

Calling Me Home: A Novel

By Julie Kibler

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In *Calling Me Home* by Julie Kibler, eighty-nine-year-old Isabelle McAllister has a favor to ask her hairdresser Dorrie Curtis. It's a big one. Isabelle wants Dorrie, a black single mom in her thirties, to drop everything to drive Isabelle from her home in Arlington, Texas, to a funeral in Cincinnati. With no clear explanation why. Tomorrow.

Curious whether she can unlock the secrets of Isabelle's guarded past, she agrees, not knowing it will be a journey that changes both their lives.

Over the years, Dorrie and Isabelle have developed more than just a business relationship. They are friends. But Dorrie, fretting over the new man in her life and her teenage son's irresponsible choices, still wonders why Isabelle chose her.

Isabelle confesses that, as a willful teen in 1930s Kentucky, she fell deeply in love with Robert Prewitt, a would-be doctor and the black son of her family's housekeeper?in a town where blacks weren't allowed after dark. The tale of their forbidden relationship and its tragic consequences makes it clear Dorrie and Isabelle are headed for a gathering of the utmost importance and that the history of Isabelle's first and greatest love just might help Dorrie find her own way.

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Editorial Review

From Booklist
Comparisons to The Help (2009) are inevitable, and though there are echoes of Kathryn Stockett's popular best-seller to be found in Calling Me Home, Kibler has crafted a wholly original debut. The novel, set in 1930s Kentucky, centers on a forbidden romance between a teenage white girl, Isabelle McAllister, and Robert Prewitt, the black son of the McAllister's maid. Chafing under her mother's restrictive notions of female propriety, Isabelle finds a kindred spirit in Robert. The two begin to meet clandestinely, but any hope of a future together is threatened by the overwhelming racism of the era. Against impossible odds, the pair elopes to neighboring Cincinnati, but their happiness is short-lived when Isabelle's thuggish brothers drag her back to the family home. The sad story is presented in flashback, as told by a now-elderly Isabelle to her black hairdresser, Dorrie, while the two drive cross-country to a funeral. Some may object that the civil rights struggle is once again being filtered through a white perspective, but there's no denying the pull of Kibler's story. --Patty Wetli

Review

"You'd never guess that "Calling Me Home" is a debut novel, Julie Kibler's writing is so wise and assured. Although the two strong women she's created come from completely different backgrounds, the bond that grows between them is extraordinary, touching and believable. I laughed out loud in places and had tears in my eyes as I turned the last page. I can't wait to watch Julie Kibler's star rise!" -"New York Times" bestselling author Diane Chamberlain

"Clear your schedule before you open up this thoroughly engaging book. CALLING ME HOME is a story about love in its many incarnations--in romance, friendships, and families; loves lost, and love regained. Kibler illuminates racial tensions many of us don't realize still exist in this country, and shows how small acts of faith can make big inroads to acceptance. I closed the final page with a smile and a tear, humbled and eager to embrace life." - Margaret Dilloway, author of "How to Be an American Housewife"

"Pop some corn and grab a hankie before you start CALLING ME HOME because you won't want to put it down until you come to the end of this true journey of the heart." - Carleen Brice, author of "Orange Mint and Honey"

""Calling Me Home" is a tenderly wrought story of love and secrets, heartbreak and healing, and the remarkable power of friendship to heal two women who find each other across the lines of time, generation, and race. Julie Kibler has written an original and moving debut novel that will linger with you for a long, long time." --Barbara O'Neal, "The Garden of Happy Endings"

"Julie Kibler grabbed me on the very first page and didn't let go...What a marvel of a debut novel. Black and white, young and old, searching and missing and finding in each other a special understanding, companionship, and love, these characters are real and addictive. "Calling Me Home" was keenly conceived, impeccably plotted, and beautifully written." -Barbara Delinsky, "New York Times" bestselling author of "Escape and

About the Author
JULIE KIBLER began writing *Calling Me Home* after learning a bit of family lore: as a young woman, her grandmother fell in love with a young black man in an era and locale that made the relationship impossible. When not writing, she enjoys travel, independent films, music, photography, and corralling her teenagers and

rescue dogs. She lives in Arlington, Texas. *Calling Me Home* is her debut.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jean Smith:

Now a day people that Living in the era just where everything reachable by connect to the internet and the resources inside can be true or not involve people to be aware of each information they get. How individuals to be smart in getting any information nowadays? Of course the answer then is reading a book. Examining a book can help men and women out of this uncertainty Information particularly this Calling Me Home: A Novel book because book offers you rich data and knowledge. Of course the info in this book hundred percent guarantees there is no doubt in it you may already know.

Kathy Natal:

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