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The Whistle Walk: A Civil War Novel (Ironwood Plantation Family Saga Book 1)



Synopsis

Now with Book Club Reader's questions! A Mississippi Plantation: Civil War pits countrymen against one another and tears a nation asunder. Life and death are held in the balance where everyone is a slave to something. One is born free, yet lives as a soul in bondage. Lydia Harper never intended to purchase a slave. But when she witnesses a woman being beaten in the street, all her pretenses begin to unravel. A bride to a man she barely knows and bound by her secrets, Lydia will risk everything to save a stranger. Amid the War Between the States, the mistress of Ironwood faces the battles in her own heart and discovers strength in a way she never imagined. The other is born to serve, yet holds the spirit of freedom. Ruth, standing on the threshold of desperation, has lost everything she holds dear. After being pulled from the dirt, she is no longer a field hand but the personal maid to the lady of Ironwood. Ruth soon realizes adversity pays no mind to the color of skin. When propriety slips, she discovers they have more in common than she dreamed possible. In a time when fear brings the South to its knees, two women will forge a friendship in the fires of redemption and thrust Ironwood into a new future where the battle for freedom has merely begun.

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Customer Reviews

I was given a copy of the Whistle Walk for an honest review. Let me tell you, I could not put this book. It gripped me from the very page to the last. I wasn't sure what to expect but I got more than I bargained for. Ruth and Lydia's stories are interwoven into each other. Lydia is young Southern belle to be married to a man she barely knows. She is expected to act like a lady and the chains of her upbringing hold her back. Her mother cares for her but she does what is expected of her as a Southern belle. Lydia's secret is heartbreaking but her development throughout the story keeps you rooting for her. Ruth is the slave woman whose tragic past just starts to make you cry. I mean, several pages into her story and I just started bawling. It didn't make sense that someone should go through so much pain but then people do and the depiction of that is heart wrenching. But her vitality and her determination to not quake makes her an admirable character. When Lydia buys her, she actually saves her. With that purchase, begins the story of two women who change each other besides external forces trying to mold them into what is expected for them. Set in the Civil War, we watch as the South fights for its way of life and see the birth of a new nation. At Ironwood, we see the way things change and how two women are liberated by the decision to not keep to the status quo. All in all, it was a wonderful read. It was *Gone with the Wind* but better. Characters you can love and hate. A story that kept you turning page by page. A wonderful read.

The Whistle Walk is one of the best books I have ever read. The setting is in 1860's during the civil war period at Ironwood Plantation. It shows love and the ability for change. Both Lydia and Ruth were full of vigor and determination! They became friends when it was not truly in either of their best interest! This book shows how any obstacle we encounter can be overcome through the love of Jesus and the greatest commandment to love one another. This is a must read! What a wonderful writer Stephenia McGee is. I can't wait to read the next book!!!! Lori

by Andrea Renee Cox So many authors write Christian fiction these days that it's nearly impossible to keep up. One way I discover new-to-me authors is by participating in group reads in one of the online book clubs I'm a member of. That's how I came across *The Whistle Walk* by Stephenia H. McGee. *The Whistle Walk* is a Civil War tale of a bride becoming the Lady of Ironwood. Lydia struggles to find her proper place as a wife, hostess, and slave owner. Just as she begins to

make sense of things, a war rips apart the country and turns everything inside out. Will Lydia be able to keep her beloved Ironwood Plantation in one pieceâand its slave in their placeâuntil her husband returns home from battle? Or will the various trials she faces prove more than her inner strength can withstand? This book was quite a surprise to me. Itâs a beautiful story of family, honor, and pushing beyond the boundaries society demands we adhere to. Faith in God also played an important role, which is always a key feature of Christian fiction that I enjoy. It was interesting to see the different points of view during the Civil War, from the lady of a plantation to the slaves who kept the place running to a soldier in the war. Each role was delivered perfectly, giving me a pretty complete idea of what it would have been like to live at that time. The only thing I disliked about this book is how much sexual relations were hinted at. For that reason, I cannot recommend it for anyone under the age of eighteen. However, I did greatly enjoy the journey Lydia (and others) made through *The Whistle Walk*. I only hope I am blessed with as much strength and courage as she possessed, should the need arise.

This book is a great retelling of The Civil War from a fictional angle. I was reminded of "Gone With The Wind" but I liked "The Whistle Walk" a little better because it told the story from both a free woman and a slave. This book was hard to put down because I wanted to see what happened next. This book made me cry at some of the scenes. This book is a story of friendship between two women in a time when these two shouldn't have been according to the customs. I was given a pdf file of the book for an honest review and even though the story line sounded like a story I would like, I have to say I had no idea that I would like it so well and want a copy of the print book to keep on my shelf. This book should be made into a movie, I think it could be a favorite for history fans and romance fans. This book is also a love story but that story is secondary to the courage that Ruth and Lydia has to accept. There are surprises in this book, that I personally didn't see coming but I am so glad that they happened. If I would have lived back in the days before the Civil War, Ironwood Plantation is the type of plantation that I would have wanted to be a part of, the slaves weren't treated badly but I am glad that I was born after that time as no one should be the property of another man! "The Whistle Walk" starts out in narrative language but as the story progresses it is written so well that you don't notice it being narrative. I could actually see the scenes unfold in my mind. I recommend this book to all readers. "The Whistle Walk" is the first book in the "Ironwood Plantation Family Saga" and the second book promises to be just as good as the first. Stephenia is well on her way to being a great author and is one of my new favorite authors! I am giving "The Whistle Walk" five stars!

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