

Content Guide
A World 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 from varying perspectives, tenets of the Catholic faith, 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 Nathan and Amara are practicing Catholics who never give up their faith. Fr. Thomas O'Reilly was a true hero in the Civil War, assisting on both sides of the battlefield.

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.

Sexuality: In one scene, a camp follower makes sexual overtones to Nathan which he rebuffs. Nathan and Amara share two kisses after their wedding, nothing graphic.

Language: The word "damn" was used twice in the book during a pivotal scene.

Drinking, Drugs & Smoking: Amara's brother James is addicted to laudanum after being severely injured during the war, Amara's father and step-mother are drinkers.

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 (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.