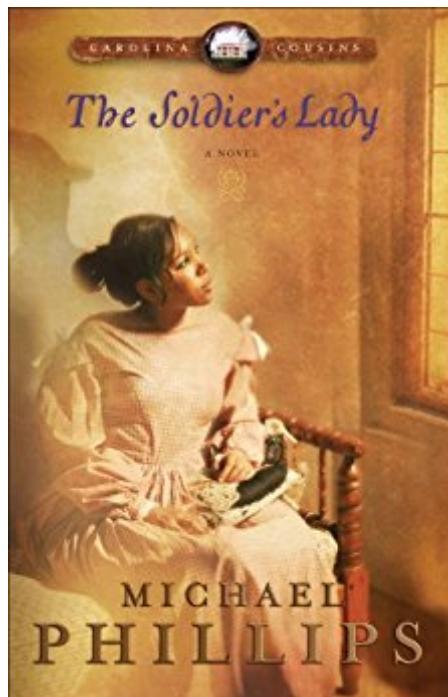


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The Soldier's Lady (Carolina Cousins Book #2): A Novel



Synopsis

From Bestselling Author Michael Phillips The young women of Rosewood face new challenges--and old enemies--when a wounded black soldier rides into town. Micah Duff is an educated, spiritual man, and even though he and "scatterbrained" Emma are very different, the two soon fall in love. But an ambitious white man who can't afford any skeletons in his closet--or a black son--plans to get rid of Emma and her boy for good. Can Micah save them, as he once saved Jeremiah? Or this time will he be too late?

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Customer Reviews

Never having read this author before I picked up this book for two reasons; 1) the lovely cover art work and, 2) the brief synopsis provided from the back cover. The setting of this is in North Carolina in the period after the Civil War, and is the second book in the 'Carolina Cousins' series. It documents more of the challenges which were faced by the young women of Rosewood and their extended and unusual 'family' made up of whites, blacks and half-negroes who emulate what it means to be a true Christian family. Even though the story is oftentimes told in the first person voice of Mayme Daniels the illegitimate child of a black woman and Katie's Uncle Templeton it is really the

story of another young black woman, Emma Tolan whose self esteem had been sadly de-moralized while a slave on a neighboring plantation. Emma was portrayed as a slightly scatterbrained young woman who had arrived pregnant when cousins Katie and Mayme aided her in the delivery of her now four year old son William. After escaping from a cruel white master Emma had found sanctuary and love within the generous and loving Templeton extended family. When the bedraggled and wounded soldier, Micah Duff found his way to Rosewood he too would find that same safe sanctuary as he was soon embraced by and invited into the 'family'. Micah was a remarkable black man from the north. Spiritually aware, educated and speaking more like a refined white gentleman than even some of the Southern men which of course did not endear him to the powers to be in the 'new South'. As Micah's wounds healed he became more and more aware of the beautiful black girl Emma, and before he knew it he'd fallen in love with her.

Reading a novel set in the post-civil war south about blacks and whites learning to live together is a good thing. How many Caucasians stop to consider how terrible and difficult life was for slaves. Even after the abolition of slavery, it was a long hard road. Books like this provide that awareness and give whites an appreciation for the struggles faced by blacks even today. This is the second book in the Carolina Cousins series. This new series doesn't suffer from being an offshoot of the popular Shenandoah series. Just like the novels of George MacDonald, a man who has served as a mentor to Phillips, character development is primary. The focus is on relationships and issues. Phillips follows MacDonald's lead in emphasizing the fatherhood of God, our relationship to him as children, and obedience as the primary way to know and follow God. Though this might be considered light reading, it contains thoughtful spiritual content. Like MacDonald, Phillips provides keen insights into human nature and the nature of God. He is not afraid to challenge traditional thinking. His views, which are slightly unorthodox at times, can be a little unsettling, but they are also thought-provoking. Some may find them refreshing. Particularly interesting are the romantic relationships. Jeremiah starts to wonder if Mayme, the woman he planned to marry, is interested in his long lost friend Micah, who comes to live with them on the Rosewood Plantation. Jeremiah begins to wonder if he has more in common with Emma, an uneducated former slave, who has a son named William. Phillips effectively portrays the insecurities and uncertainties typical in romantic relationships. He keeps you guessing as to what will happen.

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