



When Love Calls, You Better Answer

Bertice Berry

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The author of the hit *Redemption Song* returns with a sparkling new novel about looking for love in all the wrong places—and with all the wrong people.

Full of spirit and wisdom, the novels of Bertice Berry bring to life a rich tapestry of human experience. Now she turns her eye to matters of the heart, with an endearing main character who can't seem to keep bad men out of her life.

Bernita Brown is a quick-thinking, tireless social worker who is good at practically everything—except love. Her first marriage ends in divorce, a painful experience Bernita refuses to think about. Instead, she dives into a series of sad relationships and overwhelming commitments to community and church. But not even church can keep her from being courted by dogs; Bernita's married pastor begins making passes at her, then blames her for his backsliding. Along the way, the ghost of Bernita's aunt Babe weighs in with plenty of advice (after all, Aunt Babe says, "You don't need to be alive to tell folks how to live"). When a marvelous man finally enters Bernita's life, only time can tell whether she will be able to trust him.

Written with Berry's signature warmth and reliance on African-American ancestors who deliver homespun healing, *When Love Calls, You Better Answer* addresses a host of powerful topics, from abusive relationships to corrupt church leaders. Ultimately, Bernita's story will inspire readers to find the love they need, especially the love that can only come from within.

When Love Calls, You Better Answer Details

Date : Published June 13th 2006 by Broadway Books (first published 2005)

ISBN : 9780767916387

Author : Bertice Berry

Format : Paperback 208 pages

Genre : Fiction, Cultural, African American, Romance

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Angela Wilson says

The author of this book, Bertice Berry, is a new one for me. I stumbled upon this book, because I just happened to grab it off the shelf in the library.

As any book, there were pros and cons to the story. I liked the humor that the author used, as well as the many powerful quotes that were used to enhance the story. In addition, the author played up the spiritual aspect of the story, because it plays such a huge role in the African American community. Though the story often took the spiritual route, it was able to recognize that we are still human. The connection between Aunt Babe and Bernita reminded of my mother, and I appreciated the comfort that their relationship provided.

The book was phenomenal until about the last 30 pages when it got a bit hokey. The reason why the book didn't get a full five stars is because there were far too many characters to keep up with them all, and they weren't dismissed when she was done using them. The author continuously mentioned them throughout the story and to be honest, I was left wondering who the hell she was talking about at certain parts. In addition, the ending was quite rushed and the "surprises" that were planted in the ending made the story somewhat unrealistic and cheesy. Not everyone has to be related through some skeletons in the closet.

Overall, I like this author and would read her work again. I have another of her books, "Redemption Song", and I'm anxious to see if that story line mirrors the one I just read. :)

Joi says

This book was great, although it started out slow. I loved it. There were many important lessons and I learned them all. It taught me a lot and I don't know if it was meant to do this or not. I have read books similar to this, but none captured me the way this one did.

Rebecca says

Transparent, raw, and emotional.

Erika Nerdypants says

Short book, easy read. The story of Benita's search for love and self acceptance is told by Aunt Babe, from the "spirit world". Rich in folksy wisdom and humour, it nevertheless packs a punch. While I wasn't fond of the ending (a little to hokey for me), I will look for other books by this author.

Erika says

For those that know me, you will understand that this is not generally my kind of book. Bertice Berry was a keynote speaker at a conference I was at and I found her to be really funny and uplifting so I decided to try this book. A little cheesey at times but a quick read and a good message.

Lori says

This was an enjoyable book. The characters were all funny and familiar and some of them endearing.

Basically, it is the sad and humorous account of one woman's experience with a series of bad relationships. Bernita Brown, a Social Worker, tries some of everything-- a pretty boy, a White guy who insists he was African in a previous life, a hard looking brother with a speech impediment, some New Age stuff and "the church" before she finds the love that's been missing in her life.

Bernita's abusive upbringing is highlighted as a way of showing why she made some of the choices she did, while her Aunt Babe's ghost narrates the story and tries to steer her in the right direction.

The only thing that kept me from giving this book an additional star was the tidy ending, which arrived much too soon for my liking. After all of those bad relationships, I was hoping for a bit more build up and a bigger or more satisfying payoff in the end.

Ka'leneReads says

This is a GoodRead! It took a dip into boredom but it really is a good story.

Jeanette says

Read it - you may not want to see yourself in the words, but you'll be there all the same! This is a book that should be shared because there are too many Bernitas and Douglasses and MaBishas and Busters and Babes and Vans and Re Members and Tricias walking around being clueless and unloved.

Nicole says

Really good! I'm so enjoying this author! Good life lessons!

Stephanie says

The basic plot of this book is simple: girl meets boy, boy sucks; girl meets another boy, this boy sucks, too;

girl goes to church, the church sucks. I think you see the pattern. At the end of the day, the book answers the age-old question, why do smart people make bad choices? The answer will surprise you and will stay with you long after you've finished the book. This is really one of the best books I've read in a long while.

Kesha says

So mad at myself because this book has been on my TBR list for years and I am just reading it. This book is wonderful. I laughed, cried, and was happy. Loved all the characters because they meant something and were not just fillers.

Ayodele says

told from the perspective of an ancestor. genius. thank you.

Destiny says

I simply grabbed his book off the shelf in my local library, I had no idea that I would gain so much insightful yet relevant information about founding and loving yourself. It was an easy read and beautiful.

Raqui says

This book was a gift to me from my father. I finally got around to reading it and thought this is a little strange. It truly is a great story just not entirely my cup of tea. I enjoyed it and the message was thought provoking. The characters and all they went through stayed with me a few days after I closed the book. People who enjoy love-endures-it-all type novels will especially enjoy this book.

Renee says

After reading this book i realized how much i enjoyed it mainly because it not only gives the point of view of the what majority see's but, what many people might miss when analyzing certain topics. This book had many high points of interest and kept me hooked throughtout the whole novel.

FEB 24,2009
