

Content Guide

Summer at West Castle

Themes: moving beyond preconceived notions of oneself and of others, trusting that God wills for your good even when you don't feel worthy, Christian courtship, prayer, and vocational discernment.

Educational Value: Discussion Guide available on the author's website. Characters discuss methods for implementing Christian courtship.

Positive Messages: Caitlyn learns to get to know others by setting aside judgments based on appearances, mannerisms, and even another's past or reputation. Jarret's thread gives hope to those who have made serious mistakes but want to change for the better.

Spiritual Messages: God wills for one's good, regardless of past mistakes.

Positive Role Models: While the main characters initial interactions are a bit cold and they make mistakes, these characters provide positive role models as they continually re-evaluate their actions, repent over mistakes, and as they pray for discernment. Once they decide to get to know each other better, they provide a wonderful role model for couples wishing to practice Christian courtship.

Violence/Gore: A character verbally attacks and then punches Jarret. Jarret punches him back and loses his job. Caitlyn fights with her childhood friend Peter, until Jarret breaks it up. Three high-school-age girls gang up on a fourth girl, shoving, shouting, and then restraining the girl until someone steps in.

Sexuality: This is a clean romance that focuses on character growth, understanding oneself and the other, more than on intimacy.

When Caitlyn helps a drunk Jarret to his room, he pulls her onto his bed, not wanting her to leave him alone. She slides off the bed but sticks around to see why he is so desperate about her staying.

In a vulnerable moment, before Caitlyn admits to herself that she has feelings for Jarret, she kisses him, but then she regrets it and apologizes. He doesn't want an apology; he wants to get to know her better.

When the two finally decide to see each other, they discuss Christian courtship and how they can get to know each other without the pressures and temptations of a more physical relationship.

Caitlyn's childhood friend Peter makes insinuating comments to Jarret about his relationships with girls.

Language: One character assumes another mouthed a bad word, but the bad word is not given. And another character stifles a curse, but the word is not given. The word "damn" is hinted at with the line: "D—, you're beautiful."

Drinking, Drugs & Smoking: While main character Jarret West has a troubled past, he's committed to living right and claims he is not a drinker. However, an old friend tricks him into getting drunk. A pivotal scene takes place when he comes home drunk and in need of assistance. Once he realizes just how drunk he is, he repents, feels like a failure, and thinks how disappointed his guardian angel must be with him. He asks his guardian angel not to give up on him. Caitlyn suspects he went out drinking with friends on another occasion, but she is wrong.

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

This clean Catholic romance is suitable for older teens and new adults.

Rating:

Advanced - Although not graphic in description, the subject matter is recommended for teens older than 15.

Rating Scale:

Light- For all readers.

Moderate - Story includes subject matter for teens 14 plus

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