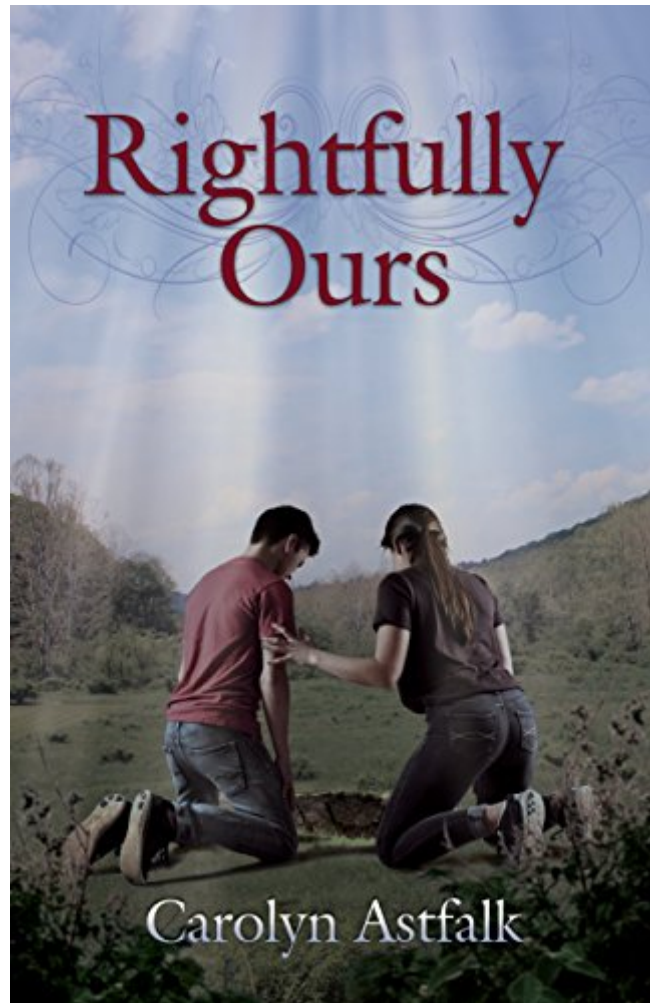




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Rightfully Ours



Synopsis

Sixteen-year-old Paul Porter's relocation to Pennsylvania is a temporary move during his dad's deployment. Or so he and his brother think, until devastating news lands on their doorstep. Paul's new home with the Muellers provides solace, especially in the form of Rachel, his friend and confidante. Their abiding friendship deepens as they work side by side to uncover what could be lost treasure. Will they acquire the strength of character and virtue to take only what rightfully belongs to them or are they in way over their heads, with more than a few lost artifacts at stake? Themes include premarital chastity and overcoming temptation. "When a young man or woman recognizes that authentic love is a precious treasure, they are also enabled to live their sexuality in accordance with the divine plan, rejecting the false models which are, unfortunately, all too frequently publicized and very widespread." Letter of His Holiness Pope John Paul II to the Young People of Rome, Sept 8, 1997

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Customer Reviews

Carolyn Astfalk's latest book is a well-written and entertaining. Like her earlier books, Astfalk shows a keen ear for dialogue. Young or old, male or female, they all speak and act like real people, and this makes for a most enjoyable read. And just like her previous books, the reader is pulled in by the plot from page one. We meet the various characters, and we care about what happens to them. It is a credit to the author that she has the ability to make her characters live and breath on the page. Pick up Rightfully Ours and you will be glad you did.

This was an unusual story about two young people who were very much in love, and deal with the desires of the heart in a Christian manner. It covered the sexual desires of young people and the manner in which they were committed to wait until after marriage to fulfill their desire. This would be a good story for young people who are in the process of becoming adults. The author covered this story in a very interesting ending.

Wow. This enjoyable and entertaining story was not only a pleasure to read, it perfectly unveiled, in a totally non-preachy way, the most convincing arguments in favor of chastity. While I wouldn't give this to my 12-year-old to read (there is some pretty obvious hinting about how close to "the brink" this young couple's romance gets) I think it is a very important novel for 15-17 year old (use your own parental discretion, of course!) girls AND BOYS to read.

Love her books. Just wish there were more. Good, honest love is a central theme here. Very hard to find in most books these days.

Another great book from this author! Although there are some similarities to her previous two books, this one offers other ideas and scenarios to consider. Hoping to see more from Carolyn Astfalk in the future!

Rightfully Ours, by Carolyn Astfalk, rightfully belongs on your "Want to Read" list! In Astfalk's third Christian fiction novel, she introduces us to two teenagers: Rachel Mueller and Paul Porter. At the beginning of the book, when Rachel and Paul meet, they are only 14 and 16, respectively. Throughout the story, we see a deep friendship blossom between the two characters. As they get to know each other, we see that friendship grow into love, young love. Rightfully Ours deals with the virtue of chastity head on; yet in a manner that would make any teen want to be like Rachel and Paul. These two characters serve as excellent role models for teenagers coming to

grips with burgeoning love and sexual desire, contrasted against all that they have been taught concerning morals and virtue. I found *Rightfully Ours* enchanting, with a little bit of mystery. As the story unfolds, Rachel and Paul discover more than each other. They enjoy digging around in Rachel's garden, only to discover something very interesting. Can they give too much away, but let me say that what they found is very interesting, for it had the capacity to change their lives. As I continued to read, I wondered how they might handle such responsibility. As I turned each page, I kept wondering if Paul and Rachel would remain true to their morals, or give in to societal pressures. They were only teenagers. What endeared me to this story is that as I continued to read the book, I learned that Rachel and Paul would come to discover that their love for each other is worth more than any earthly treasure, and that their chastity was priceless. If you have a pre-teen, or teenager, then you NEED to get a copy of this book. Read it yourself, first, then pass it on to your child. This wonderful story can serve as the impetus for having that all too uncomfortable, yet necessary talk with your child. Using Catholic fiction, with characters that your child can relate to, will make that talk go much more smoothly, for having read this book.

I need to start this review by saying that this book, while incredibly well-written and engaging, is not for every teenager. It deals with very sensitive issues centered around the Sixth Commandment, and may not be appropriate for teens from intensely sheltered families. So, parents, please be aware that the content, while not explicit, does have definite sexual references. (Some parents may want to read the book first so they can discuss it afterwards with their teens. But, hey, that's never a bad idea, right?) Okay, so having got that off my chest, I honestly believe that *RIGHTFULLY OURS* has immense potential to do good for those teens (oh so many of them!) who struggle with temptations -- sometimes violent temptations -- against purity. Because, face it, while every Christian parent hopes and prays that their children will remain virgins until their wedding days, the shocking statistics of premarital sex and teen abortion rates prove that virginity is indeed an extremely rare jewel in today's world. Even children raised in the best, most vigilant Christian homes can "fall" and often do "fall". So if any given novel can prevent even one teenager from a mistake that can never be recalled, and which may have overwhelmingly destructive results, then that novel is worthy of the highest praise. Carolyn Astfalk has written that novel. The story starts when 16-year-old Paul is forced, by his older brother's job situation, to live in the guest cottage owned by 14-year-old Rachel's parents. Living on the same property, Rachel and Paul become fast friends. But, as often happens with teenagers at that age, a crush develops and soon explodes into overwhelming physical desire. Meanwhile, they are drawn into a mystery, which forces them to

spend time together, ALONE, as they try to solve it. Talk about being thrown into the clutches of temptation. How Paul and Rachel deal with this is realistic, satisfying, and often surprising. I love how the author handles their character development. Readers will cheer for them, cringe with them, laugh with them, worry about them. Paul's older brother Sean, who starts out a fairly minor character, turns out to play a definite role in the story, a subplot which I personally enjoyed. From the beginning I was drawn to the character of Sean and when he basically disappeared after the first chapter, I kept hoping to see him return and find out what would happen to him. I was excited when the author brought him back into the story. This is Carolyn Astfalk's debut in the genre of young adult, but fans of her adult Christian romances will enjoy this story too. Her delightful style and hilarious sense of humor shine forth on every page.

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