



How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents

By Julia Alvarez



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“Simply wonderful.” —*Los Angeles Times*

Acclaimed writer Julia Alvarez’s brilliant and buoyant and beloved first novel gives voice to four sisters recounting their adventures growing up in two cultures. Selected as a Notable Book by both the *New York Times* and the American Library Association, it won the PEN Oakland/Josephine Miles Award for books with a multicultural perspective and was chosen by New York librarians as one of twenty-one classics for the twenty-first century. Ms. Alvarez was recently honored with the 2013 National Medal of Arts for her extraordinary storytelling.

In this debut novel, the García sisters—Carla, Sandra, Yolanda, and Sofía—and their family must flee their home in the Dominican Republic after their father’s role in an attempt to overthrow a tyrannical dictator is discovered. They arrive in New York City in 1960 to a life far removed from their existence in the Caribbean. In the wild and wondrous and not always welcoming U.S.A., their parents try to hold on to their old ways, but the girls try find new lives: by forgetting their Spanish, by straightening their hair and wearing fringed bell bottoms. For them, it is at once liberating and excruciating to be caught between the old world and the new. *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents* sets the sisters free to tell their most intimate stories about how they came to be at home—and not at home—in America.

“A joy to read.” —*The Cleveland Plain Dealer*

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Fifteen tales vividly chronicle a Dominican family's exile in the Bronx, focusing on the four Garcia daughters' rebellion against their immigrant elders.

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From School Library Journal

YA-- This sensitive story of four sisters who must adjust to life in America after having to flee from the Dominican Republic is told through a series of episodes beginning in adulthood, when their lives have been shaped by U. S. mores, and moving backwards to their wealthy childhood on the island. Adapting to American life is difficult and causes embarrassment when friends meet their parents, anger as they are bullied and called "spics," and identity confusion following summer trips to the family compound in the Dominican Republic. These interconnected vignettes of family life, resilience, and love are skillfully intertwined and offer young adults a perspective on immigration and families as well as a look at America through Hispanic eyes. This unique coming-of-age tale is a feast of stories that will enchant and captivate readers.

- Pam Spencer, *Thomas Jefferson Sci-Tech, Fairfax County, VA*

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From Library Journal

This rollicking, highly original first novel tells the story (in reverse chronological order) of four sisters and their family, as they become Americanized after fleeing the Dominican Republic in the 1960s. A family of privilege in the police state they leave, the Garcias experience understandable readjustment problems in the United States, particularly old world patriarch Papi. The sisters fare better but grow up conscious, like all immigrants, of living in two worlds. There is no straightforward plot; rather, vignettes (often exquisite short stories in their own right) featuring one or more of the sisters--Carle, Sandi, Yolanda, and Fifi--at various stages of growing up are strung together in a smooth, readable story. Alvarez is a gifted, evocative storyteller of promise.

- Ann H. Fisher, *Radford P.L., Va.*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jack Evans:

This How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents book is simply not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you have by reading this book is actually information inside this book incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper a person read a lot of information you will get. That How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents without we comprehend teach the one who examining it become critical in contemplating and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents can bring any time you are and not make your handbag space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it in your lovely laptop even mobile phone. This How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents having great arrangement in word as well as layout, so you will not sense uninterested in reading.

Cedric Baker:

As people who live in the actual modest era should be revise about what going on or information even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era that is always change and advance. Some of you maybe may update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice to suit your needs but the problems coming to a person is you don't know what type you should start with. This How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and need in this era.

Mary Hopkins:

As we know that book is significant thing to add our understanding for everything. By a publication we can know everything we would like. A book is a list of written, printed, illustrated or perhaps blank sheet. Every year seemed to be exactly added. This publication How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents was filled about science. Spend your spare time to add your knowledge about your technology competence. Some people has various feel when they reading a new book. If you know how big benefit of a book, you can really feel enjoy to read a reserve. In the modern era like at this point, many ways to get book which you wanted.

Brooke Callender:

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