

Content Guide

Margo's Diary

By Corinna Turner

Themes: Self-sacrifice, reconciliation within a family, faith, the power of the media, reconciliation, forgiveness of enemies, redemption, 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. Theology of the Body (Purity/Chastity) is also shown positively in the series, specifically, in book five, the importance of openness to life in a marriage.

Positive Messages: Fighting for what you believe in no matter the risk to yourself, importance of family life, affirming the worth and right to life of all, regardless of disability, race, gender, etc.

Spiritual Messages: We should trust in God completely and serve him as best we can whether in our family life or in our work.

Positive Role Models: Margaret is a positive role model for girls because she is determined to do fight for what is right and also be a good wife and mother.

Bane is a positive role model because he is fiercely loyal and very brave, always prepared to put his life on the line for others, and he also strives to be a good husband and father.

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.

Violence/Gore: Very little, no graphic descriptions.

A bodyguard is shot and injured.

A story is told about a man who once got badly beaten up.

In a story a bad man is eaten by a dragon.

Sexuality: The two main characters are married and sex is sometimes alluded to, for example, in talk of trying for another baby. No 'on-stage' sex or graphic descriptions.

Language: Words like heck and darn are used.

Drinking, Drugs & Smoking: An adult visitor drinks slightly too much wine, then falls asleep on the sofa. When he wakes up he apologizes.

Elsewhere two characters get engaged and everyone drinks a toast of wine. The children are allowed a sip or an eggcup-full, according to their age.

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 book is emotionally intense in places.

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.