



The Crowning Glory of Calla Lily Ponder: A Novel

By Rebecca Wells

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“Rebecca Wells has done it again....A new book full of Southern charm and unique characters...impossible to put down.”

—*Houston Chronicle*

“Wells weaves that magic spell again.”

—*New Orleans Times-Picayune*

For Ya-Ya fans everywhere, *New York Times* bestselling author Rebecca Wells returns with *The Crowning Glory of Calla Lily Ponder*. The creator of the literary sensations *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*, *Little Altars Everywhere*, and *Ya-Yas in Bloom* delivers an unforgettable new stand-alone novel about the pull of first love, the power of home, and everyday magic. No matter if you already adore the Ya-Yas or haven't yet entered the miraculous world of Rebecca Wells, you are going to love—and never forget—Calla Lily Ponder.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Wells (*Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*) weaves more of the magic that made her a bestseller. At first, Calla Lily Ponder appears to be just like any other young woman growing up in the small town of La Luna, La., where life is simple and Calla Lily is supported by a loving, tightly knit family and a colorful cast of locals. But after a series of hometown heartbreaks, Calla Lily sets out for New Orleans to attend a prestigious beauty academy with dreams of one day opening her own salon. Calla Lily soon learns that while the Big Easy offers a fresh start, adventures and exhilarating new friends, it also presents its own set of tragedies and setbacks. The novel is chock-full of Southern charm and sassy wisdom, and despite its sugary sweetness, it benefits from a hearty dose of Wells's trademark charisma. Calla Lily's story may not be as involved or satisfying as that of the Ya-Yas, but she's sure to be a crowd-pleaser thanks to her humble aspirations, ever hopeful heart and perseverance no matter what fate throws at her. (*July*)

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Review

“Wells’s larger-than-life characters are custom made for summer reading.”

From the Back Cover

Known for her beloved Ya-Ya books (*Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*, *Little Altars Everywhere*, and *Ya-Yas in Bloom*), Rebecca Wells has helped women name, claim, and celebrate their shared sisterhood for over a decade. *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood* held the top of the *New York Times* bestseller list for sixty-eight weeks, became a knockout feature film, sold more than 5 million copies, and inspired the creation of Ya-Ya clubs worldwide.

Now Wells debuts an entirely new cast of characters in this shining stand-alone novel about the pull of first love, the power of life, and the human heart's vast capacity for healing.

The Crowning Glory of Calla Lily Ponder is the sweet, sexy, funny journey of Calla Lily's life set in Wells's expanding fictional Louisiana landscape. In the small river town of La Luna, Calla bursts into being, a force of nature as luminous as the flower she is named for. Under the loving light of the Moon Lady, the feminine force that will guide and protect her throughout her life, Calla enjoys a blissful childhood—until it is cut short. Her mother, M'Dear, a woman of rapture and love, teaches Calla compassion, and passes on to her the art of healing through the humble womanly art of "fixing hair." At her mother's side, Calla further learns that this same touch of hands on the human body can quiet her own soul. It is also on the banks of the La Luna River that Calla encounters sweet, succulent first love, with a boy named Tuck.

But when Tuck leaves Calla with a broken heart, she transforms hurt into inspiration and heads for the wild and colorful city of New Orleans to study at L'Académie de Beauté de Crescent. In that extravagant big river city, she finds her destiny—and comes to understand fully the power of her "healing hands" to change lives and soothe pain, including her own. When Tuck reappears years later, he presents her with an offer that is colored by the memories of lost love. But who knows how Calla Lily, a "daughter of the Moon Lady," will respond?

A tale of family and friendship, tragedy and triumph, loss and love, *The Crowning Glory of Calla Lily Ponder* features the warmth, humor, soul, and wonder that have made Wells one of today's most cherished

writers, and gives us an unforgettable new heroine to treasure.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Christopher Slowik:

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Michael Harmon:

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Sang O\'Connor:

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Penny Laughlin:

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