



# Dollbaby: A Novel

*Laura Lane McNeal*

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**Dollbaby: A Novel** Laura Lane McNeal

**A Top Ten Finalist for Best Historical Novel, Goodreads Choice Awards, and a LibraryReads and Okra Pick**

**A big-hearted coming-of-age debut set in civil rights-era New Orleans—a novel of Southern eccentricity and secrets**

When Ibbly Bell's father dies unexpectedly in the summer of 1964, her mother unceremoniously deposits Ibbly with her eccentric grandmother Fannie and throws in her father's urn for good measure. Fannie's New Orleans house is like no place Ibbly has ever been—and Fannie, who has a tendency to end up in the local asylum—is like no one she has ever met. Fortunately, Fannie's black cook, Queenie, and her smart-mouthed daughter, Dollbaby, take it upon themselves to initiate Ibbly into the ways of the South, both its grand traditions and its darkest secrets.

For Fannie's own family history is fraught with tragedy, hidden behind the closed rooms in her ornate Uptown mansion. It will take Ibbly's arrival to begin to unlock the mysteries there. And it will take Queenie and Dollbaby's hard-won wisdom to show Ibbly that family can sometimes be found in the least expected places.

For fans of *Saving CeeCee Honeycutt* and *The Help*, *Dollbaby* brings to life the charm and unrest of 1960s New Orleans through the eyes of a young girl learning to understand race for the first time.

By turns uplifting and funny, poignant and full of verve, *Dollbaby* is a novel readers will take to their hearts.

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