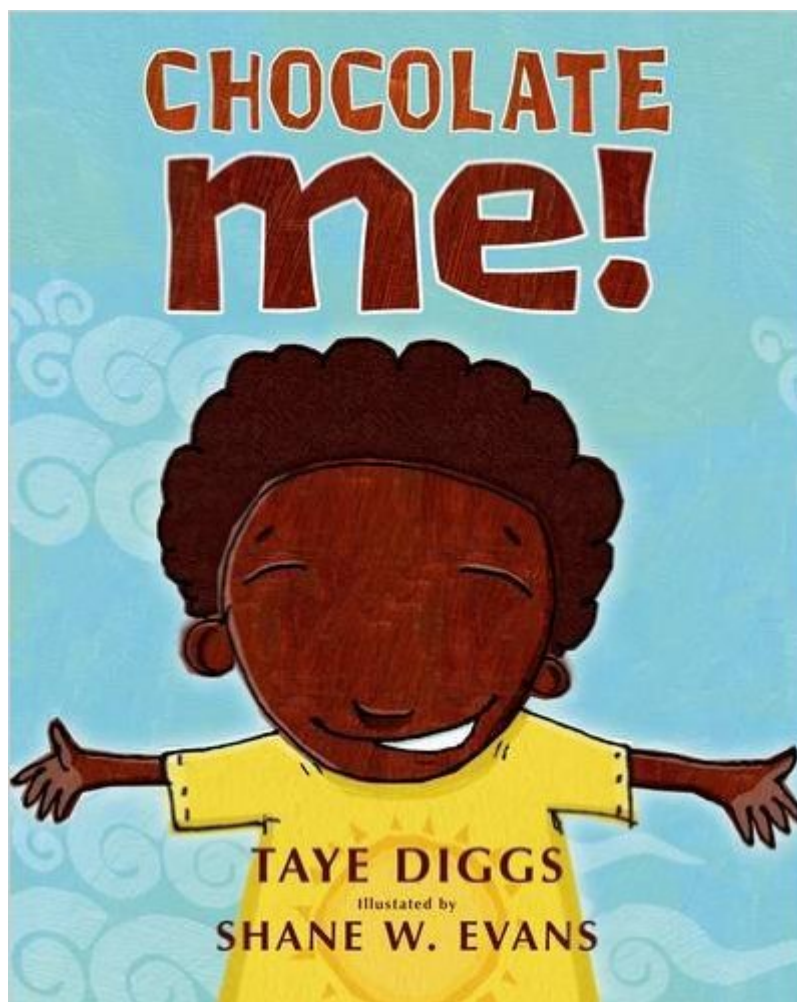


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# Chocolate Me!



## Synopsis

The boy is teased for looking different than the other kids. His skin is darker, his hair curlier. He tells his mother he wishes he could be more like everyone else. And she helps him to see how beautiful he really, truly is. For years before they both achieved acclaim in their respective professions, good friends Taye Diggs and Shane W. Evans wanted to collaborate on *Chocolate Me!*, a book based on experiences of being African American, feeling different and trying to fit in as kids. Now, both men are fathers and see more than ever the need for a picture book that encourages all people, especially kids, to love themselves.

## Book Information

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: Square Fish (October 6, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1250068010

ISBN-13: 978-1250068019

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.1 x 10.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (125 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #27,604 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #43 in [Books > Children's Books >](#)

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[Self-Esteem & Self-Respect](#) #379 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life >](#)

[Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Emotions & Feelings](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

This book has a cute title and colorful pages, but it is not appropriate for certain younger audiences. As an African-American woman, I found the language to be too harsh for reading aloud at an ethnically diverse library storytime. However, at home, my 6-year old daughter enjoyed the book because issues of skin color and hair texture have already come up. I bought the book because of the title and cute cover. When I brought it home and read it to my daughter, she said that she wanted me to read it for storytime at the library. She REALLY felt proud and excited and said, "I'm chocolate too!" (although she's more like chocolate with a lot of cream--or more like mocha)

However, I think that the catchy title and repetitive phrase, "chocolate me," brown-skinned face and the warm, feel-good ending pulled her in more than the beginning of the story. When it came to reading the book aloud, although we are taught not to edit, I had to so that it wouldn't be so shocking. This is clearly a book written by a grown man who had childhood issues with his color. However, it is not appropriate for all children. Some kids haven't been exposed to this horrific reality of skin color discrimination yet. Once you talk about it, they become conscious of it. If my daughter hadn't started talking about these issues, I would never bring it up. I would want to shield her from this as long as possible. The parts in there comparing his skin color to dirt and assessing his wide nose, I just couldn't read out loud to an audience of children ages 0-8. This book is targeting children who don't even need to think about those topics at their age.

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