



Vanquished

Katie Clark

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When Hana's mom is diagnosed with the mutation, she confesses to Hana she doesn't know what will happen if she dies. Fischer, a medic at the hospital, implies there is Someone who can help—but religion's been outlawed. Hana embarks on a dangerous journey, seeking the answers Fischer insists are available. But when the truth is uncovered, will Hana stick to what she's been taught? Or will she join the rebellion and take a stand against an oppressive society?

Vanquished Details

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Author : Katie Clark

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From Reader Review Vanquished for online ebook

Lisa Godfrees says

This was a quick read for me. I wanted to know what was going on in this futuristic American society so I kept flipping pages. This is your typical dystopian story but with an element of faith.

Hana's mom is in the hospital with a terminal disease (sounds like cancer). Hana is about to graduate and be Tested so she can take her place in society but circumstances make her question whether the people who rule her society (Greater) are ultimately looking out for the good of the Middles (Hana and her family), and whether the Lessers (dregs of society) are really as awful as they are portrayed.

What makes this story stand out from typical dystopian is the faith element. The Greater have outlawed all religion, so no one knows about God. When Hana meets a boy who can tell her about God and has a Bible, Hana feels obligated to find out what will really happen to her mother when she dies.

I enjoyed this Christian spin on a typical dystopian storyline. I already have the next two in the series queued up to read.

Disclaimer: I received this book for free in exchange for an unbiased review.

Lindsey (Books for Christian Girls) says

About this book:

“When Hana's mom is diagnosed with the mutation, she confesses to Hana she doesn't know what will happen if she dies. Fischer, a medic at the hospital, implies there is Someone who can help-but religion's been outlawed. Hana embarks on a dangerous journey, seeking the answers Fischer insists are available. But when the truth is uncovered, will Hana stick to what she's been taught? Or will she join the rebellion and take a stand against an oppressive society?”

Series: Book #1 in the “Enslaved” series.

Spiritual Content- Talks about God, the Holy Bible, Heaven & hell; ‘H’s are capital when referring to God; John 3:16 is read & thought over; Bible reading; Greater believe in reincarnation, but Hana’s never been so sure about that; Meditation is required (Hana thinks it helps & mentions of it; semi-detailed); Religion is against the law;

*Note: “*his own private h*ll*” is said.

Negative Content- Minor cussing including: two forms of ‘shut up’, five forms of ‘dumb’, seventeen ‘stupid’s; A mention of h*ll being said as a curse word; A mention that most pets become food in the winter months; Mentions of alcohol, crime, drugs & execution (no details); Mentions of pills;

Sexual Content- A almost kiss; Noticing; Flirting; Touches & Warmth (barely-above-not-detailed); A mention of fresh underwear; *“Hanging out alone with the opposite sex is against the law. It’s the Greeters’ form of birth control.”*, and mentions of birth control pills, being alone together & going *there* (it never happens to Hana and is written very not-detailed); The government aborts babies if they’re born out of wedlock & mentions of abortion; *Spoiler*(view spoiler) *End of Spoiler*.

*Note: “*I don’t mean to butt in.*” is said.

-Hana Norfolk, age 17

1st person P.O.V. of Hana

{Dystopia}

271 pages

Pre Teens- One Star

New Teens- Two Stars

Early High School Teens- Three Stars

Older High School Teens- Four Stars

My personal Rating- Four Stars

Oh. Oh. *Oh.* That ending! Cliff-hanger! Before I picked up this novel, I really wanted to like it—I've been craving to read a good Dystopia—and I did like this novel. It had some parts I didn't like (mentions of abortions & meditations) and while it was a bit like a typical Dystopia plot (no religion, different classes, etc.) I can't wait to get my hands on the second book of this series. :)

Link to review:

<http://booksforchristiangirls.blogspot.com>

*BFCG may (Read the review to see) recommend this book by this author. It does not mean I recommend all the books by this author.

Rick Starkey says

Katie Clark gives us a glimpse into a future that could one day be our own. Though most measure today's dystopian novels against The Hunger Games or Divergent, Vanquished can stand on its own against either. Katie has asked the ultimate what if. What if God doesn't exist because we have never been allowed to learn about God or Jesus?

Life is good, but when Hana's mother becomes sick with the mutation, and whose medical allowance is depleted, where can Hana turn for help? She hears talk about a God, but is she willing to go against everything she has been raised to believe about her government and risk being sent to a lesser place filled with crime, hunger, and filth?

Hana's fight is about more than life or death. It's a fight for eternal life and her soul, and the souls of others who have not heard the Word. If it only takes a spark, this girl is catching fire.

More than a Good Read. Though set years in the fictitious future, Hana's time may be too close for comfort for us all. *Vanquished* is a book I couldn't stop reading. The only disappointment was turning a page and finding the blank page at the end. I wanted more.

Sherry Alexander says

This Christian dystopian is a thriller in every sense of the word. Hana is faced with so many changes at times it is hard not to feel sorry for her. However, her strength to find out what is really going on keeps you reading and reading. I loved this book and Hana's resolve to find out what the Greater are doing and how she can help her mother and her friends. I am buying the next books in the series tomorrow!

Laura A. Grace says

This story was so good! I really enjoyed that it was in first point of view and how I got to see all that is going on in Hana's mind. Her struggles with her Mom, government, and "religion" were very real to me which made her a relatable character.

I am completely amazed at how Katie weaved the Gospel into "Vanquished" without sounding preachy. She very clearly leaves no doubt about whom Jesus is and what He did for mankind.

The world-building was excellent and I had no problem imaging Hana's world. It was slightly disturbing how much of their government reminded me of what could be America's in the future.

I have to mention... that ending! Oh my goodness! I didn't see that one coming! Completely caught me off guard!

Overall, this was a fantastic dystopian read that I highly recommend to YA lovers!

(I received this novel from the author in exchange for an honest review. All thoughts expressed are my own and I was not required to write a positive review.)

Cynthia says

Although not a regular reader of dystopian fiction, I appreciated and enjoyed this novel. After a slower start in the first few chapters, this story took off and kept me engaged until the surprise ending, which is an intriguing setup for the next book of the series. I look forward to reading more from Ms. Clark.

Ginger Solomon says

I wasn't sure what to expect when I started reading, as this is outside of my normal genre, but I loved it. It

drew me in from the beginning, and as I type this I continue thinking about it. I loved the characters and the fact that life wasn't always easy for them. I can't wait to read the rest of the series.

***I received this book from the publisher/author in exchange for an honest review.

Stacey says

Wow! At first this story unnerved me because like the main character, Hana, my own mother had the mutation (cancer) and her prognosis was not good. I found myself identifying with Hana immediately; her fear of losing her mother, feeling overwhelmed with school, work and home responsibilities, wondering if doctors were doing all they could to help my mother, etc. This connection drew me to Hana's character and into the story. Once there, I could hardly put the book down. Hana's ideal life is turned upside down when she discovers the Greaters (who are the perfect caretakers of all the weaker societies - Middles and Lessers), have lied about the medicines available to cancer victims and that they deliberately withhold the medicines that could help society; and worse use some medicines to control society and hold them in bondage. Unable to trust and searching for answers, Hana discovers there is a force more powerful than the Greaters...and it can change her life and the entire world if she can only find more information about it. This book leaves you reflecting on our current political systems and the tools being used to manipulate, control, and hold our own society in bondage. Do we have the courage to do what is right?!

My clean read and Christian friends will enjoy this well paced, young adult, dystopian novel.

Gail Kamer says

If you want a book that you can not put down and is full of mystery, this is the book for you. Blend Hunger Games with Divergent, add possibilities based on current events and you have a futuristic setting that is realistic. The main character is looking forward to her life after high school. But during the last few weeks before graduation, strange events make her question her world and what adults have told her. Along with her mother, many of her friends keep disappearing. Where are they? What are the strange lights in the sky? Will her test results permit her to follow her career path? Will she get caught going to secret meetings? The cliff hanger chapters kept me turning page after page. Just like with the Hunger Games, I wanted more, more, more. Fortunately, there are two more books in this series so I can continue the journey.

Mary Hamilton says

Books that make me want to read more are the ones that earn five stars from me. I definitely want to read the next book in Katie Clark's Enslaved series. I'm not terribly familiar with dystopian literature. The only other such stories I've read are the Hunger Games series. This book's setting was highly reminiscent of Hunger Games, but without the gory plot. Our main character is Hana, a young girl poised to graduate and dreaming of working in the government to promote a better life for all citizens, including the Lessers. Society has been divided into Greaters who rule, Lessers who are relegated to their own communities where supposedly laziness and crime are the norm, and Middles who represent the working class. Hana and her family are Middles, loyal to the system of government and believing what they are told by the Greaters. Until Hana's mother becomes sick with the "mutation" and Hana sees and hears things that seem to disprove what she's been told. Such as that no chemo drugs exist that could help keep her mother alive. At the

hospital, she meets Fischer, a kind medic who encourages her search for answers as to what happens after death. Through the story, we see Hana grow from a girl who obediently goes along with the status quo to one who is willing to risk everything for what she believes in. I found Hana likable, though maybe a little too daring at times with not enough buildup to get her to that point. I felt her loneliness when her pregnant friend is taken away by the government authorities, but didn't quite feel her anger toward her friend's boyfriend. I never really understood what she didn't like about him. But the plot kept me engaged and the end surprised me. Which is why I can't wait for the next book!

I was given a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review, and honestly, I enjoyed reading it!

H.L. Wegley says

A unique spin on the themes of dystopian literature

Welcome to the Dystopian States of America, circa 2250. Natural disasters and a war have wiped out a large part of the population and much of the technology. In a 3-caste society where God has been outlawed, high-school-age Hana must cope with a mother who has cancer, a government whose supposedly "well-intentioned" policies are so repressive that she cannot search for the truth about the deepest issues of life. She has been squeezed into the middle class, the class most naïve about the real nature of the government. Hana sees friends struggling with issues like drugs, abortion, and obeying curfews and other highly restrictive laws imposed on the people. In that respect, the issues mirror much of present day society.

The suspense grows steadily as Hana seeks the truth about life, God, and the Greater Class, the ruling class that supposedly has the wisdom to run the government while looking out for the interests of everyone. To avoid spoilers, I won't give any more specifics from the story.

This is my first YA read in quite some time, and my first dystopian novel, ever.

This story will appeal to young adults who enjoy the dystopian themes of a heroine/hero who fights against a society gone dreadfully wrong and who grows in the process. Vanquished, at times, includes Christian teachings about God and man's relationship to him. The story is written in 1st person, from the heroine's point-of-view -- not my personal preference, but the author did a good job, and 1st person does give the reader a deep understanding of the heroine. When the story ends, it's not a cliffhanger, but it's obvious to the reader that there's more to it. I'm guessing that you'll need to read the entire series to reach what feels like an end to the story.

For people who like dystopian, YA novels with Christian elements in the story, I would give this 5 stars.

Ashlee Willis says

A fresh voice and style, and a riveting story. The story is hard to put down, and has a great faith element that gives a wonderful new angle to the general dystopian novel. We definitely need more novels like Vanquished!! Looking forward to seeing where the series goes.

Alandra says

While I am a big fan of dystopian novels such as the Matched trilogy and The Giver series, I have never read one with such gripping story-themes as the horrors of cancer, teen pregnancy, abortion, poverty, drug addiction, the silently growing rebellion and boldness of a young girl, the search for Truth, or such a sweet

and poignant love story. Katie Clark beautifully wove all of these elements and more into an exciting first book of a trilogy. I was struck by how familiar and prevalent the issues presented are today, and how they have impacted every one of us in some way. With that being said, this is a wonderful book for someone who has experienced the uncertainty of cancer or teen pregnancy, or any of the other issues presented, and could be a fabulous discussion starter.

The main character, Hana, is an endearing girl I was eager to follow, who tells her story in a pensive present-tense. I loved the intensity of her forbidden jaunts in the dark and the tension of the action, the sparks between her and Fischer, a completely compelling character, and the mystery elements throughout the story. Gotta admit, I am a huge Fischer Fan and can't wait to see more of him in the series!

The story of *Vanquished* completely sucked me in.....I could picture the scenes, characters, and voices so vividly, it's like they're real. When I wasn't reading it, I was thinking about the story and characters constantly. The depictions of this dystopian society are fascinating, while the yearning for God and higher purpose to me is what makes this story so alive! It is not cold and bleak like other dystopians; it is rather a dormant volcano about to erupt. I can't wait to read the next two and purchase the hard copies to share.

Claudine Yanting says

"*Vanquished*" bears a steadily engaging plot about Hana Norfolk, a Middle who is about to sit for her Test that will decide if she ends up as a Greater, Middle or Lesser. Her mother is in the hospital because she has the 'mutation.' Her best friend, Jamie, is in deep trouble for breaking the laws and Hana finds herself in an emotional tussle having to choose between Fischer, the kindhearted medic who tells her about God, and Keegan, her childhood friend who has left for his career-training. It's peculiar that even though I couldn't resonate with the religious-aspect of the story (which is a tremendously significant aspect by the way), I was still much attracted to the storyline and the developments between the characters. Good pacing and tension throughout. What I enjoy best of all is Hana's growth from a model student into a courageous leader. {4.5*}

Katie Clark says

Set in a future where poverty and sickness are rampant, Hana embarks on a scary and sometimes dangerous journey to find the answers both she and her mother need to survive. What she finds is not at all what she expected, though, and she realizes she's not finding the right answers because she hasn't been asking the right questions to begin with.
