

**THE POSITIVE INFLUENCE OF THE ENVIRONMENT
TOWARDS THE MAIN CHARACTER IN *WHERE THE
CRAWDADS SING* BY DELIA OWENS**

THESIS



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problems. The writers hope that people could open their eyes to what truly happens in society and nature through literature.

Literature is not only a written work as a place for the writer to tell a story but also as a way to convey messages to society. Usually, the writers will elaborate the writing based on what happened at a particular time or place. Long (2015, p. 11) states that all literature's essential qualities are artistic quality. The part as art expresses the truth and beauty reflected from the world. Where behind every literary work, there is a person, behind a person there is a race, and behind the race, there is a society and environment that unconsciously shaped a human being. Thus, there is a theory called ecocriticism that explores the relationship between humans and nature in the literature.

Ecocriticism theory is one of the theories used to examine literary works that raised the setting and the topics about the environment. In this twenty-first century, people have become more aware of environmental issues due to global warming, pollution, climate change, and much more natural damage that makes ecocriticism popular in literature. According to NOAA (cited in Gao & Hite, 2008, p. 341), 80% of ocean pollutions derives from human behavior on land. Numerous unfortunate events about environmental damage lead writers interested in writing a literary work that the setting or topic contains a lot about the environment. Therefore, the ecocriticism theory is suitable to analyze the novel entitled *Where the crawdads sing* by Delia Owens.

Where the crawdads sing is a coming of age novel by Delia Owens, an American author, and zoologist, *where the crawdads sing* debut novel Delia Owens was published in 2018. It has topped the *New York Times* fiction bestsellers of 2019 and 2020. The book tells about Catherine Danielle Clark or Kya as the main character known as the “marsh girl” by locals. She lived alone in the marsh after her parents, brothers, and sisters left her when she was seven. At the age of seven, the whole new chapter of Kya’s life begins. The struggles she achieves in the marsh alone until the marsh itself becomes family and home. The background of the novel takes the setting of time in the 1960s and is mainly focuses on nature that shapes the personality of Kya.

The researcher is interested in conducting a study related to the milieu where Kya grew up. The researcher believes that the environment plays a significant role in building a human’s character positively. *Where the crawdads sing* novel is one of the novels that show how impactful our environment is in shaping human personality. It shows in Kya’s character where throughout her life rely on the environment where she lived that is marsh. The bond that Kya has with nature leaves a deep impression on the researcher. Thus, the researcher chooses *Where crawdads sing* novel by Delia Owens and examine Kya’s environment.

Many researchers have used ecocriticism theory as the leading theory to conduct the study. Azizah (2017) study used the descriptive qualitative method, the concept of ecocriticism theory by Gregg Garrard as the leading theory, and Basu’s perspective on dystopian literature, where the researcher aims to describe the representation of nature and the interaction between both main characters in

the dystopian novel *Under the Never Sky*. Emas (2017) used the ecocriticism theory by Cheryl Glotfelty. The main focus of her study is about the vandalism and exploitation of nature illustrated in *The man who planted trees* and how the Ecocentric concept views human efforts to sustain the stability of the ecosystem.

Bachtiar (2019) used ecocriticism theory by Gregg Garrard as the leading theory and Deep Ecology by Arne Naess as the perspective to examine how the environment in *The hobbit* illustrates and how the relationship between human and nature to sustain the stability of an ecosystem. Sungkono (2015) used three concepts of ecocriticism theory by Gregg Garrard: Wilderness, animals, and apocalypse to examine three problems: the setting of nature and animals in *The Chronicles of Narnia: The last battle*, the natural disaster, and the ideological position of the author.

Although numerous studies used ecocriticism theory by some prominent figures in ecocriticism theory like Gregg Garrard and Cheryl Glotfelty, the studies mainly concerned the impact that nature gets from the relationship between humans and the environment. Such as negative impacts like natural disasters or the success of sustaining the stability of habitat by the human effort. As far as the researcher knows, none has been done by examining the positive impact that the human will get by blending in with nature, how the excellent milieu would influence someone's characteristics in a positive way. Thus, this study examines how the setting portrayed in *Where the wild things go* will influence the main character's Kya as she grows up in the marsh.

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From the previous studies above, the researcher found some similarities and differences with this study. For the similarities, the researcher found the theory that mainly used ecocriticism theory by some prominent figures in ecocriticism theory, like Cheryl Glotfelty and Greg Garrard. Most of the studies focus on the impact of nature on the relationship between humans and the environment. Such are either negative impacts that humans will get by humans, such as natural disasters or sustaining habitat stability by human effort. For the difference, none has done by examining the positive impact that the human will get by blending in with nature, how the incredible milieu would influence someone characteristics in a positive way. Thus, this study examines how the setting portrayed in *Where the Crawdads Sing* will influence the main character's Kya as she grows up in the marsh.

p. 108). The extreme wind and furious waves also made the marsh rarely inhabited by humans (Owens, 2018, P. 7). For some part in the novel, it also showed the piedmont area to visit Asheville, the new side of North Carolina, much different from the coastal zone which is surrounded by mountains (Owens, 2018, P. 220). Despite a fictional town built by the author, mostly the conditions as the same as the actual North Carolina coast. Thus, the further discussion will focus on the setting portrayed in the main character Kya spent her life in the book *Where the crawdads sing*.

3.1.1 The portrayed landscape

Topography may describe as the graphical representation of the earth's surface that refers to contour, shape, and relief (Survey of India, 2009, p.1). It means that the earth's surface has various landforms such as a mountain, coastal, cliff, and many others. This time, the researchers will analyze the topography of Kya's surrounding environment where she lives, as depicted in *Where the crawdads sing*.

3.1.1.1 Reverse charm of marsh

As soon as in the chapter prologue, a sentence showed the primary setting and time of the story. The place where Kya spent her entire life, starting from a kid till becoming an elder and passed away. "1969, Marsh is not a swamp. Marsh is a space of light, where grass grows in water, and water flows into the sky." (Owens, 2018, p.4). According to the quotation, there is a difference between the

marsh and the swamp. Swamps are predominantly forested; meanwhile, marshes are home to grasses and reeds and not as deep as swamps. The quotation describes the marsh as an open-bright wetland rather than a swamp area.

Followed by the previous source, regarding the situation of the marsh as describes in the quotation “Slow-moving creeks wander, carrying the orb of the sun with them to the sea, and long-legged birds lift with unexpected grace, as though not built to fly, against the roar of a thousand snow geese.” (Owens, 2018, p.4). The author describes the panoramic landscape of the daily life of the marsh, which shows the flow of the creeks slowly moving to explore the marsh with the reflected sun rays with it. Moreover, some birds appear like long-legged birds and snow geese which gives the characteristic of wetlands.

In the marsh, Kya’s family owned a house that she called a “shack.” The condition inside is different from other people’s more liveable homes. The family of seven, Kya, Pa, Ma, Kya’s two brothers and sisters, must live crammed in a house, as explained in the quotation below.

“Kya was the youngest of five, the others much older, though later she couldn’t recall their ages. They lived with Ma and Pa, squeezed together like penned rabbits, in the rough-cut shack, its screened porch staring big-eyed from under the oaks.” (Owens, 2018, p.6).

The quotation shows that Kya’s house in the marsh is uninhabitable for the family of seven members. The small place made of the rough-cut shack piled into one shaped like home with the screened porch outside under the oaks. Where actually, Kya’s house is only a fishing retreat place of Kya’s grandfather when he

Even though it is marshy, but it turns out to be the place to escape for castaways. They decided to turn the marshes into their safest places to live. Besides the low cost of living, the remote and far from civilization, there are also no laws of specific boundaries of an area in the marsh. It makes it easier for the castaways to determine which zone they live in, plus there is no tax at that time.

“Two hundred years later, they were joined by runaway slaves, who escaped into the marsh and were called maroons, and freed slaves, penniless and beleaguered, who dispersed into the water-land because of scant options. Maybe it was mean country, but not an inch was lean. Layers of life—squiggly sand crabs, mud-waddling crayfish, waterfowl, fish, shrimp, oysters, fatted deer, and plump geese—were piled on the land or in the water.” (Owens, 2018, p.8)

Followed by two hundred years later, runaway slaves and freed slaves runaway to the marsh and joined with castaways who already occupy the land because they have no choice. And they all called maroon. Despite being a mean place for living, the people still live with the prosperity of natural resources and the sea. Due to many natural resources that available there, swamp dwellers could survive in such a rough situation.

In conclusion, the marsh is known as a strange place for living, based on marshy soil conditions and uncivilized. Most people would live near the marshes, not the exact marsh; then they would be fisher or shrimper as a livelihood. Moreover, only at certain times will people go to the marsh to do some fishing or other water-related stuff. Furthermore, the marsh's situation and conditions are pretty extreme, making people think twice about settling there. Besides, Kya, who by fate willingly lives in the marsh, has thousands of natural resources.

After a few days, Kya tries to fit in Ma's dress, and she drove her boat to Point beach, which is located several miles south away from Mr. Jumpin's bait and gas. At the Point, Each with white sand, Kya discovers new kinds of shells and rare ones there which she could not find on another beach; because of time, waves, winds cause the beach to have many types of shells that can find there.

“No other boats were in sight as she steered toward an inlet south of Point Beach, where she had once seen unusual butterflies—so powerfully white they might have been albino. (Owens, 2018, p. 163), When Kya motored her boat towards the inlet in the south of Point Beach, there was so quiet, and there were no boats besides Kya herself. At inlets, Kya saw brand new butterflies that she has ever seen. The butterflies were intensely white that almost like an albino for Kya. Another unique thing that Kya found on the beach beside the shells. There is a time when Kya sat on Point Beach while stared at the sand crabs who plays along and drench themselves in the sea waves, that seems so fun to see, “...Kya sat on Point Beach, watching sand crabs bury themselves backward into the swash...” (Owens, 2018, p. 149)

When Kya was enjoying her time staring at the sand crabs, Kya suddenly heard sounds from the south. Right away, Kya stood still, ready for moving if somebody approached her location, “Suddenly, from the south, she heard voices and jumped to her feet.” (Owens, 2018 p. 149). It turns out the sounds that Kya was heard came from the group of young adults around Kya's age, which sometimes Kya would saw them over the years walked towards Point Beach to play among themselves, such as football, run, or play with the waves, “The group

obliged—eventually into town. But today she walked on, unsteady in the ruts.” (Owens, 2018, p.6)

In Kya’s point of view, her Ma always looked back and waving hand at her when leaving her shack. Nevertheless, that day was not like usual. Her Ma keeps walking onto the track, leading her to get through to the bog forest, cattail lagoons, and into the town with unsteady steps; in conclusion, Ma showed a different way of leaving the house.

Followed by the next few weeks after Ma left, Kya’s brothers and sisters starting to leave the house to follow along with their Ma’s decision, as explained in the quotation below.

“1952, After Ma left, over the next few weeks, Kya’s oldest brother and two sisters drifted away too, as if by example. They had endured Pa’s red-faced rages, which started as shouts, then escalated into fist-slugs, or backhanded punches, until one by one, they disappeared.” (Owens, 2018, p. 12)

Kya’s older brother and two sisters decided to leave the shack. They are too tired to endured Pa’s bad-tempered. Pa often used physical violence until Kya’s relatives decided to leave the house one by one. That is one of the reasons Ma also leaves the house, because of Pa’s temperament. However, such an unfortunate event for Kya. Not only because she was left alone, but unlike her sisters and brothers that were old and brave enough to choose their paths, Kya as a young girl, innocently stay home with the hopes that one day her Ma would go back home again.

With a start over her life alone after everybody left and Pa rarely at home, Kya begins to do some simple cooks that she can and do the house stuff like cleaning the house and do some laundry. For about three days, Pa did not come back home. Eventually, requires Kya to cook her food. Kya decided to cook turnip greens from Ma's garden for the whole day because she had no money. An instinct of humans for able to survive alone in a rural area, "FOR THREE DAYS Pa didn't come, and Kya boiled turnip greens from Ma's garden for breakfast, lunch, and dinner." (Owens, 2018, p. 15).

When Pa got home, he gave Kya some dollars and money for the house stuff to buy, "...Pa pointed to a crumpled dollar and loose coins on the kitchen table." (Owens, 2018, p. 16). Pa told Kya that there is no handout in this world. Kya needs money to get the food for the week. Pa said to get paid; Kya must be doing something. What is meant by Pa is Kya must doing the housekeeping like collecting the stove and laundry so that Pa could give her money or on the other hand's life expense, "Ever'thang cost sump'm, and fer the money ya gotta keep the house up...warsh the laundree." (Owens, 2018, p. 16).

As Kya got the money from Pa, whether she wants it or not, Kya must go to the Barkley Cove, the only place she knows that sells complete daily necessities. Unfortunately, the distance is six kilometers away from Kya's house to Barkley Cove.

"For the first time ever, Kya walked alone toward the village of Barkley Cove to buy groceries—*this little piggy went to market*. She plodded through deep sand or black mud for four miles until the bay glistened ahead, the hamlet on its shore." (Owens, 2018. p. 16).

novel takes in 1952, there are still differences in treatment between black and white people, including education, where the school is differentiated based on skin color. Even they have the town that only refers to people of colored under the name “Colored Town”. It did not stop from that; Kya also experiences an unfortunate event when girls at school mocking her as white trash only because she is poor and live in the marsh, “...called out, “Where ya been, marsh hen? Where’s yo’ hat, swamp rat?””(Owens, 2018, p. 30). Because of that, bullies make Kya never went back anymore to school. “Kya never went back to school a day in her life.” (Owens, 2018, p.31). Instead, she decided to stay in the marsh and do the stuff she likes.

Kya is starting to enjoy her life in the marsh and only comes to the town when she runs out of house supplies. For the first time, secretly, she tries to drive Pa’s boat alone without his permission, she even made sure the gas, so Pa will not realize that she used his boat for a while “...“Gotta check the gas like Jodie said, so Pa won’t figure I took it.” “ (Owens, 2018, p.41). Kya has a hobby to collect feathers and shells every time she goes out in the marsh. “Out in the marsh, she could collect feathers and shells..” (Owens, 2018, p.51). Because Kya limited herself in socializing with people, she spent most of her time talking to the gulls “More and more Kya didn’t talk to anybody but the gulls.” (Owens, 2018, p.51).

Kya only interacts with Pa before he left, Mr. Jumpin’and Mrs. Mabel, the owner of Jumpin’ gas and bait, and Tate, who helped Kya when she lost “You lost?” (Owens, 2018, p. 44) and the one who taught her reading and writing “You know, I could teach you to read.” (Owens, 2018, p.99). Moreover, the rest of her

In conclusion, with the difference between the life of Kya and ordinary villagers emerged some undesirable behavior towards Kya where she gets bullied because she lives in the marsh. Some gap between races is visible among the society, where there is a significant difference between white and people of color in every aspect, shopping, house, and school, leading to racism. The economic factor also leads to inequality in society, making Kya feel safe in her marsh and avoiding the town.

3.1.2.2 Other creatures life

Because of the setting portrayed in wetlands where rarely people live in marshes, many common and rare creatures are found in the story *Where the crawdads sing* that inhabit in the marsh area. From insects, reptiles, mammals, birds, various plants, and flowers. Among those animals, Kya often spent her time feeding the gulls until the point she could not live without them. “.....“No, I cain’t leave the gulls, the heron, the shack. The marsh is all the family I got.”” (Owens, 2018, p.75); the quotation shows how affectionate Kya is with the gulls. She thinks that she cannot leave her house, especially the gulls and the heron, when she struggles with money. Because Kya considers the marsh and everything in it as her family, she cannot leave the animals starving and alone because she already felt it. Moreover, the gulls already become Kya comfort zone when nobody but the gulls who celebrates her birthday, “.....One large gull settled onto the sand near Kya. “It’s my birthday,” she told the bird.” (Owens, 2018, p.21).

However, the female firefly used a different flickered pattern, a different signal, till other men species of firefly flew to her. That other men species was believed and deceived by the female firefly who changed her codes, that man's firefly was sure that he would be got his fellow firefly species and would be mated later. It turns out the female firefly who changed her codes grabbed the other man's species firefly with her mouth and ate him; she is continuedly chewing all the man firefly legs and both wings.

From the false signals of the fireflies, Kya learns and refers to her love journey with Tate and Chase, who deceived her, which made her distrust love again and broke their relationship. Lesson for Kya to be more cautious in trusting people, moreover to the one who has lured her with some false promises and dreams. "...I'll come home in about a month, I promise. For the Fourth of July. I'll be back before you know it." (Owens, 2018, p.137) It was one of Tate's big mistakes when he lied to Kya to wait for him back on July 4th. Meanwhile, Chase's fault gives false hope and promise to marry Kya, where the truth is he married another girl who is a Barkley Cove's town girl, "...we'll have a nice house when we get married..." (Owens, 2018, p. 189).

In conclusion, all the creatures that Kya has been meeting or passing by in her environment giving new knowledge and lesson of life that outsiders cannot learn anywhere. The only understanding of life that a human being can grasp is by witnessing directly in the marsh by knowing the meaning of friendship with the

As we can see, Kya had a hard time handling the boat alone. After starting the boat engine, Kya already grabbed the tiller, but she pushed the throttler too hard, making the boat go so fast and turned sharply. Then, Kya decides to let go of her hands from the throttle, let the boat's speed eased by itself. Slowly the boat back to the average rate. As she remembers what Jodie told her, Kya did the exact way when she is in trouble to steer the boat.

At the beginning of her tour, Kya has no problem with the lagoon entrance, were a bit complicated with the eight kilometers of vast thickets and low-hanging limbs of trees. When Kya decides to steer toward the entrance of the lagoon, she faced complicated waterways. Quickly, she bowed head beneath the low-hanging tree's limb of a big tree, "Ducking beneath the low-hanging limbs of giant trees, she churned slowly through thicket for more than a hundred yards, as easy turtles slid from water-logs." (Owens, 2018, p. 42). Kya slowly passes through the bush with her Pa's boat for more than a hundred yards. It seems like she wants to avoid the bushes from getting stuck in the boat's engine, which can be troublesome later.

As soon as Kya entered the dark lagoon, she is facing another obstacle where as far as she can see, the waterways have surrounded by the oaks. It makes the atmosphere dark because the oaks tree blocked the sunlight, "She entered a place with dark lagoons in a throat of oaks...." (Owens, 2018, p.42). Because it is dark and intricate, Repeatedly Kya found dead ends and required her to turn around find another way, "Several times she came upon dead ends, had to backtrack to take another turn." (Owens, 2018, p. 42).

As time goes by, when Pa is no longer with Kya, at eleven years old, all experience she gets from Pa when going out fishing has been embedded in her head. Even now, she brave enough motored her boat at dawn during the dense fog surrounded her way to Jumpin bait and gas, “The slow sun pulled from the sea as she motored through dense fog up to Jumpin’s Gas and Bait.” (Owens, 2018, p. 75). It will be tricky for ordinary people who do not go around the marsh often enough. Considering how complicated the waterways are and rattletrap the old boat is, “Gray grunge, frayed fishing tackle, and half-crushed beer cans covered the boat floor.” (Owens, 2018, p. 41). It shows Kya increasing boat riding skills.

Freely with her boat, Kya strolling around every area in the marsh, lagoon, estuary, and the beach, collecting every single feather and shell that she craved, “After securing her boat at the southern end, she strolled north, searching.” (Owens, 2018, p. 79). She also often visits Mr. Jumpin’ bait and gas either refuel her boat, shopping home supplies, or sell mussels and smoked fish. One day when she sees Mr. Jumpin’ check if there is money she gets from selling the smoked fish, expertly Kya parked her boat to the dock with safe, ““G’ornin’,” she called quietly, drifting expertly up to the dock.” (Owens, 2018,p. 83). As well as parking the car, dock the boat is not as easy as people think. We need to understand the track and numerous trials until becoming an expert, especially at eleven.

At her lowest, Kya challenge at once endangered herself steered her boat to deeper currents. At that moment, she felt betrayed not once but twice by men who made her filled with anger and disappointment. To get rid of the pain, she

chooses a risky way by crashing into ocean currents which “...some of them stirred by the Gulf Stream...” (Owens, 2018, p.210). Where is the largest and the fastest water currents on earth that “... gushes four billion cubic feet of water every second...” (Owens, 2018, p. 210). Fortunately, thanks to her knowledge and skill, she managed to survive.

“She was pulled into a furious rip, which carried her a quarter faster. Turning out of it seemed too risky, so she fought to steer with the current, watching for sandbars, which formed ever-shifting barriers beneath the surface. One glancing touch could flip her.” (Owens, 2018, p. 211)

Kya’s risked akes her pulled into a violent rip that carried her boat a quarter faster. Because it is too risky, Kya decided to boat her boat following the currents while looking over for the sandbars, which would harm her boat if it collided with the shoals. As expected, her experience and skill with the boat save her life from the strong waves that hit her.

In conclusion, Kya started her journey riding a boat since Jodie, her brother still there. Before Jodie left, he took Kya out together by boat and sometimes let her ride the boat. However, when Jodie left, Kya didn’t have much opportunity and courage to borrow the boat from Pa. Starting secretly using the boat without Pa knowing, she drives along the waterways to get lost. She could hardly go home did not give up her attention to learn to ride a boat and knowing the marsh better. As time goes by, Kya succeeds in mastering the boat at eleven and even does some tricky act that almost drowns her if she has not mastered the boat well.

Kya saw a thin black feather approximately five or six inches long lodged in the stump. For most people, it will look ordinary, Just like other wings looks like a crow's wing feathers. However, the feathers are exquisite, and she knew that it was not the regular feathers. The "eyebrow" part of a great blue heron gracefully bows above the eye and sticks out beyond an elegant head. For Kya, a great blue heron feather is one of the treasures in the coastal marsh that she found. That was the first time she got a great blue heron feather, but she knew what kind of feather it was because Kya had faced the herons for her entire life in the marsh, "She had never found one but knew instantly what it was, having squatted eye to eye with herons all her life." (Owens, 2018, p. 88).

Collecting the shells also helps Kya knowing each kind of shell that she found near her. One day, when she goes out with Chase and points out the shell, Kya quickly knows what kind of shell it is.

" "Hey, look at this," he said." "Oh, it's an ornate scallop, Pecten Ornatus," Kya said. "I only see them rarely. There are many of that genus here, but this particular species usually inhabits regions south of this latitude because these waters are too cool for them."." (Owens, 2018, p. 160)

Unlike Chase's reaction, which seems mesmerized by the uniqueness of the shell, Kya did not look too surprised because she was already an expert at the shell things. Even Kya told Chase that it is a species of ornate scallop, Pecten Ornatus. She continued to explain that she rarely saw that kind of shell. Kya said there are many of those kinds of the genus on the Point Beach area but that

data of all her collection, “Kya, these are wonderful, beautifully detailed. You could publish these. This could be a book—lots of books.” (Owens, 2018, p. 200).

At first, Kya rejected Tate’s advice by saying that all her collections help her learn about marsh life, “No, no. They’re just for me. They help me learn, is all.”

(Owens, 2018, p. 200). With all his might, Tate tries to ensure Kya to publishing her.

“Kya, listen to me. You know better than anybody that the reference books for this area are almost nonexistent. With these notations, technical data, and splendid drawings, these are the books everyone’s been waiting for“If I can take a few samples, I’ll find out about a publisher, see what they say.” (Owens, 2018, p. 200)

Slowly, Tate explains to Kya that she knows better that the reference books about marsh creatures were rare; then, gently, Tate persuades Kya that all of the data and collection could help and give information for people out there who were study marsh. Tate adds that if only Kya permitted him to take a few samples of her collection, Tate plans to ask a publisher about their opinion publishing a guidebook about marsh creatures that are more detailed and complete than previous books that everyone had read. With all positive persuasion from Tate, Kya finally agreed with Tate’s idea, allowing Tate to choose a sample from her collection, “She finally agreed that he could take some samples....” (Owens, 2018, p. 200). Tate chose each model of shell and the great blue heron, both in soft watercolors. He chose shell and the great blue heron sample because of how Kya’s poured into detailed the sketches are, “...he chose a selection of soft

soon. The final copy of the book is finally in Kya's hands. Every detail of her hard work, from choosing the color carefully, detailed drawings, and observation notes are printing in a book.

A year after her first book was published, Kya finally publishing her second book about the birds. The compilation book of birds from the eastern seacoast.

"1969, One July afternoon in 1969, more than seven months after Jodie's visit, *The Eastern Seacoast Birds* by Catherine Danielle Clark—her second book, a volume of stark detail and beauty—appeared in her mailbox. . She ran her fingers over the striking jacket—her painting of a herring gull." (Owens, 2018, p. 247).

Kya got a copy of her second book in her mailbox, which was just published that day. The astonishing book about the herring gulls from the eastern seacoast area. She is mesmerized by the fact that her paintings become the covers of her second book. Another new experience for Kya succeeding submitting her images as the main cover of her book.

In conclusion, Kya's willingness to study the marsh made her collect many feathers and shells. She is painting, labeling, and saving all her collection in manufactured selves and walls inside her house Gently and patiently. Suddenly, a big opportunity comes to Kya to publish her detailed yet simple research when Tate, her ex-boyfriend yet a scientist, sees her talent. Who knows loner girl who lives in the marsh without any educational background could publish her scientific book at age twenty-two.

going out motored to the open sea, which is prone to the flow of its Gulf Stream. Moreover, how complicated the marsh stream is when it comes to overgrown grasses and many of the waterways intersection, ordinary people would get lost, or their boat engine will not work. The worst is the ignorance towards the marsh both the results would make people cannot go home.

Second, Kya is a caring environment observant; she is good at identifying creature characteristics only by look at it. When spotted on the feathers, she immediately knows where the feathers come from and what kind of bird species. Randomly could identify shells species entirely and perfectly. Last but not least, understanding doe and fawn feelings. Kya's skills in identify creature characteristics didn't merely she is born as gifted. All thanks to the environment she lives and grows up in, Kya could have such unique skills that differentiate her from any other woman.

Third, the educational facilities in Kya's environment are inadequate; only one white school that is six kilometers away from Kya's house and the toxic environment like bullies made her drop out of school. Furthermore, the library is located sixteen kilometers away from where Kya lives. Despite all the struggles, Kya manages to pursue her knowledge by direct observation of the marsh ecosystem, going to the library, and doing self-taught. All she did merely is a hobby and loves for the marsh. By pursuing her hobby, Kya successfully publishing two books to collect shells and feathers and becomes a Versatile book writer. She observes and painted all her collection; even her painting made it in

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