

Crazy In Alabama

All three books in the Coretta Scott King Award-winning series by New York Times bestselling author Rita Williams-Garcia are now available in one ebook collection! Each humorous, unforgettable story follows the Gaither sisters as they grow up during one of the most tumultuous eras in recent American history, the 1960s. Read the adventures of eleven-year-old Delphine and her younger sisters, Vonetta and Fern, as they visit their kin all over the rapidly changing nation—and as they discover that the bonds of family, and their own strength, run deeper than they ever knew possible. This collection includes *One Crazy Summer*, a Newbery Honor Book, National Book Award finalist, and winner of the Scott O’Dell Award; *P.S. Be Eleven*; and *Gone Crazy in Alabama*, all of which will make the perfect addition to a young reader’s growing library. “A beloved middle grade series.” —School Library Journal (starred review) “Funny, wise, poignant, and thought-provoking.” —Horn Book (starred review) “The Gaither sisters are an irresistible trio. Williams-Garcia excels at conveying defining moments of American society from their point of view.” —Publishers Weekly (starred review)

Dead Wrong On January 23, 2000, already battered by an ice storm, the rural

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Alabama resort town of Mentone was about to be struck by an even more terrifying freak catastrophe. Hurtling down the highway in a Lincoln Town Car was Hayward Bissell, a 400-pound madman on a murder rampage. Ramming the pickup truck of Don and Rhea Pirch, Bissell lured Don Pirch on to the road, running him down with his car. Dead Reckoning Bissell next targeted the home of James and Sue Pumphrey. After stabbing James Pumphrey in the stomach, Bissell was thwarted by two family dogs, who gave their lives to protect their owners. Their sacrifice bought Pumphrey enough time to get a gun and scare off Bissell--who didn't know the weapon was actually inoperable. Dead End When Bissell was finally stopped, police discovered that he wasn't alone. Occupying the passenger seat beside him was the mutilated, partially dismembered body of his pregnant girlfriend, Patricia Ann Booher. In February 2002, Bissell pled "guilty but insane" and was sent to prison for life. Was he really crazy? Or was he crazy like a fox, turning it on and off to try to beat a death sentence for Booher's murder. . . Includes 16 Pages Of Shocking Photos

An astonishing new voice in teen literature, writing what is sure to be one of the most talked-about debuts of the year. Tyrell is a young African-American teen who can't get a break. He's living (for now) with his spaced-out mother and little brother in a homeless shelter. His father's in jail. His girlfriend supports him, but

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he doesn't feel good enough for her -- and seems to be always on the verge of doing the wrong thing around her. There's another girl at the homeless shelter who is also after him, although the desires there are complicated. Tyrell feels he needs to score some money to make things better. Will he end up following in his father's footsteps?

This book utilizes numbers and data visualization to explain how much better Alabama was than all other college football teams from 2008 through 2020. Some of the Crimson Tide's benchmarks were unprecedented, and others hadn't been accomplished for many decades -- all making a case for this being the most impressive stretch of seasons for any team in the history of the sport.

An exploration of why people all over the world love to engage in pain on purpose--from dominatrices, religious ascetics, and ultramarathoners to ballerinas, icy ocean bathers, and sideshow performers Masochism is sexy, human, reviled, worshipped, and can be delightfully bizarre. Deliberate and consensual pain has been with us for millennia, encompassing everyone from Black Plague flagellants to ballerinas dancing on broken bones to competitive eaters choking down hot peppers while they cry. Masochism is a part of us. It lives inside workaholics, tattoo enthusiasts, and all manner of garden variety pain-seekers. At its core, masochism is about feeling bad, then better—a phenomenon

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that is long overdue for a heartfelt and hilarious investigation. And Leigh Cowart would know: they are not just a researcher and science writer—they're an inveterate, high-sensation seeking masochist. And they have a few questions: Why do people engage in masochism? What are the benefits and the costs? And what does masochism have to say about the human experience? By participating in many of these activities themselves, and through conversations with psychologists, fellow scientists, and people who seek pain for pleasure, Cowart unveils how our minds and bodies find meaning and relief in pain—a quirk in our programming that drives discipline and innovation even as it threatens to swallow us whole.

"Lenny Norbeck and his friends The Mikes set out to investigate the suspicious death of a young pitcher at a Phillies game"--

A man who can't pronounce "anonymous" In high office, seems rather ominous. We don't have to get all Deuteronomous: Brains and power are rarely synonymous. "I love every word Mark Childress writes, including this new compilation of his great political writing. He is brilliant and hilarious." – Anne Lamott "You, sir, are a libtard!" – Glenn Beck New York Times bestselling author Mark Childress was like many liberal Americans whose life veered off the tracks as Donald Trump rose to power. In his day-by-day journal, Childress tirelessly

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pursues the funny side of America's descent into Trumpism. From Viet Nam to New Orleans to the Women's March and beyond, the author spins variations on all the absurd, ridiculous, head-exploding, enraging, unbelievable moments of the Trump Years. The book includes photos, tweets, teets, doggerel, lyrics, fake news, and all manner of hijinks, twaddle, & flimflamery. If Trump & Company drive you crazy, but you're almost ready to laugh - this is the book for you.

In the follow up to the New York Times bestseller *The Tapper Twins Go to War*, the twins' school scavenger hunt turns into a "madcap, uproarious romp around the Big Apple" full of "action, hilarity, and mayhem" (*School Library Journal*).

Geoff Rodkey delivers another pitch-perfect ultra-modern comedy told as oral history with texts, screenshots and smartphone photos. When Claudia initiates a citywide scavenger hunt to raise money for charity, it's not just the twins' opposing teams that run riot. With the whole school racing to trade in sights seen for points to score front row tickets at Madison Square Garden, they may not get to the finish line with their dignity--and social lives--intact!

Mark Childress's novel, *Tender*, is a little more than just a fine novel; it is a big, all-American, Technicolor dreamboat of a book, as vital and as intense as anything I've read in the last ten years. The legend is familiar to everyone who cares about pop music and rhythm and blues, but Mark Childress has invested it with an eerie mystery-train vitality that is only available to

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the talented novelist. There's something else as well; this is the first novel I've ever read in my life which is more inside rock and roll than about it; through the eyes of Leroy Kirby, Mark Childress has made the mad early days of rock and roll seem not just comprehensible but inevitable. Beneath the cool prose line of this minimalist epic there is the same raw and feverish drive that propelled the early rockabilly stars as they created a new kind of music. Childress's understanding and love of this new music lends *Tender* the sort of piney woods authenticity I associate with such American classics as *Elmer Gantry* and *All The King's Men*. If you care about rock and roll, *Tender* is going to knock your socks off. This is a great novel, and as Childress documents the meteoric rise of his talented child-monster-prodigy, Leroy Kirby, he never misses a beat. -- Stephen King

In two short essays and one long piece of reportage, author and screenwriter Mark Childress ("*Crazy in Alabama*," "*One Mississippi*," "*Georgia Bottoms*") explores New Orleans before, during, and after Katrina. Essays: "*What It Means to Miss New Orleans*" originally appeared in the *New York Times*, "*Disaster Tourism*" in *Salon* magazine, and "*The Tragic City Laughs*" in *The Birmingham News*. All proceeds from this book go to Habitat for Humanity for their continued work in New Orleans. Approximately 36 pp., 9000 words, with illustrations.

There are gods in Alabama. I know because I killed one. When Lena Fleet goes to college, she makes three promises to God: she will stop sleeping with every boy she meets; she will never tell another lie; and she will never, ever go back to her hometown in Alabama. All she wants from God in return is that He makes sure the body is never found . . . But ten years later, it looks like God's going back on His deal. Lena's high school archenemy appears on her doorstep, looking for the golden haired football god who disappeared during their senior year.

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To make matters worse, her African American boyfriend has issued her with an ultimatum - introduce him to her lily-white family or he's gone. While she would rather burn in a fire than let him meet her steel magnolia Aunt Florence, her half-mad Mama, her sweet-as-pie cousin Clarice and the rest of her eccentric and racist family, Lena realises it is time to go home to Alabama and confront the past once and for all. As she digs through guilt and deception, she discovers how far she will go for love and a chance at redemption. ***** Praise for GODS IN ALABAMA: 'A plucky heroine with a sense of humour, a gripping tale and a mysterious dead body that needs explanation. [Jackson] takes the reader on a wild ride of despair, hope and redemption that no reader is likely to ever forget. What a storyteller!' - Adriana Trigiani, author of Lucia, Lucia 'A startling page turner. This is a beautifully crafted, sassy novel, where nothing is quite as it seems. The way the final pieces of the jigsaw slot together . . . should surprise even the most jaded of readers' - Glamour This winning novel is the kind that readers crave: you can't stop turning the pages, but you wish it would never end' - Christina Schwarz, author of Drowning Ruth 'I couldn't put this book down. From the first chapter, the plot leaps forward and it doesn't stop twisting and turning until the last page' - Melanie Sumner, author of The School of Beauty

This remarkable and bestselling novel from Thanhha Lai, author of the National Book Award-winning and Newbery Honor Book *Inside Out & Back Again*, follows a young girl as she learns the true meaning of family. *Listen, Slowly* is a New York Times Book Review Notable Book and a Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year! A California girl born and raised, Mai can't wait to spend her vacation at the beach. Instead, she has to travel to Vietnam with her grandmother, who is going back to find out what really happened to her husband during the

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Vietnam War. Mai's parents think this trip will be a great opportunity for their out-of-touch daughter to learn more about her culture. But to Mai, those are their roots, not her own. Vietnam is hot, smelly, and the last place she wants to be. Besides barely speaking the language, she doesn't know the geography, the local customs, or even her distant relatives. To survive her trip, Mai must find a balance between her two completely different worlds. Perfect for fans of Rita Williams-Garcia and Linda Sue Park, *Listen, Slowly* is an irresistibly charming and emotionally poignant tale about a girl who discovers that home and culture, family and friends, can all mean different things.

This "superbly written true-crime story" (Michael Lewis, *The New York Times Book Review*) masterfully brings together the tales of a serial killer in 1970s Alabama and of Harper Lee, the beloved author of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, who tried to write his story. Reverend Willie Maxwell was a rural preacher accused of murdering five of his family members, but with the help of a savvy lawyer, he escaped justice for years until a relative assassinated him at the funeral of his last victim. Despite hundreds of witnesses, Maxwell's murderer was acquitted--thanks to the same attorney who had previously defended the reverend himself. Sitting in the audience during the vigilante's trial was Harper Lee, who spent a year in town reporting on the Maxwell case and many more trying to finish the book she called *The Reverend*. Cep brings this remarkable story to life, from the horrifying murders to the courtroom drama to the racial politics of the Deep South, while offering a deeply moving portrait of one of our most revered writers.

This engaging introduction to Florida's Emerald Coast guides readers through a fascinating history that includes ancient tribes, Scottish pioneers, a Civil War camp, and a pirate's

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playground. Original.

A Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book Winner of the Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction When eleven-year-old Langston's father moves them from their home in Alabama to Chicago's Bronzeville district, it feels like he's giving up everything he loves. It's 1946. Langston's mother has just died, and now they're leaving the rest of his family and friends. He misses everything-- Grandma's Sunday suppers, the red dirt roads, and the magnolia trees his mother loved. In the city, they live in a small apartment surrounded by noise and chaos. It doesn't feel like a new start, or a better life. At home he's lonely, his father always busy at work; at school he's bullied for being a country boy. But Langston's new home has one fantastic thing. Unlike the whites-only library in Alabama, the Chicago Public Library welcomes everyone. There, hiding out after school, Langston discovers another Langston--a poet whom he learns inspired his mother enough to name her only son after him. Lesa Cline-Ransome, author of the Coretta Scott King Honor picture book *Before She Was Harriet*, has crafted a lyrical debut novel about one boy's experiences during the Great Migration. Includes an author's note about the historical context and her research. Don't miss the companion novel, *Leaving Lymon*, which centers on one of Langston's classmates and explores grief, resilience, and the circumstances that can drive a boy to become a bully-- and offer a chance at redemption. A Junior Library Guild selection! A CLA Notable Children's Book in Language Arts A Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year, with 5 Starred Reviews A School Library Journal Best Book of 2018

How far will states and communities go to attract mega-projects that offer thousands of good jobs and tens of millions in tax revenue? Ezra Drake finds out when he's recruited to help Alabama lure a giant pharmaceutical plant to the state. Years ago, Ezra left Alabama for the

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Ivy League and then Germany. He's now a fast-riser at Silverman Bach in New York. A turn of events puts him back in Alabama as part of an elite team that lures mega-projects to energize the economy. Mercedes-Benz, Airbus, and other mega-projects had transformed the state. Alabama wants more. Call it "buffalo hunting" or "smokestack chasing," Ezra's team understands it's all about recruiting companies and talent to successfully compete in the modern economy. Instead of firearms, Ezra's team hunts with big data and persuasion. Competing against other cities and states is tough, but Ezra finds it even tougher battling forces that want to keep Alabama as it is and was, and not what it might become. Will Ezra and Alabama succeed in winning the pharma mega-project? Will Ezra find success, peace, and happiness in Alabama?

Curated with loving expertise, these thirteen tales showcase both Windham and Figs masterful selection of stories and their artful and suspenseful writing style. In crafting stories treasured by children and adults alike, the authors tell much more than ghost tales. Embedded in each is a wealth of fact and folklore about Alabama history and the old South. I don't care whether you believe in ghosts, Windham was fond of saying. The good ghost stories do not require that you believe in ghosts.

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

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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. Readers who enjoy Christopher Paul Curtis's *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* and Jacqueline Woodson's *Brown Girl Dreaming* will find much to love in this book. Rita Williams-Garcia's books about Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern can also be read alongside nonfiction explorations of American history such as Jason Reynolds's and Ibram X. Kendi's books. Each humorous, unforgettable story in this trilogy follows the sisters as they grow up during one of the most tumultuous eras in recent American history, the 1960s. Read the adventures of eleven-year-old Delphine and her younger sisters, Vonetta and Fern, as they visit their kin all over the rapidly changing nation—and as they discover that the bonds of family, and their own strength, run deeper than they ever knew possible. “The Gaither sisters are an irresistible trio. Williams-Garcia excels at conveying defining moments of American society from their point of view.” —Publishers Weekly (starred review) 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 * Amazon Best Book of the Year

A boy helps his father keep their very old car running as they make a trip to Havana for his newborn cousin's zero-year birthday. Includes author's note about cars in Cuba.

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"WE WANT 'BAMA! is a portrait of the most powerful coach in modern sports and the inside story of how Nick Saban hijacked the universe of college football and steered it into an alternate reality where the Crimson Tide now lords over the sport like an angry god. A national brand, Alabama football has transcended the sport to become synonymous with unrivaled success. Over the past decade, the popular Internet meme "We Want 'Bama" has been seen not only inside NFL stadiums and NBA arenas, but also at a World Cup game and a Presidential debate. Signs decorating the backdrop of ESPN's College GameDay regularly feature the meme, and students across the country-from Ohio State to Harvard-have used it. In the age of social media, "We Want 'Bama" has become an ironic and clever way for college football fans to say, "bring on the best." But you don't want 'Bama. Dear lord, you do not want that. Alabama football is the destroyer of souls. The forthcoming season is the pinnacle of domination for Saban, who has now bent the framework of college football so forcefully that the sport is on the verge of breaking for the better. Saban's conquest at Alabama has been the catalyst of change for college football and the NCAA at a most historic time for the American institutions. ESPN's lucrative relationship with the SEC and the creation of the SEC Network was just the beginning of Saban's influence. The College Football Playoff was designed just to give other teams a chance. WE WANT 'BAMA! traces Saban's winning decade since 2007 and focuses on the current, colorful Alabama team, one that will arguably go down as the greatest college football team of all time"--

Imagine being forced to move to a new planet where YOU are the alien! From the creator of the Tapper Twins, New York Times bestselling author Geoff Rodkey delivers a topical, sci-fi middle-grade novel that proves friendship and laughter can transcend even a galaxy of

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differences. The first time I heard about Planet Choom, we'd been on Mars for almost a year. But life on the Mars station was grim, and since Earth was no longer an option (we may have blown it up), it was time to find a new home. That's how we ended up on Choom with the Zhuri. They're very smart. They also look like giant mosquitos. But that's not why it's so hard to live here. There's a lot that the Zhuri don't like: singing (just ask my sister, Ila), comedy (one joke got me sent to the principal's office), or any kind of emotion. The biggest problem, though? The Zhuri don't like us. And if humankind is going to survive, it's up to my family to change their minds. No pressure.

Georgia Bottoms is known in her small community of Six Points, Alabama, as a beautiful, well-to-do, and devoutly Baptist Southern belle. Nobody realizes that the family fortune has long since disappeared, and a determinedly single woman like Georgia needs an alternative, and discreet, means of income. In Georgia's case it is six well-heeled lovers -- one for each day of the week, with Mondays off -- none of whom knows about the others. But when the married preacher who has been coming to call (Saturdays) decides to confess their affair in front of the whole congregation, Georgia must take drastic measures to stop him. In *George Bottoms*, Mark Childress proves once again his unmistakable skill for combining the hilarious and the absurd to reveal the inner workings of the rebellious human heart.

Dwight B. Wilmerding is only twenty-eight, but he's having a midlife crisis. He lives a dissolute existence in a tiny apartment with three (sometimes four) slacker roommates, holds a mind-numbing job at the pharmaceutical giant Pfizer, and has a chronic inability to make up his mind. Encouraged by one of his roommates to try an experimental drug meant to banish indecision, Dwight jumps at the chance (not without some vacillation about the hazards of

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jumping) and swallows the first fateful pill. And when all at once he is “p-fired” by Pfizer and invited to a rendezvous in exotic Ecuador with the girl of his long-ago prep-school dreams, he finds himself on the brink of a new life. The trouble—well, one of the troubles—is that Dwight can’t decide if the pills are working. Deep in the jungles of the Amazon, in the foreign country of a changed outlook, his would-be romantic escape becomes a hilarious journey into unbidden responsibility and unwelcome knowledge—and an unexpected *raison d’être*. Eleven-year-old Delphine has it together. Even though her mother, Cecile, abandoned her and her younger sisters, Vonetta and Fern, seven years ago. Even though her father and Big Ma will send them from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to stay with Cecile for the summer. And even though Delphine will have to take care of her sisters, as usual, and learn the truth about the missing pieces of the past. When the girls arrive in Oakland in the summer of 1968, Cecile wants nothing to do with them. She makes them eat Chinese takeout dinners, forbids them to enter her kitchen, and never explains the strange visitors with Afros and black berets who knock on her door. Rather than spend time with them, Cecile sends Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern to a summer camp sponsored by a revolutionary group, the Black Panthers, where the girls get a radical new education. Set during one of the most tumultuous years in recent American history, one crazy summer is the heartbreaking, funny tale of three girls in search of the mother who abandoned them—an unforgettable story told by a distinguished author of books for children and teens, Rita Williams-Garcia.

Press kit includes 2 pamphlets and 8 photographs.

Babysister gets what Babysister wants. Always has. Always will. After all, she's been spoiled rotten ever since she witnessed her mother's death as a child, and she's made

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the most of it-especially with her dad. So when her oldest friend, Deborah, begins to date a fine-looking, fine-acting man named Darren-Babysister doesn't think twice: she wants Darren for herself. And what Babysister wants... There are just a few little problems with their secret love affair. Babysister's devoted boyfriend is one. And Darren's lingering doubts about dumping Deborah--light-skinned, church-going, beautiful--is another. But Babysister won't let go, even after Darren crawls back to Deborah--and marries her. Following her love-crazed heart, Babysister jeopardizes friendship, family, and her own self-esteem, until a little dose of reality shows her how much she's been missing all along.

You need only one best friend, Daniel Musgrove figures, to make it through high school alive. After his family moves to Mississippi just before his junior year, Daniel finds fellow outsider Tim Cousins. The two become inseparable, sharing a fascination with ridicule, The Sonny and Cher Comedy Hour, and Arnita Beecham, the most bewitching girl at Minor High. But soon things go terribly wrong. The friends commit a small crime that grows larger and larger, and threatens to engulf the whole town. Arnita, the first black prom queen in the history of the school, is injured and wakes up a different person. And Daniel, Tim, and their families are swept up in a shocking chain of events. "There is nothing small about Childress's fine novel. It's big in all the ways that matter -- big in daring, big in insight, and big-hearted. Really, really big-hearted." -New Orleans Times-Picayune

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In Alabama during the racially restless summer of 1965, an orphan boy comes of age, and his aunt escapes from an unhappy marriage.

Four teenagers are on the verge of exploding. The anxieties they face at every turn have nearly pushed them to the point of surrender: senseless high-stakes testing, the lingering damage of past trauma, the buried grief and guilt of tragic loss. They are desperate to cope, but no one is listening. So they will lie. They will split in two. They will turn inside out. They will even build an invisible helicopter to fly themselves far away...but nothing releases the pressure. Because, as they discover, the only way to truly escape their world is to fly right into it. The genius of acclaimed author A.S. King reaches new heights in this groundbreaking work of surrealist fiction; it will mesmerize readers with its deeply affecting exploration of how we crawl through traumatic experience--and find the way out.

Mark Childress is is an artist, with an ear comparable to Eudora Welty's, which to me is the highest praise one can give. I haven't read a Southern novel since *Losing Battles* that has given me such pleasure. -- Harper Lee, author of *To Kill a Mockingbird* The sense of reality with which Childress imbues his characters and their situation is remarkable. He has the true novelist's ability to commit himself entirely to the people and events he envisions, and this is rare; the reader is certain at all points that the author is not playing with the subject, but writing from deep within it. A truly outstanding book is the result. -- James Dickey *A World Made of Fire* is earthy, adroit, moving -- an

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excellent novel by a writer of great promise and talent. -- Jesse Hill Ford Mark Childress is a young novelist who has written a memorable story out of the land and people of the Deep South that throughout its length is constantly intruiging with unexpected innovations. The ever-present undercurrent of mystical events will probably startle many readers by arousing and bringing forth unfamiliar emotions. -- Erskine Caldwell A wonderful and powerful novel...Childress's debut in the world of fiction is a cause to be celebrated; he is the real thing. -- Pat Conroy Mark Childress's new-fashioned saga is full of delicate electricity and raw power. -- Barry Hannah This is a damned fine story. There is more here than story, though. This baby resonates. Mark Childress is a writer of almost uncanny stylistic ability and clear vision. His eye for detail is extraordinary. It makes you want to holler Oh yeah! like a guy who's gotten religion at a riverside camp meeting. It's close; it's luxurious in its rightness; it fulfills the central demand of art...to make us see more in what we always thought we were seeing. -- Stephen King A haunting first novel...There is a clear light of genuine story-telling talent shining through it all. -- Library Journal In an impressive debut, Childress has produced a spellbinding tale in the Southern gothic tradition. A writer of poetic acuity, he evokes the atmospher of a small Southern town and brings its inhabitants to life through their colorful, softly cadenced speech. Childress's remarkable command of language -- he uses imagery with sensuous skill -- his sure sense of plot, fueled by mysticism and mystery, and most of all, his beautifully nuanced depiction of Stella's coming of age, will keep readers

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enthralled. -- Publishers Weekly That rarest of finds, an unsentimental coming-of-age story, *A World Made of Fire* is also an engrossing mystery. Wrapped in its tale of voodoo and midnight rides is a detailed bestiary of human emotions and behaviors. San Francisco Chronicle Mark Childress's first novel is a complex allegory of pagan magic and Christian retribution... Mr. Childress writes his haunting novel with poetic cadences in brief, intense chapters. He is an author of imagination. Stella's coming of age in grief and loneliness is drawn with graceful authenticity. -- Valerie Miner, The New York Times Book Review A startlingly original first novel. Not only do a great many marvelous things happen, they do so in a time and place so untapped that Childress is able to claim the territory as his alone. He has marked himself, at the tender age of twenty-six, as a major new fictional voice. -- Bruce van Wyngarden, Saturday Review

The Gaither sisters are at it again! A sequel to the Newbery Honor Book *One Crazy Summer*, this Coretta Scott King Award-winning novel will find a home in the hearts of readers who loved *Brown Girl Dreaming* and *As Brave as You*. After spending the summer in Oakland, California, with their mother and the Black Panthers, Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern arrive home with a newfound streak of independence. That doesn't sit well with Big Ma, who doesn't like the way things are changing. Neither does Delphine. Pa has a new girlfriend. Uncle Darnell comes home from Vietnam, but he's not the same. And her new sixth-grade teacher isn't the fun, stylish Miss Honeywell—it's Mr. Mwila, a stern exchange teacher from Zambia. But the one thing that doesn't

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change during this turbulent year is the advice that Delphine receives from her mother, who reminds her not to grow up too fast. To be eleven while she can.

"If you've forgotten the thrills and chills of child's play, the incendiary imagination of adolescence, Mark Childress's second novel -- a speeding bullet of a book -- will ignite your memory. In this adventure story the hero, Victor, is sublimely lost, a celebrated ragamuffin like Huck Finn or one of Peter Pan's lost tribe." -- Marianne Gingher, New York Times Book Review "A crackling good adventure is tough to pull off, but Mark Childress has done just this and he's done it brilliantly. From his lyrical opening passages, which evoke the softness of adolescent innocence, right up through his explosive finale, he never lets us come up for air. And we never want to. Think of the Hardy Boys if you will, but also think of Harper Lee, and early Capote. This is a yarn spun with poetry. This is storytelling at its best." -- Peter Buckley, Vogue "The whole 'great watery plain of Mobile Bay' is a world the author and his gangly hero know with a strong and lovely intimacy." -- Philadelphia Inquirer

Chronicles the rollicking misadventures of Forrest Gump, an idiot savant college football player whose mathematical genius does not prevent his flunking out and who finds himself drafted for Vietnam.

A Grown Up Kind of Pretty is a powerful saga of three generations of women, plagued by hardships and torn by a devastating secret, yet inextricably joined by the bonds of family. Fifteen-year-old Mosey Slocumb-spirited, sassy, and on the cusp of womanhood-

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is shaken when a small grave is unearthed in the backyard, and determined to figure out why it's there. Liza, her stroke-ravaged mother, is haunted by choices she made as a teenager. But it is Jenny, Mosey's strong and big-hearted grandmother, whose maternal love braids together the strands of the women's shared past--and who will stop at nothing to defend their future.

After a hiatus from the ice to get his grades back up to eligibility level, Jeff Connors returns to get the cold shoulder treatment from his teammates. During Jeff's absence, a threatening note was discovered in his best friend's locker--written in Jeff's hand. His protests of innocence fall on deaf ears, so Jeff is on his own to discover who's behind the sabotage.

Novelist Mark Childress ("Crazy in Alabama," "Georgia Bottoms") happened to be born in Monroeville, Alabama -- the town Harper Lee called Maycomb when she wrote about it in the classic "To Kill a Mockingbird." For years, as a journalist, Childress was told to pursue an interview with the famously reclusive author, who refused all entreaties. This essay describes the importance of Harper Lee's novel to the Southern fiction of today, and goes a distance toward exploring the question of why Harper Lee prefers to remain a figure of mystery. (The author did not meet Miss Lee until after writing this article.) 2,500 words. This essay is about ten pages, or the length of a typical magazine article. A portion of the proceeds of this book is donated to DONORSCHOOSE.ORG to further reading and literacy in poor communities. Thank you for reading!

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Caleb Franklin and his younger brother, Bobby Gene, spend an extraordinary summer their new, older neighbor, Styx Malone, a foster boy from the city in this lively and diverse story from the Coretta Scott King Honor-winning author of "How It Went Down."

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