



## Slave and Sister

*Sabra Waldfoegel*

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## **Slave and Sister** Sabra Waldfogel

Adelaide Mannheim and her slave Rachel have grown up with a shameful secret. Adelaide's father is Rachel's father, too. Their secret shadows their girlhood together and follows them into Adelaide's marriage. As the Civil War breaks out, Adelaide's husband falls in love with Rachel, and the lives of mistress and slave are torn apart.

Slavery made them kin. Can the Civil War make them sisters?

## **Slave and Sister Details**

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Author : Sabra Waldfogel

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## From Reader Review Slave and Sister for online ebook

### Cynthia Williams says

I am fascinated with the topic of slavery in the south and particularly the relationships between slaves and masters/mater's families. This was not incredibly well written but still a gripping tale of just that sort. I enjoyed it and would recommend it for that reason.

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### Ellen Winokur says

This book shows why slavery is wrong. The Civil War was fought to show that everyone is created equally. Slave and Sister had an interesting Jewish component that had a strong impact on me.

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### Hadley Barrows says

Here's one to read. This is a skin-in-the-game kind of novel. Waldfogel takes you places with a certain hand, but never makes you feel led. The next part of the story dawns on you. Then the next part of the story happens. Not exactly in the way you thought but in a way that makes you say, "Ha!"

Here's another thing. When I met my husband, he didn't drink red wine. I liked red wine and drank it anyway. He liked me and so he drank it sometimes too. Then later he confessed that he didn't like red wine before because he didn't understand red wine. He said (and I think this is adorable) that he didn't know you weren't supposed to gulp it.

Stay with me.

Waldfogel's book is plum full of history. Rich, amazing history. It's also full of intimate details about the Jewish faith.

When you read her story, you can tell she loves history. And the Jewish faith. She loves these things even more than I love red wine.

I'm no history buff myself. I'm also not Jewish. But the way this book talks about these topics helps me see the color. The tannin. The legs of a part of history I thought I knew about. The subtle flavors of the Jewish religion. Again. A certain hand. Taking you on a tour that only Waldfogel can guide. You will love this about her book, too.

And last, but certainly not least, this book is a complex love story. A love story that has you hoping for the best but not knowing what the best really is. Or could be. Kind of like real love, sometimes.

So pick this book up and read it. You won't regret it.

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### Joyce says

Slave and Sister tells the story of 2 sisters, Adelaide who is white and daughter of a plantation owner, and Rachel her half sister and slave, also daughter of the plantation owner but also daughter of a slave. Although Rachel is a slave, she is brought up as Adelaide's maidservant which meant she had closer ties than the average slave. Adelaide's family is Jewish which adds another dimension to the story. The relationship between Adelaide and Rachel becomes more complex after Adelaide marries Henry, a Jewish man who had grown up in Germany and felt strongly that slavery was wrong. I won't go any further in telling the plot to prevent any spoilers. The 3 main characters, Adelaide, Henry, and Rachel are all memorable characters and I felt the author did an exceptional job of creating a story that reflected the issues of slavery, fighting in the Civil War, and the interwoven relationship of Adelaide, Rachel and Henry.

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## **Tom Edelinski says**

### **Great story telling**

This was one of those books that you wish was longer. There's so much more of the story to tell. I would be certain to read any sequel that may come out in the future. All off the characters are well developed and the pace is quick from beginning to end. I'm kind of sad that it's over (the story, that is).

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## **Clarissa says**

I was prepared to go into this book because the American Civil War is something that interests me greatly. However, I wasn't entirely prepared.

Myself, I'd be considered a Yankee, since I was born on the North side of the Mason-Dixon line. I may live in the south now, but at heart, I'm a yankee. I'm also bi-racial, so I know that I'd have either been picking cotton or I'd have been a house slave, like Rachel. Rachel is a slave but she is also the master of the house's daughter. Her sister, Adelaide, is the Mannheim's only child and is spoiled, pampered and is a southern belle though she is loathe to be one. She learns quickly that even though she's white, her father is looking to marry her off to someone for his own advantage. She is little more than a pawn and she sees that she is being sold as well.

When Adelaide finally marries a neighboring planter, Henry Kaltenbach, she has everything that Rachel has been denied. It's a challenge for Adelaide; she is used to a house full of servants to do her bidding. With a skeleton crew, so to speak, Adelaide is forced to learn how to become mistress of her own house, thus leaving Rachel and another slave, Minnie, to run the house themselves, whilst the rest are out in the fields picking cotton. She is also not used to Henry's being so kind to the slaves. Prior to their marriage, he even sat at the same table and would eat with them. Things begin to change once Adelaide's husband falls in love with Rachel. The tension is strong between the sisters...will they be able to patch the wound between them? Will they lose the man that they love in the war? What will happen to the slaves once the Emancipation Proclamation is announced? There is a great deal on the line...and no matter the outcome, their lives will be forever altered.

The book is full of strong characters, some likable, some not, but you'll be captivated from the first chapter to the last. I read it in one day (again, I'm a fast reader) but I took time to write my review as I wanted to fully process what I had read. It isn't to be taken lightly and I suggest that you do take your time in taking it all in. This book was surprising because not only did it speak of slavery, the war, but the family was Jewish. It was

mentioned how the Jews were once slaves in Egypt and now, here they were in Georgia and were slaveholders. It was really thought provoking and I found myself quite fascinated. The touch of Jewish traditions and heritage was a fascinating twist on what I thought would be a somewhat straight forward Civil War-era book.

My fedora is off to Ms. Waldfogel. I enjoyed this more than I can say and I look forward to seeing her next novel as well.

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### **Marilyn Peterson says**

A great read, definitely a 5 star book. The characters and the relationship between slave and master is intriguing as the story develops. Then add the factor of a Jewish landowner and master who has his own view of slavery. I certainly am ready for another book written by this newcomer author, Sabra Waldfogel.

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### **Shomeret says**

I was interested in the Jewish aspect of this novel and received a free copy of the e-book through the Slave and Sister blog tour.

It's important to realize that slavery was part of ancient Jewish history. The Biblical patriarchs owned slaves. Abraham had a child with the slave Hagar who was Ishmael, the ancestor of the Arab peoples. Just like the Mannheims, the household of the patriarch Abraham contained Isaac, his heir who was the son of his wife, and Ishmael, the son of a slave, growing up side by side.

So the abolitionism of Adelaide's husband, Henry Kaltenbach, was not Biblically based. It was an ethical conviction rooted in his profound sense of human equality. In Germany, he had been a revolutionary, and he brought this background to the New World. He was actually quite an extraordinary man, but he never seemed to realize it. I admired both his principles and his innate humility. He was a decent human being in a society where cruelty and injustice abounded. In Yiddish, the word for decent human being is mensch. Henry Kaltenbach was a true mensch.

Rachel also stands out as a character. If the characters in this novel were compared to those in *Gone With The Wind*, we would find that Rachel has no parallel in Margaret Mitchell's classic masterpiece. Mitchell was limited by her values and perceptions. She couldn't have imagined a literate slave with a powerful intellect, and a pragmatic understanding of the business of running a plantation. Yet I should also point out, that in the period when *GWTW* was published, few would have believed that a character like Rachel could have existed even if Margaret Mitchell had been capable of imagining her. I was born nearly twenty years after the publication of *GWTW*. I consider Rachel a credible protagonist due to what I know of African American history, and my belief in racial equality.

In conclusion, the characters and the dramatization of the novel's themes through its compelling plot makes *Slave and Sister* a novel that I recommend to readers who like to see unusual perspectives in historical fiction.

For the blog version of this review see <http://wwwbookbabe.blogspot.com/2014/...>

## **Darlene says**

Originally posted at <http://www.peekingbetweenthepages.com...>

Slave and Sister by Sabra Waldfogel is a sweeping saga that takes you back to the time of the Civil War. This is a story of plantations, slavery, war, love, family, survival, and the bonds we share with those we love. It is a story I loved and will not soon forget.

One is black and one is white but they share a secret and that is that they have the same father, a Jewish plantation owner. Rachel becomes Adelaide's maid at a young age and the two bond instantly. Adelaide, defying the laws of the times, teaches Rachel how to do figures and to read and Rachel yearning to learn, lets her even though she could be beaten for it. Even when the two learn they are sisters they are still close but only in secret. In public they are maid and mistress.

When Adelaide marries Henry she takes Rachel with her to her new home. Henry, Jewish as well, has many issues with slavery. Henry realizes that to make his cotton plantation successful he needs slaves but the difference is that he believes they should be treated as he would anyone else with the respect they deserve. As Henry and Adelaide's marriage is one of convenience and with war looming Henry and Rachel finally succumb to the love they feel for each other. Adelaide, hurt, feels anger and hatred towards her sister and it tears them apart. When Henry goes off to war and the sisters are forced together for survival they find that the bond of sisterhood is still strong within them.

This is one fantastic story. I've always been partial to stories of slavery and plantations and the author brings this time period vividly alive for the reader. I felt so many emotions especially anger that people had to endure what they did during the time when slavery was allowed. It truly disgusts me that a human being could be considered to be essentially nothing and could be traded or beaten on a whim. The characters in this story are all well developed and although I didn't live in the times of struggle that they did I still felt connected to them and all they had to go through. It is the mark of a really good book when it touches your heart and that is what Slave and Sister did for me.

Above all this is a beautiful story of survival, hope, and love. Highly recommended!

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## **Tea says**

### **Nice piece of historical fiction**

Well written piece of historical fiction about the antebellum south. Not too long either, I would definitely recommend this book.

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## **Trudy says**

I'll admit the title of this book turned me off. Just felt like it was going to be unrealistic fluff. (BYW, I enjoy a fluffy book when I'm in the mood.). However a Goodreads friend, Carole, gave it very good reviews and we share many books in common. So, I decided to give it a try.

It is a very well researched story presented in a rather "lite" manner. That fact alone will give it positive reviews. Reminds me of what I used to do as a teacher when presenting certain subject matter to my students. The gist of the story is that Jewish slave owners, who were slaves themselves at one time, now owned slaves of their own. Many of these slave owners slid seamlessly into their new roles as "masters", so glad to be on the "other end", while others endured many inner conflicts about slave ownership.

I've read so many books about the horrors of slavery, it was difficult for me to come to grips with some of the incidents in this story. In honesty, though, I haven't experienced many books where the relationships between slaves and slave owners were tolerable. While reading I reminded myself that like all tragic events in our history, there were decent heroic people, who spoke out against evil, with their voices and their actions.

All in all, a good engaging read.

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### **Patricia says**

EXCELLENT BOOK CAPTIVATING

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### **Terri Bullock says**

I loved every word of this novel. Characters so well developed and the story so real that I almost felt that I was there, experiencing their pain, anger and sorrow. I would love to see this novel made into a movie. The way the author writes, I could almost feel the heat, the breeze, and see the cotton fields, and the slaves working until they were so weary they could barely fall asleep. I can't wait to read more from this author.

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### **Nancy L Thompson says**

#### **A great story**

I can't find any fault with this story. Whether it's accurate or not , it's very believable. Great characters and a very compelling story. Great job Sabra.

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### **Heidi Harsch says**

#### **Interesting reading**

This fictional story of two sisters, one white one black during the Civil War era. The author made the characters believable. Also incorporating Jews during this period. Historically on the mark.

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