

Content Guide

The Three Most Wanted

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. Survival skills, Theology of the Body (Purity/Chastity) is also shown positively in the series, specifically, in book two, the temptations that come from physical contact.

Positive Messages: Trusting in God and refusing to give up hope however difficult the situation. 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.

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: Moderate, non-graphic descriptions. At separate times, characters are shot - one is killed, one injured. Someone is clawed by a wild animal. Someone tells a story about a man who has his throat cut. A character has a nightmare about another character having their eyes missing.

The question of whether 'mercy killing' (killing someone to spare them pain) is ever right is also touched on in the novel, with the main role model opposing such a thing ever being okay.

Sexuality: Two characters who are engaged exchange kisses several times before realizing they need to be more careful about their chastity.

Two boys and one girl sleep side by side in separate sleeping bags for safety and because they can only carry one tent, but are careful about chastity. When they are in danger of hyperthermia and share one sleeping bag, temptation arises between two characters and they are more careful in future.

A female character is briefly assaulted by a bad guy.

A character relates how two bad characters were 'expected' to have a sexual relationship, but one refused.

On one occasion two non-Christian girls dress provocatively to distract attention from someone who is in danger. On another occasions, two characters who are not romantically involved pretend to be to protect themselves and another from suspicion, going as far as sharing a kiss.

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.