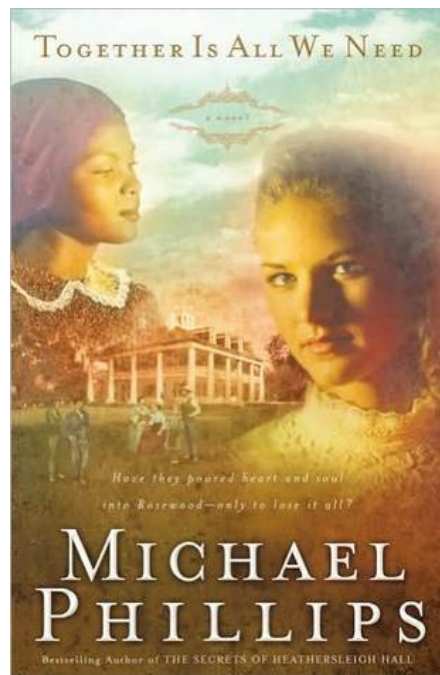




Together Is All We Need

Michael R. Phillips

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Shenandoah Sisters Book 4, the sequel to *The Color of Your Skin Ain't the Color of Your Heart*. For over a year, Mayme--a former slave--and Katie have lived together on Katie's plantation, hiding the fact that they are orphans of war to avoid being separated. Together they have sheltered others and battled threats of foreclosure, theft, and deadly danger. But now the girls face what seems like the certain end of their scheme. A hard-nosed relative of Katie's father discovers--and exposes--their secret. He claims Rosewood as his own and forces Mayme and the other blacks to leave. Katie decides she must leave as well. Is this the end of their way of life? Will the girls ever be together again?

Together Is All We Need Details

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Dona says

Love how this 4 part series ended -- so wonderful to have a story line about how different people make a family. Highly recommended

Tiffany says

I enjoyed this series mostly because it was two young girls surviving (and farming!) on their own. I feel like a few ends were left untied, but I enjoyed the story-line.

Pam says

Together is All We Need is book four of the Shenandoah Sisters series by Michael Phillips. This book takes place at Rosewood Plantation in North Carolina after the Civil War. The characters are realistic and natural. The plot is simple yet has several twists you don't see coming.

Katie Clairborne and Mayme Junks had worked diligently with Emma and Aleta to get Rosewood back on its feet. They had the help of Jeremiah and Henry who were ex-slaves. Mayme and Emma were ex-slaves with Emma having a son, William, who was about one. Aletha was the daughter of a nearby plantation owner who when he came home from the War abused his wife and child. The wife ran away with Aleta but was killed when she fell from the horse. Not knowing who she was and with Aleta not telling her last name, they could only let her stay at Rosewood.

Henry gives the girls advice when they ask for it. However, his advice is always how to ask God for his directions instead of doing things their own way. His advice is always good and it is always just what they needed.

They have managed to fool the townspeople into believing Katie's parents were still alive with Mother running the plantation while Papa went to the North to find work. Finally after two years, they are finally being uncovered. Uncle Burchard Clairborne had come to Rosewood to find out if his brother was alive or not and if he was dead, to take over Rosewood which he felt he was entitled to. The only problems were Katie and her "family" and not being able to find the deed or a will.

Will Uncle Burchard be able to legally take over Rosewood? What will happen if he does get control? Where will everyone go? Will Uncle Templeton Daniels (Katie's Mother's brother) come back in time to help them? Time is running out.

Pam Walter says

I have given much consideration to rating this 4 part epic saga, and decided to write a review at the conclusion of book four. One review should suffice, just as one book could easily have covered the saga.

While I should have read all the tags and been cautioned by the tag "Teenage Girls", there were many tags including "Plantation life", "Race relations", "Reconstruction". So why did I read all four? We all need a fairy tale once in a while, although I am concerned about the misinformation that "Teenage girls" are getting,

and that a young mind might think this true of the post-bellum south.

Although the 14th amendment guaranteed races equal protection under the law, former slave holding states enacted laws to undermine equal treatment for African Americans, thus ensuring segregation. And yet here are two orphaned teenaged girls, one black, one white, in North Carolina, partnering up to resurrect a plantation. I was surprised that they weren't holding hands while harvesting all that cotton.

So, why did I read all four books? To be fair, they were light hearted and endearing. However, there should have been some suggestion in the synopsis that the books are really "young adult fiction", which was not one of the tags. Being a frugal reader, Kindle special \$3.99, encouraged me to purchase all four books at the beginning. There seems to be a trend to lengthen one book into three or four. At sixteen dollars, who got the deal, me or Michael Phillips?

The under development of the 2 suitors would seem to ensure the content of book five.

Frances says

Loved the Series!!

I've read all 4 books in this series & have enjoyed each book! Enjoyed the story, attention to detail, the message of faith, friendship, family, honesty, trust, things that come from within a person. Well written.

Robin says

I enjoyed this series very much. In this book, the girls had to tell people what happened to their families. Katies Uncle Templeton who is also Maymes (Mary Ann) father, decides he wants to learn how to be a plantation owner, so he goes away to fix some unfinished business and ends up in jail for a while for being a con man. In the mean time, another one of Katies Uncles (her fathers brother) comes to town and tries to take the plantation away from the girls and makes all the colored people leave. Just in the nick of time, one of Katies other uncles (Ward), the one she thought was dead and she had spent all his gold, shows up and has the deed to the plantation that shows HE's the rightful owner. All the colored people get to come back, Katie and Uncle Ward get Uncle Templeton out of jail and everyone lives happily ever after. I would definitely recommend this book to anyone who would like fast easy reading with a lot of spiritual influence.

Nora St Laurent says

This is the last book in these very fascinating series of books about 2 very BRAVE GIRLS who not only survive horrible conditions after the civil war but they help others along the way with the little bit that they have. This story has many surprising things that you learn in the last book. I just loved this series.

Disclosure of Material Connection:

I received a complimentary copy of this book from the publisher. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255 "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising"

Nora St Laurent

TBCN Where Book Fun Begins www.bookfun.org

The Book Club Network blog www.psalms16.blogspot.com

Book Fun Magazine www.bookfunmagazine.com

Beverly Connor says

This is a wonderful series to read about the life of slaves and whites.

Irene says

Following the Civil War, Kate, the daughter of a plantation owner, and Mayme, a young slave, formed an unlikely partnership. Despite the odds against them, they have managed to hang onto their friendship and the plantation, while hiding the fact that they were orphans. Kate's uncle Clairborne, her father's brother shows up claiming the plantation belongs to him now that his brother is dead. Kate and Mayme do not like this uncle and but know there is nothing they can do. But soon another uncle comes, Kate's mother's brother, Templeton Daniels and then another uncle Ward Daniels. They prove Clairborne is not the owner. But can they prove it?

Melody says

4.5 stars

One year has passed since Katie's and Mayme's last adventures, and things are about to change at Rosewood as Katie's Uncle Buchard pays her a visit.

I really enjoyed the heartwarming story once again, and I thought this book was a great conclusion to the Shenandoah Sisters series. The new characters are beautifully developed, and we continue to see the old ones grow.

The only thing I didn't like in this book is that, although a year has passed since the third book of the series, the characters are not a year older. That annoyed me a little... Other than that, I found the book was perfect.

I'm looking forward to reading the sequel series: Carolina Cousins!

Karen & Gerard says

Together Is All We Need by Michael Phillips is a wonderful book about friendship and family sticking together and sacrificing to help each other out. This is a very enjoyable coming of age series with a marvelous ending. Kathleen and Mayme not only became friends and together worked to save Kathleen's plantation and made it productive again after the Civil War, but also built a very unusual household with both blacks and whites living together under the same roof in harmony. The girls also learn from a good

friend, Henry, how to trust the good Lord.

I highly recommend you read the first three books of this series first before this last one to fully appreciate it. I absolutely LOVED this historical Christian fiction series and zipped through all four books. They were enlightening, giving insight into how things were after the civil war for both whites and blacks and how even though the slaves were set free, they were still looked down upon by most. This series shows how much people can accomplish when they work together unselfishly. I look forward to reading more books by this author.

(Karen's review)

Anne Hamilton says

The storyline was a great improvement on the first book in this series, *Angels Watching Over Me*.

Katie and Mayme have managed to fool the town of Greens Crossing for over two years. They've been running *Rosewood*, a Southern cotton plantation, without the help of adults for most of the time. Their parents were murdered at the close of the Civil War when marauders went on a killing spree through Shenandoah. They've paid off the loans Katie's parents took out and they're sheltering a group of coloured girls who, like Mayme, have nowhere to go.

But it's all about to come crashing down. Burchard Claiborne, Katie's uncle, feels he was disinherited by his father and that *Rosewood* is really his. It takes him a while but eventually he discovers that Katie's parents are dead - and that, as the legal heir, he wants to take possession of the property as soon as possible. Without a copy of a deed or will, he'll have to wait sixty days... in which time, he makes it clear Katie can stay but all the coloured girls, including Mayme, have to leave.

At the last minute... no, at the last second... help arrives when it is revealed that the deed to the property is in very surprising hands.

A well-crafted finely-paced story unfortunately loses its zip towards the end when a long episode about an errant calf goes on far too long.

Linda Klager says

I enjoyed reading about the two main characters in this book. They were very brave young girls who grew up to be very strong young women. This was a well written Christian novel series. I suggest that you read all four books in the order that they were written. I am very interested in reading about what happened during the Civil War and afterward. It is very hard to see what the people in the North and the South had to go through. The author did a good job portraying the devastation of war and what people had to do to survive. With God all things are possible. I will read more books by this author.

Laurie Sacrey says

awesome

Shelly says

The setting is 1860s Shenandoah, North Carolina at the Rosewood Cotton Plantation. Sixteen year old Katie Burchard and her half black cousin Mayme, have been keeping a very serious secret. Both of their families had been killed by marauders after the Civil War. Katie and Mayme, along with former slave children, have been running Rosewood all by themselves. Fooling everyone in town to think their families were still alive and well. Soon, their charade is over when Katie's uncle showed up to find out for himself what was going on and eventually finds out the truth. But when he tried to make a claim on the plantation and send Katie and her friends away, another uncle showed up with the original deed that had been signed over to him years before. Apparantly, Katie's parents knew that other uncle would come and try to make a claim.

This is a story of great human kindness, hatred, and racism. A time when blacks were very recently freed from slavery, but not by any means free. A story of determination and dedication to accomplish a sisterhood of love. This book is part of a series titled: The Shenandoah Sisters. I have not read the previous books in the series but plan to soon.

Michael Phillips is a Christian novelist who has written more than four dozen novels with sales over five million copies. This book was published in 2004 by Bethany House Publishers. I believe it was written for young adults but I enjoyed it very much.
