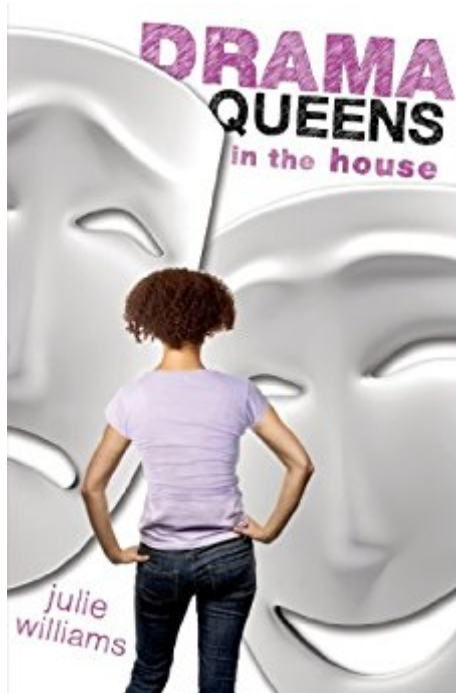




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# Drama Queens In The House



## Synopsis

All of Jessie's world is a stage, and she's determined to become a player, in *Drama Queens in the House* by Julie Williams. Sixteen-year-old Jessie Jasper Lewis doesn't remember a time in her life when she wasn't surrounded by method actors, bright spotlights, and feather boas. Her parents started the Jumble Players Theater together, and theater is the glue that holds her crazy family together. But when she discovers that her father's cheating on her mother with a man, Jessie feels like her world is toppling over. And on top of everything else, she has to deal with a delusional aunt who is predicting the end of the world. Jessie certainly doesn't feel ready to be center stage in the production that is her family. But where does she belong in all of this chaos?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In her latest YA novel, *Drama Queens in the House*, Julie Williams weaves a delightful tapestry of richly diverse and engaging characters in a setting just crazy enough to ring true. Her storytelling brings the reader right into the scene, like one more cast member on stage, fully engaged in the unfolding drama. Part of the pleasure in reading this book is the masterful way Ms. Williams

organically and seamlessly incorporates the tough issues into the story, including race, sexuality, religious fanaticism, coming of age and finding your place in the world. This book is a gem, with compelling narrative that delivers a wide range of emotional experiences. I recommend *Drama Queens* to anyone who longs for a great story reflecting believably diverse characters travelling a colorful and unique path in their world.

The newest YA novel by Julie Williams is the sensitive, amusing, and engaging story of sixteen-year-old Jessie Jasper Lewis; a girl who, along with others in her life, embody the types of diversity that may be reflected in some of our own lives. But believe me, you won't soon forget the remarkable and unique characters that make up the members of Jessie's immediate and extended family. I envy Jessie for having these talented, giving, entertaining, and ultimately loving people in her life. But Jessie is unsure about plans for her future, even before being jolted out of a life she never expected to see change—at least not the way it does. Jessie struggles to figure out who she is and how to make a place for herself as one of the Jumble Players at the theatre owned and operated by her parents. I recommend this book for everyone.

Jessie's journey entails themes so universal that readers can't help but feel Jessie's, anger, fear, disappointment, surprise, and happiness and to root for her even as events appear to plummet Jessie toward some predicted finalities.

Julie Williams' coming-of-age novel, *Drama Queens in the House*, is a timeless story about the power of unconditional love and acceptance. I read it, page-turner-style, straight through and then over again later that week. The characters are completely lovable and fully realized, and the narrator's voice engaging and credible. The author's recreation of the larger-than-life world of the theater from a young adult's point-of-view is captivating, at times heartbreaking, but endearing no matter the situation. Ms. Williams gives us the world of a theatrical family, one that only a writer who knows what it's like to grow up as a performing artist could understand. Her style of writing is painterly, like brushstrokes adding more dimension and color to bring the characters, scenes, and situation to life. This particular book deserves an avalanche of awards and would make a really outstanding movie. I am definitely looking forward to reading more by this author.

I just finished reading *DRAMA QUEENS IN THE HOUSE* by Julie Williams and I just loved it! What a great Christmas gift for a teen who is into theatre. ....or for any teen, for that matter. If they happen to be a drama queen of whatever cloth, all the better. The characters were all so dear to me and

haunt me now that I've finished the book.... And the house is a whole separate and delightful character. Williams' knowledge of the family feelings among theatre folk is so familiar and rings so true...anyone who has been in a company for even a short time will relate to it. I want more. Perhaps there will be a sequel? And maybe a play or a musical version of the book too! There's so much potential! Wish there had been YA books of that quality around when I was young!

This was such a fun book. My book club read it (this is the second young adult novel our adult book club has read) and had the privilege to have Julie Williams attend our book club meeting. It was fun cast of characters and the book does make you chuckle a lot but at the same time deals with some pretty heavy issues--heavy for anyone let alone 15 year old Jessie. Let's face it....life is messy...and can be really messy at times...and sometimes all there is left to do is laugh....

I know the author. Loved it

Got it for my 15 year old granddaughter who has to live drama 24/7 in high school- she liked it and so did her mom- sitting on my shelf (with 100 other books) waiting for me to read it next!

In *Drama Queens in the House*, Julie Williams does a wonderful job telling the story of Jesse, a young girl who is struggling to find herself in the midst of her family -- a mixed-up group of characters -- and all of their drama. With the backdrop of the theater, Jesse is faced with dealing with her parents separating, her dad coming to terms with being gay, the prediction of the end of the world and so much more -- all while figuring out where she fits in. Drama is an understatement! One thing I love about this story is the multidimensional and diversity of the characters and relationships. It shows how complex humans are -- how life isn't black or white or straight or gay or bisexual even. And with all of their differences, they are still one big happy loving family! We need more books like this that represent non-traditional families. I laughed so much while reading this book. And I found myself so impressed with Jesse and how she dealt - and sometimes didn't deal with - life around her. I think Williams created a young character that we will read about again. Jesse grows so much in this book and I found myself at the end wanting to see what she does next. This story is a must read for any young person (and older) who is trying to find their voice -- whether they're the youngest sibling in a big family or in the middle of their parents' divorce or not sure what they want to do when they graduate from high

school.

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