This engaging addition to the successful Dear America series follows the adventures of Amelia Martin, a lighthouse keepers' daughter living on an island off the coast of Delaware in 1861. Amelia helps her father keep the light and her mother keep the house, but she cannot keep their marriage together. Newbery Medal recipient Karen Hesse (Out of the Dust) cleverly personifies the conflict between North and South, abolitionist and secessionist, Union and Confederacy in the troubled marriage of Amelia's parents. Amelia watches, powerless, as the relationship disintegrates: I feel as if I am the Light in my family. I must keep my hope burning, so that Father and Mother, even in the darkness that seems to engulf them, might find their way back. The broken marriage provides a powerful example of the way the Civil War tore apart families and friendships. Girls will thrill to Amelia's descriptions of her tomboyish responsibilities as lighthouse keeper and family breadwinner, her burgeoning love affair with a local
boy, and her friendship with her abolitionist uncle. While some of the language and details seem anachronistic, Hesse has crafted a remarkably elegant tale of girl as emotional beacon, tirelessly watching as her world crashes on the shoals. (Ages 9 and older) --Claire Dederer

Amelia Martin lives on Fenwick Island with her parents, and her father is assistant lighthouse keeper. Amelia does more than what is usually expected of a lighthouse keepers daughter, and she is so good at her job that the head of the lighthouses paid a visit to the island just because of her.

But life is hard for Amelia. Her parents dont get along, and she is stuck between the two sides of the civil war. Her mother is for the south, and her father is for the north.

When Amelias best friend is called off to war, can Amelia survive the war in her own heart?This book is really good. If you like stuff about the civil war, this book is for you.

I felt so sorry of Amelia. I mean, her parents divorce one of her friends dies and another one goes off to war. But Amelia was strong, and she didnt let her troubles get the best of her. Now that s what I like in a girl.

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A Light in the Storm: the Civil War Diary of Amelia Martin by Karen Hesse - 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!