



Lillian Mattox Wilcox

Dedicated to the memory of my late grandmother

“Each flower has a tale to tell.”

**T**ALES  
**F**LOWERS  
**T**ELL

. . . her collection of flower  
maidens set to poetry



*Susan Annabelle Crowe*

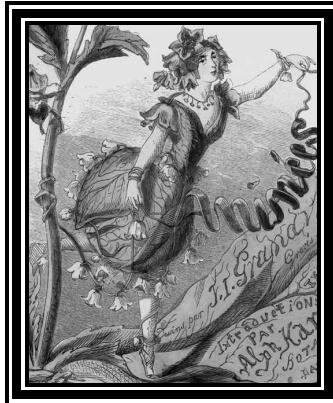
# Tales Flowers Tell

Volume 1

First Edition

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## Author's Note

"Flowers speak a language of their own."

Illustrated with a Victorian flair, Tales Flowers Tell is a whimsical collection of personified flower and nature poems, the garden of my heart incarnate, evoking for me warmest memories of a Southern heritage along with the women who have graced my life. The majority of these short poems, taken from my 2003-07 journaling, are composed in various poetry forms such as the sonnet, triolet, villanelle as well as free verse, metered and un-metered rhyme. For familiarity with any poetry forms featured here, I have included a glossary.

My truest inspiration comes from the "Song of Solomon" of the Old Testament, a poetic collection of the most beautiful love letters ever penned, symbolic of Christ and His beloved church. Many great poets have influenced me as well: the Victorian poet, William Wordsworth, with his lavished love of nature; Edna St. Vincent Millay with her glorious rendering of laments and love sonnets; and Sarojini Naidu, known for her extraordinary imagery and metaphors, poignant with cultural and spiritual overtures.

In memory of my late grandmother, Lillian Mattox Wilcox, please accept in sincerest and humblest offering my repertoire of poetry, Tales Flowers Tell, whom I wish to dedicate to my grandchildren: Gracie, Gabriel, and Dylan. May they accept this gift as a token of my heart and as a legacy from their grandmother. To my husband, parents, and daughters, I love you all for your forbearance with my writing endeavors and loving me unconditionally.

With Love, Susan



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. . . deceit, betrayal, seduction, secrets

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. . . flowers of song, beauty, purity

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# *Chapter One*



## **NATURE'S INDISCRETION**



# Colors of Betrayal

Form: Free Verse



I shared my secret with the wind  
who whispered it among the trees.  
The trees, in turn, told it  
to a hummingbird.  
The hummingbird piped it  
over a nestful of flowers  
and now my secret--  
in colors of betrayal--  
has blossomed  
e v e r y w h e r e .



Courtesan (16th century) – a woman of ill repute whose clients were members of a royal court or men of high social standing.

# The House of Les Fleurs

Form: Minute Poetry

O Courtesans of wanton tales,  
how faces pale  
from your lewd flings  
with Counts and Kings!

Your naughtiness of goings hid  
where suitors bid  
from dawn 'til dusk  
in manners brusque

to have you if for just one night,  
while you incite  
small talk, O Flirts,  
in petaled skirts!

# Ambrosial Fire

Form: Etheree

She  
is hell's  
bouquet, red  
G l a d i o l a,  
Satan's kept mistress,  
whose flamed petals crackle  
as cinders of a scorched heart  
smoldering in ambrosial fire  
and whose stems slither on bellies like  
serpents in flight to a charmer's flute call.