

# Content Guide

## *Roland West, Outcast*

**Themes:** speaking up when it's hard, same-sex attraction (including the Church's teachings), judging actions but not others, respecting those with different opinions, true vs. false compassion.

**Educational Value:** Discussion Guide available on the author's website. The Church's traditional approach to people who struggle with same-sex attraction comes through in the story: authentic compassion considers the complete person, including their soul, and can never ignore sin, which destroys a soul.

**Positive Messages:** Speaking the truth, even when it's hard, can help others in the long run.

**Spiritual Messages:** Happiness comes from following Christ. The Church that Jesus built provides the fullness of revealed truth and the channels of grace to help us live according to the truth.

**Positive Role Models:** When a teen boy is asked by a girl he likes what the Church teaches about love between same-sex couples, he says a little prayer then risks coming across as "judgmental" by telling the truth. A shy teen boy forces himself to "speak truth" to a group of people that don't share his beliefs.

**Violence/Gore:** Two teen girls argue, and one seems ready to fight.

**Sexuality:** While the story concerns people who identify as same sex attracted, there is no sexual content. A character explains that her sister has a girlfriend. A teen boy has a crush on a girl who does not like boys.

**Language:** Bad language is not present in the story but is indicated with the words cursed and cussed. The story opens with a scene showing "hard, ugly words spray painted in big black letters on the garage door." While the explicit words are not in the story, it is shown that these are "harsh labels, offensive names" for the troubled character. Additionally, while the story concerns people with same-sex attraction, words such as lesbian and gay are not present in the story; it is easy enough to understand without them.

**Drinking, Drugs & Smoking:** It is mentioned that a minor character "stopped smoking." A main character thinks how he never saw the point in smoking. A troubled character admits that her mother had a rough life and eased her pain with drugs.

### WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

This story was written to provide role models for young Catholics to stand up for and to live the truth in a culture that approves of and promotes sexual deviancy. Sadly, these topics now affect children of every age. Evil is pushing hard to confuse our children and lead them astray. We must do all we can to show them the right path and to provide wholesome examples of what it looks like to "do the right thing" and how to "speak truth"—regardless of the labels

others might give us. See the [discussion guide](#) for a better understanding of how this comes through in the story.

**Rating:**

Moderate – Story includes subject matter for teens 14 plus.

**Rating Scale:**

Light- For all readers.

Moderate - Story includes subject matter for teens 14 plus

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