

# Book Review

*Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*  
Rebecca Wells  
Harper Collins



Rebecca Wells brings the colorful southern Louisiana town of Thornton and its vivacious southern people to life in her book, *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*.

The story focuses on the sometimes dysfunctional and sometimes humorous relationship between an ornery mother, Vivianne (Vivi) Walker and her middle-aged daughter Siddalee (Sidda).

Sidda is a successful play director in New York City and constantly attempts to conquer her fears of rejection by her mother and the uncertainty of love.

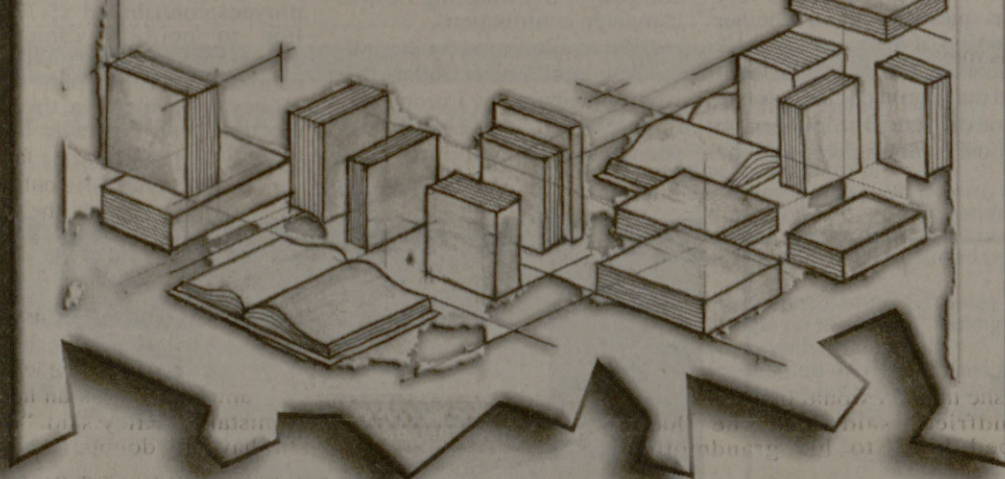
Confused on how to research the new play about women and friendship she is about to direct, Sidda calls her mother for advice. Vivi reluctantly sends her daughter the *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya's*, a scrapbook spanning six decades that Vivi and her friends kept to chronicle their lives.

This book is an emotional journey through the lives of four best friends, Vivi, Teensy, Caro and Neice. Wells does an exceptional job of making their journey and experiences believable.

It is easy to identify with the women in the book because of their different characteristics and personalities. This is an entertaining and emotionally rousing read. Readers will have to call their mothers after the Ya-Ya's are done with them.

(Grade: A+)

—Beth Muldoon



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**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**Lord of the Rings tops box office sales for fourth week**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* was in first place for the fourth weekend in a row, grossing \$16.2 million and pushing its total take to \$228.3 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

*A Beautiful Mind*, which stars Russell Crowe in the true story of a schizophrenic math genius, expanded to wide release last weekend and held its second-place spot with \$15.8 million.

In contrast to those Oscar contenders was *Orange County*, which stars Tom Hanks' son Colin Hanks as a student who goes to wild extremes to get into Stanford. The film opened with \$15.1

million over the weekend. Overall the weekend's top 12 films grossed an estimated \$89.9 million, down 14 percent from last weekend and down 28 percent from the same weekend last year.

1. *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*, \$16.2 million.
2. *A Beautiful Mind*, \$15.8 million.
3. *Orange County*, \$15.1 million.
4. *Ocean's Eleven*, \$7.5 million.
5. *The Royal Tenenbaums*, \$6.4 million.
6. *Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius*, \$5.5 million.
7. *Vanilla Sky*, \$5 million.
8. *Kate & Leopold*, \$5 million.
9. *Gosford Park*, \$3.8 million.
10. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, \$3.4 million.

**STUDENT COUNSELING SERVICE**  
Texas A&M University

**Groups for Spring 2002**  
at the Student Counseling Service

Part of the Division of Student Affairs

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Texas A&M University has a strong institutional commitment to the principle of diversity in all areas. In that spirit, admission to Texas A&M University and any of its sponsored programs is open to all qualified individuals without regard to any subgroup classification or stereotype.

**Women's Issues Group**  
Mondays 2:00 - 3:30 PM  
Come together with other women and work on becoming the woman you've always wanted to be. Improve your self-confidence, assertiveness, and relationships by sharing and processing with other women with similar issues.  
Facilitators: Mary Ann Covey & Lori Tagger

**Biofeedback Workshop**  
Mondays 3:00 - 4:30 PM  
One-session workshops that give an introduction to relaxation techniques, including how biofeedback aids in relaxation. Individual follow-up consultation is available.  
Facilitator: Steve Wilson

**Eating Concerns & Body Image Issues Group**  
Mondays 4:00 - 5:30 PM  
The purpose of this group is to provide information and support for those who are trying to overcome an eating disorder. Group will also discuss topics related to eating concerns such as the development of trusting relationships, expression of feelings, and management of stress. An individual meeting with a group leader prior to attendance at group is required.  
Facilitators: Debbie Rabinowitz & Amanda Samson

**Multicultural Issues & Relationships Group**  
Mondays 5:00 - 7:00 PM  
The purpose of this group is to increase awareness of multicultural issues and improve communication and self-confidence when dealing with multicultural relationships. Group topics may include, but are not limited to, cultural shock, cultural, religious, and social differences; and bi-cultural/multicultural relationship issues. This group is open to all students.  
Facilitator: Gisela Lin

**Conflict & Loss in Relationships Group**  
Mondays 5:00 - 6:30 PM  
This group is for students who are currently or have previously experienced conflict in interpersonal or romantic relationships, or who have recently experienced a loss of a meaningful relationship.  
Facilitators: Brian Williams & Tom Burdinski

**SPRING 2002 GROUPS**

**Academic SURVIVAL Series**  
Tuesdays 3:45 - 5:15 PM  
Need some help surviving the academic transition from high school to college? It's not too late to get prepared to meet the ULTIMATE CHALLENGE...ACADEMIC SURVIVAL! Before the "tribal council votes you off", attend this Tuesday series from 3:45 - 5:15pm beginning February 19 and ending April 23. Screening before February 18 is required for participation.  
Facilitators: Patti Collins & Carla Hilland

**Older Than Traditional Age Group**  
Tuesdays 4:00 - 5:30 PM  
Group participants are typically 25 years old and above. Each member is asked to demonstrate his/her commitment to the group through regular attendance and active participation. Group psychotherapy is utilized to assist older than traditional group members in dealing with such issues as anxiety, depression, motivation, and isolation. This group works to create a safe environment in which each member is free to work on his or her unique concerns.  
Facilitators: Robert Carter & Debbie Rabinowitz

**Interpersonal Growth & Exploration Group**  
Tuesdays 5:00 - 6:30 PM  
This psychotherapy group is for students who desire to live more authentically with themselves and relate more genuinely with others. Group members will be helped to explore self-limiting life patterns and share themselves with others through honest self-disclosure in a safe, supportive atmosphere.  
Facilitators: Ron Lutz & Bai-Yin Chen

**Anxiety Group**  
Tuesdays 5:15 - 6:45 PM  
An interpersonal group for students who suffer from general or social anxieties. Students will be able to work on the impact of anxieties in their lives, as well as explore the interpersonal meanings of anxiety symptoms.  
Facilitators: Carlos Orozco & Amanda Samson

**Empowering Yourself Group**  
Wednesdays 3:00 - 4:30 PM  
A group for women and men with sexual molestation or assault in their past. Identifying and exploring aftereffects of abuse will be the focus. Dealing with relationships, building self-esteem, and gaining power are emphasized.  
Facilitators: Nancy Welch & Lori Tagger

**Academics Anonymous**  
Wednesdays 4:00 - 5:30 PM  
Motivated to improve your academic performance but find it difficult to be consistent in your efforts? Join this 9 week support group on Wednesdays from 4-5:30pm beginning January 30 and ending April 3. Not only will you learn effective study strategies, but you will also get support from others. Topics may include procrastination and building academic confidence. Screening before January 29 is required for participation.  
Facilitator: Patti Collins

**Non-Traditional Women's Group**  
Wednesdays 5:00 - 6:30 PM  
This therapy group for women 23+ allows each member to enter the group with her own unique issues and share, process, and problem-solve within a group context. This group can help individuals who are wanting to develop healthier ways of dealing with the stress of school and work, relationships, personal problems and family issues. When we begin to talk more honestly with others, we can often find new ways to deal with the problems we face.  
Facilitators: Amanda Samson & Carla Hilland

**Dissertation/Thesis Support Group**  
Wednesdays 5:00 - 6:30 PM  
This group is for graduate students who are struggling with the process of writing a thesis or dissertation. Group topics include issues of competence, procrastination, anxiety, goal-setting, and bureaucratic struggles.  
Facilitators: Brian Williams & Debbie Rabinowitz

**Career Exploration Group**  
Thursdays 3:30 - 5:00 PM  
This is a 5-week group beginning on March 21, 2002. It is designed to teach participants how to make decisions. Group participants will identify their interests, skills, work values and personality characteristics; research the job market and occupation. An initial appointment with a career counselor is required.  
Facilitators: Michele Amerson & Carla Hilland