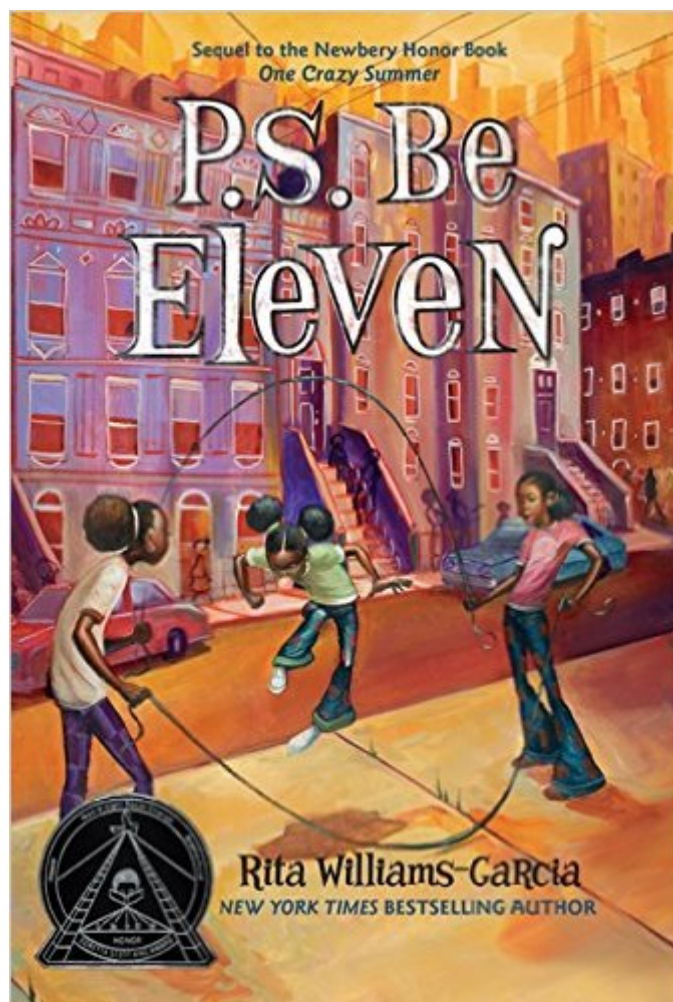


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# P.S. Be Eleven



## Synopsis

In this Coretta Scott King Award-winning novel and sequel to the New York Times bestseller and Newbery Honor Book *One Crazy Summer*, the Gaither sisters return to Brooklyn and find that changes large and small have come to their home. This extraordinary novel earned five starred reviews, with *Publishers Weekly* calling it "historical fiction that's as full of heart as it is of heartbreak" and *The Horn Book* considering it "funny, wise, poignant, and thought-provoking." 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. The sisters aren't the only ones who have changed. Now Pa has a girlfriend. Uncle Darnell returns from Vietnam a different man. But Big Ma still expects Delphine to keep her sisters in line. That's much harder now that Vonetta and Fern refuse to be bossed around. Besides her sisters, Delphine's got plenty of other things to worry about—like starting sixth grade, being the tallest girl in her class, and dreading the upcoming school dance. The one person she confides in is her mother, Cecile. Through letters, Delphine pours her heart out and receives some constant advice: to be eleven while she can. Supports the Common Core State Standards

## Book Information

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Amistad; Reprint edition (January 27, 2015)

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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 [See all reviews](#) (71 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #24,154 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) [#38 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Prejudice & Racism](#) [#78 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational](#) [#240 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Girls & Women](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

This is a great sequel to *One Crazy Summer*. The character growth with these 3 sisters is amazing. Though, it hasn't been that long since their return from CA, that visit changed their lives. Delphine is changing the most. She still has the weight of the world on her shoulders. She's the big sister to 2 younger ones, who are impressionable. Being there for them, but at the same time trying to find some independence, is hard to achieve. She finds some guidance from her mother, whom she writes to often. P.S. Be Eleven is not the only advice that her mother gives but it is the one that I love the most. It's hard to be eleven when you're growing up and have to take on adult responsibilities. Life in 60s Brooklyn, New York. I've watched a lot of documentaries and movies over the years that portray that decade. Garcia is a great storyteller so it was not hard for me to jump back in the lives of these characters. Giving these characters real problems and culture is just the icing on the cake. The Jackson 5 are these girls favorite group. I loved how the author gives you the images to put together in your head. It's like I was transported back in time and I was there trying to make a way to go to that concert! There are other things going on around Delphine, Fern, and Vonetta. Pa has a new lady in his life so that's a big change for them. Their uncle Darnell is fresh out of the war in Vietnam and he's not the same man he used to be. These girls learn a lot about adults and the hardships of life all around. I'm not sure if it was worse back then than it is now. The only things that changed are technology. The advances in technology gives kids access to things but it doesn't change the fact that it's hard being yourself. Bullying has gotten worse.

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