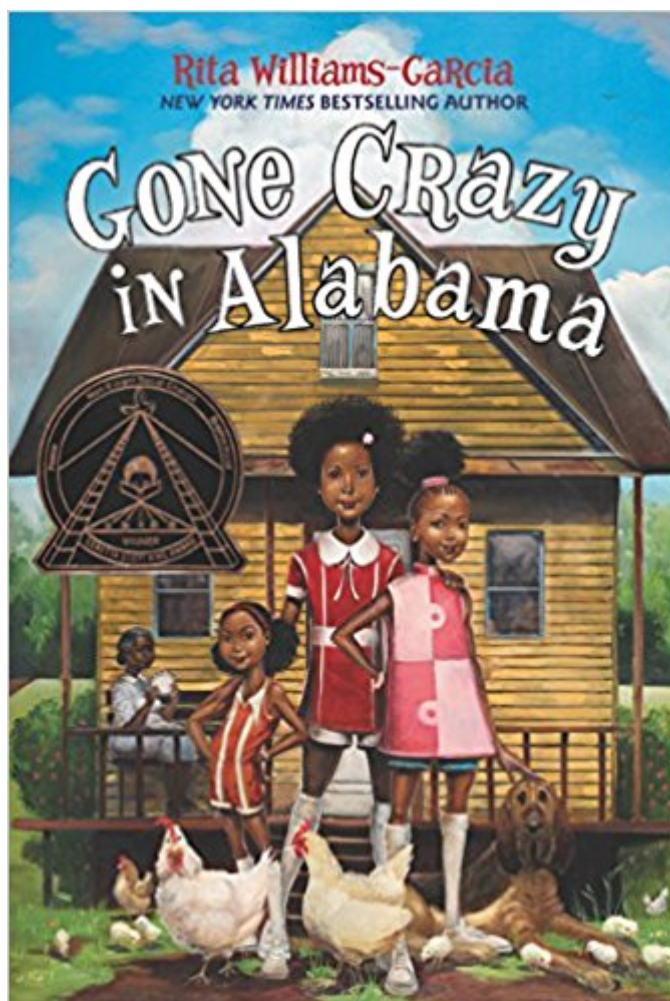


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# Gone Crazy In Alabama



## 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's 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

Publisher: Amistad; Reprint edition (September 6, 2016)

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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: 4.7 out of 5 stars 52 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #35,357 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #60 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Prejudice & Racism #100 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American #101 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 4-6 • In this final volume in the trilogy that began with the acclaimed *One Crazy Summer* (2010), and continued with *P.S. Be Eleven* (2013, both HarperCollins), sisters Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern Gaither have been sent for the summer from Brooklyn to rural Alabama to reunite with their grandmother, Big Ma; their great-grandmother, Ma Charles; and their Uncle Darnell, a Vietnam vet recovering from drug addiction. Caught in the middle of a family feud between Ma Charles and her half-sister, Miss Trotter, the girls grapple with mixed feelings and new revelations about their family and its history. Narrator Delphine, 12, is charged with keeping her sisters in line and keeping the peace amidst their constant bickering, as well as readjusting to Big Ma's discipline. When Vonetta disappears during a tornado, Delphine must confront her guilt and resentment as well as face her mother, Cecile, who has traveled from California in concern for her missing daughter. Much of the narrative includes backstory from the previous titles, which is important for context, though new readers will want to read the previous books to fully appreciate this novel. This final installment is rich in atmosphere and clearly conveys the sisters' distinct personalities, their loyalty to one another, and their special place in their complex family. An author's note elucidates the connection between Native and African Americans, and a family tree details the Gaither girls' roots. VERDICT A must-have conclusion to this beloved middle grade series. • Marie Orlando, formerly at Suffolk Cooperative Library System, Bellport, NY --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

• "This well-crafted depiction of a close-knit community in rural Alabama works beautifully, with language that captures its humor, sorrow and resilience. Rich in all areas, Delphine and her sisters' third outing will fully satisfy the many fans of their first two. • (Kirkus Reviews (starred review)) • "Williams-Garcia's novel has the feeling of a saga, an American story of several generations, related effectively from Delphine's first-person point of view-and with help from some feisty elders. • (Horn Book Magazine) A must-have conclusion to this beloved middle grade series. (School Library Journal (starred review)) • "It's reward enough just to spend more time with this feisty, close-knit family, whose loyalty to and love for each other trump everything else. (Publishers Weekly (starred review)) Praise for *P.S. BE ELEVEN*: • "Funny, wise, poignant, and thought-provoking, this will leave readers wanting more about Delphine and her sisters. • (Horn Book (starred review)) Praise for *P.S. BE ELEVEN*: • "...the Gaither sisters are an irresistible trio. Williams-Garcia excels at conveying defining moments of American society from their point of view • this is historical fiction that's as full of heart as it is of heartbreak. •

(Publishers Weekly (starred review))Praise for P.S. BE ELEVEN: “P.S. Be Eleven is a must-read for fans of the first book, but it can also stand alone as an engrossing novel that will leave readers pondering important issues of race, gender, and identity.” (School Library Journal (starred review))PRAISE FOR ONE CRAZY SUMMER: “Delphine is the pitch-perfect older sister, wise beyond her years, an expert at handling her siblings...while the girls are caught up in the difficulties of adults, their resilience is celebrated and energetically told with writing that snaps off the page” (Kirkus Reviews (starred review))PRAISE FOR ONE CRAZY SUMMER: “The setting and time period are as vividly realized as the characters, and readers will want to know more about Delphine and her sisters after they return to Brooklyn...” (Horn Book (starred review))PRAISE FOR ONE CRAZY SUMMER: “Delphine’s growing awareness of injustice on a personal and universal level is smoothly woven into the story in poetic language that will stimulate and move readers.” (Publishers Weekly)

GRADE: A-Delphine and her younger sisters are in Alabama for the summer visiting their grandmother and great-grandmother where they experience multigenerational sibling rivalry, the KKK, family secrets and a tragedy in this last book in the trilogy. Rita Williams-Garcia series about Delphine Gaither and her sisters is the Little House on the Prairie for the twentieth century. Williams-Garcia has given Delphine a smart, insightful voice and equally compelling personality. Younger sisters Vonetta and Fern, and all the minor characters are multidimensional and complex. Williams-Garcia crafted a story with subplots as interesting and rich as the history they describe. While GONE CRAZY IN ALABAMA drags a bit in the middle, for the most part my interest didn’t waiver. Both children and adults should start with ONE CRAZY SUMMER, then read PS BE ELEVEN and finish the series with GONE CRAZY IN ALABAMA. Then cross your fingers and hope Williams-Garcia decides to continue the series.

This last book in the Gaither sisters saga had me laughing, amening and crying. Such a great ending to a wonderful story. Don’t let the age recommendations fool you, I’m almost 60 and absolutely loved this third installment. Great storyteller that made me relive my younger years with my sisters. Highly recommended.

Great story and great set of books. This is the last of the trilogy and it is just as good as the first two books. Makes a reader give pause to think about the inequity and injustice that occurred during that period of United States history and worry about the current state of our country.

This is the excellent third book in the series about three sisters growing up black in late 1960s America. The author includes many important historical events of the time in her realistic fictional account.

I ordered the book for my granddaughter. At this time she cannot read, but she truly enjoyed the book as it was ordered in audible. She not only enjoyed the whisper-sync on her book, I ordered one for me. Now, each child that enters our home asks to listen to the books. I would recommend this book to all young ladies and young men. The voice made the mind see people and purple flowers. Great read.

I'm not sure what a young person of today can get from this book . I am middle aged and it is so true to life for me that I almost believe this author must be in my family . Wonderfully written. I felt I went back in time to my own childhood. I am the oldest three sisters and this book describes us to the " T" Right down to the drug using uncle I hope this does not end here I know there is more to be told . All 3 books are wonderful.

This book series is SO GOOD! The themes the author explores in this book: love, responsibility, forgiveness, identity, are expertly woven into the narrative. The reader is able to digest the material without having it overexplained. A great story to read with or to children. Also a perfect book to have them read on their own and discuss. I'm sad their story is coming to a close, but the Delphine, Vonetta and Fern will live on and on in my heart and in these stories!

I usually don't read children's books, but when I saw the cover this book I knew I wanted to read it. I immediately reminded my of myself and friends back in the day. It was being reviewed in my grand children's "Time for Kids" magazine, so I ordered it and I was not disappointed. The interaction among the sisters and their relatives was wonderful. Everything in that book took me back. I believe that I will be reading another book by Rita Williams-Garcia, very soon!

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