

Content Guide

Anyone but Him

Themes: traditional marriage, faithfulness, crisis pregnancy center volunteer work, abortion, Brown Scapular, conversion, mercy, and forgiveness. Appropriate for students studying the Theology of the Body, life issues, and/or Christian morality.

Educational Value: Discussion Guide available on the author's website. The story contains concrete examples of helping the pro-life movement and mentions abortion clinics and touches on factual but unsavory clinic practices.

Positive Messages: The couple in this story face huge challenges but by the story's end, the message is clear: a marriage might be put to the test, but it is a lifelong commitment, a sacrament, and worth fighting for.

Spiritual Messages: No matter what mistakes one has made in the past, by the grace of God, conversion and a new start are always possible.

Positive Role Models: The couple in this story provides a wonderful role model to young people of faithfulness to God and to each other, respect for the sacrament of marriage, and of using one's gifts and even past mistakes to glorify God and serve Him, as they do in their ministry to young women in need. Caitlyn's memory of her commitment to purity as a teen and to finding a good husband who loves Jesus also provide a good role model.

Violence/Gore: Jarret fights with his brother, Roland, the incident triggering Caitlyn's memory of a menacing figure chasing her through the woods. The full memory returns to her later: a masked man chased and attacked her, taking her camera and knocking her unconscious. The next day (where the story begins) she wakes confused and discovers she has amnesia. Toward the end of the story, the antagonist threatens Caitlyn alone in her home, but Jarret comes to the rescue. Caitlyn intends to knock the antagonist out, but accidentally knocks Jarret out.

Sexuality: The romance in this story is clean. Jarret kisses Caitlyn, his wife, a few times—usually on the head or cheek—and even on her wedding ring—but cautiously because she's leery of him. They discuss their first kiss, which she can't remember, due to the amnesia. A different young man mentions a past incident, where he gave Caitlyn an unwelcome kiss, and she slapped him. Once Caitlyn falls in love with her husband again, even though still not remembering the past, she welcomes his affection and invites him to sleep in their bedroom (he had been sleeping on the couch), but a disturbing memory returns. Noticing the change in her, Jarret tells her he can wait. He just wants her to remember that she loves him.

A story thread concerns an abortion clinic that works around parental notification laws to provide abortions for underage girls. Another thread concerns an older man dating an underage girl and paying for her abortion. The details come out in conversations: a meeting with the abortion provider, an interview with an underage girl, and, later, the man's own admission.

Language: one occurrence of the word damn, two bullshit, and three crap.

Drinking, Drugs & Smoking: feeling as though he lost his job and his wife, Jarret comes home late one night after having had too much to drink. He later repents.

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

Due to the glimpse into the world of abortion and other content mentioned above, this story is suitable for mature teens and might be enjoyed best by college-age young 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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