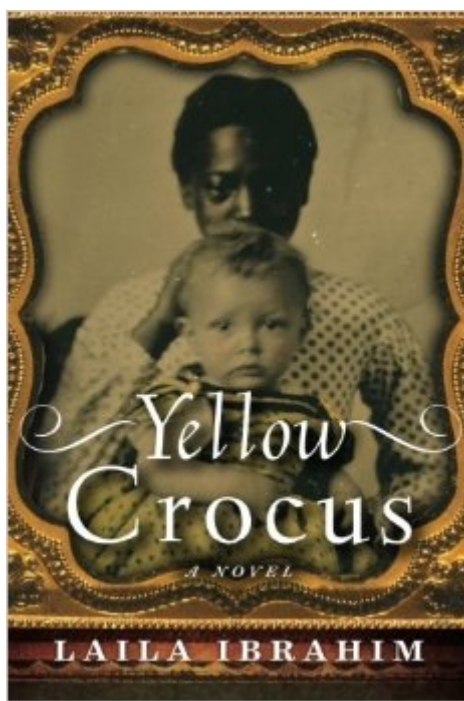


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# Yellow Crocus



## Synopsis

Moments after Lisbeth is born, she's taken from her mother and handed over to an enslaved wet nurse, Mattie, a young mother separated from her own infant son in order to care for her tiny charge. Thus begins an intense relationship that will shape both of their lives for decades to come. Though Lisbeth leads a life of privilege, she finds nothing but loneliness in the company of her overwhelmed mother and her distant, slave-owning father. As she grows older, Mattie becomes more like family to Lisbeth than her own kin and the girl's visits to the slaves' quarters and their lively and loving community bring them closer together than ever. But can two women in such disparate circumstances form a bond like theirs without consequence? This deeply moving tale of unlikely love traces the journey of these very different women as each searches for freedom and dignity. Revised edition: This edition of *Yellow Crocus* includes editorial revisions.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (10,297 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #7,297 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #28 in Books > Literature & Fiction > African American > Historical #955 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Historical #2224 in Books > Literature & Fiction > United States

## Customer Reviews

This book was for me just a fantastic read from start to finish! It made me: 1. Horrified at times- being reminded how slaves were so badly and brutally treated back then, seeing Mattie's anger displayed in an early scene (no spoiler) that left me holding my breath and being made to remember how women were treated during this period of time too. 2. Angry at others- as when Mattie was torn from her family, including her 3 month old baby and was supposed to be pacified by being able to visit them for a few hours on a Sunday, witnessing through the young heroine's eyes the brutal rape of a young slave girl (not graphically depicted) and reading the general attitudes of people on the black/white person/non-person issues common to this time. 3. I laughed in spots and I cried in others

while reading it which means for me it was a pretty darn successful story. I can't ask for much more than that from any author. Some have said that they found the book only suited for teens because parts seemed to have been written for a YA audience. My response to that is that the plot of this book revolved primarily around 2 things, us getting to watch Lisbeth grow up and her changing attitudes as the book progressed and life through the eyes of Mattie (Ma-ie). I believe these scenes that felt more YA were to give us a flavor of what it was like to grow up during this time and don't know of any other way it could have been done if some of the young girl's activities and thoughts (life on a daily basis) weren't represented. The other perspective life as seen through Mattie's eyes was more adult because she was an adult and had to grow up pretty early on because of the circumstances of her life. I wish there was a sequel to this one something I almost never say!

I was most surprised by how much beauty and pleasure I could find in a book which in large part is about slavery. I could not put it down. With two small toddlers at home, it is rare for me to finish a book in 6 months, let alone in the few days it took me to read *Yellow Crocus*. The details of the deep and powerful relationship between a white girl and the black woman who nursed, raised her and saved her life- enabled me (a white lady) to stomach more of the realities of slavery and glimpse for moments about how folks managed those times. Of course, as a mother, it was unbelievably painful to read about what Mattie (the main character) has to endure with her own children. But this a decidedly a good pain that brings me in touch with the strength and brilliance of women....and the ability of some to continue to do the hard work of mothering and loving under the most difficult of circumstances. Thanks to Abraham for letting me shed many a meaningful tear.

My husband recently brought me a kindle and I had looked very hard for books pertaining to African American culture that were free. I must admit that I was thinking since the author was not African American there would be a sort of romanticism or sugar-coated theme with the relationship between the slaves and their owner but, this story proved to shed light on the truths of slavery. As someone who majored in history with a concentration on African American history, I must say this book was awesome. This book was very unbiased and was very factual in relating information on the society and communities in the south during slavery. The book "told it like it is" when it comes to the relationship between mammies and the children they were forced to suckle and raise. Many people do not realize how the slave woman had to put her owner's child ahead of her own. I also appreciated the happy but realistic ending. This book among many other stories of early American life is a must read.

This is one of those books that's hard to put down, as the characters grab hold of you. The scenes are so vivid and linger on long past the end of the book. I realized while I was reading how rare it is that a novel deals directly with the intimate details of birth and mothering. It is an insightful look at the heartbreak, courage, silences, and love that exist amidst the cruelty of slavery and the bizarre rationalizations of those who profited from plantation life.

I read that quote in a review about a book on slavery over 30 years ago and, to me, truer words were never spoken. This book, *Yellow Crocus*, written about that same despicable subject was written with such grace I was shocked to find it was the author's first book. It tells the story from the viewpoint of the slave/nanny and that of her charge. It was well written, it was easy to love the 2 female leads and I do look forward to reading more of this author. My only objection: This book was lovely, but the way slaves were treated was not. (Spoiler) While it is was enjoyable to see a happy ending, slavery was not a fairy tale, and the life of a slave was very rarely tied up in so neat and pretty a package. Freedom, family intact, earning a good living was indeed a fairy tale. However, I hold on to the fact some fairy tales come true. Again I am looking forward to reading more from this author, would enjoying reading a sequel telling us what life brings to both women. Bravo!

I really enjoyed this novel, from start to finish. It takes place in Virginia in the 1800s, while slavery was still the norm in the South. This is Laila Ibrahim's first novel, and I thought it was a great first effort...I found it difficult to put down, and at just over 200 pages, it was a quick read. I look forward to reading other books from this author.

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