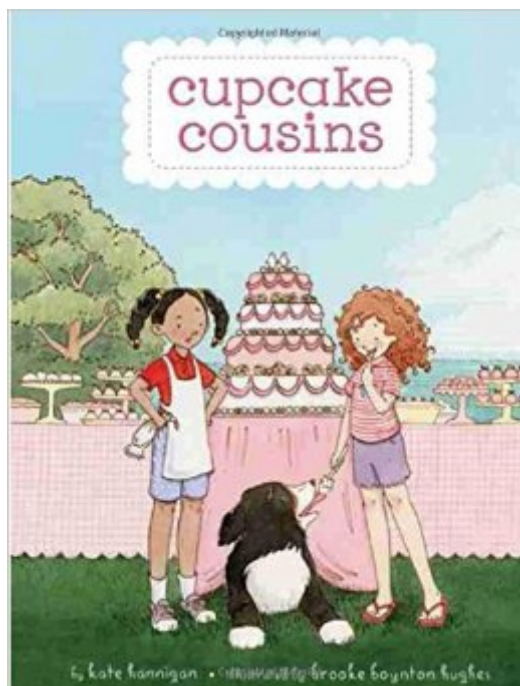


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# Cupcake Cousins, Book 1 Cupcake Cousins



## Synopsis

Baking a fluffy pink cupcake is awesome, but wearing a dress that looks like one? No, thank you! Cousins Willow and Delia can't wait to spend a week vacationing together with their families. Their aunt is getting married, and Willow and Delia are hoping their tasty baked goods will be enough to get them out of being flower girls in the wedding. But with a mischievous little brother, a bacon-loving dog, and a misbehaving blender in the mix, their treats don't exactly turn out as planned. When a real emergency threatens to ruin the wedding, will their baking skills be enough to save the day? Join Willow and Delia in the kitchen by following their scrumptious recipes for whoopee pies, peach pancakes, and other tasty treats! Praise for Cupcake Cousins "[D]ebut novelist Hannigan has assembled all the ingredients for an entertaining and gentle-natured family tale." -Publishers Weekly "Hughes' cheery black-and-white illustrations capture the cousins' exuberance, highlighting both misadventures and sentimental moments. . . . Hannigan's lively tale celebrates family and friendship." -Kirkus Reviews

## Book Information

Series: Cupcake Cousins

Paperback: 304 pages

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ISBN-10: 1423194160

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Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.6 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (20 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #350,036 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #192 in Â Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Marriage & Divorce #813 in Â Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational #4949 in Â Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

I just received this book today but I can tell it will be amazing. I was just skimming through and I love how it talks about different places in Michigan. Also I thought it was really cool that included in the

book there are recipes they use. My daughter will be wanting me to make them as she reads the chapters. She is 7 and I know this is right up her ally. I can not wait to enjoy this book with her!

I read this to Magda, who is four, and she loved it, but the target audience is probably around ages 7-9. It's a great chapter book overall, with just a few minor problems (in our opinion). First of all, at nearly 300 pages it's quite long for a children's chapter book. Of course some of those pages are recipes or illustrations, but still. Second, most of the characters have flower or plant names (Rose, Willow, Violet, etc.) but since it's hard to come up with plant-themed boy names, the little brother in the book is called Sweet William. Although I've seen that conceit used to great effect before (have you seen the movie *The Hanging Garden*? It's great), it did get very annoying that he was called that Every. Single. Time. Not once did they just call him William or Will. Does it say Sweet William on his birth certificate? Also, it didn't help that he was the worst character in the book. He was five but he acted (and was treated) like he was two, in that nobody ever reprimanded him for all of the horrible ways he screwed everything up. My four-year-old was a little insulted by how useless the five-year-old in the book was. But on the plus side, the characters of Willow and Delia (the so-called Cupcake Cousins, though they seem to make everything BUT cupcakes) are great. And I loved that Delia comes from a mixed race family and it's NBD. Willow likes the fact that even though they have different hair and skin colour, she and her cousin still look a lot alike and have the same eyes. In real life, lots of families and extended families are racially diverse, but that's something you almost never see represented in children's books. I liked that a lot. You can read this and other reviews (including Magda's input) on my blog, *Cozy Little Book Journal*.

Every summer, nine-year-old cousins Willow and Delia look forward to their vacation at Lake Michigan with their families: a whole week of catching fireflies, picking peaches in the orchards and boogie boarding in the lake together. But the best part is that they always get to take over the kitchen to cook up mouthwatering treats for everyone. This year, the family vacation will be extra special, because Aunt Rosie is getting married, and everyone will be a part of the big day. Unfortunately, she wants Willow and Delia to wear ugly, pink dresses and be flower girls for the ceremony. And they're much too old for that. But if they can show everyone how amazing their cooking skills are, they're sure to convince Aunt Rosie to put them in charge of the wedding reception refreshments instead, right? Willow and Delia are best friends who are nothing alike but perfectly matched. Willow is a big dreamer, great at coming up with fabulous and adventurous ideas. Delia is a planner who can find practical ways to make Willow's schemes happen. But even

Willow's big ideas and Delia's logical plans might not be enough to overcome exploding blenders and a cranky new head chef. I loved getting to know these adorable cupcake cousins. (They remind me so much of myself and my cousin/best friend, when we were younger!) And the recipes sprinkled throughout the story ... Yum!

So, clearly, I have a thing for middle-grade foodie books. But this book also holds a special place in my heart thanks to the cousins' relationship. When I was about the same age as Willow and Delia, I spent a week in the summer with my own cousin, and in fact I'm pretty sure that that week featured our earliest culinary experiments. I remember the two of us calling up the Duncan Hines hotline (no Internet back then!) to ask how much peanut butter we should add to their cookie mix to make chocolate chip-peanut butter cookies. (And I even still remember the answer--1/3 of a cup!) But I digress. Whether or not you have your own personal fond memories of cooking with a cousin, this book is lovely. Yes, the girls spend time together in the kitchen, but the story is much wider in scope, touching on both light and heavier family and community issues such as divorce and job loss. And, of course, embracing your passions and finding your place in a big family. There's also plenty of action, humor, and hijinks, and absolutely adorable illustrations. Middle-grade readers will devour this book.

**My Thoughts On The Book:** I am a high school teacher and not terribly fond of reading children's books. I decided to branch away from my norm of reviewing and found this delightful book. I believe it was written for upper elementary students. I would give this book 5 stars. I thought the cover was cute, the story was entertaining and I believe it will hold the attention of a younger person. I loved the life lessons that were presented in the story. My favorite part of the story was the cooking. I would give this as a gift to a child and would recommend it highly to teachers and librarians.

**Disclaimer:** I received this book free from NetGalley Publicity Company in exchange for an honest review. I was not required to write a positive review and the opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255 : "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

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