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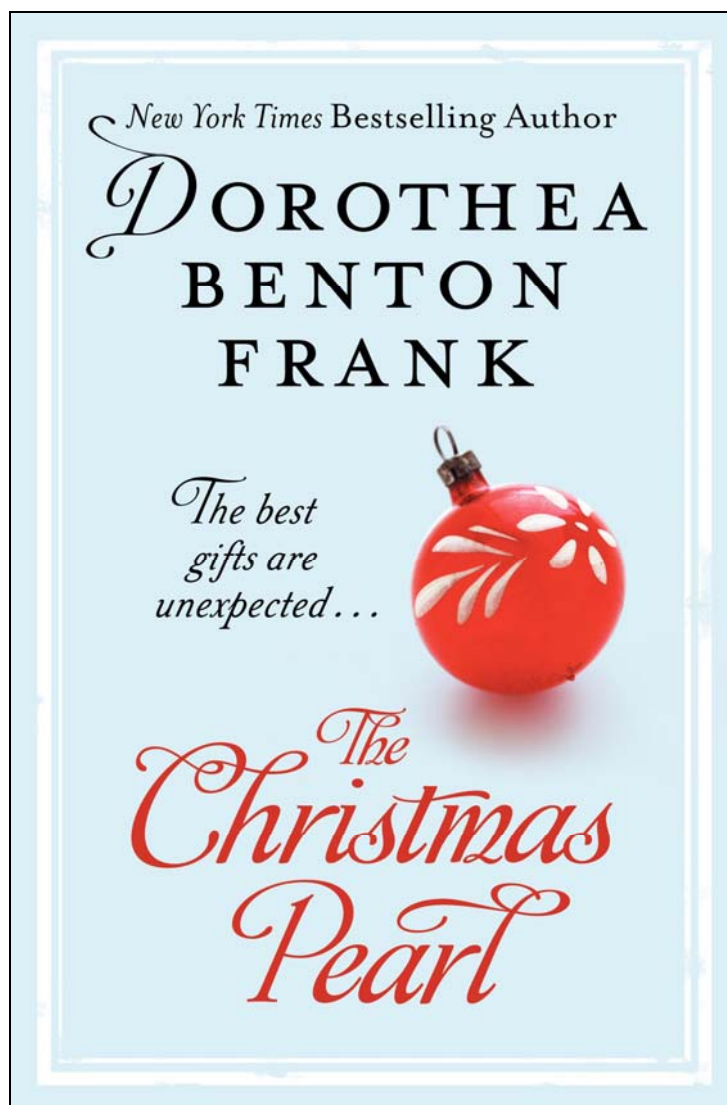
**WILLIAM MORROW**

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*An Old-Fashioned Story  
For Our Very Modern World—  
Is There Still Space for a Christmas Miracle?*



*Book Sense Notable for November*

Just in time for the holidays, *New York Times* bestselling author **Dorothea Benton Frank** brings us her gift of **THE CHRISTMAS PEARL** (*William Morrow, On Sale October 23, 2007, Hardcover, \$14.95*). Set in Charleston, South Carolina, this irresistible gem is filled with Frank's trademark Southern wit and charm and generous servings of Gullah magic from her own childhood. With humor and irrepressible heart, she captures not only the Lowcountry's unique culture but, more importantly, the universal longings, joys, and hopes the holiday season brings.

Theodora Bryson has arrived at her ninety-third year, traditional as her mother's silver and clinging to the last vestiges of the old guard. But this Christmas she finds herself in a terrible conundrum. Her children and grandchildren have forgotten every value of importance in life, most especially conscience and decorum, and it is breaking her heart. During Theodora's childhood, Christmas was a season of sincere generosity, not disingenuous commercial extravagance. Decorations, treasured for generations, were unpacked and displayed. Gifts were everywhere, but they were thoughtful and homemade. Treats were abundant and every carefully planned meal was delectable. The air was suffused with balsam pine, baking fruitcakes, candied yams, and steaming biscuits. Most importantly, Theodora's beloved housekeeper, Pearl, who orchestrated all the pageantry, was always nearby to share her wit, wisdom, and warmth—and her love.

**THE CHRISTMAS PEARL** is the story of a fractured family—their rivalries, insecurities, secrets, and lies—and how, through the desperation of Theodora and the magic of Pearl, they rediscover their deep devotion to each other.

Pull up a chair to the perfectly set holiday table while Frank shows the grand old house as it breathes and rattles in protest and her characters do the same. But despite all their problems, the truth is: love never dies.

This volume includes the recipes that bring Theodora's family together and vintage photographs of winters gone by. It's a classic holiday story, unique because of its Gullah influences, and a contemplation of mysterious things we may never quite understand. Most of all **THE CHRISTMAS PEARL** is the perfect treat to stuff in a stocking or share with loved ones of all ages.

#### **About the Author**

**Dorothea Benton Frank** is the author of seven *New York Times* bestsellers, 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. 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).

**The Christmas Pearl**  
**by Dorothea Benton Frank**

**William Morrow / On Sale October 23, 2007 / Hardcover / \$14.95 / ISBN: 9780061438448**  
**Contact: Ben Bruton / 212-207-7524 / [ben.bruton@harpercollins.com](mailto:ben.bruton@harpercollins.com)**

# THE CHRISTMAS PEARL

## 2007 HOLIDAY TOUR

**Wednesday, October 24**  
**LAKE AUSTIN SPA RESORT**  
“Gathering of Wise Women”  
1705 S Quilan Park Rd  
Austin, TX 78732  
512-372-7300

**Friday, October 26**  
**SOUTHERN LIVING**  
“Winter Writer's Weekend”  
Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort & Spa  
575 Hyatt Lost Pines Road,  
Lost Pines, TX 78612  
512-308-1234

**Sunday, October 28**  
**FRIENDS OF THE**  
**ST. PAUL PUBLIC LIRARY**  
“Opus & Olives”  
Crown Plaza Hotel  
11 Kellogg Blvd E  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
651-292-1900

**Friday, November 16**  
**WOMAN'S CLUB OF WHITE PLAINS**  
“Book and Author Luncheon”  
C.V. Rich Mansion  
305 Ridge Way  
White Plains, NY 10605  
914-948-0958

**Tuesday, November 27**  
**PRESERVATION SOCIETY**  
**OF CHARLESTON**  
Francis Marion Hotel  
387 King Street  
Charleston, SC 29403  
Phone: 843-722-0600

**Wednesday, November 28**  
**LITCHFIELD BOOKS**  
Pawleys Island Community Church  
10304 Ocean Highway  
Pawleys Island, SC 29585  
843-237-4449

**Thursday, November 29**  
**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**CONTINUING EDUCATION**  
Sea Pines Resort  
32 Greenwood Drive  
Hilton Head, SC 29928  
843-363-8397

**Friday, November 30**  
**PALMETTO WOMEN'S CENTER**  
Sterling Hall  
320 Senate Street  
Columbia, SC 29201  
803-252-7333

**Saturday, December 1**  
**BARNES & NOBLE**  
1716 Towne Center Way  
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464  
843-216-9756

**Thursday, December 13**  
**CLINTON BOOK SHOP**  
33 Main Street  
Clinton NJ 08809  
908-735-8811