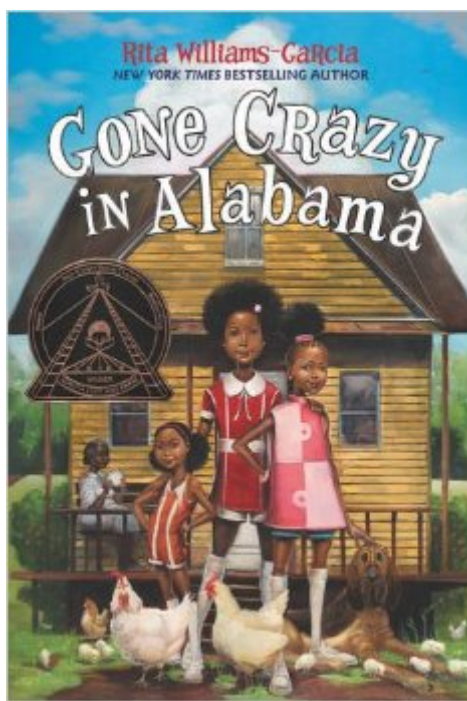


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Gone Crazy In Alabama



Synopsis

Coretta Scott King Award winner * ALA Notable Book * School Library Journal Best Book of the Year * Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year * ALA Booklist Editors' Choice * Shelf Awareness Best Book of the Year * Washington Post Best Books of the Year * The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Blue Ribbon Book * Three starred reviews * CCBC Choice * New York Public Library 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing * Best Book of the Year The Coretta Scott King Award "winning *Gone Crazy in Alabama* by Newbery Honor and New York Times bestselling author Rita Williams-Garcia tells the story of the Gaither sisters as they travel from the streets of Brooklyn to the rural South for the summer of a lifetime. Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern are off to Alabama to visit their grandmother Big Ma and her mother, Ma Charles. Across the way lives Ma Charles' half sister, Miss Trotter. The two half sisters haven't spoken in years. As Delphine hears about her family history, she uncovers the surprising truth that's been keeping the sisters apart. But when tragedy strikes, Delphine discovers that the bonds of family run deeper than she ever knew possible. Powerful and humorous, this companion to the award-winning *One Crazy Summer* and *P.S. Be Eleven* will be enjoyed by fans of the first two books, as well as by readers meeting these memorable sisters for the first time.

Book Information

Paperback: 320 pages

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ISBN-10: 0062215892

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Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.6 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (34 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

I'm a conceited enough children's librarian that I like it when a book wins me over. I don't want them to make it easy for me. When I sit down to read something I want to know that the author on the other side of the manuscript is scrabbling to get the reader's attention. Granted that reader is supposed to be a 10-year-old kid and not a 37-year-old woman, but to a certain extent audience is audience. Now I'll say right off the bat that under normal circumstances I don't tend to read sequels and I CERTAINLY don't review them. There are too many books published in a current year to keep circling back to the same authors over and over again. There are, however, always exceptions to the rule. And who amongst us can say that Rita Williams-Garcia is anything but exceptional? The Gaither Sisters chronicles (you could also call them the "One Crazy Summer Books" and I think you'd be in the clear) have fast become modern day literary classics for kids. Funny, painful, chock full of a veritable cornucopia of historical incidents, and best of all they stick in your brain like honey to biscuits. Read one of these books and you can recall them for years at a time. Now the bitter sweetness of "Gone Crazy in Alabama" gives us more of what we want (Vonetta! Uncle Darnell! Big Ma!) in a final, epic, bow. Going to visit relatives can be a chore. Going to visit warring relatives? Now THAT is fun! Sisters Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern have been to Oakland and Brooklyn but now they've turned South to Alabama to visit their grandmother Big Ma, their great-grandmother Ma Charles, and Ma Charles's half sister Miss Trotter. Delphine, as usual, places herself in charge of her younger, rebellious, sisters, not that they ever appreciate it.

I received this book from the publisher in exchange for this review As far as endings go, this book is enjoyable. Need more? Yes! I think, of the 3, P.S. Be Eleven is my favorite book. With this book's setting being in my home state Alabama, I think that there could have been more history mentioned. As we all know, there is plenty of history down here- mostly bad, but there's the good history too. From the moment that Delphine, Vonetta and Fern kickoff in their journey, I was hooked. And, I must say, Fern stole the whole book for me. I couldn't stop laughing to save my life. She is her own little person, and she stood out completely from her sisters. From her little poems that she created to her trying to save the animals, there wasn't a moment that she didn't put a smile on my face. Vonetta, being the middle child, is sort of the rebel of the 3. She was the sole instigator to so much that happened between these characters. Especially her great grandmother and great aunt. And Vonetta wouldn't be herself if she didn't hold a grudge. She's still mad at her uncle for the wrong doing that happened in the last book (I will not spoil!!). Delphine is ever the big sister. She promised her dad that she'd watch over her sisters

and keep them out of trouble. That's no easy feat when you have 2 sisters who are becoming independent. Bless her heart, she tried. She, herself, tries to stand her ground with her Big Ma- without being disrespectful. And when things got tough, she blamed herself a lot; when it totally wasn't her fault. There's history explored here, but not enough. Well, maybe there shouldn't be a lot of past events brought up in a book that is solely middle grade. I think that there are some lessons learned in this book that you will not get from school.

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