



# Claiming Georgia Tate

*Gigi Amateau*

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## Claiming Georgia Tate Gigi Amateau

Twelve-year-old Georgia Tate wishes she could stay home in Mississippi forever with her preacher granddaddy and her best friend Ginger. After losing her nana to a heart attack, she desperately wishes she could tell her granddaddy why she can't possibly move in with Daddy — about the things he does that make her feel so ashamed.

## Claiming Georgia Tate Details

Date : Published April 10th 2007 by Candlewick Press (first published May 24th 2005)

ISBN : 9780763633110

Author : Gigi Amateau

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# From Reader Review Claiming Georgia Tate for online ebook

## Casle says

April 6, 2008

#27 Claiming Georgia Tate by Gigi Amateau

This is a fantastic book. Now I have to decide if it's okay to get for our library. Middle schoolers are on the edge, and edgy books are what they want. It's so hard to draw a line.

Georgia Tate has to go visit her daddy, then, after Nana dies, she has to go live with him in Jacksonville, Florida. Daddy is pure bad, touching GT, making her wear his girlfriend's hoochymama outfits. Taking her to bars all night then making her drive home because he's too drunk. Finally he rapes her. I wanted her to ask for help before that happened. She did, after.

Gigi writes wonderful, bizarre characters. She makes havens out of an elegant cross dresser and a man just out of prison. They save GT. The end was sweet and perfect. I'll give it to Renee, Jana, then Stefani. I think that the edgy, very edgy, parts are vital to a worthwhile story that some students will really want to read. If others agree we should get this book.

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## Lorraine Tabayoyong says

Bought this from BOOKSALE for only 45pesos!

This is a story about a 12-year-old girl who lives with her grandparents. Georgia Tate, with a strict christian way of life because of her Granddaddy Tate who's a preacher, begins a chapter of her life where she discovers the cruelty of this world.

She soon finds out the truth behind her mother's tragedy and before she, Nana and Granddaddy Tate can talk about it, Nana dies.

Granddaddy Tate decides to send Georgia to live with her father. What he doesn't know is why it's a wrong move for Georgia and the real reason why Nana let her go home so quickly the last time she was with him.

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Disturbing and inspiring, this novel is definitely one of the few brave stories out there. I love the innocence of Georgia in every narration. I love her spirit and faith to God. It's not so often anymore that I see girls as pure-hearted as she is in real life. How the world has changed!

Claiming Georgia Tate tried to touch every sensitive subject as it can and it did so, very effortlessly.

There's gender and race equality, gay rights, religion and last but not the least, liberation. Georgia's best friend Ginger, that very naughty girl is the symbolism of liberation here. Though two girls are the very opposite of each other, they still get along and Georgia even admires her.

It's a proof that, you have to be all kinds of things to experience what it really is to be human. To gain the substance of living you have to have a God, a cause or belief, understanding and also the natural manner of self-growth from everything you have become.

Gigi Amateau's first novel delivered well.

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## **Rose says**

Sobering. That's the best word I can think of to describe this book. It's written in the language of a 12 year old country girl from a small southern town. Much of her language and her experience felt familiar, similar to my own childhood. Although there was some incest in the story, it was told in a sensitive manner and not over dramatized or made the main focus of the story.

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## **Eliciah Kury says**

### **1. Author's Background**

Gigi Amateau wrote this novel, because she needed a way to express herself. Georgia Tate's character is based off of Gigi. Each of the characters go through some of the same obstacles.

### **2. Literary Time Period**

This novel was written in modern times. This book became popular in this time period because people enjoy real-life stories.

### **3. Setting**

This novel takes place in Mississippi, where the ponds are full of fish and the weather is always enjoyable.

### **4. Characters**

Georgia Tate: The main character in this novel. Georgia is twelve years old and very mature for her age. She is a child who has been through so much and is determined to get back to her granddaddy at any cost.

Granddaddy: Georgia Tate's grandfather has raised her from infancy. He has always been there for her and has her best interest at heart.

Nana: Georgia Tate's grandmother has raised her from infancy. She has taught Georgia how to be a lady, to trust in God, and to always be respectful.

Rayford Jamison: Georgia Tate's father that has never cared for her and hurt her since she was young. He is responsible for all the shame and doubt that Georgia feels.

### **5. Theme**

The theme of this novel is to never give up, even when you are living your worst nightmares you must get up and fight back.

### **6. Plot Summary**

Georgia Tate is a Godly, intelligent, mature, strong, and beautiful twelve year old girl that wants nothing more in life than to live with her granddaddy in Mississippi. Unfortunately, when Georgia's grandmother dies her granddaddy feels that it is necessary for her to move in with her father. When Georgia moves in with her father he begins sexually abusing her, making her feel worthless. When she meets her neighbor, Tamika, Georgia's life changes forever. Tamika keeps her safe and reconnects her with her granddaddy.

### **7. Literary Devices**

Symbolism is one of the literary device in the novel. An example of symbolism would be Tamika, because she symbolizes hope for Georgia and for the reader that Georgia will return home.

Another literary device used in the novel is irony, the author uses irony when Georgia's Dad judges others for doing drugs, drinking, etc. when he is a drug addict and alcoholic.

#### 8. Memorable Quotes

"I kiss him again and whisper directly into his ear, 'I love you.' Outside the rain keeps falling. It is a good rain." Page 196

This is Georgia speaking about how she felt when she realized that her granddaddy was going to live. She was so happy.

"'Joy doesn't last as long as terror, does it?'" Page 173

This is Georgia speaking to a man on the bus about how being happy doesn't seem to last as long as terror.

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#### **kimberly says**

"life is two things. it's terror and it's joy." I am glad I read this book during lent. i think claiming georgia tate is about claiming the joy in your life. georgia constantly faces terror, but she has a loving family with joyful moments. i loved the conversations about religion and exploration of race and gender.

still, a terrifically sad book. i feel in some ways it was too short, because it felt like bad event happening after bad event. there is nothing in between these terrible moments except some flashback memories.

i'm confused because at the reading in key west, gigi made a big point about changing one of the pivotal scenes so that georgia loudly says no. i reread that passage several times, and didn't get a sense of that.

#### **Quotes**

"Were you scared about losing your church?" I asked.

"Georgia Tate, what does Jesus say about losing the things of this world?"

"Well, I think he said something like you have to lose your life to get your life."

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#### **yasmine says**

damn. chilling to the bone.

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#### **Rene says**

Very, very good story. Georgia lives in alabama with her grandma and grandfather. Nana dies and Georgia is sent to live with the father that sexually abuses her. She finds some friends and eventually ends up back with grandpa.

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#### **Megan says**

This is one of those books that you eat in one sitting. Georgia Tate is a character that will stay in my mind

forever. The writing is profound and difficult topics are handled in an extremely tender way. You will want to meet the people in this book, and claim Georgia Tate as your own.

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### **Amina says**

Absolutely eye opening.

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### **Leila says**

When Georgia Tate's grandmother dies she is sent to live with the father that she has never really met. During her stay Georgia Tate is sexually abused by her father. This story follows the Georgia Tate's journey as she learns about her mother who died soon after she was born, the new friendships she makes and the old ones she solidifies, and how to live in the joyous moments.

I was really excited when I picked up this book. However my expectations were far too high for reality. I felt as if this book had no one point. It skipped around so many topics that I often found myself confused with what information was necessary. It had a good start but it was lacking the "good-book" factor that I have in my head.

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### **Alee says**

Gigi Amateau's debut novel, Claiming Georgia Tate, is a story of survival.

Georgia is a young girl with a hard life. She has lived with her grandparents for as long as she can remember, and loves them dearly. When her grandmother dies unexpectedly, Georgia is sent to live with her abusive father. She faces many struggles and has to grow up quickly. Using her quick wit and trusting instincts, she is able to get out of a dangerous situation. Although Georgia is deeply hurt, she learns to draw out the joys in life so they count for more than the struggles. In doing so, she discovers that although life can be hard, faith and hope are always available within herself as sources of strength and renewal.

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### **Katrina Ly says**

wow, this is one of the most powerful and moving stories i have ever red.

to those who don't know, this is a story about a girl named georgia tate who lives happily and innocently with her grandma and granddad. they love her fiercely and she loves them right back just as fiercely. then one day, her grandma dies suddenly, she learns a truth about her mama that everyone else knew except her and she's sent to live with her dad and nothing is ever the same. her dad lives with his wife but he is abusive. he thinks she's not skinny enough, he makes her wear trashy clothes and looks at her the way a dad should never look at his daughter. this is a tale of georgia tate's fight for happiness and how much she can teach us about everything including importance of living while you can and the importance of friendship and letting people in. she's just one of those people that you can't help but admire, who always believe in the good of other people and make you feel good with the kindness and compassion that they always show even if

everyone else looks down upon her for doing it.

like i said before, this is one of the most moving stories i have ever red. it was so sad how everything seemed to go bad for georgia but it was so amazing how she clung to hope when every other normal person would have given up.

its an amazing story people. you'll be sorry you didn't read it. subconsciously.

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### **Tracy says**

I read this book in one afternoon, and it will stick with me for some time. Some unimaginably horrible things...and yet the hope always rises to the top.

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### **Ariel Uppstrom says**

I just randomly picked this book up at the library because it sounded interesting and it didn't disappoint. It was an incredibly fast read. In the beginning, it seemed as if the behavior and thoughts of Georgia were far to young for her age, which distracted me as a reader. However, the fact that right away the reader is shown the disgusting behaviors of her father and his twisted role in her life helps adjust the reader's attention to other concerns. Once Georgia's friend Ginger revealed the truth about Georgia's mom, the story took an interesting twist. I kept waiting to see her mother pop into the story and resolve that portion of the story, but it never happened. Instead, Georgia's life gets worse and worse. Her grandmother dies after they fight, and she has to go live with her sexually abusive father. It shocked me with how quickly her life fell into ruin and she still clung to some sort of innocence. My favorite part was the fact that the drag queen upstairs is the one who steps in and saves Georgia by keeping her at her apartment. The fact that each person who assists Georgia is from a minority group with whom Georgia had little contact with prior to her life falling apart is really interesting. She learns a lot about herself and those who are willing to help her. However, in the end, it ends very sadly and without a resolution. The reader has no idea what will happen to Georgia which is frustrating, but understandable. Overall, a very emotional book.

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### **Cynthia says**

I randomly picked this book up when I was in the library a few weeks back. I'm a sucker for "nice" covers and this one seemed fairly striking and haunting. I also liked the quote on the cover "An ode to the solace of family, the mercy of strangers, and the healing power of hope." I knew nothing about it and never even read the back cover, or saw that Judy Blume had a quote on it.

While billed as YA, this book contains very strong language and very powerful and grown-up themes having to do with incest and molestation. It was completely not what I expected. It also contains a number of very mature themes about life, religion, spirituality and has such a beautiful message. There were times when I wondered, can a 12 year old really think these things, but then I decided yes, I think she can. And yes, I wouldn't really even question that if she was just a year or two older. The message was so compelling though, it didn't really matter.

I loved the way Ms. Amateau embedded these adult themes in 12 year old language and made it accessible. I really want to sit down and read it again more slowly now and pay more attention to some of this message that I know I didn't listen to as closely the first read through (being distracted by the powerful story itself).

It is a graceful, beautiful and compelling story. Hard. Super, super hard. But just stunning and ultimately left me crying at the end, breathless and feeling sad. Simultaneously though, she left me feeling connected to and trying to see all the good in the world. Ms. Amateau managed to tell a difficult story but leave her readers uplifted and feeling joy in the end. Wow.

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