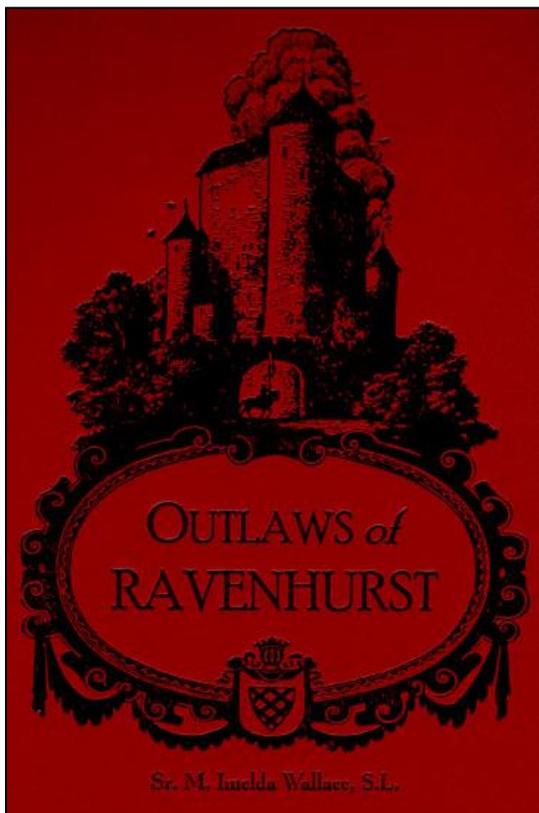


The Outlaws of Ravenhurst

A Thrilling Page Turner about God's 'outlaws' in 17th century Scotland

Imelda Wallace

For sixty years acclaimed by Catholic youth across America as the story they read and re-read and lived so vividly it remains with them always. Here is the high tension story of God's 'outlaws' fighting for their Catholic Faith in 17th century Scotland, living that Faith to the hilt of their claymores. It includes Christian heroes with indomitable hearts, parallels of Tarsicius, Sebastian, and Campion, and a boy hero not unlike the early Christians in the Coliseum. Illustrated, beautifully printed, and sturdily bound.



SYNOPSIS

Outlaws of Ravenhurst is the story of a young boy and the Catholic Faith. At a tender age, George is spirited away by a mysterious stranger to colonial America, Maryland to be specific. There he is raised by the Abells, a Catholic pioneer family with a dozen children. When he turns age 10, his Uncle Roger arrives from Scotland to take charge of the boy. It turns out that 'George' is actually Gordon, the scion of a noble Scottish family. Roger, and his scheming cohort Godfrey, intend to make the boy into a proper heir, and that means teaching him to renounce the Catholic faith of his mother and father, as well as his foster parents.

But before Roger and Godfrey can put their plan in motion, Gordon learns the true history of his family – a story of persecution, greed, bravery, cowardice, and perseverance. The ending is somewhat predictable, but getting there is certainly enjoyable and gives a good window into the hardships that British Catholics had to endure for the sake of their Faith.

REVIEW

When simply being a Catholic was enough to get you killed

Set in 17th Century Scotland, this tale of the persecution of Catholics and their stubborn faith through great difficulties is made exciting through sword fights, secret passages, mysterious strangers and hidden identities.

Since the days of Henry VIII, Great Britain has been generally hostile to Catholics. Over the past 100 years, this hostility has mainly been manifested as sneering conceit in mass market, academic publications and comedy shows. Closer to Henry's time, it was white-hot hatred. Though practically everyone knows about the Spanish Inquisition – at least, a sensational notion of it, few people know that Catholic practice was effectively outlawed in Britain and that priests could and did suffer capital punishment just for the crime of being a priest. This ignorance of history is what makes a book like *Outlaws of Ravenhurst* so valuable.

This book is meant for older kids but adults will enjoy it as well. The author did a nice job capturing the Scots accent of some of the more colourful characters and her prose flows easily throughout the book. *Outlaws of Ravenhurst* is an easy read which thrills and teaches a lesson of **spirited courage, deep love, and selfless sacrifice** at the same time. It includes some amusing illustrations and I highly recommend it !