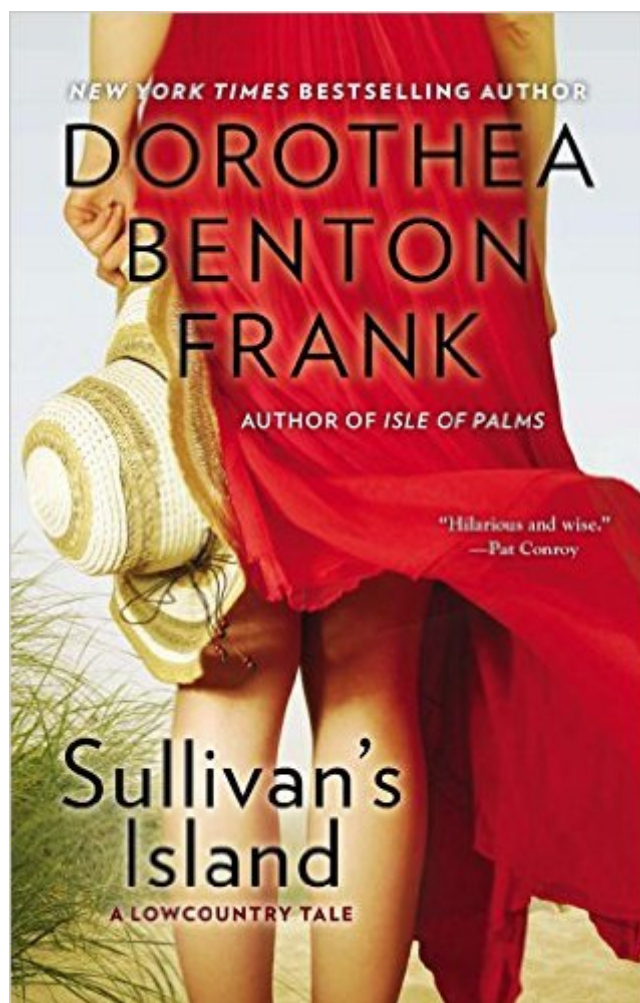


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Sullivan's Island: A Lowcountry Tale (Lowcountry Tales (Paperback))



Synopsis

The New York Times bestseller—in paperback for the first time! Set in the steamy, stormy landscape of South Carolina, Sullivan's Island tells the unforgettable story of one woman's courageous journey toward truth. Born and raised on idyllic Sullivan's Island, Susan Hayes navigated through her turbulent childhood with humor, spunk, and characteristic Southern sass. But years later, she is a conflicted woman with an unfaithful husband, a sometimes resentful teenage daughter, and a heart that aches with painful, poignant memories. And as Susan faces her uncertain future, she realizes that she must go back to her past. To the beachfront house where her sister welcomes her with open arms. To the only place she can truly call home.

Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #69,789 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #141 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Women's Fiction > Sisters #155 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Women's Fiction > Mothers & Children #332 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Essays & Correspondence > Essays

Customer Reviews

This is the first time I'm reviewing a book on , and I am appalled at the back and forth bickering between the bad reviews and the mostly rave reviews. I thought this book was simply...amazing. I loved Dorothea Benton Frank's writing style, her characters and her story. I read this book in two days, and that's only because I had started it right before going to bed. I was so completely transported into a whole other world, away from the traffic noises and putrid smells of urban life, and smack right into the salty air of sea water and sweet pie smells in the rambling house on Sullivan's Island. I felt like I was a part of the family, in this great story. It's obvious that all the authors who gave an endorsement to this book felt the same way. Instead of ranting and raving against them for giving their seal of approval, I am praising Pat Conroy, Bret Lott, Anne Rivers Siddons and Fern

Michaels. They saw something special in this first-time author and they are completely right. I would buy Ms. Frank's next book in a heartbeat! I only hope it comes out soon, because I'm starting to feel restless in my urban environment again, and am in need of some good ole' southern comfort, 'eah! Much thanks to the author for giving her readers this wonderful debut novel! Keep them coming!

I live and grew up a stone's throw from Sullivan's Island, and I was delighted to find a book that is chock full of the local color and flavor of Charleston's barrier islands. The author does a wonderful job of evoking the laid-back atmosphere of the Island that exists so close to the often stifling formality of Charleston proper. The characters were instantly recognizable to me as "true locals", and I particularly enjoyed all of the segments set in the present day. I was a little impatient, however, with the parallel plot, a murder mystery set against the backdrop of the civil rights movement. All in all, it was an entertaining read-ideal for a beach vacation. I loved the voice and humor of the narrator-the author's real gift is evident in her ability to create such a believable and likeable heroine.

A wonderful book that comes together like honey on biscuits with a southern flavor that gives you a glimpse at life on the outer banks of the Carolina's. My first book by this author, it is reminiscent of a Pat Conroy novel. Life sends Susan a few curves, her husband has strayed and the bills are piling up faster than she cares to admit. Her teenage daughter is your average teen, a good kid but a bit wayward at times, the easy repartee between Susan and her daughter was a joy to read. I thoroughly enjoyed how this author writes dialogue. Susan is lucky to have the steadfast support of her sister who still lives on the island homestead, as she wades through the mire of her life. The storm her life has become is going to get a whole lot worse before there is a calm, but the sail is an eventful and enjoyable one with characters you will remember and enjoy. The writing style is fluid and comfortable. The chapters switching back and forth from the present day to the 1960's when, as children they enjoyed the care of a black woman who has touched their lives forever. A mystery unravels, along with the answers to many questions, kept silent by the family over the years. A very good book. Kelsana 10/13/01

Under-the-weather. I sent my husband to the library to get me a book. How he picked this one has to be a miracle! I am about to attend the 3rd reunion on Pawley's Island with 6 childhood friends, the "Morningside Girls" from Knoxville, TN. who are now each 77 years of age! Our roots are in East Tennessee but we love our Lowcountry sojourns. I did an unprecedented thing for me: Came right

to your Website and ordered 7 copies, one for each of us. I read -- no, devoured, this marvelous book laughing and crying and wanting my friends to also experience the joy of reading an author almost half our age who could capture so perfectly the mystery of family relationships that our generation appreciates, evoke the haunting magic of SC Lowcountry, introduce us to the Gullah musical cadence of words that speak love, and at the same time do it with such rip-roaring, hilarious vitality that I am inspired, renewed, and made in one fell swoop a forever admirer of Dorothea Benton Frank. It's the best novel I have read in years! Honesty, humor, history are combined to leave a memorable imprint and make me want to do the same thing for Appalachia!

I finished SULLIVAN'S ISLAND 3 days ago, and the characters have stayed with me constantly. I'm almost sad to have left them behind. I'll go to my reading chair with anticipation, only to realize with disappointment that the book's over. This story, with its wonderful cast of real characters, is a gripping tale of growing up and finding oneself amongst the craziness of life. I laughed and cried and several times thought, "gosh, I _know_ that person." I do wish we could have learned more about the father's death, and the conclusion of Susan's investigation--I thought it was wrapped up a bit quickly. Otherwise, I can still smell that salt water and the feel of the gritty sand under my feet. If Ms. Benton Frank doesn't give me a new book to read soon, I'm going to end up as one of those dreaded summer tourists on Sullivan's Island in the very near future.

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