excluded from the proposed Settlement Class in the In re "A Million Little Pieces" Litigation. The request must be mailed to Settlement Class Counsel at the address provided in the Class Notice and received by August 23, 2007.

15. Any Settlement Class Member who objects to the settlement may appear in person or through counsel, at his or her own expense, at the final hearing to present any evidence or argument that may be proper and relevant. However, no Settlement Class Member shall be heard and no papers, briefs, pleadings, or other documents submitted by any member of the Settlement Class shall be received and considered by the Court unless, no later than August 23, 2007, such member of the Settlement Class shall both file with the Court and mail to Settlement Class Counsel and counsel for Defendants, at the addresses designated in the class action settlement notice, a written objection that includes (a) a notice of intention to appear, (b) a statement of membership in the Settlement Class, and (c) the specific grounds for the objection

and any reasons that such member of the Settlement Class desires the Court to consider. Any member of the Settlement Class who fails to object in the manner prescribed herein shall be deemed to have waived his or her objections and forever be barred from making any objections in the above-captioned lawsuit or in any other action or proceeding.

16. In aid of the Court's jurisdiction to implement and enforce the proposed settlement, Plaintiffs and all members of the Settlement Class are preliminary enjoined from commencing or prosecuting any action asserting any of the Released Claims (as defined in the Settlement Agreement), either directly, representatively, derivatively, or in any other capacity, whether by a complaint, counterclaim, defense, or otherwise, in any local, state, or federal court, or in any agency or other authority or forum wherever located. Any person or entity who knowingly violates this injunction may be required to pay the costs and attorneys' fees incurred by Defendants as a result of the violation. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to prevent a member of the Settlement Class from presenting objections to this Court regarding the Settlement Agreement in accordance with the terms of this Order.

17. All papers in support of or in opposition to the Settlement Agreement shall be filed and served in accordance with the following schedule: (a) any objections by members of the Settlement Class, and any papers in opposition to the settlement, shall be filed with the Court on or before August 23, 2007, and served as provided above, and (b) all papers in support of the settlement, including responses to objections, shall be filed with the Court and served on or before September 23, 2007. There shall be no replies.

18. As set forth in the Settlement Agreement and the Class Notice, members of the Settlement Class shall have until October 1, 2007, to submit completed Claim Forms and supporting materials in order to participate in the settlement.

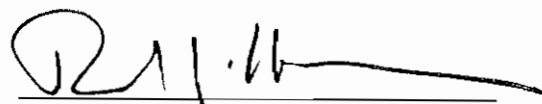
19. Attorneys representing members of the Settlement Class in this action, other than Settlement Class Counsel herein, must file an appearance with the Clerk of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, and send a copy to Settlement Class Counsel and counsel for Defendants at the addresses listed in the class action settlement notice. The appearance must be filed on or before August 23, 2007.

20. In the event that the settlement does not become final in accordance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement, then this Order shall be void and shall be deemed vacated.

21. The Court may, for good cause, extend any of the deadlines set forth in this Order or adjourn or continue the final approval hearing without further notice to the Settlement Class.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: New York, New York
May 4, 2007


Richard J. Holwell
United States District Judge