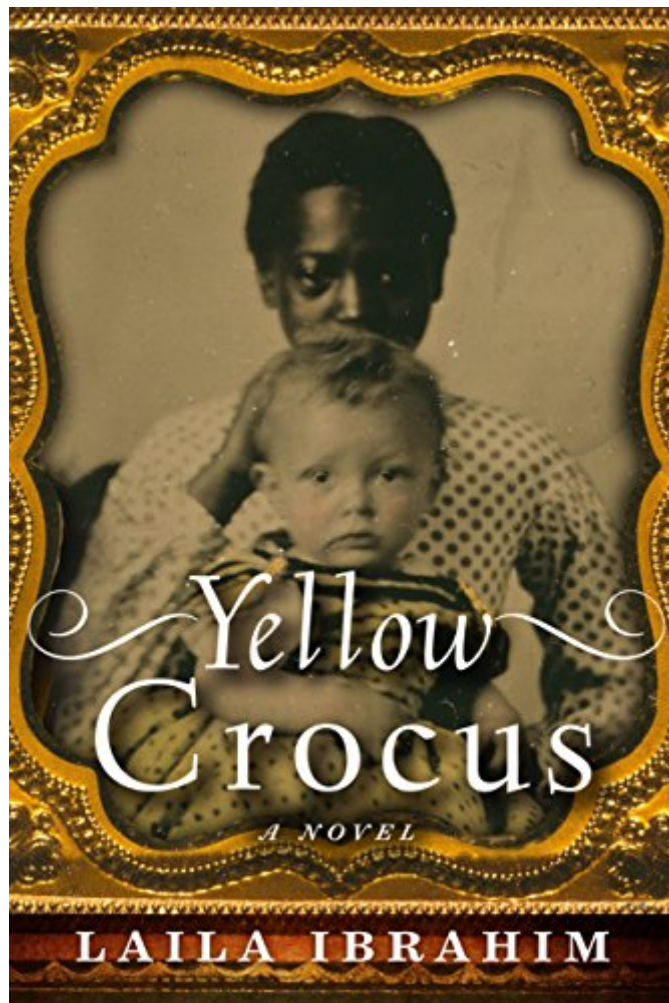


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# Yellow Crocus



## 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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## 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.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> 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!

Reading about slavery give me insight about that period of time. I don't believe I would have adjusted well. Being this is based off a true story which actually took place, I can understand and can see the relationship between the infant child with their wet nurses. I am extremely proud and glad of the hardest decision of Elizabeth life was made by what she believes rather than what people thought of her and social standing. Because of that decision they were once again united to bear witness of one another. Touching.

The perfect novel for these days where once again some people are being hateful towards minorities. It's wonderful to read about people who have sacrifice comfort over moral values. Let's hope that many of us are able to understand that the color of our skin doesn't separate us. Don't forget that god created the human race and we are all humans.

When I read stories that are told through the eyes of two characters, I often find myself connecting with only one, and not the other. When this happens, I become impatient whenever I'm reading about the latter. Amazingly, this was not the case with *Yellow Crocus*. From the very beginning, I was fully engaged and enraptured by the stories of each protagonist, two women in opposing

circumstances who share an unbreakable bond. I can honestly say that there was never a page, not even a paragraph, that felt dragged out or unnecessary. Ibrahim's descriptions were written in a way that they painted a picture without being wordy just for the sake of sounding important. All of this, along with her depiction of the era of slavery in the South, make for an incredible, clear journey. I can't believe this was only Ibrahim's first novel...I can't wait to see what's next.

I felt as though I was viewing the story from right behind Lisbeth, feeling what she felt, pulling for her in the difficult times, and totally loving Mattie. We should all be so fortunate to have a mother/mother surrogate like Mattie. It is difficult to comprehend what it must have been like to have been a slave. To belong to a family of slave owners, people who had arranged marriages based on wealth and social standing, must have been quite difficult for a sensitive and compassionate person to stand up against. I loved this book and have already recommended it to my daughter.

This had all the possibility to be a good book about a disgraceful time in history but the author missed the opportunity. The writing was formulaic and trite and did a grave disservice to Mattie who was a good woman. The author should have focused on Mattie's determination to live free and the journey for her to get there. But, instead, she filled it with useless stereotypical characters that were totally predictable as was the end. I liked and admired Mattie but the rest wasn't worth the time.

At first I did not care for this book. It was not exactly what I thought I would be reading. It is a complex book that discusses the cross winds of segregation and slavery. Sacrifices that distract the routine of the slave family because of ownership is never really a family but instead is a way for the owner to enhance their net worth by the birth of additional slaves. It is about love and bonding of the wet nurse and the owners' child. The value of love and what is important in each person's life and most of all doing what one does and doing it well. The overall goal of this novel is freedom, Freedom to be able to make an individual decision about what type of life one chooses to live.. Has a great ending that I shall not reveal because this is a must read and you do not want the best part of the book to be revealed before you absorb all of the many turns it takes to bring it about.. Read it with an open mind and look for the Love... Always look for the way people miss love and find love.

Amazingly well written story of the South set before the Civil War. The characters are strongly and lovingly etched. The reader gets caught up in their lives. It is difficult to believe how one could be stuck in a life where the rules for a proper existence could be so lacking in reality or warmth. I

imagine being sent back in time and being emotionally strangled as Elizabeth was and yet, standing up to it and doing what was right for herself. Really enjoyed the book and the prose.

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