



Glory over Everything

Kathleen Grissom

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The latest *New York Times* bestseller from the author of the beloved book club favorite *The Kitchen House* is a heart racing story about a man's treacherous journey through the twists and turns of the Underground Railroad on a mission to save the boy he swore to protect. *Glory Over Everything* is "gripping...breathless until the end" (*Kirkus Reviews*).

The year is 1830 and Jamie Pyke, a celebrated silversmith and notorious ladies' man, is keeping a deadly secret. Passing as a wealthy white aristocrat in Philadelphian society, Jamie is now living a life he could never have imagined years before when he was a runaway slave, son of a southern black slave and her master. But Jamie's carefully constructed world is threatened when he discovers that his married socialite lover, Caroline, is pregnant and his beloved servant Pan, to whose father Jamie owes his own freedom, has been captured and sold into slavery in the South.

Fleeing the consequences of his deceptions, Jamie embarks on a trip to a North Carolina plantation to save Pan from the life he himself barely escaped as a boy. With the help of a fearless slave, Sukey, who has taken the terrified young boy under her wing, Jamie navigates their way, racing against time and their ruthless pursuers through the Virginia backwoods, the Underground Railroad, and the treacherous Great Dismal Swamp.

"Kathleen Grissom is a first-rate storyteller...she observes with an unwavering but kind eye, and she bestows upon the reader, amid terrible secrets and sin, a gift of mercy: the belief that hope can triumph over hell" (*Richmond Times Dispatch*). *Glory Over Everything* is an emotionally rewarding and epic novel "filled with romance, villains, violence, courage, compassion...and suspense." (*Florida Courier*).

Glory over Everything Details

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Author : Kathleen Grissom

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Jaline says

"I looked at my hands to see if I was the same person now I was free. There was such a glory over everything. The sun came up like gold through the trees, and I felt like I was in heaven." – Harriet Tubman

This beautiful quote introduces the sequel to *The Kitchen House*. *Glory Over Everything* is an apt title as this book is ultimately about freedom from slavery and freedom from its stigma. It is narrated with smoothly rotating chapters between James, Caroline, Pan, and Sukey.

James' mother is a mulatto and his father was white. When he fled the south for Philadelphia he was only 13 years old and scared. Henry, an escaped slave, saved his life and set him on his way to live a white man's life where his fortunes took a very positive turn. He meets Caroline, the daughter of influential Philadelphians, and falls deeply in love. However, their romance is doomed. She is already married, and he has secrets to hide.

Pan, Henry's 12 year old son, is abducted by slave traffickers and put on a ship destined for the Deep South. Henry pleads for James' help in recovering him and James goes, partly to recover from a bad situation and partly because he knows that he owes Henry a huge debt for saving his life when he was young.

From here, the story becomes darker and so filled with frightening and horrific events that I could hardly read fast enough. My heart was literally pounding in places, and felt like it was breaking to pieces in other places. There are times when all hope of escaping their predicaments seemed impossible, and there are times when the unlikeliest of souls turned out to be angels of assistance in disguise.

These two books, *The Kitchen House* and *Glory Over Everything*, are truly important books. They tell stories that are both familiar and new; stories that are heartbreaking and uplifting. They tell stories of taking strides toward freedom and the cost for some as well as the triumph for others.

"I looked at my hands to see if I was the same person now I was free. There was such a glory over everything. The sun came up like gold through the trees, and I felt like I was in heaven." – Harriet Tubman

The same as the opening quote, yet with lifetimes more in meaning.

Shelagh Rice says

This is a wonderful book. I really enjoyed the *The Kitchen House* and I loved this one. You can read it as a standalone but I found it richer having read *The Kitchen House* first. A black man, son of the Master raised as white by his grandmother. It's 1830 and he is living as a white man constantly looking over his shoulder fearing discovery. When a long time debt that needs to be repayed brings him back to the south it becomes fraught with danger, secrets and difficult memories. This book is engaging from the start, historically accurate, often brutal, emotionally charged, a page turner of the highest order and superbly inspirational. You don't often get all that in one book. My favourite book of the year so far. It will stay with me for a long time. Highly recommended.

Ann Marie (Lit•Wit•Wine•Dine) says

“I looked at my hands to see if I was the same person now I was free. There was such a **glory over everything**. The sun came up like gold through the trees, and over the fields, and I felt like I was in heaven.”

-Harriet Tubman

I absolutely loved *The Kitchen House* and was thrilled when I heard Kathleen Grissom was writing a sequel. Though *Glory Over Everything: Beyond the Kitchen House* is a stand-alone novel, I highly recommend reading *The Kitchen House* if you haven't already.

James Burton (formerly Jamie Pyke) is passing as a wealthy white Philadelphia silversmith who has denied his true identity for many years after fleeing Tall Oaks, the Virginia plantation where he was raised. He has fallen in love with Caroline, a white woman from a wealthy family. She becomes pregnant and he intends to tell her his secret, fearing that it will become obvious to all when the child is born. But before he gets the opportunity, his beloved servant, Pan, is captured and brought to the South to be sold into slavery. James embarks on a dangerous journey to save Pan, the son a friend to whom he owed his very life.

I really liked this book but I'm not sure I loved quite as much as *The Kitchen House*. It's difficult to pinpoint exactly why. I loved Pan's character and wanted to jump into the story to protect him myself. In fact, all of the characters were crafted with the same depth and complexity as those I grew to love in *The Kitchen House*. Perhaps I simply had a difficult time reconciling certain aspects of James's character. For example, while I could understand his reasons for wanting to maintain his identity as a white man, I took offense at his disdain toward slaves. That's all I'll say about that. There are other examples but I don't want to include any spoilers. On the other hand, there are characters I absolutely adored. For example, the young but formidable Adelaide Spencer. She is the teen daughter of the man who owns the property adjacent to where Pan is being held. She's a young woman of conviction; someone I would like to believe I would have been like had I lived in those times.

Kathleen Grissom has told us another beautiful story. Even when the story is full of unimaginable pain and hardship, she has a unique way of weaving in enough snippets of the good in humanity, and the awesome strength of good people working together, to prevent us from losing all hope.

4.25/5 stars

Thanks to Simon & Schuster via NetGalley for providing me with a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Please visit my blog to read more of my reviews.

Elyse says

Sooo GOOD!!!!

JUSTOH MY GOSH.....***SOOOOOO GOOD***!!!!!!

Anyone who read "The Kitchen House", and found it hard to put down....
(pre-civil war, set on a Southern plantationblack slaves...with catastrophe after catastrophe),will 'not' be disappointed - at all- with "The Glory of Everything".

I think I liked it BETTER!!! The story takes off where "The Kitchen House" ends...

but absolutely this is also a stand alone novel. There were less snowballing- tragedy after tragedy scenes ...allowing more time for deeper character development in this novel. Yet... I loved them both. Kathleen Grissom gives readers a 'golden- escape-reading-treat', with her talents.,

Forgive me... but this novel was just so gripping, luminous, with heavenly gifted storytelling, I just didn't want to break up my enjoyment to take notes.

However, it's a book to be experience anyway...(details would only be a drop in a bucket, as this book is to be experience).

I can't recommend this book highly enough!!!!!!

Sensitive themes....

Regrets suffered...

Outcasts...slavery, cruelties, emptiness, class, guilt, fear, choices made, dignity, loss, charmed life, illusions of a charmed life, jealousy, blacks, whites, masters, servants, morality, loyalty, lies and secrets, forgiveness, love. [note: all the important juicy themes which can add up to a 'favorite fiction' read...if written by the right person], which it was.

Standout charactersJames - Pan- Robert- Henri- Caroline

Thank You, Simon & Schuster, Netgalley, and Kathleen Grissom

Dorie says

Even though this book is not due out until next April I just had to read it as soon as I was approved. I was granted an ARC of this novel from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

I am a huge fan of Kathleen Grissom. I loved The Kitchen House and purchased it for several members of my family. I was absolutely thrilled that she wrote this follow up.

I was not disappointed. The story picks up many years after the The Kitchen House and we follow the life of Jaime Pyke who has moved to Philadelphia. He has been passing as “white” and is a well established silver smith who eventually owns his own shop and home. He was fortunate enough to have a silversmith who took him in and trained him in the art. I was glad that the author provided back story to Jaime’s life as it has been quite some time since I read The Kitchen House.

When he is approached by Henry, a free black who helped him rise and become successful, to help him find and return his son Pan, he shows his integrity and gratitude by agreeing to search for Pan.

The story does go back and forth in time and is told in different points of view, and since I wasn’t able to finish it in one or two sittings, I did find myself having to go back and read pages again but that was just my situation at the time.

It was almost painful for me to revisit the plantation with the characters of Master Marshall and the horrid Rankin who terribly mistreated the slaves even to the point of whipping some to death. But we also are reminded of Miss Lavinia who was so kind and even taught Jaime to read and write. The atmosphere and settings are very well described as are all of the characters.

The later flight to freedom was the most intense part of the book for me. The book kept reminding of the issues still concerning racism in our country.

You do not have to have read *The Kitchen House* to enjoy this book. The author provides a lot of background to all of the characters. But I do encourage you to read the first book, it is a wonderful work of historical fiction.

Angela M says

I jumped at the chance to read an advance copy of this book because of how much I loved *The Kitchen House*. I was so anxious to get this book that I requested it from two sources just to increase my odds of getting it. I was fortunate enough to receive a digital copy from both and I thank NetGalley and Edelweiss as well as the publisher, Simon & Schuster and Kathleen Grissom.

This is the story of James Burton, or Jamie Pyke as we knew him as a child in the first book. James was raised as white by a woman he believed to be his grandmother but is the son of a slave woman Belle, raped by her master. There are multiple narrators of this story beginning with James and in his sections we learn how he came to be James Burton. While a lot of the book is devoted to his story, this is also the story in the larger sense of the most shameful time in our history. It is through memorable characters who in my view are the real heroes that we get a sense of this horrific time: Henry, a runaway slave, a loving father and good man; Sukey, beautiful Sukey, also a character from the first book, whose story will break your heart and leave you wondering how with such a burden of sorrow she can move forward with strength and heart and do what she does for others; Pan, Henry's son, a precocious boy always questioning but somehow knowing what is the right thing to do and the brave people along the Underground Railroad - these are the heroes.

It's easy to love, dislike or even hate most of the characters in this book. That is not the case with James. I had mixed feelings throughout about James. Perhaps it's indicative of his complex history and the terrible reality of slavery of which he is a product and in many ways did not have choices early on in his life. It just took much too long for my liking for James to understand what the right thing was. I may have given it 5 stars if in the end James made the right choices before certain circumstances changed that made it easier for him to do so. This can be read as a stand alone but I recommend reading both.

Book Concierge says

Grissom's debut - *The Kitchen House* - became a runaway hit via word-of-mouth and book club recommendations. This book follows one of the characters in the first book over several decades.

There is a good story idea here – Jamie / James is a “runaway” slave who is so light-skinned as to be able to

pass for white, and he makes a success of himself in Philadelphia. When the young Negro boy he has taken into his household disappears, the boy's father pleads with James to go to the south and retrieve the boy. James hires people to search for the boy, but is distracted by his own troubles – an indiscretion threatens to reveal his secret and destroy the life he has built.

There are a number of twists and turn in the plot and Grissom keeps the action moving forward. There are scenes that had me on the edge of my seat. I was caught up in the story and wanted to know how things would turn out, and how the characters would fare. However ...

Grissom uses multiple narrators. This is not an easy technique to employ successfully. Grissom has said in numerous interviews that her characters "spoke" to her, and revealed the story in their own way. But the result is that there is less cohesion in the story-telling. The ending felt rushed to me. There was so much danger and uncertainty even 30 pages from the ending, and while there is some ambiguity (not a bad thing given the story arc) about what will happen in the future, it seemed to me that Grissom was trying too hard to wrap things up with a pretty bow.

In summary, it's a good story and kept me turning pages, but the writing fell short. It earns a solid 3 stars.

Britany says

I'm on a role with my ratings recently and this one is no different. I started reading it on my trip to CA, but couldn't get into it. Started it again once I was back and I couldn't put it down. Glory picks up after The Kitchen House and follows Jamie Pyke as he navigates life after escaping Rankin, Master Marshall, and the plantation he lived on. Jamie lives as a white man, painting for a living, and enjoying the perks of a socialite in Philadelphia. It all changes when his secret parentage is revealed and the race begins.

I loved this one so much more than The Kitchen House-- how is that even possible? The story was elaborate and detailed. I enjoyed meeting all of the new characters and found myself rooting for them to overcome their obstacles. The final third, I couldn't turn the pages fast enough to find out how Grissom would end this one. Would they make it? Who would survive this haunting tale of slavery and freedom? How would it end? I was satisfied with the ending and hope that Grissom continues with telling us Addy's story next.

Jennifer says

I truly enjoyed The Kitchen House and was thrilled to have the opportunity to read this book. Dare I say I this is a case where the sequel is better than the original?

Told through the perspectives of several narrators, Grissom tells the story of a family woven together (and torn apart) by the horrors of slavery in 1830's America. As in Grissom's earlier work, it's a plot-driven novel with many compelling and interconnected story lines. Though the book borders on melodrama, it is

engaging, and I personally found it to be more moving than *The Underground Railroad*.

"Glory"'s characters are memorable -- even the loathsome ones. The female leads are particular firecrackers.

While providing a tidy enough ending for this book, Grissom has also left the door wide open for a third installment in the series. This fan is hoping the books keep on coming.

Thank you to NetGalley and Simon & Schuster for a galley of the book in exchange for an honest review. While I was provided a galley I listened to the audio version.

Connie says

I was delighted to learn what becomes of Jamie from *The Kitchen House*. He is now James Burke, passing for a white man and ends up doing quite well for himself, though he continues to hide the secret of his parentage. This makes him somewhat of a cold fish in my opinion, and so I had trouble "liking" him. Yet, Grissom makes him a believable character, like him or not. A man with a constant struggle of who he really is and a conflict of what is right and wrong. I felt he did not really know who he was until he chances a return to his childhood South in search of young Pan. There he is forced to make hard decisions, let go of his secrets and fears and come to terms with who he was, or rather who he was going to let himself be. I was a bit miffed that it seemed to take him so long and several poor decisions to do so.

As much as I did not care for James, I loved so many of the secondary characters. Pan was a delight to meet, full of the adoration and wonder of youth, until he sees first hand how cruel life could be. Yet he always seemed to see some joy. I especially attached myself to the stoic Henry, the loyal and wise Robert as well as the feisty and ahead of her time Adelaide. For me these characters were much more comfortable in their skin than James/Jamie. They were who they were and their richness came to life for me.

Grissom fulfilled my hopes of life after *The Kitchen House*. The next chapter of a horrible part of history and how the struggles of slavery continued. Her writing is beautiful and takes me to the scenes she sets. I can see a continuation of this story with some of the younger characters but as this left me with a sense of hope I am not sure I need more.

Bam says

In *Glory over Everything: Beyond The Kitchen House*, Kathleen Grissom continues the story of James Pyke, one of the characters from *The Kitchen House*. James is the son of the Tall Oaks plantation owner and one of his slaves, raised as white by his paternal grandmother, who escapes the South just as he is about to be sold as a slave.

James makes it to Philadelphia where he is helped by Henry, an older escaped slave who lives in fear himself of being recaptured and returned to the South. Henry encourages the thirteen year old to find a job and pass as white. James, who is something of an artist, is able to apprentice with a silversmith and begin a new life.

Years later, Henry approaches the now wealthy James 'Burton' to take in his motherless son, Pan, and give him a safe place to live, work and perhaps receive an education. When Pan later goes missing, Henry fears

that he has been abducted by slavers and taken south. Will James be brave enough to go back to attempt a rescue of the young boy everyone is so fond of?

Grissom weaves a fascinating story around these characters and others and explores some tough questions about racial attitudes and prejudices. Take a thrilling ride on the underground railroad!

I was given a free copy of this book by the publisher for taking part in a survey. Many thanks for the opportunity.

Lori says

I really enjoyed this but not as much as *The Kitchen House*. I adored Pan and would love to see a follow up to his story down the road. This can be read as a stand alone novel but recommend reading, or even, rereading *The Kitchen House* first. 4 stars.

Candi says

"Where, then, did I belong? Was my birth an accident of fate, or was my life intended to have some purpose?"

Jamie Pyke, fair-skinned son of a slave named Belle and a cruel master named Marshall, ran from his Virginian plantation home, his heritage and his fate at the age of thirteen. James Burton, wealthy Philadelphia businessman and heir to the silversmith shop and fortune of his kindly adoptive parents, has spent his teen years and adulthood hiding his former identity. When James falls for a beautiful white woman of high social standing, his secret is threatened. The disappearance of his devoted servant, Pan, presents a moral dilemma to James. Pan's father, Henry, who once rescued James in his time of need, begs James to search for his son whom he believes has been abducted and sold into slavery in the south. But can James risk returning to a region where his identity could be revealed and his life placed at risk?

Glory Over Everything, sequel to **The Kitchen House**, is a gripping and well-crafted novel that kept me turning the pages despite frequent vacation distractions. Multiple, alternating first person narratives are employed throughout the book. I liked this technique as it allowed me to learn a great deal more about the innermost thoughts of those characters that perhaps, due to their circumstances, would otherwise be less illuminated. James is a very conflicted individual and at times could be unlikable. Even with the knowledge that Belle's blood flowed through his veins, he could not reconcile himself to the fact that he was anything other than a white man. At the same time, it was not completely lost on him that those who were there for him in his times of greatest need were in fact black men and women of tremendous principles and trustworthy character. Men and women like Henry, Robert, Sukey, and the people of the Underground Railroad will capture your heart and give you faith in humanity despite the fact that men like the ruthless slave tracker Rankin and despicable slave owner Bill Thomas exist. The fearless and independent-minded Miss Adelaide quickly became a favorite new character! I would love to see more of her – I would be thrilled if Ms. Grissom decided to expand upon her in another installment. Pan is another for whom I felt a soft spot, not unlike that which James perhaps perceived in his heart as well. I would be interested to learn how the relationship continues to change between Pan and James. Pan, who looked up to James as a sort of heroic figure, sees James falter and therefore betray the image he once had of him. Can James make amends and

come to terms with his own identity?

I highly recommend this book to lovers of historical fiction and anyone that appreciates stories of human triumph. There is a great deal of tension and a bit of nail-biting as the plot reaches a climax. The characters, however, are what truly crown this novel, in my opinion. There are some coincidences that seemed slightly unlikely, and I found the ending to be a little rushed and perhaps a tad bit too tidy, causing me to deduct one star from my review. While this is a stand-alone novel, I recommend that you read **The Kitchen House** first, in order to gain a better perspective on the background of some of the characters. I look forward to reading whatever Kathleen Grissom has in store for us next!

"We all carry burdens from our past, but it is not for others to exploit them."

Jen says

I have always had a soft spot when it comes to slavery stories. They scream with emotion, of inhumanity, of savagery. Yet, they can also embrace with compassion and love. And although I detest they happened, I'm always compelled to read them and think there is a sliver of truth in all.

In this narrative, a missing negro boy sends Burton, a black man so fair skinned he has been living the life of a white man, on a search back to the southern states where his freedom is threatened from a past he left behind. But return he must, to try and track down the boy who has suspiciously disappeared and is suspected of being enslaved.

The stories cross over. We meet several slaves and whites along this journey. We learn of Burton and how he denied his own ancestry in order to survive in the white Man's world and the truths that threaten to emerge. We learn of forgiveness and acceptance.

The words fly off the page and I was transported back to 1830. Grissom has captured my heart with these characters who have escaped slavery, empowered themselves with education and cherish their freedom above everything. A truly moving 4.5 ★

?Karen says

Thank you to NetGalley and Simon & Schuster for an eGalley. I chose to listen to a finished audio copy.

Jamie Pike from *The Kitchen House* is now James Burton, wealthy silversmith and artist of Philadelphia. I think I liked this more than the original, even though I've given them both 4 stars. There are some wonderful characters that we get to know, and James, although very well formed and sympathetic, was probably my least favorite, when compared to the truly great (and not as well formed) Robert, Pan, Addy, and Sukie. I greatly appreciated the ease in following the chapters (each told us what year it was and whose point of view was up). Gradually I was completely absorbed and taken by the story, which had some sad moments and heartbreak, some close calls, death as well as new life, and with the Underground Railroad perhaps some hope for the future.

I think the author could very well continue the story even more, but it sounds like that's not in the cards,

which is sadly our loss.
