

How The Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents

Julia Alvarez

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“How The Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents,” was written by Julia Alvarez and it follows the lives of four sisters, Carla, Sandra, Yolanda, and Sofia. It starts off with the girls navigating life as adults, then the girls as teens adjusting to life in America, and finally ending with them as children in the Dominican Republic. They had to flee the Dominican Republic after their father’s plan to overthrow the dictator was exposed. The family has to get used to living in New York and how people in America are different from those back in their home. The girls learn to assimilate to American culture while simultaneously forgetting their roots from the Dominican Republic.

This is the first book I’ve read from Julia Alvarez and it’s safe to say I’ve fallen in love with her books. I loved reading how the sisters' lives turned out and how they were while they were growing up. Reading from multiple perspectives allowed me to fully grapple the experiences and struggles the Garcia family went through both in the Dominican Republic and America. I really liked the idea of the story being told backwards, from the Garcia sisters' adulthood to their childhood, however I realize that for some it might be hard to follow or they simply don’t like books like that.

This book is definitely more for teens to young adults. It relays their experiences with many important details and topics, but there are some scenes that may be a bit graphic for others. I would say that this is a book that you should definitely buy. It’s very interesting and some might want to read it again.

Other books to read:

“Yo!,” by Julia Alvarez

“I Am not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter,” by Erika Sanchez

“Esperanza Rising,” by Pam Munoz Ryan