

**Content Guide**  
**A Hero Such as Heaven Intended**  
**By Amanda Lauer**

**Themes:** Finding common ground through a shared Catholic faith, putting others' lives before our own, seeking inner strength to get through difficult times, redemption, forgiveness, and yielding to God's plan in our lives.

**Educational Value:** Readers learn about the Civil War from varying perspectives— including Sherman's infamous March to the Sea in November and December of 1864. They learn about tolerance, acceptance, the power of prayer, and the value of love, honesty, humor, and forgiveness in relationships.

**Positive Messages:** We're stronger and more resilient than we think we are. People should be considered by their abilities, not their outer appearances. Ordinary people can do extraordinary things when they must. Relationships take work, but the work is worth it. Putting differences aside between two people can help bring about the greater good.

**Spiritual Messages:** We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. Faith will help a person get through most anything. Prayer is powerful; we must put our trust in God and in our faith.

**Positive Role Models:** Our male protagonist, Joseph, who battles in his heart the morality of war; our female protagonist, Theresa, who finds forgiveness in God and turns her life around; the men who fought in the Civil War; the women on the homefront; and Fr. Thomas O'Reilly, whose brave actions saved lives and churches during the Civil War.

**Violence/Gore:** None

**Sexuality:** There is a reference to the main character learning about sexuality from an anatomy book; there are no explicit descriptions in the story.

**Language:** No profanity. However, God's name is used in vain by one character, maybe two, depending upon how it's interpreted.

**Drinking, Drugs & Smoking:** None

## **WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW:**

When the female protagonist confessed her sins to a priest, she considered white lies, gossip, anger, neglecting prayer, and impure thoughts to be venial sins. Each of these sins can also be mortal, and impure thoughts are always a serious sin if there is full knowledge and deliberate consent. Fleeting, unwanted thoughts are just temptations, not sin. (See Catechism of the Catholic Church – CCC 1854-1864.)

### **Rating Scale: MODERATE**

Light – For all readers

Moderate – Story includes subject matter for teens 13+

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