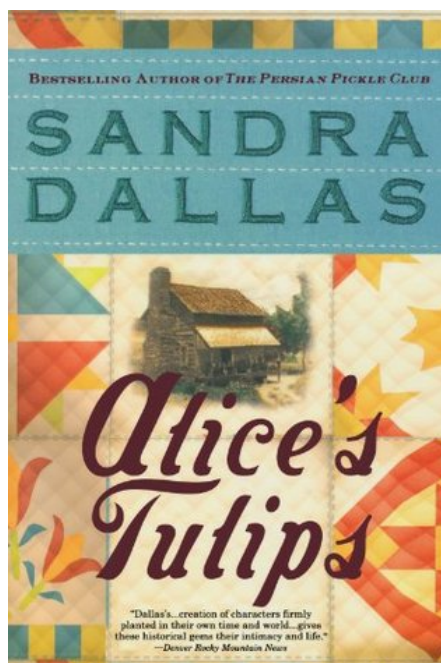




Alice's Tulips

Sandra Dallas

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Alice Bullock is a young newlywed whose husband, Charlie, has just joined the Union Army, leaving her on his Iowa farm with only his formidable mother for company. Alice writes lively letters to her sister filled with accounts of local quilting bees, the rigors of farm life, and the customs of small-town America. But no town is too small for intrigue and treachery, and when Alice finds herself accused of murder, she discovers her own hidden strengths. Rich in details of quilting, Civil War-era America, and the realities of a woman's life in the nineteenth century, *Alice's Tulips* is Sandra Dallas at her best.

Alice's Tulips Details

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Author : Sandra Dallas

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From Reader Review Alice's Tulips for online ebook

Connie says

Eighteen-year-old Alice has only been married for six months when her husband marches off to war for the Union Army. He left her on the family farm in rural Iowa with his stern mother. Alice was an immature city girl with a flirty, gregarious manner so the isolation and hard work of farm life was a big adjustment. The book is told in a series of letters to her sister, although many of them have much more dialogue than you would ever find in a normal letter. The correspondence is lively, gossipy, and often humorous. The letters show the lives of the women left behind as they work the farm and contribute to the war effort. As the story unfolds, Alice matures into a strong, caring young woman.

A quilting theme runs through the book since the women would meet together to make quilts to send to the soldiers and offer emotional support to each other. A murder adds some suspense and spice since Alice is a suspect. We also learn the fates of some of the soldiers who were prisoners of war at Andersonville. The main characters worked their way into my heart so I was sorry to see the book end.

Jeanette says

Civil War era novel that is comprised of letters written during the war years to the protagonist's sister, husband. It's an interesting account of having to work a farm (Iowa) without men and with a crabby mother-in-law. It certainly kept my interest and held some dicey details. But I thought that the copy in the letters was at some points not possible or highly unlikely for a woman of that period. If the author had chosen a few dramatic decisions it would have been better. She tried to do too much with having nearly every scenario possible for someone close to our letter writer. It tried to do too much with the jealousy, domestic violence, drugging, cancer etc. Of course some of these would definitely have raised their nasty heads- but not all. It made our heroine so intrinsic Polyanna that I could never swallow her "eyes". Feel good historical fiction that incorporates quite a bit of revisionist insight to the main character. I like my Civil War ladies to be completely of their periods. And good sewers too. This one was half of that quantity.

Judy says

Once again Sandra Dallas writes of a strong woman meeting the challenges before her. Alice Bullock is young bride whose husband, Charlie, has gone to fight for the Union in the Civil War. Alice is stuck on a farm in Iowa with her less-than-friendly mother-in-law. The story is told through the letters Alice writes to her sister, Lizzie. I don't usually care for epistolary novels, but Alice's letters are full of interesting details and a little humor that they bring the time and era to life. Life is very difficult as these women scrape out a living, and Alice finds reserves of strength and talent she didn't know she had. Dallas brings the day-to-day life into reality.

Shelby *trains flying monkeys* says

Interesting book on Civil War time. I loved the quilting. I usually don't really go for the books written in letter form but this one is done very well.

Sarah says

I forgot I had this book. Now I remember why I do. I enjoy the growth and self-realization of the heroine. I like the story-telling device (her letters to her sister) and that with only a few lines we get almost a full picture of her sister's story as well. It's earthy, but I like a bit of frankness. It does remind me that for as much as we lament "society" today, I would much rather be living right when and where I am.

Carole P. Roman says

This is a great story! The character's are so real, they stay with you long after you close the book. The lost art of letter writing was how people communicated in the past. This book is a peephole into the life a young girl and we watch her grow up as war erases her youth and callowness. Realistic character, foibles and all both lovable and unforgettable. The irony in the ending is alone, worth the read.

Kayla Turner says

This book is the most god-awful abomination on the face of the earth, next to the Twilight series. I had to read it for a history project and I was appalled. The main character Alice is a Mary-Sue. She's 100% perfect and possesses no flaws whatsoever. All the men in the town want her for themselves while her husband is at war and Alice does nothing to stop their advances. The book has no plot, even though the summary suggests otherwise. The whole "murder" theme doesn't even become apparant until four chapters before the book ends. Even then, nothing happens. Alice is accused of MURDER. Murder! And absolutely NOTHING happens! All her friends just quit talking to her. What a tragedy! In this era, it wouldn't have mattered if there was evidence or not. If Alice was accused, she'd be taken into custody, a trial would be held, and she'd most likely be hung. But no, Alice is perfect. Even though she clearly kills a man, she's not responsible for it. Two other women confess to clear Alice's name. It's ridiculous.

In addition to having no plot, there are many lewd references to sex and masturbation. Considering that the Civil War took place in the mid-Victorian era when letter-writing was an art, they did not talk about that. Ever. It just wasn't done in a society that encouraged sexual repression. My next issue with the book is the characters of Annie and Joybell. The author took the time to make them the epitome of a sterotypical southerners: uneducated, poor, and inbred. Stereotypes aren't nice Ms. Dallas.

Don't even bother reading this book. Seriously. Just burn it now and save yourself the trouble.

Charlene Intriago says

Alice Bullock is a young old newlywed whose husband Charlie has joined the Union Army. Alice is living with her mother-in-law on the family farm in Iowa and this book tells her story (and the story of all the characters) through letters from Alice to her sister Lizzie. Life was hard on a farm in 1862, really hard for Alice because she was not exactly the choice Mother Bullock would have made for her son, and even harder for her son as a soldier during the Civil War. This book was recommended to me by one of my Goodreads friends and I was pleasantly surprised as to how much I liked it. I loved the way the story was told through the series of letters. Each letter, even the short ones, packed a wallop in it! And I learned a lot about quilts!!

Beth says

This is one of my favourite books. Set during the American civil war, it's about the relationship between a young war bride and her mother-in-law, and a coming of age story. Told through letters sent to her sister, mother, and new husband, we see the evolution of a young girl into a young woman. It is wonderfully sculpted and beautifully told, with a very distinct voice. I loved this book, and often buy it to give to girlfriends for birthdays or other occasions.

Sharon Huether says

A book written from letters to and from the Bullock family sisters and their men serving the Union during the Civil War .

Each chapter is themed by a quilt square designed by the women of the 19th century

Julene says

Fun read. Set during the Civil War and written as a series of letters to protagonists sister. Has a bit of suspense to make it fun. I liked the progression of the main character who I didn't love during the beginning of the book. I have my doubts about whether some of the slightly scandalous topics in her letters were commonly discussed during that time and would not let my daughter read this until she was in high school or older.

Kelsey Burnette says

Such a charming little book. My Civil War theme continues. Alice narrates her story through letters to her sister and lots of great quilts. Lots of great female characters, and a little murder mystery thrown in for good measure.

Becky says

I enjoyed this book very much. It was a quick read, as it was written in the form of letters...one sister to another. At first, I didn't like that it was only Alice writing, and never the reverse as well. However, as the book progressed, that didn't bother me anymore. It was interesting to see how Alice matured and changed over the course of the civil war and I liked how the title of the book was worked into the story. The characters of the book were interesting as well.

Pat Lancet says

I read this book as part of a book club....actually finished it after the discussion. It was an enjoyable book—not too deep, but entertaining to read. The language took a bit of getting used to—it was a southern-style language from WWII era-but once I became accustomed to the language, the story flowed fairly smoothly. The story was about a poor family who made quilts for the war effort, and how a young lady was falsely accused of a murder.

Marti says

Alice's Tulips is another fine Sandra Dallas book. The plot is simplistic: women on their own, trying to farm and survive during the war between the states. Both there is nothing simplistic about the hardships that Alice and her mother-in-law faced. The two plucky women made their way and found room for others. Yet again, Sandra Dallas has intertwined information and a love of quilting as an integral part of the story. I was again struck by the honest, open view Sandra gives of small town life, with all its prejudices with people from away and the changing factions within a town when gossip is one of the prime commodities. I suspect the universality of small town life will be recognized by many.

Kathryn says

The history told in this book about the Civil War era was fascinating. Sandra Dallas is awesome in touching every detail about the era she writes about. Alice was a wonderful character full of flaws, dreams, duty, and love of her husband. I thought the story was a bit slow but the last 20-30 pages brought the entire story line together and completed all the loose ends. I would definitely recommend it.

Linda C says

Alice, farmer's daughter, marries store clerk, Charlie Bullock, at 16; both falling in love at first sight. Despite Alice's hoping to get away from the farm within a year she ends up in Iowa on Charlie's home farm when he decides to join the Union Army. She and Charlie's mother have a strained relationship. The story is told in letters to her sister, Lizzie, over the next 2 and a half years. It's filled with farm stories of hard times, small town incidents and gossip, being part of a quilting bee and background on her life and town history. The story had a lot of the feel of Dallas' Persian Pickle Club. Good read.

Margie says

Interesting book about Alice. Her husband goes off to fight in the Civil War and she's left with his strict mother and most of the farm work. The story is told in a series of letters Alice writes to her sister about happenings both to her and those around her from 1862-1865. Not sure I would like a story told in a series of letters but it proved a good read to me.

Keilani Ludlow says

I liked Persian Pickle Club more, I liked Buster's Midnight Cafe less. I usually don't give a summary because you can read that everywhere, but I have to give a bit of one to explain what I see. The main character, Alice, is left with her cranky mother-in-law on a farm near the middle of nowhere when her husband joins up to fight for the Union. She has been married about a year and when she married him, he worked in a store. She specifically did not marry a farmer, having been raised on a farm and wanting nothing to do with it. However, they end up back home helping mom-in-law with the farm and then her husband joins up. That's where the book starts. The book is written as letters to her sister. Alice starts out as a spoiled and shallow girl. She's very lightweight and not all that likable. Throughout the book, as she is forced to take on more responsibility and begins to get an idea of the plight of others, the danger her husband faces, etc. she eventually matures to a better person. Not really a much better person, but better. I enjoyed the history, the relationships she develops with others, and she is somewhat amusing so the story rolls. She's overly flirtatious which kinds of rubs me wrong. There are two instances that to me are like a sticker in your sock during a long walk. It doesn't ruin the walk, but the couple of times it pokes you make things uncomfortable and take a little something out of the story. At one point she encourages her sister to try various methods to abort her baby because she has two little ones and a third right now is just too much. Her callous and flippant disregard of the fact that she's encouraging her sister to kill her unborn baby for convenience sake really bothered me. It isn't lengthy, but it is to me, very ugly. There's also a brief reference to masturbation. Not graphic, like I said it is brief, but it also is unnecessary and vulgar to have even included. All in all it was interesting and engaging, even with the uncomfortable pokes and a main character that isn't that stellar of a person.

?Laura says

I really liked this book. It's a nice, quiet little read with likable characters for whom you hope against hope things will turn out well. I liked that it was composed entirely of letters written from Alice to her sister. Alice's voice was enjoyable and she interjected subtle humor into much of her writing. She reminded me somewhat of Scarlet O'Hara in the way that she matured over the course of the book. Having read The Diary of Mattie Spenser, I appreciated the references to characters from that story and look forward to reading more from Sandra Dallas, as I suspect some references were to characters from other of her books. The information on quilting at the start of each chapter was a nice little bonus to this book and helped to provide context. I definitely recommend this book.
