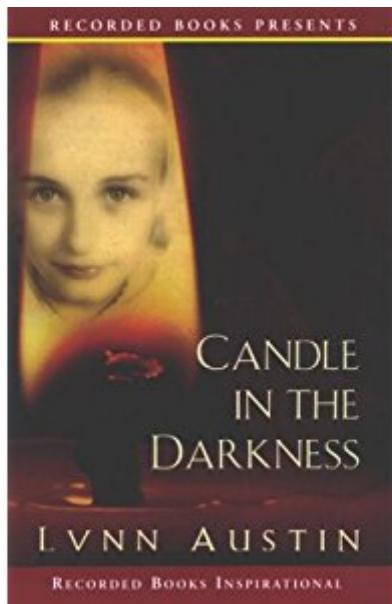


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# Candle In The Darkness



## Synopsis

Book 1 in the Refiner's Fire series. The daughter of a wealthy slave-holding family from Richmond, Virginia, Caroline Fletcher is raised in a culture that believes slavery is God-ordained and biblically acceptable. But upon awakening to the cruelty and injustice it encompasses, Caroline's eyes are opened for the first time to the men and women who have cared tirelessly for her. Her journey of maturity and faith will draw her into the abolitionist movement, where she is confronted with the risks and sacrifices her beliefs entail. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If you want to become fully engulfed in the raging of the Civil War--the battle that was fought not only physically, but also morally, sit awhile by Caroline and read her story. Having done a good bit of Civil War research on my own, I found "Candle in the Darkness" to be fascinating and well-researched. The story itself seemed a little slow at times because Austin was very thorough to explain the history of what was happening during that time. It actually made me think of books written by Ballentyne or Henty, because it wasn't just fiction, but educational. There were some mentions of how men treated the women slaves, but no scenes happened. The romance didn't stand out to me much--but that could have been because I was more fascinated with the whole historical aspect. Yes, there was romance. There were some kisses, some mentions of longing to be a wife and what it entailed. I would say that the content is more appropriate for older readers rather than the young, conservative reader--just because some of the things mentioned may lead to

questions. I can't say that I fully agreed with the stand that the main character took. It was fascinating to read, her motives were very believable, but I tend to think that the Civil War was more than just rooted in slavery and the confederates' desire for states' rights more than just the right to own slaves, but that is my personal opinion. It's just that reading this book presents the idea that slavery was THE issue of the Civil War... The spiritual content--seriously, best for last. I was highly, highly impressed! God and His Word was sprinkled throughout the entire book!! There were some amazing, strong Christian characters and they knew God's Word and used God's Word. This was, beyond any doubt, a Christian book. I found it spiritually edifying. I especially liked Eli (who wouldn't?). He was amazing and said some very thought-provoking things. I also loved the very realistic battle with fear. The characters portrayed were VERY real with very real "flesh" and that was amazing to read. As a writer, I found some things to wrinkle my nose at -- Austin's style was more of the "telling" where she summarized a lot of things. I prefer action as it leads the story forward a little better, but that's my critical viewpoint. ;) I didn't always feel like I was able to fully embrace Caroline. Sometimes, her raw emotion was very riveting, but other times, I had no clue how Caroline viewed something. But yeah... as a reader I give this book an overall five star review. I recommend it for any older readers--especially those who love the Civil War. A couple of quotes: "Most folks won't change their mind unless they have a change of heart first." "Faith doesn't come in a bushel basket, Missy. It comes one step at a time. Decide to trust Him for one little thing today, and before you know it, you find out He is so trustworthy you be putting your whole life in His hands."

The life and sacrifices Caroline Fletcher are recounted here in a civil war saga from the viewpoint of a southerner who sympathized with the slaves. Her father figure was Eli, a black man who trusted God's will above all other plans. The love story was a roller coaster ride as Charles reacted to Caroline's convictions against slavery, the only life he'd ever been exposed to. There is much detail about the Civil War for the history buff, a bit more than I could absorb; yet it was through these insights that the reader was able to get a feeling for the horror and devastation of war.

Christian, historical, exciting, suspenseful. This was a wonderful book. I could not put it down. Even knowing how the war ended, it kept you wondering and hoping until the very end. The wonderful message of this book is that of putting God's will before our own and trusting Him with our lives. The relationship between Caroline and her slaves and the love they had for each other was wonderful. I

loved Eli's complete trust of God and the use of God's word as instruction. Caroline allowing herself to be used by God no matter what was an inspiration! I definately recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a Christian love story as well as anyone who enjoys an author tying God's word into a story.

The story is five stars all the way, but the ebook had some small mistakes in it, page numbers I think, in the middle of a few sentences for some reason. Must be a formatting issue. Otherwise, the book is great. I loved the different perspective and a different type of storyline rather than the normal ones I've read. Many have about the same plot. This one was different. Caroline Fletcher made a great heroine. She's torn between love for the slaves, who are like her family and as close to her as family, wanting to see them free and her sweetheart, a Southern Rebel. A Yankee is in love with her but her heart belongs to a Southern, even though she sees slaves as people, not property, as he does. War ravages her home and her heart. I recently wrote my own Civil War novel with a different plot than most and was glad to find another author who wrote a different type of one. I love the period and have read quite a few. A plus for this one is that it's also a Christian historical romance, as is the one I wrote. I have found you have to be careful buying Civil War novels as many tend to be full of sex. I enjoy the ones that tell a good story without it, and a good author can. Lynn Austin does. Another book, the first book I ever read of hers, All She Ever Wanted, is another five-star story. I love that book. Read it years ago and still remember it. It stays with you after you turn the last page. I enjoy deep reads with multiple points of view, and these two novels have both. Author B. J. Robinson River Oaks Plantation

This story really showed the emotional and spiritual conflicts of slavery and the Civil War. It's hard to imagine people truly believing that God approved of owning other human beings. The hardest thing for me to understand about slavery is slaveowners fathering babies by their slaves, then selling or abusing their own children, considering them as less than human. Today we have a similar situation with mothers killing their own babies in the womb. In both situations, people put their own needs and interests ahead of those of others and consider fellow humans as being of lesser value than themselves. Caroline learned at a young age to value the lives of her family's slaves; however, even she realized later that she had failed to see other slaves as individuals like those she loved. My favorite character was Eli--an inspiring preacher and a man who could easily be filled with hate but who espouses nothing but love.

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