

## **Parental Guide: The Devil's Ransom** *(Book 6 in The Harwood Mysteries)*

**Themes:** Worldliness, faith, overcoming evil, trust in God, demonic possession, marriage and love.

**Educational Value:** You can find discussion questions for this novel at the publisher's website: chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgclefindmkaj/https://lp-pardot.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/DevilsRansom\_BookClub.pdf

**Positive Messages:** Faith, friendship, and family. Good will always overcome evil.

**Spiritual Messages:** With faith, God can bring good even out of bad events. We must rely on God to overcome evil in our lives. God will never abandon us.

**Positive Role Models:** While Xan does make some bad choices in this book, he eventually recognizes his need for God, family, and friends to meet the challenges in his life. Christina is a wonderful role model for true love and loyalty. Lucy is a wonderful role model for faith and devotion to God as a religious calling.

**Violence/Gore:** There is no gore, but there is a lengthy confrontation with a demon-possessed man in the final act of the novel. There are also references to a character being killed and to the evil act of child sacrifice by ancient pagans. There is some mild violence between Muslim guards and some of the characters.

**Sexuality:** None, except two main characters get married and show affection to each other throughout the story. There are no sexual references in the book.

**Language:** None

**Drinking, Drugs & Smoking:** None

### **WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW**

There is an actual demonic possession confronted in this story. Because the novel takes place in the Middle Ages in a Muslim city with no priests, the main characters must confront this evil on their own and exorcise demons from a character. There are some intense scenes of this sort near the end of the book.

### **Rating Scale: Moderate**

Scale:

Light- For all readers.

Moderate - Story includes subject matter for teens 13 plus

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