

Detailed Content Advisory

2027 edition · Hardcover, paperback, and Kindle

This advisory identifies potentially sensitive material in *Jesus in the Air* for readers and anyone considering the novel for a group, library, classroom, or recommendation.

Book Content Note

This novel portrays wartime combat and aftermath (graphic in places), injury and death involving adults and children, handling of human remains, suicide references, briefly reported sexual violence, animal harm, and racist and religiously demeaning language.

Using This Advisory

- **Start with the Category Overview.** It summarizes the kinds of content covered.
- **Use the Scene Index for specific examples.** Entries are arranged by the novel's three parts and give page references and short descriptions. Read the relevant scenes in the novel if you need to judge their tone, intensity, or context.
- **Give group members advance notice.** Share the Book Content Note before reading begins so participants can make their own choices about reading and participation.

Before You Continue

The following pages describe specific scenes and reveal plot events. The final section, labeled Ending Spoiler, reveals the novel's conclusion. Stop here if you wish to avoid those details.

Category overview and Part 1: page 2 · Part 2: page 3

Part 3 and ending: pages 4–5

Category Overview

These categories identify material in the novel; they are not ratings of severity.

War and combat	Frequent. Iraq; sniper operations; explosions; aftermath.
Graphic injury and death	Some high-intensity descriptions, including torture aftermath and ritual self-injury.
Human remains and corpse handling	Handling, desecration, and use of bodies for target practice.
Suicide-related material	Mother’s suicide, family grief and self-blame; method disclosed; suicide bombings.
Reported sexual violence	A brief report of rape; an allusion to soldiers sexually violating women.
Animal harm	Hunting; piglet deaths; injured-animal suffering and treatment; slaughter and eating of named animals; veterinary euthanasia and clinical handling.
Offensive language	Racist and religiously demeaning wartime language; a historical racial slur; censored profanity.
Child-sensitive content	Children killed or threatened in war; children exposed to a teacher’s displayed body; a child-coffin episode ends nonfatally.

Scene Index

All page references are to the 2027 edition of *Jesus in the Air* and apply to the hardcover, paperback, and Kindle editions.
38 entries, grouped by part. Descriptions include plot events.

Part 1 The Isles of Shoals		pages 3–109
page 15	War death (retold):	Shrapnel death while instant-messaging; webcam rumor.
pages 44–65, 79, 88–89	Mother’s suicide and funeral (childhood material):	Suicide disclosure and funeral; father attributes her death to being unable to have another child; recurring child self-blame.
pages 56, 80, 89–90	Graphic war recollections:	Vehicle-blast dismemberment imagery; graphic gunshot-wound language; nonfatal grenade-related eyelid injuries.
pages 80–82	Hunting ethics / killing theology:	Father shoots one doe; his son refuses to shoot another; hunting is framed in religious terms.
pages 89, 95–99	Piglet deaths and injured-pig treatment:	Child sees dead piglets after a sow crushes her litter; a pig in severe pain receives medication and treatment.
pages 94, 101–102	Beheading (retold, WWII prisoner-of-war story):	Prisoners made to dig their graves and beheaded; later retelling includes further decapitation detail and grief.
page 102	Grief over war deaths (present-day):	Narrator explicitly in tears at a bar over a war-death story.

Scene Index continued

All page references are to the 2027 edition of *Jesus in the Air* and apply to the hardcover, paperback, and Kindle editions.

Part 2 Jesus in the Air	pages 113–203
page 116	Ideology of killing: “Killology” framing; “suicide martyrs” language.
pages 118, 139, 177	Beheading references and hostage-execution videos: Brief WWII and biblical beheading retellings; a more detailed recollection of hostage-execution videos.
pages 124–125	Threat / weapon aimed at Jesus: Captive-bolt gun confrontation in a barn.
pages 133, 145, 148–149	Human remains and military transport: Human bodies used for target practice; blast-damaged bodies; bagging and transport of dead soldiers.
pages 134–135, 175–176, 181	Racist and religiously demeaning wartime language: Military and narrator language includes racist targeting, religious insults and an anti-Muslim extermination joke.
pages 136–137, 149, 154–156, 160–163	Animal illness, slaughter and healing: Sick doe and recalled sheep disease; household pigs’ slaughter and later meal; an injured pig’s treatment and healing.
pages 141–148	Animal euthanasia and clinical detail: Deer euthanasia with captive bolt; brain removal; double-bagging, labeling and packaging.
pages 166–171	Cemetery / grave material (present-day): Spring Hill Cemetery and an open grave; the son’s self-blame over his mother’s death returns during reconciliation with his father.
pages 172–174	Military training / sniper-school ethos: Fort Bliss and sniper-school creed/ethos.
pages 183–188	Combat, knife attack and bicycle bombing (graphic): Finger severed and fatal knife attack; brief prisoner-abuse reference; Abed later killed by a separate remotely detonated bicycle bomb, with body fragmentation.
pages 188–189, 194–195	Graveside confrontation: A shovel is initially mistaken for a sword; a threatening encounter gives way to recognition and reconciliation.
page 193	Sexual violence (brief allusion): Brief allusion to soldiers sexually violating women.
pages 197–203	Graveside digging: Mother’s suicide by gun disclosed; a grave is dug beside hers; dialogue and touch through the earth.

Scene Index continued

All page references are to the 2027 edition of *Jesus in the Air* and apply to the hardcover, paperback, and Kindle editions.

Part 3 How I Got Here	pages 207–335
pages 218, 224–225, 228–233, 239	Early war deaths and graphic recollections: Recollections include a child shot dead, ritual self-injury, soldier deaths, reported beheadings and civilian killings, fatal training falls, and corpse scavenging.
pages 237–238	Combat patrol / headlamp incident: “Hat light” incident; headshot; “live without a groin...”
pages 241–242	Driver killed by sniper (graphic head trauma): Vehicle scene with driver shot; blood/head detail.
pages 243–251	Morgue, corpse handling, and live-fire on corpses (high-intensity): Bodies collected from a morgue and used for target practice.
page 252	Desecration / trophies and historical slur: Teeth removed from corpses; a historical racial slur appears in a quoted anecdote.
pages 254–257	Record-distance shot (on a body): Record-distance firing described.
pages 262–263	Slain soldiers, torture, and booby-trap detail (high-intensity): Kidnapped soldiers found dead; bodies unwired; torture aftermath language.
pages 267–268, 274–277	Graphic civilian-war aftermath: Civilian bombings; eye injuries and body parts; slow public hangings; child casualties and graphic market-bombing aftermath.
pages 271–272	Funeral convoy (child-sensitive; high tension; non-fatal resolution): Moving child coffin; fear of child as bomber; boy is alive.
pages 279–284	Interfaith “gold bullets” / “death tax” scene: Armed house search; a bereaved mother recounts her son’s execution and being charged for the bullets; interfaith and mercy language.

Scene Index continued

All page references are to the 2027 edition of *Jesus in the Air* and apply to the hardcover, paperback, and Kindle editions.

Part 3 How I Got Here continued		pages 207–335
page 288	Mosque bombing (aftermath): Tortured remains discovered before a retaliatory mosque bombing; mass burial and aftermath.	
pages 289–292	Bombing injuries, killings and blindness: Graphic bombing aftermath; gunner’s death; retaliatory killings of children; Malik blinded by grenade fragments.	
pages 295–302	Mosque hide / sniper threat and call-to-prayer tension: Sniper hide in an abandoned building beside a mosque, with blood, hair and teeth; Dragunov threat and silence at the expected call to prayer.	
pages 298–300	Religious-history retelling (graphic): Musab martyrdom story with mutilation/impalement.	
pages 302–306	Ally killed by sniper: Seth shot by a sniper; graphic head injury, final exchange and death.	
page 313	Rape and displayed body (brief report): Brief report of a teacher’s rape and the display of her body outside her school, where children encountered it.	
pages 330–331	Close-quarters knife plan: “Different God” line; intent to kill with knife.	
Ending Spoiler Stop here to avoid it		
This section reveals the conclusion of the novel.		
pages 332–333, 337	Protagonist’s death: Final armed encounter; Warren’s death by sniper; the death notice gives mortuary and burial details.	