

Twelve girls from a strict fundamentalist family discover a way to sneak out of their parents' house at night. Their father, a retired general, tries to discover their secret.

Parents of younger readers might want to know:

The nature of the book's conflict centers around a rebellious older teenage girl and her father. This older teen leads her younger sisters to deceive and disobey their parents by sneaking out of the house after midnight. Any teenage girl who sneaks out after midnight is probably going to encounter trouble of a specific kind, and this book is fraught with that sort of peril. My older teen readers say this makes the book too intense for their younger siblings, and I tend to agree.

The father of the girls has asked the hero, a young Catholic ex-soldier he knew overseas to try to find out what his girls are up to. The hero quickly discovers the girls' secret, but chooses the more risky course of trying to convince the girls to confess to their father, and asking the father to trust his daughters.

At one point, when the oldest daughter discovers the hero knows their secret, she goes to her father and lies, saying that the hero tried to force her to kiss him and implies worse things.

The villain in the book, a seemingly friendly young man who aids and abets the girls' continued disobedience, makes several veiled references to his true designs for the girls. He is clearly trying to seduce the oldest daughter, which the hero recognizes.

Several bad characters are shown using illegal drugs, and the teenagers in the book try to stop one of their friends from taking drugs offered by these bad characters.

SPOILERS! There are several fight scenes in the book, and the hero's ordeal involves being captured and tortured by the villains in a frat-style manner. This scene reveals the hero's true Christ-like character to the oldest daughter, who finally understands the consequences of her actions.

At the end of the book, the villain knocks the oldest daughter unconscious, and taunts the hero by threatening (in ambiguous language) to rape her. This scene in particular is one readers cite as "too intense for my younger sister." It's clearly a very dangerous situation for the oldest daughter, and one that she's effectively brought upon herself through her constant risky behavior. The oldest daughter is rescued before anything serious happens, but it's still a fairly frightening situation.

Because of the nature of the climax and the undercurrent of sexual danger throughout the book, I definitely recommend this book for older teenagers and their parents.

The Author Recommends this Book: for ages 16 and older