

Content Guide

Title: In Plain Sight

Themes: Forgiveness, Importance of Family, Deepening faith, Integrity, Friendship

Educational Value: This story focuses on the importance of family and telling the truth despite the consequences. The main character discovers a mysterious lodge and explores the history of her new home. This research touches on some interesting historical elements such as Prohibition, Veteran Issues, and the Underground Railroad.

Positive Messages: Surrendering all to God, trusting completely in Him and having the faith that He can use us in all situations.

Spiritual Messages: The main character is Catholic but due to recent traumas in her life, feels that her prayers are not answered causing her to question her faith. She meets a young man, Reid, and a few friends who help her to realize that God has never abandoned her and that He has been watching over her and may actually be calling her for something special.

Positive Role Models: Reid and his family are strong Catholics and warmly welcome Emerson and her father. Emerson also grows in her faith through the friends she meets through Reid's youth group, as well as several older members of the community.

Violence/Gore: There are some serious crimes mentioned from the main character's past but nothing graphic. There are intense moments in the climax of the story but nothing gory.

Sexuality: There is a growing romance in the story. The couple share some romantic moments but no kiss.

Language: none

Drinking, Drugs & Smoking: none

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

Rating Scale: MODERATE

Scale:

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.

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

Moderate - Story includes subject matter for teens 13 plus

