

Content Guide
A Life Such as Heaven Intended
By Amanda Lauer

Themes: Finding common ground through a shared Catholic faith, putting other people's lives before our own, seeking inner strength to make it through difficult times, yielding to God's plan in our lives.

Educational Value: Readers learn about the Civil War, including the Underground Railroad, from varying perspectives, tenets of the Catholic faith, the power of prayer, the vital role of priests during the Civil War, and the value of love, humor and forgiveness in relationships.

Positive Messages: We're stronger and more resilient than we think we are, average people can do extraordinary things during trying circumstances, relationships take work but it's worth it, we can put aside our differences to help bring about the greater good.

Spiritual Messages: We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us, prayer is powerful, we must put our trust in God and in our faith.

Positive Role Models: Our protagonists Brigid and Dominic – practicing Catholics who never give up their faith, the Sisters of Mercy, escaped slaves Alice and Marcus, Fr. Barron, Fr. O'Reilly.

Violence/Gore: This is a story about the Civil War, but the violence and battles are downplayed to make this book ideal for middle school-age through adult. There is reference to mistreatment of slaves, but nothing in detail.

Sexuality: There is no sexuality in the book but reference to a slave holder who took advantage of one of his female slaves.

Language: No strong language.

Drinking, Drugs & Smoking: No references to those topics.

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW This book is based on a true story from the Civil War. Because it's written from the perspective of a young man and young lady protagonists (switching every other chapter), both male and female readers, middle school-age and up, will enjoy this wholesome romance that depicts a broad picture of the Civil War.

Rating Scale: MODERATE

Light- For all readers.

Moderate - Story includes subject matter for teens 13 plus

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