

Where the Crawdads Sing

By Delia Owens

Not often does a book live up to all its pre-release hype but Delia Owens' novel, *Where the Crawdads Sing* does just that. It is part a nature exploration, a coming of age novel, a novel of prejudice in a small town, a love story, and a possible murder mystery all in one. Wonderfully word crafted with vivid descriptions and emotions, it will give you something to think about long after you finish the last pages.

Delia Owens is an accomplished writer prior to the release of her first novel. She has written three other nonfiction books about living in Africa, one of which is *Cry Of The Kalahari*, which is exceptional also. However; in *Where the Crawdads Sing*, she masterfully combines her love for nature in the wild with her depiction of a young girl's solo survival.

The main character of *Kya Clark* has only known the backwaters of North Carolina. As her family members depart one by one to escape their abusive father, *Kya* is slowly abandoned by those who should have loved and protected her. Finally her own mother and eventually her father all leave her alone in the wild. *Kya*

learns to survive by watching the wildlife of the marsh. To Kya, the swamp offers security and a classroom of her own. She becomes the “Marsh Girl”, forever an outcast and an outsider. Although Kya makes a few human friends she is always guarded, expecting others to leave her as her family had left her.

The beauty of the marsh comes alive in the descriptions, from the beauty of the gulls, the feathers Kya collects to the waves and weather of the marsh, you can almost see and feel what Kya loves. Add all this to a love story and a possible murder, and you have a very enjoyable book that will give you plenty to think about and discuss