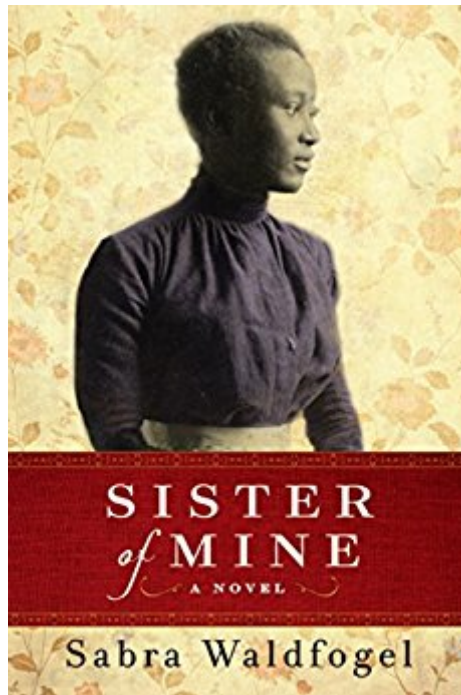




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Sister Of Mine: A Novel



Synopsis

When two Union soldiers stumble onto a plantation in northern Georgia on a warm May day in 1864, the last thing they expect is to see the Union flag flying high—or to be greeted by a group of freed slaves and their Jewish mistress. Little do they know that this place has an unusual history. Twelve years prior, Adelaide Mannheim—daughter of Mordecai, the only Jewish planter in the county—was given her own maid, a young slave named Rachel. The two became friends, and soon they discovered a secret: Mordecai was Rachel's father, too. As the country moved toward war, Adelaide and Rachel struggled to navigate their newfound sisterhood—from love and resentment to betrayal and, ultimately, forgiveness. Now, facing these Union soldiers as General Sherman advances nearer, their bond is put to the ultimate test. Will the plantation be spared? Or will everything they've lived for be lost? Revised edition: Previously published as *Slave and Sister*, this edition of *Sister of Mine: A Novel* includes editorial revisions.

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Customer Reviews

As a former history teacher, I appreciate well-researched historical fiction. Since so many readers rely on *Gone with the Wind* as their template for slave owners, it's refreshing to find a book with multi-faceted characters among the planter class, the slaves, and non slaveholding whites. In addition, to discover a book that embeds the particular dilemma for Jewish slaveholders is a true find. In Sabra Waldfogel's novel, history does not trump the story line and the rhythm of the book. She is able to contextualize the story with a newspaper reference or a tidbit of gossip heard in town. If you are knowledgeable about the Civil War battles, you'll be able to track the course of the war through Henry's letters home to Rachel. The characters in the book are faced with the dilemmas of survival like every southern family during the Civil War but they also confront ethical dilemmas. We are privy to their deliberations and their thought process without any anachronistic rationales seeping into their 19th century minds. Jew or Christian, black or white, northerner or southerner, male or female--any reader will close this book with not just more knowledge, but with greater understanding of the chaos and traumas engendered by slavery in the US.

Well-written and engaging. Would have given it a 5 save for the author's nonsensical and erroneous belief that the Emancipation Proclamation ended slavery in the South. The Southern states ignored it and Lincoln did not have the authority to amend the Constitution to end slavery, so it did not free slaves anywhere. Congress passed the amendment after the war was over, forcing US Grant to free his slaves (he said good help was hard to find). RE Lee freed his early in the war.

The author is talented and has a bright future, but really - an educated southern belle constantly using the word ain't drove me so crazy I could not finish the book. Sad, there is so much potential with the theme of interracial relationships and of being Jewish in a mostly non-Jewish area. I simply could not get around the language and typing errors, however. I would suggest the author re-edit this book and republish.

I have read many books on the subject of slavery and plantations, etc. but I had never come across plantation owners and slave masters as Jews. This was eye opening for me. Having some understanding of Jewish history I would have never thought that they would be involved in the slave trade or the owning and working of slaves on southern plantations. They came to America because they were mistreated and persecuted and then to find out that they found no problem in selling and owning other human beings. Very interesting indeed. This book was also an excellent study of not only slaves and masters but also slaves as relatives of the master, the family, and the special

dynamics that happen to relationships "all in the family". This book then takes a very unusual turn when the Civil War is fought and then there is of course, the Emancipation. Well, not to spoil the story - you will just have to read and find out what happens. You won't be disappointed.

If you are looking for a book that will pull you in and not be able to put down you should probably read this. I love historical fiction but in my experience it's either fantastic or dry without much in between. This book falls into the fantastic category and is a steal at the Kindle price.

Overall Slave and Sister is ok. I was impressed by the historical accuracies in references to Georgia. What was lacking: a second (or third) editor to correct grammatical errors. There were a good number of them and it was distracting. Next some times - especially in the middle - it became a romance novel. Lastly, sometimes the writing style switched points of view without a clear transition so I would have to re-read to make sure who's view reading from.

I loved this book, really couldn't put it down until I had finished. The author does a nice job on developing the characters. It also brings home what a terrible thing slavery really was without showing a lot of brutality, just the hopelessness of it for a slave. Even when freedom was granted, they weren't free. Nevertheless it is not a dreary book. It's a good read and I recommend it.

I truly enjoyed this story of "the sisters", one free white woman and one a black slave. One thing I liked the most was the respectable way the slaves were treated. I could hardly put this book down, from the middle of the story to the end. This was a heart warming story of respect, love, sadness, happiness, fear, and peace in the end. I will recommend this book to my book club sisters for our next reading.

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