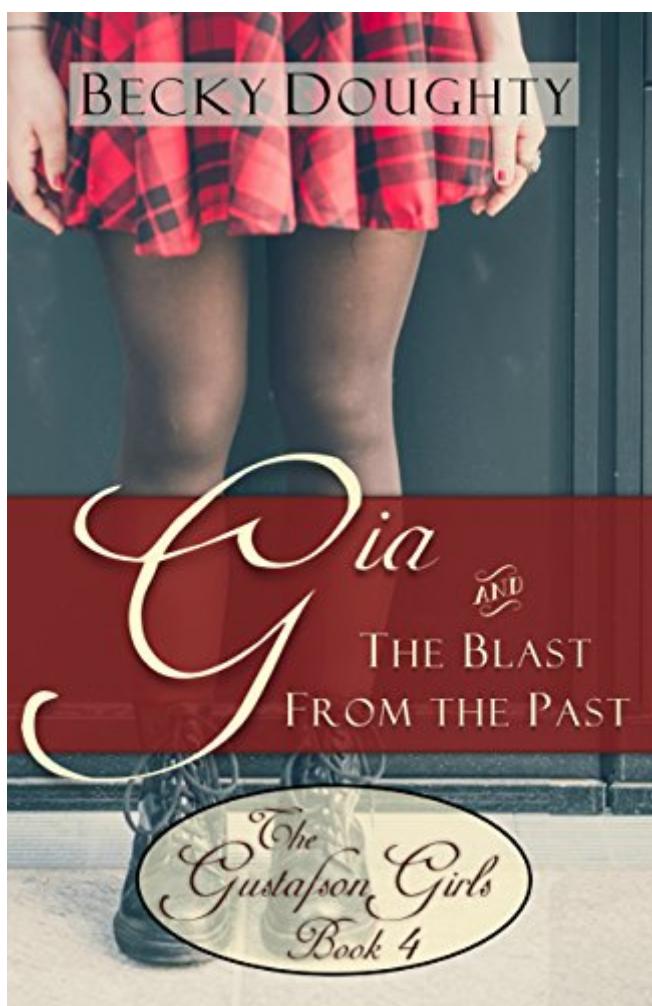


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Gia And The Blast From The Past: Contemporary Christian Romance (The Gustafson Girls Sisters Series Book 4)



Synopsis

When Gia comes face to face with a past she didn't know she had, will she learn to trust in a future she can't control? MEET GEORGIA GUSTAFSON Gia Gustafson, the youngest of the Gustafson sisters, is officially coming of age... but now what? She feels like she's standing still, while everything - and - around her is moving at lightning speed. Her best friend, Ricky Zander, is acting like a stranger, her grandparents have grown old practically overnight, and her beloved older sisters have all found their happily-ever-afters. Because life isn't confusing enough, the gorgeous new guy at work is doing his best to sweep Gia off her feet, and Ricky is none too happy about it. So when a stranger she'd recognize anywhere shows up unannounced on her doorstep, Gia isn't so sure she's ready to grow up after all. MEET THE GUSTAFSON GIRLS When Paul and Simone Gustafson are killed by a drunk driver, the lives of the Gustafson girls change irrevocably. Although raised by loving grandparents, it's the G-FOURce "the Gustafson Four Sisters Club" that binds them together when their differences would tear them apart. Over the last couple of years, the Gustafson girls have managed to find their way | all except for Gia, who seems to be on the verge of a major identity crisis. Then there's Angela Clinton, the girl who plowed her el Camino into the side of the Gustafson's car when Gia was only four. After spending most of her adult life in jail, Angela is finally coming home, and she wants to make amends with the four sisters she made orphans so many years ago. Will the G-FOURce be strong enough to hold the Gustafson girls together as they step into the eye of the storm that's been brewing for so many years? Will they finally be able to let go of the past and embrace the future, no matter what it holds? Note: The Gustafson Girls Sisters Series is Women's Christian Fiction with strong elements of Romance.

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Customer Reviews

First a note – if you have not read the previous 3 books in this series, you really do need to read them first. Otherwise, there's a lot in this book that won't be as meaningful to you. Secondly – each of the books in this series is increasingly gut-wrenching. I think this one is even more emotionally provocative than *Phoebe and the Rock of Ages*. It is very hard to put down! Thankfully, I quit at the right time late one night, just before one of the final plot twists. If I hadn't stopped then, I would have stayed up all night! Doughty's writing just keeps getting better. I enjoyed the first book (*Juliette and the Monday ManDates*), but wasn't sure I'd read the second (*Renata and the Fall from Grace*). I did read it, and got further sucked in to the Gustafson family. I was really glad I had read #2, when book 3 came out (*Phoebe and the Rock of Ages*.) By the end of that one, I could hardly wait for *Gia and the Blast from the Past*. Now that I'm done, I'm really going to miss those Gustafson girls! So, be well rested before you start this book, and keep some kleenex handy. It was worth the wait!

I don't read Becky Doughty's books for the plots, although this book had some interesting twists and finished the series nicely. I read her books for the characters. This book was not a disappointment. Obviously, *Gia*, the youngest sister, has the starring role in this book. The other sisters are evident, but their personalities seem toned down because we aren't living in their brains. Each and every book went beyond what I thought it would at the outset. Will you enjoy this book if you haven't read the previous books in the series? Probably. I didn't reread them immediately before reading this one and there is just enough backstory to catch you up without rehashing everything. I would suggest reading all of the books though. They each have an entirely different personality and are worth the time and effort. As a side note, I am not a coffee drinker, but this book almost made me wish I was.

What is there left to say? Becky is so talented and gifted with her story telling. When you read her

books you feel as if you are there right with the characters. Gia is the baby of the family but she is struggling to find where she fits in. Her journey is one of finding herself, contentment, and finally love. So loved this story and how it brought so many things together.

Let me begin by echoing another reviewer, this series is definitely a richer read in order, but wonderful regardless! There is so much depth in each of the Gustafson Girls books, and rather than becoming diluted, as many series can, this series has not only stayed strong and true, but each book actually adds more to the prior. At 10 years younger than her sisters Gia has often felt left out of the group, and is seen as the stable, cheerful little sister. And as she has come of age she finds herself chafing against the role she no longer fits, most notably when it comes to love! Gia needs to find for herself what love looks like, with everyone in her life. All of us were once that child on the brink of adulthood; and all parents have survived the trials and heartache of watching a child struggle (kicking and screaming!) into their own. For Gia, the added heartache of never knowing her parents the way her sisters did has an added complication that you'll never expect. Although I received this book in exchange for an honest review, I also purchased a copy to have in my shared library! And that ought to be a recommendation that is noteworthy. Becky Doughty is not an author who writes, throws in a prayer or two and calls it Christian fiction. The wealth of real emotion, real strength, and real struggles that all believers have in their walk is beautifully woven throughout this series. I would recommend this series, and especially this book for every age and gender.

Even though this story answers so many questions, it is not as intense as the previous book. While it deals with the uncertainty that Gia feels, it covers so much more and wraps up so many things. It would be nice if this series continued but this book feels like the end. Great series.

Confusion, selfishness, secrets, complexities, and more, this book has surely given me an opportunity, a blessing, for further reflection about life's realities, and I am all the more so thankful to God. Becky's story-telling is ceaselessly amazing in how she can turn fiction into an experience so real and inspirational.

We readers were eagerly awaiting this conclusion (or is it?) of the Gustafson Girls drama in which our emotions plummeted with them in their devastating losses and soared with their triumphs over those losses. Most of all, we rejoiced in their spiritual growth and steadfast love for family and our Lord. The Gustafson Girls books are well worth reading.

I am an avid fan of The Gustafson Girls Series. I have read and reread the Series several times. Mrs. Doughty creates amazingly honest characters and weaves stories which touch the heart. I couldn't put the book down even during my second and third read. As much as I wish this wasn't the last book, I loved how we finally got to see the sisters healed and thriving. I received this book in exchange for an honest review but I also bought the book to support an author and a series I love. I highly recommend this book - Faith, Love and Family!

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