

Content Guide
Worth Dying For
by Marie C Keiser

Themes: Faith, conscience, courage, friendship, death, learning even from flawed role models

Educational Value: Various economic and political ideas are dramatically presented, especially objectivist libertarianism, communism, and Marxist class struggle ideology. Could serve as a springboard for a discussion of a just economic system and the role of religion in society.

Positive Messages: Family and friends are important. Life has a purpose beyond mere survival. Real freedom is found in truth and virtue. Some things are worth dying for.

Spiritual Messages: God loves us enough to die for us. God is not limited in His love by our mistaken ideas of Him.

Positive Role Models:

Mark consistently tries to do the right thing, despite his fears and even though he struggles to know what the right thing is. He risks his life to save others more than once.

Father Guthrie is a good priest who risks his life to bring the sacraments to people.

Violence/Gore:

- One of the protagonists has a nightmare in which he is being tortured with a knife. It is not described.
- One of the protagonists is slapped in the face. He later has bruises.
- A minor character dies in a scuffle off-scene. The protagonists later move his dead body. It is described in some detail.
- A character is seen to have scars from previous torture, and has a nightmare about it. He attacks a character who tries to wake him, but does not hurt him seriously.
- A character remembers seeing images of a mutilated body. It is not described.
- Some brief non-graphic fighting.

Sexuality: It is implied that some minor characters spend their time watching impure content.

Language: one of the main characters uses the word “hell” a few times.

Drinking, Drugs & Smoking: there is a mention of organized drug smuggling, but no on-scene use.

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

The story centers around two protagonists. Mark was raised in a Catholic home, but one in which a fear-based "checklist" approach to the Faith was dominant. He starts the book by leaving home and leaving his Faith behind during an angry confrontation with his parents. Throughout the story he meets characters promoting various ideologies and he is drawn to their positive qualities, but also sees the flaws. Eventually he comes to see what was wrong with how the Faith was presented to him, and accepts it willingly as a mature adult.

Evan, the other protagonist, grew up in a place controlled by organized crime and participated in their activities. He is deeply selfish and struggles to believe that anyone could act unselfishly. He ends up working with Mark, and eventually, through the example of Mark and the various characters they meet, chooses to act unselfishly and even to look for a higher purpose to his life.

Rating Scale: moderate

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.