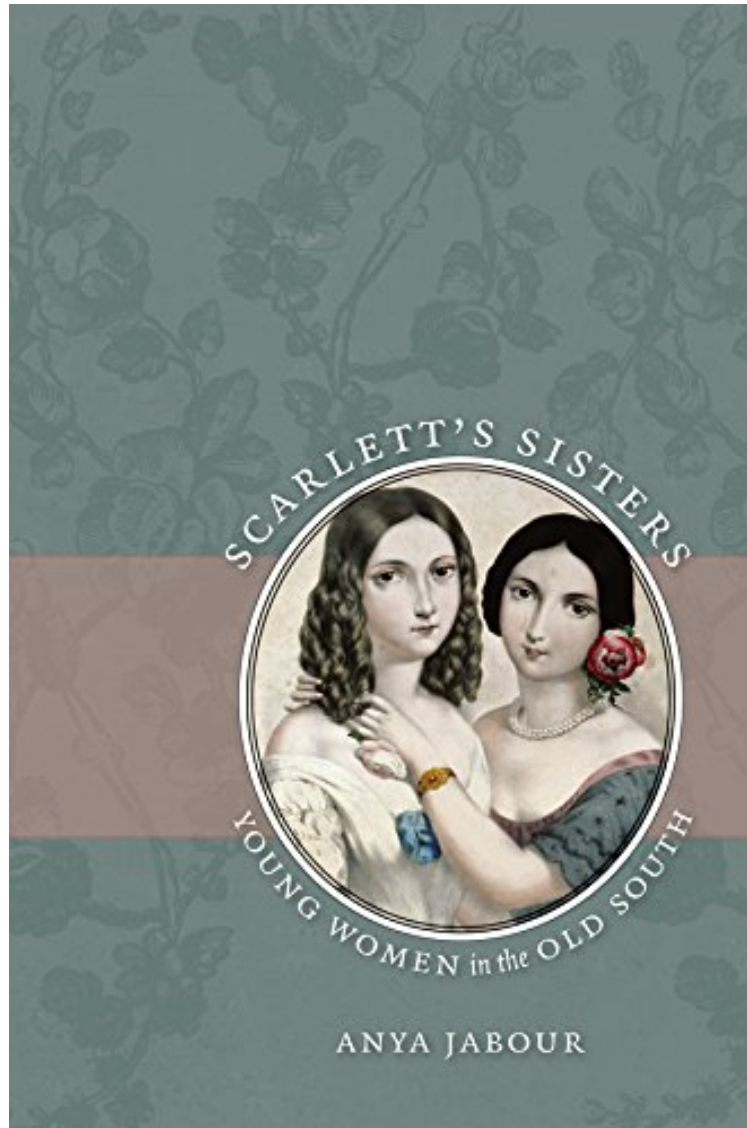


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Scarlett's Sisters: Young Women in the Old South

Anya Jabour

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Anya Jabour : Scarlett's Sisters: Young Women in the Old South before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Scarlett's Sisters: Young Women in the Old South:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. very interesting view of young southern womenhoodBy CaryI agree with the reviewer who felt that the book needs an index, and I would have been happier if the footnotes were linked so one could check them while reading, often a pleasure in a Kindle format book. However, if the book had been indexed I might have picked out the Wirt references and never have just sat down and read the whole of it. That would have been my loss. This is a surprisingly readable thesis about the resistance upper class young white women expressed to

fitting pre civil war norms for their class, told mainly in their own words. It convinced me of a resistance I would never have suspected, and the degree to which Scarlett's role has been romanticized and has hidden the very real fear that young women had that they would be subsumed once married - which of course they were. It serves to explain why several of my southern ancestors refused their eventual husbands several times before agreeing to marry. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This tome displays a one-sided argument that gets tiresome; it's not very well-researched. By CacheGirl This tome displays a one-sided argument that gets tiresome; it's not very well-researched. As with most things in historical writings, the author takes a lot of liberty to construe a new spin on history. It's how historians make themselves feel relevant. I have an MA in history with a concentration on the 19th century and women's studies, so I'm not blind to the realities of historical writings. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I like how Ms. By Kathy Gaul This book is very interesting! I like how Ms. Jabour covers each stage of a young southern girl's life in detail.

Scarlett's Sisters explores the meaning of nineteenth-century southern womanhood from the vantage point of the celebrated fictional character's flesh-and-blood counterparts: young, elite, white women. Anya Jabour demonstrates that southern girls and young women faced a major turning point when the Civil War forced them to assume new roles and responsibilities as independent women. Examining the lives of more than 300 girls and women between ages fifteen and twenty-five, Jabour traces the socialization of southern white ladies from early adolescence through young adulthood. Amidst the upheaval of the Civil War, Jabour shows, elite young women, once reluctant to challenge white supremacy and male dominance, became more rebellious. They adopted the ideology of Confederate independence in shaping a new model of southern womanhood that eschewed dependence on slave labor and male guidance. By tracing the lives of young white women in a society in flux, Jabour reveals how the South's old social order was maintained and a new one created as southern girls and young women learned, questioned, and ultimately changed what it meant to be a southern lady.

It is . . . Jabour's evocative account of the cultural complexities and paradoxes with which young southern women struggled in their becoming that makes *Scarlett's Sisters* such an important piece of scholarship.--*Journal of American Studies* Nicely written, clearly argued, and complemented by good illustrations. . . . An admirable book with a strong argument that invites all historians of the nineteenth century South to rethink the confines of elite white womanhood.--*North Carolina Historical Well* written, meticulously researched. . . . Fine, refreshing contribution to the literature on gender in the early republic.--*Journal of the Early Republic* Well-written, provocative, and thoroughly researched. . . . Complicates the existing historiography and suggests a promising avenue of scholarship with its focus on female youth culture during the antebellum era.--*Southern Historian* *Scarlett's Sisters* provides a wealth of new information on southern women's history, and Jabour successfully provides a better understanding of the transitions that characterized these women's lives.--*H-SAWH* Thoughtful and well written. . . . [A] challenge to the popular dismissal of young women as worthy of separate historical study.--*Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* Jabour knows that the young women were both privileged and subordinate, oppressors and oppressed. . . . This well written and superbly illustrated book is an admirable introduction to their world.--*American Historical* Numerous quotations from letters and diaries, along with thought-provoking illustrations, provide color, authentic voice and a certain freshness to the book.--*Mississippi Quarterly* Excellent. . . . Compellingly written and intriguing. . . . Southern, women's and general historians should read [it].--*Journal of Southern History* Anya Jabour makes a compelling case in *Scarlett's Sisters* that age and generation are as important as class, race, and gender as categories of analysis, and that adolescent girls and young women are particularly situated to shed light on many of the questions southern historians have been debating for decades. . . . This important book should generate discussion. It is highly readable and clear, with many wonderful quotations.--*Journal of American History* Extensive research into the personal papers of more than three hundred young women convincingly demonstrates the self-conscious nature of these girls' transformations.--*Georgia Historical Quarterly* Anya Jabour's extended and original portrait of the culture of elite girlhood in the antebellum South deftly weaves a narrative argument that addresses the distinctively regional nature of southern female adolescence and, more particularly, the distinctive nature of southern girls' resistance to narrow definitions of southern womanhood. Jabour's research is exhaustive, her argument convincing, and her writing crisp and engaging.--Terri L. Snyder, California State University, Fullerton In her study of women, gender, and class in the Old South, Anya Jabour adds the important dimension of age and the life cycle to our grasp of southern social life. She lets us see young, elite women as living in a social realm that was distinct and yet oriented toward the future. Freshly written and meticulously researched, this book is full of women whose voices are clear and arresting.--Steven M. Stowe, Indiana University About the Author Anya Jabour is professor of history at the University of Montana. She is author of *Marriage in the Early Republic: Elizabeth and William Wirt and the Companionate Ideal* and editor of *Major Problems in the History of American Families and Children*.