

Content Guide
Rightfully Ours
By Carolyn Astfalk

Themes: Premarital chastity, temptation, authentic love, Theology of the Body, loss/grief, military families.

Educational Value: Incorporates Catholic Church teaching on the morality of sexual intimacy, particularly as understood in light of Pope St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body. Discussion questions are available on the author's website.

Positive Messages: Paul and Rachel discover the value of friendship, family, faith, and self-discipline in adopting the truths they've been taught but had yet to truly make their own.

Spiritual Messages: What we do with our bodies matters. God has a plan for love and human sexuality. Acting in accord with that plan helps us to avoid painful consequences. Chastity (in this case premarital chastity) is possible through God's grace, and temptation can be overcome not only with prudent habits but by frequent reception of the sacraments.

Positive Role Models: Paul and Rachel ultimately adopt the belief that because of their love for one another they should remain chaste and save sex for marriage. Paul's older brother, Sean, and both Paul's and Rachel's parents offer instruction, encouragement, and good examples for acting with integrity in terms of marriage and sexuality.

Violence/Gore: Minimal non-bloody violence committed by a would-be thief against the main characters. Non-graphic accidental injury resulting in broken bones.

Sexuality: Realistic depiction of unmarried teens 16+ tempted and struggling to remain chaste despite their mutual love and sexual attraction. Includes description of their non-explicit but natural interior thoughts including desire; kissing; and temptation to have sexual intercourse without using explicit description, nudity, or discussion of body parts. Implied reference to masturbation and its sinfulness. References to off-screen married sexual intimacy portrayed as good and natural.

Language: Mild, infrequent profanity (ass (5x), damn (5x), hell(6x)).

Drinking, Drugs & Smoking: Minor underage drinking in context of a wedding toast (demonstrating the effects of alcohol on clear decision-making). One incident of an adult drinking to excess as a poor means of coping with anxiety. No illegal drug usage or smoking.

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

Rightfully Ours deals with sexuality and premarital chastity in a frank and realistic manner. It is ideal for older teens, particularly those in exclusive dating relationships, and those studying Pope St. John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*.

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.