

Parental Guide

Brave Water

Age Recommendation: 13—Adult

Adventure/ Romance/ Male & Female Audience

At least 25% of Author's Proceeds Benefit Cross Catholic Outreach

Themes: Mercy; Grace; God working through ordinary people to do great things; what it means to be brave; redemption; forgiveness.

Educational Value: While this story is fictional, it's based on real-life events -- water gatherers in east Africa who are often the targets of human trafficking. Great care was given to ensure cultural accuracy and authenticity. There is a glossary and study section in the back; great for book club, homeschool or classroom use.

Positive Messages: Brave Water is about how God can work through weak, broken people to do powerful things. It celebrates familial bonds, especially those between a mother and daughter/ father and daughter. There is a young romance that is very chaste and sweet; a good example of a couple founding their relationship in friendship.

Spiritual Messages: Bible verses, hymns and the theme of discovering a personal relationship with Christ the Good Shepherd is interwoven into the narrative in a non-cheesy manner. The book has been embraced by a Christian & secular audience.

Positive Role Models: The heroine offers a great example of courage under fire. Minor characters provide great lessons in forgiveness, seeking redemption; but also, what *not* to do.

Violence / gore: A few characters are beat up, kidnapped and terrorized; but none of the scenes are overly sensationalistic or grotesque.

Sexuality: Practically none. One reference mentions that a victim was "sold into prostitution" – but nothing more. There is a lot of romance in the book, but not one kiss.

Foul Language: None

Drinking, drugs, smoking: One of the characters is addicted to a fictional opioid substance; this character and his friends also get drunk on alcohol. But vices are not glorified in any way. Rather, addiction is portrayed accurately and in a negative light.

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW: This book recognizes the intelligence of a young reader's ability to handle the difficult social justice issues of clean water acquisition, poverty and human trafficking. But there are no scenes of sexual abuse, romantic sex or any content that would compromise the innocence of a teen reader. There are scenes where a person is a victim of violence, but these scenes are not overly graphic.

Rating Scale: An easy read. A quick narrative delivered via short chapters; this is a good pick even for less motivated readers ages 13 to adult.