



About the Author - Katherine Kinkel

Wellesley High School, Wellesley, MA



"The Sovereignty of the Faithful"

My name is Katherine Kinkel, and I am in the tenth grade at Wellesley High School. Though schoolwork consumes the majority of my time, I enjoy creative writing, singing in the choruses at church and at school, and playing the guitar. Film is one of my favorite courses at school.

I have been part of the Wellesley swim team and the academic decathlon team, and I am currently a member of the Key Club and model United Nations.

I try to stay active in environmental matters as much as possible; I'm a member of Greenpeace and would like to do an expedition when I'm older. I am currently working to raise money for a student-led expedition to Rajasthan, India in 2008. In the summers, I like to surf and spend time with friends. My brother and I alternate time between our mom's house and our dad's.

In her Afterword Katherine Writes:

The inspiration for my story originally came from a speech given to my ninth-grade earth-science class by Professor Daniel P. Schrag of Harvard University.

Mr. Schrag is a climatologist whose focus is primarily the impact of global warming on sea-level rise and hurricane intensity. At the time, I knew very little about the logistics of climate change, and it opened a whole new possibility of climate-induced disasters: the storms. As Schrag himself wrote in an article, "We are performing an experiment on a planetary scale that hasn't been done for millions of years...nobody knows what's going to happen, and there will be surprises". This allowed me to exercise some poetic license in writing near-future fiction; a political cartoon showing "water pressing in from all sides", became a theme in my story.

We have been studying the rise of communism, which used violence, terrorism, and censorship to maintain power. So I also chose to include a changing (and corrupt) government in my story, and responding religious aspects. I wanted to show the loss of innocence in the midst of fear and tragedy, and to put a global energy issue on an emotional level; I wanted to use human (mis)conduct to show how a lack of action will not only effect our generation, but generations to come...and the result may be more devastating than ever imaginable.