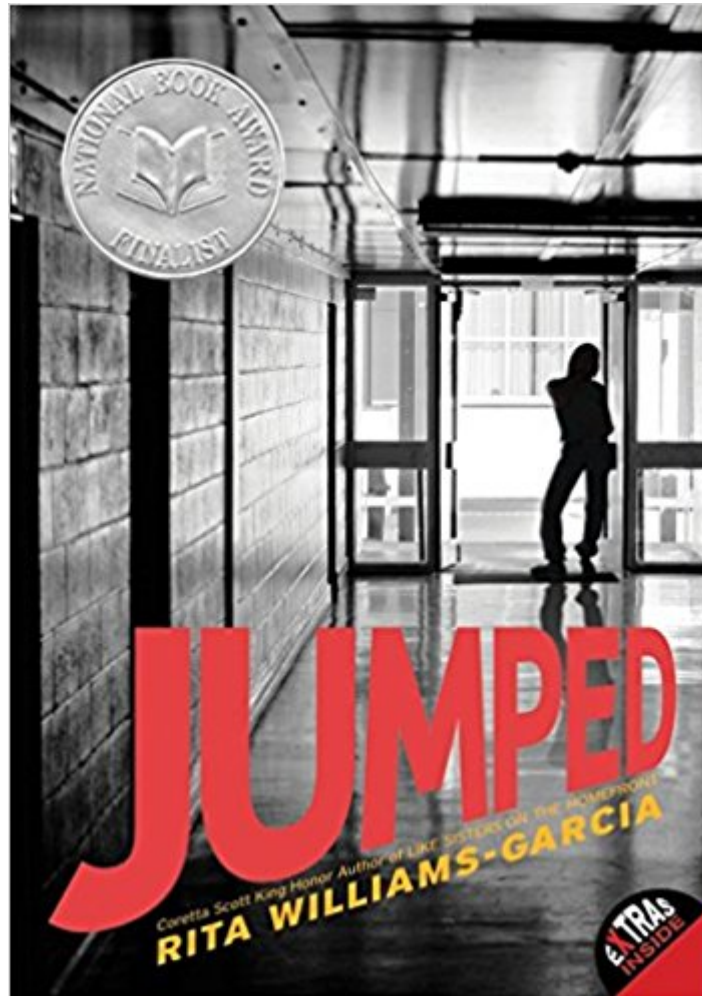




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# Jumped



## Synopsis

Award-winning author Rita Williams-Garcia intertwines the lives of three very different teens in this fast-paced, gritty narrative about choices and the impact that even the most seemingly insignificant ones can have. Weaving in and out of the girls' perspectives, readers will find themselves with three different voices and sides to one story, reminiscent of *Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass* and *How It All Went Down*. Trina: "Hey," I say, though I don't really know them. It's okay if they don't speak. I know how it is. They can't all be Trina. Dominique: Some stupid little flit cuts right between us and is like, "Hey." I slam my fist into my other hand because she's as good as jumped. Leticia: Girl fights are ugly. Girl fights are personal. And who's to say I wasn't seeing it from the wrong angle?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 8 – 10 • All Leticia wants to do is to mind her own business. She's too busy stewing about being assigned to early-morning math tutoring to worry about anyone else's problems. Sure, she's intrigued when she overhears bad-girl basketball player Dominique threaten to beat up bubbly, self-obsessed Trina for bumping her in the hallway – who wouldn't be excited to get the inside scoop on juicy gossip like a girl-on-girl fight after school? But she doesn't feel the need to get involved, even after she realizes that Trina didn't hear Dominique's threats and thus has no idea that she's going to get jumped. Will she follow best friend Bea's advice and warn Trina of the danger she faces, before a potential tragedy can unfold? In alternating chapters

narrated by Leticia, Trina, and Dominique, Williams-Garcia has given her characters strong, individual voices that ring true to teenage speech, and she lets them make their choices without judgment or moralizing. Even the hostile, defensive Dominique is drawn in an evenhanded way that leaves this thought-provoking tale without a clear-cut villain. Teens will relate to Leticia's dilemma even as they may criticize her motives, and the ethical decision she faces will get readers thinking about the larger issues surrounding community, personal responsibility, and the concept of "snitching."

—Meredith Robbins, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis High School, New York City

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--This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

**\*Starred Review\*** Leticia, a gossipy high-school student, knows that “Girl fights are ugly. Girl fights are personal.” She says this after overhearing that Dominique, the tough-as-nails basketball player, is planning to beat up pink-clad fashion-plate Trina at 2:45. The infraction was minor—the oblivious Trina cut off Dominique in the hallway—but for Dominique it was the last of a series of insults, the worst of which was being benched by Coach for failing to improve her grades. Bouncing between the three first-person accounts within the span of a single school day, Williams-Garcia makes the drama feel not only immediate but suffocatingly tense, as each tick of the clock speeds the three girls toward collision. Dominique’s anger and frustration is tangible; Leticia’s hemming over whether or not to get involved feels frighteningly authentic; and only Trina’s relentless snobbery seems a bit simplified. Most impressive is how the use of voice allows readers to fully experience the complicated politics of high school; you can sense the thousand mini-dramas percolating within each crowded classroom. Along the way, the characters’ disregard of such high-school stalwarts as *A Separate Peace* and *Of Mice and Men* subtly prepares the reader for the messy and gut-wrenching conclusion. Grades 9-12. --Daniel Kraus --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Dominique is a rough and tough basketball player. Trina is a pretty-in-pink girl who thinks she's all that. But Trina messes up when she brushes past Dominique, breezing through her personal space when Dominique isn't in a good mood. Dominique is in trouble with her coach over her bad grades and she's trying to intimidate a teacher to pull her grade up a notch. Her solution: take her anger out on Trina after school. Meanwhile, Leticia is a busybody who overhears Dominique's plan to jump Trina. Her friend Bea urges her to tell someone what she knows, that a fight is going to go down. Leticia can either warn clueless Trina—who didn't stick around Dominique to hear the threat--or do

nothing at all. The voice in this novel is amazing. The novel shifts between the three distinctive points of view of these girls. Also, the story takes place in one day, and I eagerly awaited the outcome: what was going to happen after school with these three characters?

WHY, Ms. Williams-Garcia, WHY?!?!?! The book is riveting and nail-biting up until the final act...and then the ending is a HUGE letdown. The character, Leticia, is also a huge letdown--self-absorbed and uncaring, hence her failure to "get involved" (loved the James Brown reoccurring motif in the novel in juxtaposition to Leticia's doing anything BUT). Ultimately, though, you come to care about every single girl who shares her views and what she sees as her place in this world and in this school. But the ending...ugh, the ending is like getting to the last piece of your favorite dessert and having it knocked out of your hand. Those who've read "Jumped" will understand what I mean. Otherwise, I really enjoyed this book; sadly, this plays out in so many schools across the country--girls behaving badly, and no one wants to get involved.

I got a class set for my students and they had a hard time following it. We ended up not finishing it.

The book "Jumped" by Rita Williams-Garcia really hits the nail on the head when it comes to girl violence and the apathetic attitude of those around. All three main characters are totally oblivious to the thoughts and feelings of others, including the girl who ends up being jumped. The ending is so powerful and really shows how this generation feels about each other. As a high school remedial reading teacher, this book is a welcomed addition to my classroom library. It's a quick read, with easy enough vocabulary to appeal to the most reluctant reader.

Excellent book.

A good read, a little gritty.

It was hard to read this because it brought back memories of similar experiences. Guess the author did her job.

the book was designed for my class need. i enjoy reading about teenagers, and this really gave me a better understanding of how their mind is.

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