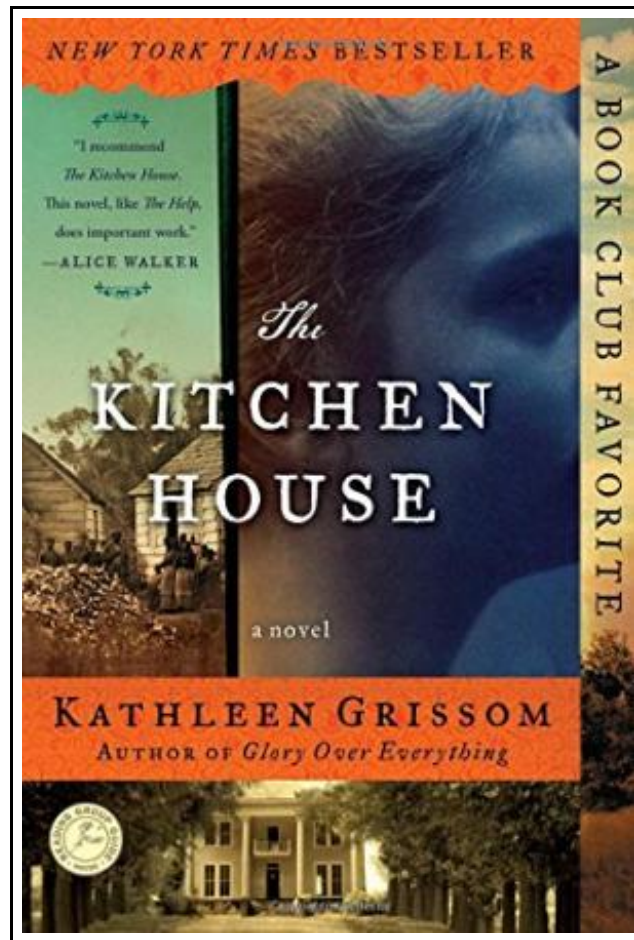


## The Kitchen House



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Touchstone. 1 Paperback(s), 2010. soft. Book Condition: New. At the turn of the 19th century, on a Virginia tobacco plantation, a seven-year-old Irish orphan named Lavinia is placed under the care of Belle, the master's illegitimate daughter, in the kitchen house. Lavinia learns to cook, clean, serve food, and cherish the quiet strength and love of her adoptive black family. In time, Lavinia is accepted into the world of the big house, where she cares for the master's opium-addicted wife and befriends his unpredictable son. But in trying to straddle these two congruent yet very different worlds, Lavinia ignites a story of class, race, dignity, deeply buried secrets, and familial bonds, told through her eyes and also through Belle's, in Kathleen Grissom's gripping debut novel."[An] intimate and surprising story that connects us with an unexpected corner of our history. Kathleen Grissom gives us a new and unforgettable perspective on slavery and families and human ties in the Old South, exploring the deepest mysteries of the past that help define who we are to this day."Robert Morgan"The two distinctly different voices chronicle a troublesome 20 years: Lavinia becomes close to the slaves working the kitchen house, but she can't fully fit in because of her race. At 17, she marries Marshall, the captain's brutish son turned inept plantation master, and as Lavinia ingratiates herself into the family and the big house, racial tensions boil over into lynching, rape, arson, and murder. The plantation's social order's emphasis on violence, love, power, and corruption provides a trove of tension and grit, while the many nefarious doings will keep readers hooked to the twisted, yet hopeful, conclusion."Publishers Weekly 369.

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