

Content Guide

Elfling

By Corinna Turner

Themes: Redemption, second chances, repentance, family, duty, good and evil.

Educational Value: Appropriate for students studying history (especially Elizabethan since this fantasy world is based on an alternative Elizabethan period where the Protestant revolution never happened), fantasy literature, folk law and fairytale.

Positive Messages: A good person can do a bad thing and still turn their life around. God offers second chances. When we know something is true we shouldn't let people tell us otherwise, and we should never give up on someone.

Spiritual Messages: No crime is beyond God's forgiveness if we trust in his mercy.

Positive Role Models: Serapia is a positive role model because she is kind (keeping her pet Raven even though she can barely feed herself), she is brave, and she is very determined.

Ystevan is a positive role model with his sense of duty and his determination to serve his people and protect them.

Alban is also a positive role model when it comes to accepting the consequences of one's mistakes, repenting and remaining resolutely on the right path thereafter.

Violence/Gore: Moderate. Mostly without graphic details. At one point a character is slashed by an unseen assailant and killed, and there is some description of the wounds. Another character cuts their hand by accident and has to have it bandaged. A sorcerer kills three people with a spell—there is a description of fear and screaming but no gore. A character is punched in the face and given a bloody nose. Several bad characters are shot with arrows. A good character sustains minor burns rescuing a baby. A young man is knifed by bad men. A number of bad men are injured or incapacitated during a fight and one is killed. Two men are executed during the book. Two men duel and one ends up with a dagger through his hand.

Sexuality: There are a few references to the risk of a young girl on the street being forced into a brothel and a character has to run away from some men who seem to have intentions along those lines but there are no explicit descriptions.

Language: Words like heck and dare are used.

Drinking, Drugs & Smoking: Wine is mentioned being drunk with meals, as was normal historically.

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

This book is an exciting Catholic fantasy in the tradition of J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis. It came first in the Teen category of the 2019 Catholic Press Book Awards. In the book

sorcery is presented very clearly as evil and of the devil. Sorcerers are the bitter enemies of the elves, who have 'natural' magical powers which come from God.

Rating Scale: MODERATE TO 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.