

Book Review: "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens

BY DAVINA BELLINGER

ONE OF MY FAVORITE mystery/court drama novels is *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. The novel takes place in late 1969, in a small town called Barkley Cove on the North Carolina coast. The main character, Kya Clark, is called "The Marsh Girl" because she lives most of her life alone on a swamp. The novel switches time frames from Kya and the murder of a well-known, good-looking man named Chase Andrews, for which she is the main suspect. This book implements romance with two young men from town who become intrigued by Kya's wild beauty. I recommend this book to anyone interested in good drama and seek answer to the question as to who murdered the most beloved man of town, Chase Andrews.

The book starts in 1952 when our six-year-old protagonist is asking her abusive Pa where her Ma went. Kya's father is a World War II veteran who is still re-living war trauma- who buries his feelings through gambling and alcohol. As a small child her brothers and sisters left home to escape their Pa. The last to leave was her brother Jodie, her closest sibling. Kya went through a lot, one of which she yearned for learning. When social services said that she had to go to school Kya only attended once because of the kids who would make fun of her for not being able to spell her own name.

Fast-forwarding to October 30th, 1969, two young boys were playing over by the town's oldest fire tower and found the body of Chase Andrews. Ed and Joe, the town's sheriff's, investigate the case of Chase Andrews and find the culprit of his death. The novel progresses to Kya's friendships with a colored man named Jumpin and his wife Mabel. She then meets a boy named Tate Walker who helps teach her how to read, write and understand the missing pieces of her life all while she is selling mussels to Jumpin in order to survive. As the story progresses, she and Tate fall in love but when he goes to college, he stops visiting her. Kya then returns to her own lonely world and that is when she meets Chase Andrews. He becomes interested in her world and learns from her experiences on the marsh. The two begin to bond and build a connection.

Where the Crawdads Sing is about what it is like to live where all the creatures live outside of town and in nature. Kya is the only one who prefers to live where the birds and other animals are. Overall, I recommend this book because it tells a story of love, betrayal, and mystery that will be uncovered by the end of the novel. There is also a movie adaptation of the book that released on July 15th, 2022. If you thought the book was good then try seeing the film.

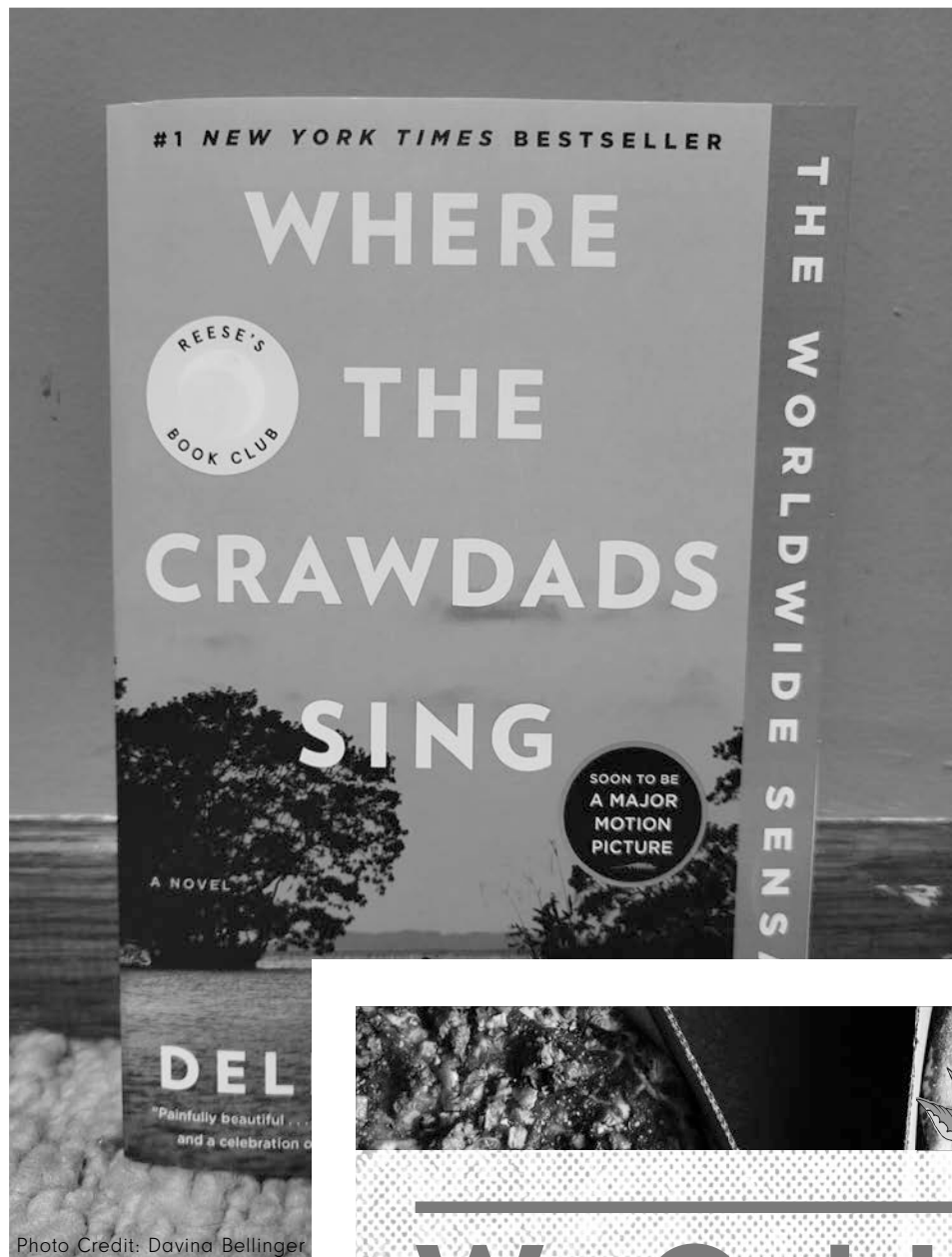


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