

# Content Guide

## Liberation

### By Corinna Turner

**Themes:** Self-sacrifice, faith, martyrdom, chastity, pro-life and the dangers of eugenics (the culture of death), forced organ donation, population control, Christian Persecution.

**Educational Value:** Appropriate for students studying Ethics/Morality, Religious Persecution (present or historical, especially Elizabethan England on which the persecution is partly modeled), Medical Ethics, Government/Civics. Theology of the Body (Purity/Chastity) is also shown positively in the series, specifically, in book three, the importance of waiting for marriage and of Natural Fertility Awareness over contraception.

**Positive Messages:** Keeping faith even in the face of martyrdom, thinking of others even in the worst situation, fighting for what you believe in no matter the risk to yourself, affirming the worth and right to life of all, regardless of disability, race, gender, etc.

**Spiritual Messages:** We must trust in God no matter our situation and serve him as best we can.

**Positive Role Models:** Margaret is a positive role model for girls because she is determined to do what is right even when she is scared and although she is not perfect she usually manages to do so. Although she is involved in action scenes, she is a feminine heroine.

Jonathan is a positive role model because he is brave and kind and very resolute in his beliefs, despite the challenges of his physical blindness.

Bane is a positive role model because despite his uncertainty about God he is fiercely loyal and very brave, always prepared to put his life on the line for others.

**Violence/Gore:** Some, mostly non-graphic descriptions.

A character has a nightmare about another character with his eyes missing. She dreams that she destroys his eyeballs and that he is then beaten to death by soldiers.

A major character is shot dead. There is a description of a small hole in his forehead and a lot of blood.

Another character dies off-stage.

A major character is tortured (off-stage) and loses their eyes.

**Sexuality:** A male and female character fall asleep in the same room. After a priest warns them that this subjects them to temptation, they don't do so again. In other places allusions are also made to their struggle to stay chaste.

Two characters are shown in bed twice after their wedding, but there is no indecent or graphic description.

Natural Fertility Awareness is presented positively within the book. Elsewhere a devout character with same sex attraction explains Church teaching to a non-believer.

The fact that older teens feel an increasingly strong interest in the opposite sex is frankly acknowledged in the book, with chastity and waiting for marriage presented in a positive light as the desirable and right path.

**Language:** Words like heck and darn are used.

**Drinking, Drugs & Smoking:** None.

## **WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW**

This book explores in deep and moving ways what it means to be Catholic under duress, and shows young adult Catholics making hard and heroic choices to defend life and to live out their Catholic faith. The themes are mature and the novel is emotionally intense, making it more suitable for older teens, though some mature younger readers will benefit from it.

**Rating Scale: ADVANCED**

Light- For all readers.

Moderate - Story includes subject matter for teens 13 plus

Advanced - Although not graphic in description, the subject matter is recommended for teens older than 15.