



Tortured

Caragh M. O'Brien

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"But what about Leon?" Now, in this new story that bridges the gap between *Birthmarked* and *Prized*, Caragh M. O'Brien answers her readers' most common question with a tale of suffering and determination from Leon's perspective. Be warned. The story is a spoiler for the first book in the award-winning trilogy. This promotional e-book includes this exclusive bridge story, as well as a teaser chapter for *Prized*, book two in the Birthmarked trilogy, available wherever e-books are sold November 2011.

Tortured Details

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Author : Caragh M. O'Brien

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From Reader Review Tortured for online ebook

Caragh says

Yep. I liked writing this one.

Jillian -always aspiring- says

I'm a bit in love with Leon myself, so I can't really stop myself from giving this five stars. Very nice bridge between Birthmarked and Prized.

Wendy Darling says

Free for Kindle right now, along with the titles below! More info and details linked on my blog.

Jennifer says

Good little quick look into Leon's days after Birthmarked. It made me want to pick up Prized right away!

I read it on my Kobo, and I'm not sure if it's a glitch or if it was issued that way, but the font was in all capital letters? It was kind of distracting.

But a good, if very short, short story.

Karen's Library says

Good story, but hard to read, about Leon which takes place between Birthmarked and Prized.

Aideeeee says

Aah pues sí aporta detalles mínimos, pero como todo material extra, termina siendo mucha paja.

Resultó que la mente de mi apreciado León Grey es a penas compleja. Pero es aceptable. O soy re fácil, lo que sea.

Jill says

[you didn't see what he experienced in the wasteland at all (hide spoiler)]

Sarah says

I have pretty mixed feelings on this bridge story. Here's why:

When I read *Prized*, and it was revealed that Leon had made it to Sylum, I was elated. However, it seemed like he appeared out of thin air. He was all of a sudden just there, in the prison, with no explanation at all. Later in *Prized*, Leon briefly mentioned his torture and how his stepmother aided in his escape, but it was vague and not very convincing. So, when I heard *Tortured* was coming out, I looked forward to learning more about Leon's journey to Sylum, and I pre-ordered this free bridge story immediately.

While I appreciated the look into what happened to Leon after those fateful gates closed, I almost felt like this book was unnecessary. First of all, the entire ebook is only 591 locations long - I don't know how many pages that translates to, but it can't be more than 50, if that - and less than half of it was actually *Tortured*. The other half consists of preview excerpts from *Birthmarked* and *Prized*. So that makes less than 25 pages of actual information on Leon. Okay, that's not too big of a problem. As long as we get the story, right? Well, *Tortured* basically gives us the same information we got in *Prized*, but with a little more detail.

It also only talks about how Leon escaped, not about his torture - ahem, isn't that the title? - nor how he made it to Sylum. I don't know about you, but I was really looking forward to hearing about how Leon was captured, why and how he was tortured, and by whom was he tortured? I wanted to know about his journey in the wasteland, who found him, and how he ended up in Sylum's jail. Unfortunately, we get none of those things in *Tortured*. I was gravely disappointed. It was the same thing with *Gaia*. O'Brien stopped the story right after *Gaia* left the Enclave and picked it up right before she enters Sylum. We miss the whole chunk of time *Gaia* spent in the wasteland, and we miss the time Leon was in it, too.

Tortured might be worth it to read if you have five minutes of your life - yes, YOUR life - you never want back, but if you're purely looking for an explanation, then you're not gonna get a good one here.

AH says

Kindle free download 12/8/11.

Why? Why? Why wasn't this included in *Prized*? It would have made that book so much better.

It could have made a great prologue.

Abria Mattina says

I found Tortured an interesting read, but it's hard to get much satisfaction out of it because it's over so quickly. Things that took place in Birthmarked are explained further, but Tortured ends before any action can take place. This novelette-length piece bridges the events between the end of Birthmarked and the beginning of Prized. It's free as an ebook, which was probably a good idea on the publisher's part. Tortured isn't so much a sequel as it is a single chapter, and it would be kind of annoying to have to pay for so little content. Tortured only makes up half of the ebook--the rest is a teaser for Prized and a short story.

Tortured doesn't really add much to the backstory or forward momentum of the plot. I probably could have enjoyed the series just as much without reading Tortured. I wish that O'Brien had just worked this information into Prized. I don't think that it really needed to be a standalone book.

Carina Olsen says

Tortured is a short story set after Birthmarked but before Prized. It is told from Leon's POV. And it is amazing. I loved hearing Leon's thoughts. It isn't very long; only 32 pages. Well, okay, only 16. But still. Those 16 pages are amazing. And I'm so glad this ebook was out there. Because Leon was my favorite character in this book series; and I was so excited to read from him. :)

This short story is very sad, though. Because it deals with what happens after Leon got tortured. And it is horrible. And so sad. But I also loved it, because it is real. And I loved Leon's thoughts. I wish to know what really happened to his finger, though. So a bit sad we didn't get to know that. But maybe in the third book; Promised. I need Leon to talk about it.

There isn't really much to review in this short story. We get to see Myrna a little. I liked her. She is a great character. Hoping we'll see more of her too. She helps Leon a lot in this book. I also liked Cho. He seemed sweet. And then there is Leon's step mother. Not sure how I feel about her. Hate her for not doing enough about everything happening with Leon. But I also sort of liked her.

Anyway. This is an awesome short story; even though it is really short and mostly sad. But I still adored it; because it is Leon and the only time we have read anything from him. I am just hoping for more. And I cannot wait to read the third book; Promised. I just need more Leon. :) You should read Tortured if you have read Birthmarked/Prized. Because it is worth reading.

Larissa says

It was a choice he had happily made, his life for hers, his freedom for hers. But now she was out there somewhere, battling the wastelands with precious few supplies and a baby to care for. The chances for survival were slim, but his own survival was not so great either. Punished and tortured for his part in Gaia's escape with the records, he was in no position, or fit state, to go after her. But when given the opportunity there was no way he would let it slip through his fingers. He had cared more for her then he realized and he could only hope that he would find her and when he did that she might care for him in return.

Tortured may only be as long as a chapter but the story contained within answers the questions of what

happened to those left behind after Gaia left the Enclave, Wharfton, her friends and Leon behind. Having ensured Gaia's escape, watching her leave with her sister, Leon is now, finally, after so much torture free to follow her, that is if she has survived the harshness of the wilderness. As a stepping stone from Birthmarked to Prized it does well to tie up the lose ends. Written from Leon's point of view it offers fresh perspective on what has transpired and what may yet occur. A must read for those reading this series.

Kami says

COLLASAL DISAPPOINTMENT! This is NOT a book, it's not even a short story or novella. It's a chapter containing a whole 15 pages (Nook version). I was really looking forward to some insight into what happened to Leon and how he might make it back to Gaia. What I got was 15 pages of his assisted escape from the Bastion and nothing else. There is no plot, no development, there is NOTHING! This should have been an Epiologue at the end of the first book but, instead, they market it as its own entity.

At least it was a free download but that doesn't lessen the disappointment of thinking you get to read something with insight from another perspective and then only getting a brief mention of torture, treatment, and an assisted escape. There's not even any action....grrrr!

This was so short, I don't even think I can consider this a legitimate read toward the reading challenge.

Christina (Ensconced in Lit) says

The new thing in YA is doing novellas or short stories to promote upcoming sequels. Unfortunately, some authors use this only for a vehicle for a sneak peak for the sequel instead of using it as a forum to say something new and fresh about the story being told.

Tortured by Caragh O'Brien falls in that category. The story takes place after Birthmarked. We follow Leon as he is healing from torture from his father. We get some discussion of what happens to him and how he plans to get Gaia back. That is the gist of the story.

We already know that this happens and don't need this scene to help us out. But the problem of this novella is that it doesn't really add anything to the story-- it should either give us a new perspective, new twists to the original story, add something new. I feel like it fails on these counts. The sneak peek of Prized is just as long as this story is, and much better than Tortured.

The sad thing is, I had to skim through this short story even though it couldn't have been more than 20 pages long. Overall, adds nothing to the story, and I would not encourage readers of the Birthmarked trilogy to read it.

Kyle says

Kind of pointless, since only one important thing happened the entire time. Thank God when I pre-ordered it I got it for free, since it wasn't worth anything more.

