



**WILLIAM MORROW**

An Imprint of HarperCollins Publishers  
10 East 53<sup>rd</sup> Street, New York, New York 10022

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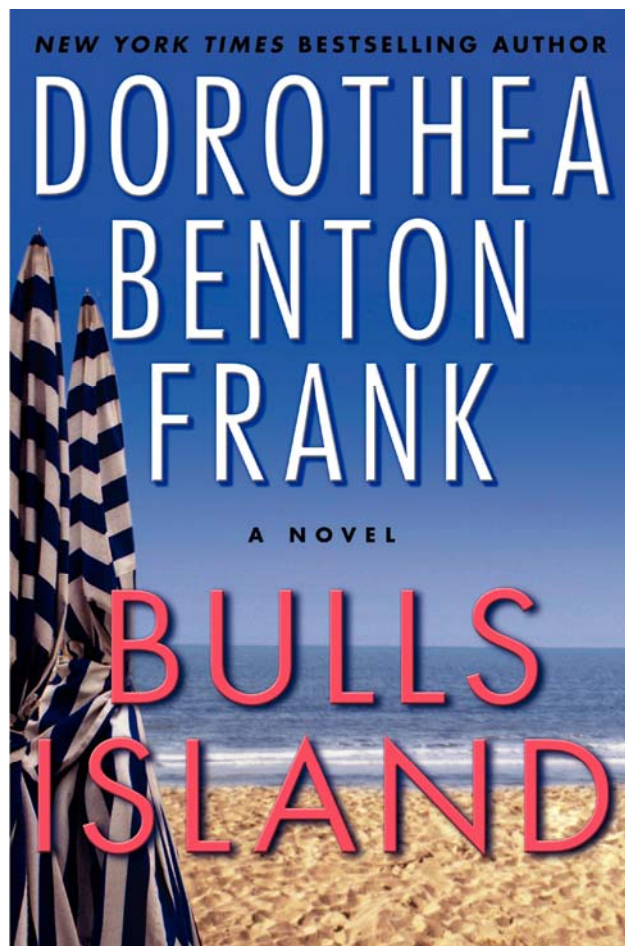
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New York Times best-selling author

# DOROTHEA BENTON FRANK

returns to salty, sparkling South Carolina Lowcountry in

## BULLS ISLAND



*On Sale April 8, 2008*

Elizabeth “Betts” McGee and J.D. Langley believe their future together is a done deal.

Picture them this one summer evening: They are relaxing on a glider swing, a pitcher of fresh lemonade at the ready. Pink and white roses are in bloom, mingling with the heat and humidity. J.D. surprises Betts with an engagement ring. They are 21, just out of college and so in love.

All sweetness and light, right? Guess again.

Consider J.D.’s mother, Louisa—no hot-house flower personality here. Her comment after hearing the news: “Tell me this, Elizabeth dear. Will you have the courage to wear white?” And, oh yes, a feud between the two families goes back for centuries—land-owning gentry (Langleys) vs. “common” merchants (McGees).

The two families are gathered that evening at the Langley spread. When a thunderstorm arises, everyone tries to convince Betts’ parents not to drive home. Everyone but the prickly Louisa, that is. The celebration ends in tragedy, unleashing a series of haunting events. Betts’ mother is killed in a car accident and, in that instant, life changes. Betts, who blames Louisa for her mother’s death, disappears, severing connections with her father, sister and lover. And, she carries with her a secret.

For the first time, **Dorothea Benton Frank** alternates male/female voices in **BULLS ISLAND** (*William Morrow; On Sale April 8, 2008; Hardcover; \$24.95*), telling the story from J.D.’s and Betts’ points of view—a device that the author employs in her usual deft way to propel this tale to a stunning finale.

Fast-forward some 18 years. Betts, still single, is in Manhattan, hauling in money as a rising star in an investment firm. She has stayed in touch with her wise girlfriend back in Charleston, Sela, who keeps her posted on life back home. As for J.D.—he married a woman selected by his mother, worthy of producing an heir.

Once again, fate intervenes with these two. Betts is picked to represent her company’s investment in multi-million dollar project to build a ritzy gated community on the pristine Bulls Island. It just happens to be near her home. It also happens that the Langley family is a partner in the project.

Of course, nothing is smooth and easy about their reunion. Can Betts trust J.D. to build an eco-friendly community? Is their love still on fire after all these years apart? To say nothing of eco-terrorists determined to stop the development and J.D.’s super-angry, pill-popping wife on the loose. **Dorothea Benton Frank** mixes contemporary issues—ecology, land development, coastal protection—with traditional topics of romance, family and home. Her imaginative powers bring readers right to the scene—whether it’s dinner at Sela’s restaurant, the alligator-snapping Bulls Island, or the power offices in New York and Charleston. J.D. and Betts work together to create a new future for the island and for themselves. But before that happens, there are harrowing events that brings this entertaining novel to a satisfying conclusion.

### **About Bulls Island:**

Bulls Island is a barrier island off the South Carolina coast, part of the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge. There are about 6,000 undeveloped acres with 8½ miles of beach and 16 miles of interior walking trails. **Dorothea Benton Frank** directs readers to [www.coastalexpeditions.com](http://www.coastalexpeditions.com) for ferry service to this magical place and to [www.coastalconservationleague.org](http://www.coastalconservationleague.org) <http://www.coastalconservationleague.org/> to learn about environmental protection.

### **About the Author:**

Dorothea Benton Frank is the author of seven *New York Times* best sellers, from 2000's SULLIVAN'S ISLAND to 2007's THE LAND OF MANGO SUNSETS. Before she began her writing career, Ms. Frank was involved extensively in the arts and education, and in raising awareness and funding for various non profits in New Jersey and New York. At the present time she holds an appointment on the NJ Cultural Trust and is a trustee of the SC Coastal Conservation League and a member of Writer's for Readers. She and her husband Peter currently divide their time between the New York Area and her hometown, Charleston, SC, where their two children are in college. Visit her on the web at [www.dotfrank.com](http://www.dotfrank.com).



**BULLS ISLAND**  
by Dorothea Benton Frank  
William Morrow / On Sale April 8, 2008 / Hardcover / \$24.95 / ISBN: 978-0-06- 143843-1  
Contact: Ben Bruton / 212-207-7524 / [ben.bruton@harpercollins.com](mailto:ben.bruton@harpercollins.com)

# 2008 BULLS ISLAND TOUR

**Tuesday, April 8, 2008**

12:00 PM

**WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF  
HILTON HEAD ISLAND**

Crown Plaza  
130 Shipyard Drive  
Shipyard Plantation  
Hilton Head, SC 29928

**Wednesday, April 9, 2008**

4:00 PM

**LITCHFIELD BOOKS**

Pawleys Island Comm Church  
10304 Ocean Highway  
Pawleys Island, SC 29585

**Thursday, April 10, 2008**

7:00 PM

**VERO BEACH**

**BOOK CENTER**

2145 Indian River Boulevard.  
Vero Beach, FL 32960

**Friday, April 11, 2008**

8:45 AM

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT  
NETWORK'S OPEN BOOK**

Brazilian Court  
301 Australian Avenue  
Palm Beach, FL 33480

**Saturday, April 12, 2008**

2:00 PM

**BARNES & NOBLE**

Barnes and Noble  
1716 Towne Centre Way  
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

**Sunday, April 13, 2008**

3:00 PM

**JENNIE MOORE SCHOOL**

1256 Hamlin Road  
Mount Pleasant, SC 29466

**Monday, April 14, 2008**

11:00 AM

**ISLAND CLUB**

Benefit for the  
Edgar Allan Poe Library  
286 Hennessy Street  
Sullivan's Island, SC 29482

**Monday, April 14, 2008**

7:00 PM

**BOOKS-A-MILLION**

164 Forum Drive  
Columbia, SC 29229

**Tuesday, April 15, 2008**

7:00 PM

**BOOKS-A-MILLION**

1920 Skibo Road  
Fayetteville, NC 28314

**Wednesday, April 16, 2008**

12:15 PM

**CHARLOTTE LATIN SCHOOL**

9502 Providence Road  
Charlotte, NC 28277

**Wednesday, April 16, 2008**

7:00 PM

**BORDERS BOOKS & MUSIC**

7836 Rea Road  
Charlotte, NC 28277

**Thursday, April 17, 2008**

2:00 PM

**MCINTYRE'S**

Fearrington Village  
220 Market Street  
Pittsboro, NC 27312

7:00 PM

**BARNES & NOBLE**

3102 Northline Avenue  
Greensboro, NC 27408

**Friday, April 18, 2008**

11:00 AM

**MADISON COUNTY LIBRARY**

Country Club of Asheville  
170 Windsor Road  
Asheville, NC 28804

**Saturday, April 19, 2008**

12:00 PM

**WAL-MART**

250 Highlands Square Drive  
Hendersonville, NC 28792

7:00 PM

**MALAPROPS**

55 Haywood Street  
Asheville, NC 28801

**Thursday, April 24, 2008**

7:00 PM

**ANDERSON'S BOOKS**

123 W Jefferson Avenue  
Naperville, IL 60540

**Friday, April 25, 2008**

1:00 PM

**WARREN NEWPORT LIBRARY**

224 N O'Plaine Rd  
Gurnee, IL 60031

**Saturday, April 26, 2008**

1:30 PM

**CEDAR GROVE PUBLIC  
LIBRARY**

1 Municipal Plaza  
Cedar Grove, NJ 07009

**Wednesday, April 30, 2008**

7:00 PM

**BARNES & NOBLE**

7660 N Point Pkwy  
Alpharetta, GA 30022

**Friday, May 2, 2008**

11:00 AM

**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
MORRISTOWN**

Fiddlers Elbow Country Club  
811 Rattlesnake Bridge Road  
Bedminster, NJ 07921

**Tuesday, May 6, 2008**

7:00 PM

**WILMINGTON**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

25 Carter Lane  
Wilmington, MA 01887