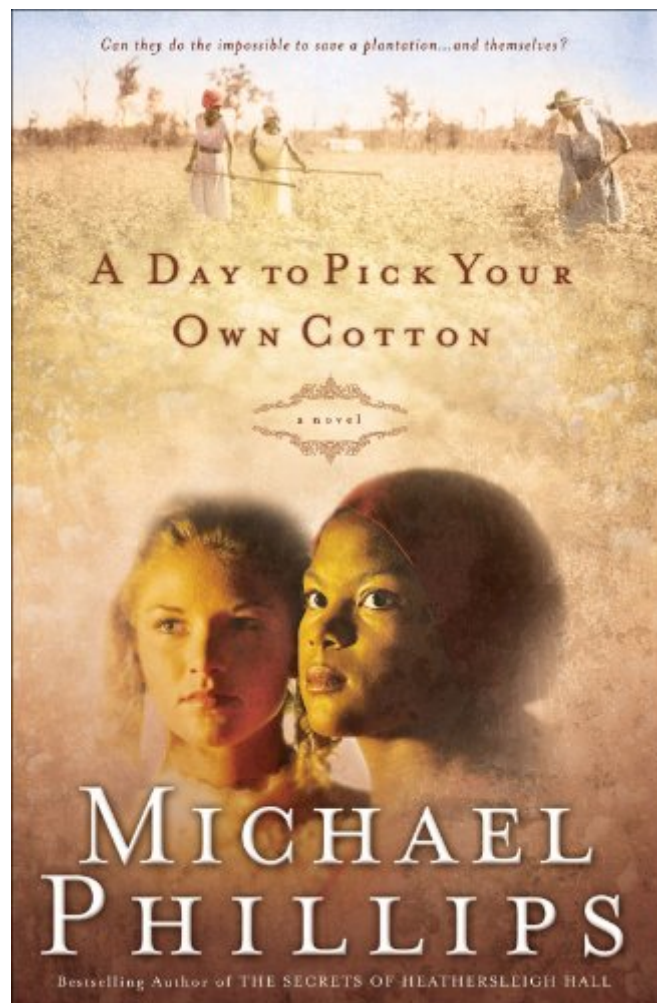




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A Day To Pick Your Own Cotton (Shenandoah Sisters Book #2)



Synopsis

Book 2 of Shenandoah Sisters. Mayme and Katie, from entirely different worlds, have been thrown together in the chaotic aftermath of the Civil War. Just teenagers, they are left to survive only by their own wits and shared experiences. Gradually, they are learning to appreciate each other's strengths and to shore up each other's weaknesses. Out of their efforts to simply stay alive comes a growing awareness of the Lord's love and care for them, as well as the dim outlines of a plan to keep Rosewood Plantation operating. The book continues the story begun in *Angels Watching Over Me*, of two very appealing but contrasting characters and their secret mission to provide a sanctuary for others who have been left alone and adrift by a tragic war.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Two Black girls, two White girls and a baby try to keep the plantation going and keep away any people who might do them harm. Working harder than ever is the new Mistress of the plantation, a mere 15 yr. old girl. She now oversees a very young girl and a somewhat mentally challenged new mother with a small son. Most of the people are either running or hiding from danger. This second book brings into focus the viciousness of the baby's father and his intent on getting rid of both

mother and baby. What follows is dynamic love and perseverance and the ugliness of some men's minds and their wicked meanness is almost too much to absorb. The girls are maturing quickly and when the bank loan comes due with no money to be had, repossession is a very immediate possibility. This is where the book gets its title, a real friend materialized and the harmony they show and their hard work pay off. Today I finished book two and today I purchased book 3 in this series. I feel almost like family now and simply must know the future for these young people. Thank you Michael Phillips for this series.

Mayme Jukes and Katie Clairborne are two fifteen-year-old girls from worlds apart -- Mayme was born into slavery, while Katie was the daughter of a wealthy family that owned a large plantation. But in the final days of the Civil War, they both lost their families to marauders, and now they share an important secret. After Mayme, fleeing the scene of her family's murders, came across Katie, the only survivor at her plantation, Rosewood, the two girls decided to live there on their own and pretend that Katie's mother is still alive. As if that were not difficult enough, now they must protect three other people as well. Emma, a former slave, and her baby, William, are hiding at Rosewood from William's father, the son of Emma's former master. And Aleta, a young girl whose mother died as they fled from her abusive father, is living at Rosewood and is determined to never return home. Mayme and Katie have other worries as well. A loan is due soon at the bank, and if they don't pay, they will never be able to protect their secret. This was a good sequel to "Angels Watching Over Me" that continues the story of Mayme and Katie, and introduces some new characters as well. I really enjoyed the first book, and this was an excellent sequel. It brings to life the dangers of the post-Civil War South and is a heartwarming story of friendship. I really came to care about the characters. I highly recommend these books to teens who like historical fiction about this time period. I can't wait to read the other two books in this series and find out what happens next.

The second in the Shenandoah Girls series, *A DAY TO PICK YOUR OWN COTTON* continues the story of Katie and Mayme. In this book the two unlikely friends, one a recently freed slave and the other the daughter of a former wealthy slave owner, continue to attempt to keep the fact that they are alone on Katie's plantation a secret. The two girls struggle to make things look "normal" on the plantation, but along the way they encounter new friends, a new roommate, dangerous visitors and financial difficulties. The story has a little of everything, there are moments that are light-hearted and humorous, others that are sad, and some that are filled with suspense, and the result is an overall enjoyable read. While *A DAY TO PICK YOUR OWN COTTON* is book two in a series, the author

provides enough background so that it could stand on its own. However, I think I enjoyed the book more having read the first because I had a stronger emotional connection to the main characters. Overall, this is a fast paced story that highlights many aspects of everyday life in the Post-Civil War South. The Christian themes in the book are subtle and unassuming, it was touching to watch Mayme and Katie struggle to understand God and develop a relationship with him. While this series is not specifically geared towards young adults I think they may enjoy it as much as their parents. Reviewed by Stacey Seay of The RAWSISTAZ Reviewers

I'm on book 4 of the Shenandoah Sisters Series. Although slightly unbelievable, they are all very riveting and insightful. I love the fact that they are historical fictions so we get to learn about history, while enjoying a book. I especially LOVE the way the characters feelings of self-worth and their discovery of who of God is, are brought to light. I've recommended this book series to TONS of people. I'm reading some of it to my young daughter, although some content is more adult and I explain that part instead of reading. For example, Katie noticed the whip scars on Mayme's back and proceed to tell Katie about some of the torture she's seen as a former slave, to Katie. It was a very graphic image that I'll never get out of my mind. I'm glad I didn't read it to her out loud. I did however talk about how they were whipped and treated horribly, worse than you'd treat an animal. Although it was not graphic there was also content about the raping of young slave girls.

This is the second book in the Shenandoah Sisters collection, and I loved it just as much as I loved the first one! Mr. Phillips is an incredibly wonderful storyteller, and I also love his main characters in this book, too! Katie, Mayme, Emma, and Aleta, despite their idiosyncrasies, have all grown extremely close and provide a very loving picture of what true friendship is all about. Mr. Phillips continues to take his readers back to a time in history where life was much harder than it is nowadays in certain areas. His stories make you appreciate your blessings and try not to be discouraged over some of your own personal trials. If I had had to live back then and go through some of the things our forefathers experienced, I don't know if I would have made it through. But then again, maybe I would have because as Mr. Phillips shows, our faith in God can carry us a long way and help us to overcome trials we might otherwise not have been able to endure. I've already started reading the third book in the series, THE COLOR OF YOUR SKIN AIN'T THE COLOR OF YOUR HEART, and needless to say, I am thoroughly enjoying it as well and cannot wait to write my review of it when I'm done!

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