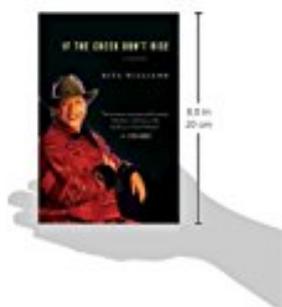


# [PDF] If The Creek Don't Rise

Rita Williams - pdf download free book

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**Books Details:**

Title: If the Creek Don't Rise  
Author: Rita Williams  
Released: 2007-05-07  
Language:  
Pages: 336  
ISBN: 0156032856  
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**Description:**

**From Publishers Weekly Starred Review.** Shortly after Williams's father ran off with another woman, carbon monoxide killed her mother in a Denver rooming house. Williams, born in the early 1950s, was only four, so her Aunt Daisy took her in. Many readers have a Daisy in the family. She reminds you to "urinate or move your bowels" before leaving home, and freely discusses buying Kotex or other intimate matters, pretending she can't imagine why you're so sensitive. Beyond her eccentricities, Daisy's attitudes on race matters are complex and often troubling; she doesn't hesitate to call her niece the N word—in scorn, not humor. Born into a Tennessee sharecropping family in the early 1900s, Daisy left Klan territory by marrying a 79-year-old Civil War veteran, who

took his young bride to his western Nebraska ranch. Soon more of Daisy's family went West, but financial difficulties reduced them all to subsistence lifestyles. Still, when Daisy was raising Williams, she'd barter her own labor, washing floors for school tuition, so her niece could "Do something, goddamn it. Be somebody." And she has—Williams, who published a portion of this book in *O Magazine*, is a gifted storyteller, and her tales of Daisy are unforgettable. Photos. (May) Look for PW's upcoming q&a with Rita Williams.—Ed.

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**From School Library Journal** Adult/High School—When Williams was four years old, her mother died and she was sent to live with her Aunt Daisy, the last surviving widow of a Civil War soldier. This memoir focuses on turbulence of Williams's turbulent relationship with her aunt during the 1960s and '70s. The Daisy with whom she grew up was a manipulative, embittered woman who could never be comfortable with the white people around her. The disappointments of her own life led her to push Williams to succeed and yet begrudge those successes. The author is a gifted storyteller, and the pictures she paints of the Colorado of her youth are compelling. High school students will be fascinated by the glimpses into Perry Mansfield, the renowned summer art camp created by Charlotte Perry and Portia Mansfield. Williams spent several summers there, first as a maid with her aunt and later participating in classes. Her association with these two dynamic women helped shape a lifelong love of the performing arts and gave her a sense of her own identity that her aunt's attempts at control could not destroy.—*Kim Dare, Fairfax County Public Schools, VA*

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