
V.C. Andrews

Heaven (Casteel #1)



Title: Heaven (Casteel #1)

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Description

Of all the folks in the mountain shacks, the Casteels were the lowest — the scum of the hills.

Heaven Leigh Casteel was the prettiest, smartest girl in the backwoods, despite her ragged clothes and dirty face...despite a father meaner than ten vipers...despite her weary stepmother, who worked her like a mule. For her brother Tom and the little ones, Heaven clung to her pride and her hopes. Someday they'd get away and show the world that they were decent, fine and talented — worthy of love and respect.

Then Heaven's stepmother ran off, and her wicked, greedy father had a scheme — a vicious scheme that threatened to destroy the precious dream of Heaven and the children forever!

Insightful reviews

Jay: I'm disappointed in you, Andrews!

Unlike most of V.C. Andrews staples, and the precedent *Flowers in the Attic* set, this book lacks in the incest department. However, this has all the other hallmarks of a V.C. Andrews works- a family saga, an underprivileged girl from a distant privileged background, a doomed love story, a distant father, a complex relationship with a mother, and so on. There is some form of incest (after all, this is Andrews), but it's of the adoptive parent kind. Heaven is raped repeatedly by her adoptive father, Cal, although she doesn't fully recognise it (which I'll get to soon), and Fanny reveals that she is having her adoptive father's baby, her adoptive father being a reverend no less.

I will momentarily praise Andrews for writing Heaven's reaction to her repeated rape in a somewhat believable manner. Heaven is desperate for the love of a parent all throughout the book. Her grandparents loved her- and I believe her grandfather was belittled and abused by his son for so long that he no longer stood up to him, even when he was selling his children off- but she longed for a parental figure. I think Sarah appreciated her more than loved her, but I do sense some kind of care there. But then there was Kitty and Cal. Cal showed Heaven everything Kitty wouldn't, and the rest of the adult figures in her life didn't. She wanted love, and with that, kind, physical attention and touch. After being beaten and abused by Kitty, Cal's kind touch would have been a blessing, even though he had other intentions. Heaven knew what was going on was wrong, but she accepted it. This doesn't mean she wanted it, and it's said again and again she knew it was wrong, but she accepted it because she thought it meant Cal loved her. It's only at the end that she finally realises he doesn't, and he's just using her. Cal is a grey character. I refuse to believe he's meant to be seen as a villain in the end, but he's not an all-round nice guy.

As far as rating this book goes, it's V.C. Andrews. It's not fine literature, and my copy was riddled with spelling and grammatical errors (including *here* instead of *hear*), and as always, the characters speak in an overly-floral manner. And the prose isn't as purple as it is [Flowers in the](#)

[Attic](#), as well, which was a welcome surprise. In short, it's trash, but it's the better side of trash. If you've read Andrews before, you'll know what to expect.

Overall enjoyable, I'm ashamed to say.

Joybell: I feel so ashamed to allocate four stars to this trashy, completely unrealistic, and occasionally disturbing novel. However, if I didn't, I'd just be lying to myself.

V.C Andrews is the absolute Queen of Trash, Queen of Ethereal-Beauties-Who-are-Constantly-in-Fear-of-Getting-Raped, Queen of Handsome-Evil-Rich Men, and Queen of What-the-Hell! I've never read (or even heard) of another author mass-producing such drivel for the eagerly waiting masses to lap up. If another such author exists - please, let me know!

Heaven is a young girl who lives in the hills of West Virginia with her bad ol' Pa, who hates her because she killed his one true love being born - Angel. Her and her siblings are sold off one by one. Heaven to a psychopathically unstable woman who clearly needs to get over her past. Cue dalliances with nutters husband. Anguish ensues.

Essentially, Heaven is Cinderella-porn at it's best (worst?), set among a backdrop of hillbilly shindigs, mean and nasty townspeople, evil step-mothers, severe abuse, and shining heros without horses.

Ami Squirrel Girl: The only reason I put this on my "Best Books" shelf is for the sentimental value that this book has. This is the very first V.C. Andrews book I ever read, which was a gift from my mother who gave it to me after I got home from school one afternoon. She only said one thing about the book before handing it over; "That poor girl." Which, of course, piqued my curiosity at once. I remember getting in trouble for staying up past my bedtime to continue reading in secret when my mother went back out to the livingroom. "Heaven" was the first in a long series of V.C. Andrews books I couldn't wait to get my hands on and once in my hot little hands devoured like Pringles chips; fully aware that I couldn't read just one book! V.C. Andrews was one of the very rare authors who could fully pull a reader into the story. When I read "Heaven" for the very first time I remember looking up from several chapters to realize that I was so engrossed in the story that three hours had gone by like three seconds and I didn't even notice. That's the thing I always loved about V.C. Andrews' books; while the main character was telling the story, it almost felt like it was actually you in the story and I don't mean it the way first-person narratives try to make you feel in some of today's books. In a V.C. Andrews book it was different. "Heaven" was the book, like many preteens, that opened me up to the joys and wonders of reading. Though, it is embarrassing to admit that I actually cried very hard during the children-for-sale scene. Upon re-reading that scene, and in fact the entire book, I realize how cheesy it was. But, for all it's cheese it still holds sentimental value for me.

Zézinha Rosado: Primeiro livro de mais uma excelente saga de V.C. Andrews que voltei a reler passados 20 anos, pois tinha lido este livro e os restantes no ano de 1995 (parece que foi há uma eternidade).A história é dura e comovente: retrata a vida de uma família de crianças que

vive em condições de pobreza extrema, com quase nada que comer e vestir, numa casa sem condições, sustentados por um pai viciado no jogo e na "má vida", que raramente aparece em casa e que quando aparece é para criar problemas. Heaven é a mais velha dos irmãos e sempre sentiu que o pai não gostava dela, que tentava ignorá-la e fazer que ela nem existia... um dia vai conhecer a razão da sua indiferença e a partir daí o seu modo de pensar vai mudar. O livro é realmente empolgante, especialmente a partir do momento que os irmãos são separados uns dos outros... uma leitura five estrelas que me faz ficar já ansiosa para ler o segundo volume.

Avon Gale: i think foolish giving a celebrity score to this book, simply because it really is extra concerning the stories i've got than any real literary advantage assigned to it. I keep in mind being 12 and receiving the 1st 3 Casteel books in a field set for Christmas, and examining them in the course of our annual trek domestic for the holidays. I enjoyed THEM. I gobbled them. I learn primarily each VC Andrews book, and that i enjoyed the plant life within the Attic sequence yet I enjoyed this one more. My favourite was once truly the only approximately Heaven's mom, Leigh, and that i imagine I learn that approximately 34453 times. what's there to assert approximately this series? VC truly had an incest kink a mile wide, and as a pre-teen I ate the entire melodrama up with a spoon. i have never re-read this in ages, and that i imagine I disliked the following few books until eventually Heaven has her doomed dating together with her uncle/brother/cousin?? (Oh, VC). All in all, this jogs my memory of riding via West Virginia on my means domestic to Kentucky, my mom and dad within the front, me hearing anything on a walkman and consuming sweet whereas wallowing within the melodrama. sturdy TIMES.

Sarah: this is one other publication that screws with the grading curve. when you examine different 4-star reads -- Frankenstein, for instance -- there is no means bad VC Andrews can degree up. but my verdict stands...four glossy stars, the signal of a ebook I plan to maintain around, & i am not ashamed to confess it. (Don't look, Mary Shelley.) This booklet is loosely divided into 3 sections. the 1st is Heaven's lifestyles within the West Virginia mountains. because the blurb indicates, her Casteel relations is hillbilly scum -- poor, dirty, & proud adequate to disregard the discomforts of both. deserted through their stepmother & overlooked by means of their asshole father (Luke), teenage Heaven & her brother Tom fight to supply for his or her 3 more youthful siblings & near-crippled grandfather. I loved this part quite a lot -- a kind of distinctive sufferers Unit meets Boxcar young ones mashup of melodrama. Of course, this being VCA, you recognize issues will quickly take a flip for the crazeh. That crazeh comes while their valueless father comes to a decision to promote his childrens for \$500 each. Blinded by means of rage & ignorance, Heaven chooses to flee with a yuppie couple...and so starts the second one section, her new existence with Kitty & Cal. Kitty is one other refugee from the hillbilly mountains, & she plans to coach Heaven as a housekeeper/revenge trophy opposed to Luke, who knocked her up whilst she was once Heaven's age. Kitty is an abusive, shrill cougar; now not content material to vent her matters at the international at large, she's additionally OCD, difficult clean linens each day, color-coded towels, etc. All this would not be so undesirable other than she delights in abusing Heaven at each chance -- verbally, physically, or mentally, whichever is so much convenient. yet for all her flaws, Kitty is a little bit sympathetic. She relatively does not know the way to like a person properly; she quite does imagine she's doing Heaven a provider by means of dragging her from the mountainside & plopping her into daughterly servitude. In Kitty's eyes, whatever is best than being a hill-scum whore. It's a twisted,

if understandable, aspect of view...as against Cal, her milksop 20-something husband, who has the spine of a rainy noodle. He time and again threatens to depart Kitty end result of the methods she abuses Heaven, yet he by no means does. there is a few twaddle approximately him being in debt to her for beginning his business, yet grownup readers can see it truly is a lot easier than that -- i.e., sex. *snort* in fact it is not lengthy sooner than this affection-starved noodle-boner turns his consciousness to Kitty's followed daughter. Heaven, for her part, does not wish intercourse with Cal. She is aware it needs to be wrong...but she's so determined for fatherly love that she permits him to seduce her along with his wishy-washy emo ways. Cal's seduction is without doubt one of the so much sinister point of the book; it truly is either creepy & unhappy that Heaven is so green & determined for romance that she permits that sort of affection. it truly is abuse that is veiled via the abuser & sufferer both, that's equivalent components demanding & fascinating. not anyone yet an green farm-girl might let that wimpy assface of their pants. Seriously, the man is a distinct flop within the romantic hero department.-SARAH'S SCALE OF HERO HOTNESS-[...Always Uber Hot...]Daryl Dixon Bucky Barnes (Captain America)misunderstood anti-heroesbastard sons of villainsunderstated badasses with tattoosBoromirDr McCoy (Star Trek 2009)..Hicks (Aliens)Hawkeye (The Avengers)snarky alphasThe thirteenth Warrior vikingsRhett Butler...[...Frequently Hot...]sexy desktop nerds/geniusesassassinsheroes in waistcoats & cravats Jamie Lannister..self-righteous celibate warriorsHannibal King (Blade Trinity)Spock (original Trek)snarky betas...[...Meh, No Thanks...]Heathcliffe (Wuthering Heights)schmoopy Regency rakes...[...Not Hot...]manwhores.....Grima Wormtongue.....Michael MeyersShane (The strolling Dead)Theon Greyjoy (Game of Thrones)potato saladpotato salad with celery...[...Definitely certainly not Hot...]Edward Cullennoodle-boner woobieslizard people..Cal.Hades (Dazzling Brightness)Christian Greypuppy-kickers...There, see what I mean? Anyhow, the 3rd a part of the unconventional has juxtaposition of Kitty's obnoxious kinfolk vs Heaven attempting to assemble her siblings again together, however the climax is Heaven's get to the bottom of to discover her mother's roots in Boston (not a spoiler, for the reason that something's gotta fill the following 3 books :P). that are supposed to end up quite interesting. it truly is VCA, after all...WTFery is often at the menu.

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