

The logo for William Morrow, featuring a stylized, cursive 'wm' in black.

**WILLIAM MORROW**

**An Imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers**

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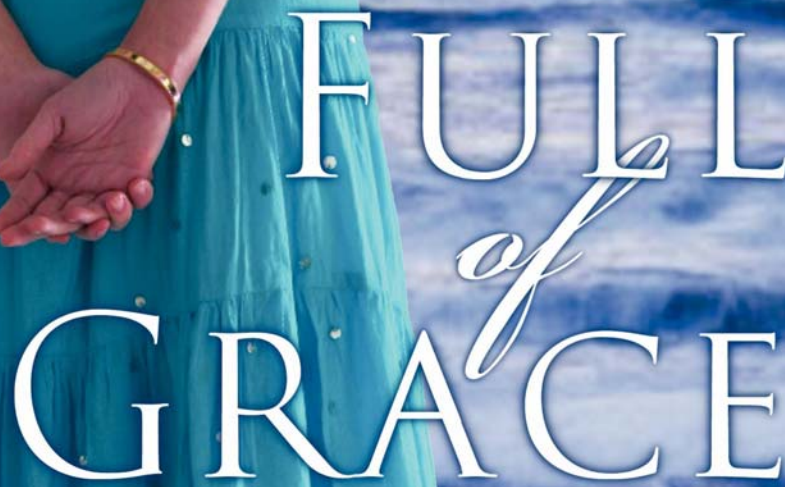
Pamela Spengler-Jaffee, [212.207.7495](tel:212.207.7495) / [pam.jaffee@harpercollins.com](mailto:pam.jaffee@harpercollins.com)

The top section of the promotional graphic features a book cover for 'Frank' by Dorothea Benton Frank. The cover shows the back of a woman with long brown hair wearing a light purple tank top, set against a blue sky background. The text 'NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER' is at the top, followed by the author's name 'DOROTHEA BENTON FRANK' in large white serif font.

*NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER

DOROTHEA  
BENTON  
FRANK

**BELOVED AUTHOR OF  
LOWCOUNTRY TALES  
EXPLORES HIGHER GROUND  
IN BOLD PUBLISHING MOVE**

The bottom section of the promotional graphic features a book cover for 'Full of Grace' by Dorothea Benton Frank. The cover shows a woman in a teal dress with her hands clasped in front of her, set against a blue sky background. The text 'FULL of GRACE' is written in a mix of serif and cursive fonts, with 'of' in cursive. Below the title, it says 'A Novel' in a smaller cursive font.

FULL  
*of*  
GRACE

*A Novel*

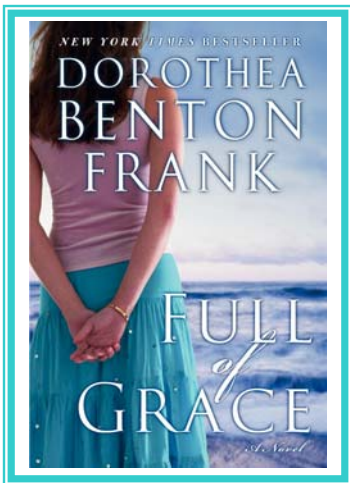
# DOROTHEA BENTON FRANK

*New York Times Bestselling Author of Lowcountry Tales*

## Explores Grace, Faith and Family

*Within The Pages of Her Inspired New Novel and William Morrow Debut,*

# FULL OF GRACE



In a breathtaking departure from her traditional “Lowcountry” tales, *New York Times* bestselling author Dorothea Benton Frank makes her William Morrow debut with **FULL OF GRACE**, a moving story about the sustaining power of love and life’s surprising miracles of faith (William Morrow, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers; ISBN 0-06-089235-8; on-sale 5/2/06; \$24.95 U.S./\$32.50 Can.).

Like all of Frank’s novels, **FULL OF GRACE** is brimming with Southern charm, the author’s trademark wit and sassy dialogue. When her dysfunctional (but irresistible) parents pack up their things (and Grandma *Nonna*) and pick up and move from the wilds of New Jersey (read: the suburbs) to the coastal paradise of Hilton Head, thirty-something Maria Graziella Russo (call her “Grace” – that’s a whole lot of name for a good Italian American girl who doesn’t even go to Church), she relocates to Charleston, immediately falling in love with its Antebellum allure and temperate climate. And all this before she meets Michael Higgins, a doctor and reasearch scientist specializing in the study of stem cells. Heads are spinning, bodies are rolling in graves and Italian tempers flaring when Grace and Michael (who, on top of his work – the Church definitely *does not* approve – is agnostic *and* of Irish descent; *Nonna* and Grace’s father, Big Al, can’t stop having convulsions) move in together. As she makes regular pilgrimages to the ever-heaving bosom of her family for holidays and other eating *abbondanzas*, she can’t help but wonder when the people she loves most in the world will come to accept the man who has won her heart...and if he’ll ever be invited to share in these special, crazy (and always pleasantly dysfunctional) celebrations.

Grace has the job most everyone dreams of: planning amazing vacations and corporate retreats for the world's wealthiest travelers. Not only does Grace escort these groups, but she meticulously plans each excursion, whether it be to the sun-soaked Sardinian coast, to the elite vineyards of Napa and Sonoma. But when Michael is diagnosed with stage four glioblastoma, an insidious and often inoperable form of brain cancer, the weeks away from his side hold no appeal – so she rallies against the one last trip her employer asks her to plan: a pilgrimage for local Charleston Church-goers to the sites of some of the world's most celebrated – and debated (and, true to form, Grace does indeed try to argue) – miracles.

But when Grace and Michael experience a miracle of their own on Mexico City's most hallowed ground, the stage is set for a major change in faith that will not only alter the couple's outlook on life, but will touch every member of the Russo family, as well.

Reading **FULL OF GRACE** is like pouring a big glass of Chianti (this is strong stuff – sweet tea will not suffice!), diving into an indulgent plate of *antipasti* and embarking upon a mile-a-minute heart-to-heart with this voluble author about family, love, life and the eternal search for the perfect state of grace.

**FULL OF GRACE**  
By Dorothea Benton Frank  
William Morrow, an Imprint of HarperCollins Publishers  
ISBN 0-06-089235-8  
\$24.95 U.S./\$32.50 Can.  
**On-Sale 5/2/06**

### PRAISE FOR THE NOVELS OF DOROTHEA BENTON FRANK:

**“A rich read”**

*Publishers Weekly* (starred review) on Sullivan's Island



**“Frank keeps you reading compulsively”**

*The Charlotte Observer* on Sullivan's Island



**“...Effortlessly evokes the lush beauty of the South Carolina Lowcountry while exploring the complexities of family relationships”**

*Publishers Weekly* (starred review) on Plantation

## About the Author:

### DOROTHEA BENTON FRANK



Dorothea Benton Frank is the *New York Times* best selling author of *PAWLEYS ISLAND* (Berkley 2005), *SHEM CREEK* (Berkley 2004), *ISLE OF PALMS* (Berkley 2003), *PLANTATION* (Jove 2001) and *SULLIVAN'S ISLAND* (Jove 2000).

Her new novel, **FULL OF GRACE**, will be released May 2006 by William Morrow, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers.

Ms Frank has appeared on NBC's *Today Show*, Parker Ladd's *Book Talk* and many local network affiliated television stations. She is a frequent speaker on creative writing and the creative process for students of all ages and in private venues as the National Arts Club, the Junior League of New York, Friends of the Library organizations and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. She has also been a guest speaker at the South Carolina Book Festival, Novello, North Carolina's festival of books and the Book and

Author annual event in Charleston, SC, sponsored by the Post & Courier.

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 serves on the Advisory Boards of the Southern Literature Council of Charleston (SC) and NJ Theater Group.

She has served as a trustee of the Bill T. Jones/ Arnie Zane Dance Company, NY, Music Theater Group NY, The Mental Health Association of Essex County, New Jersey and The Community Foundation of New Jersey. In addition, she served on the Board of Trustees of the Drumthwacket Foundation, the official residence of the Governor of New Jersey, for seven years. In 1991, she was appointed to the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. She has been a public speaker on fundraising and ADA compliance locally and nationally for the National Endowment for the Arts. Her work on ADA compliance and the Arts Access Task Force was filmed by NJ Network, a PBS affiliate and nominated for a regional Emmy in 1995.

Past board service includes The New Jersey Chamber Music Society, Whole Theater, Dance NJ, American Stage Company, and Senior Care of Montclair. As a volunteer fund raiser, she has planned events for Bloomfield College, The Montclair Kimberley Academy, Unity Concerts, Papermill Playhouse, Overseas Neighbors, Young President's Organization and The National Governor's Association. She is a 1991 graduate of the Leadership America Program.

The author, who was born and raised on Sullivan's Island in South Carolina, currently divides her time between South Carolina and New Jersey, where she and her husband are raising their two teenagers.

Visit her on the web at [www.dotfrank.com](http://www.dotfrank.com).

## Dot Gets Frank About... MIRACLES IN THE MODERN WORLD



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Galleries Ltd., New York  
[www.alhirschfeld.com](http://www.alhirschfeld.com)

People always ask me how I get the idea for a new book. The answer is it comes from everywhere. But **FULL OF GRACE** has the most peculiar genesis of all my books. It must have been two years ago when I was standing in my kitchen watching the news at five o'clock. The newscaster said, "Is this a miracle? When we return . . ."

Well, I love that kind of stuff – angels, ghosts, UFO's, whatever – so I hung around during the ads and waited.

The punch line: an American

Orthodox Jewish man was preparing for his own demise from a stage four glioblastoma, the big nasty of all brain tumors. He visited the pope, received Communion and had an instant complete cure. I got chills. I called Debbie Zammit, the woman who works with me and asked her if she had seen it and she had. I said, "Who was that guy? That story is a book."

Then I recalled seeing my old high school boyfriend at a wedding a few years before that and he told me he and his wife, Gail had become pretty serious about their faith. Yawn. Cynic that I am I said, well that's good and looked for an exit. He said, no, you have to hear this story. Gail has had Crohn's disease all her life and was seriously ill. She delayed major surgery – one of many operations she's had – because it was the holiday season. The heavy meds her doctor prescribed caused insomnia, she was up in the middle of the night and she picked up her Bible. She opened it to the passage that read something like *whatever you ask in my Father's name shall be given . . .* and boom! Her ears start buzzing and she feels an electrical shock go through her whole body. She was completely cured – no scar tissue left, she was basically made brand new. Sure. I ordered another glass of wine and wondered why they would lie about such a thing.

I was telling their story to my next door neighbor, Mary Mehan, on Sullivan's Island and she said, well, the same thing happened to my mother. I said to myself, oh sure, here we go again. But her mother experienced a spontaneous healing of her heart muscles through the group prayer of a congregation in church. Another medical miracle.

I thought what if I *was sure* I would be dead within a year? The best medicine on the planet offered no hope and I was told to make my arrangements. Then, what if a miracle happened to me? I was cured completely to the total astonishment of the medical community. How would that change my life? Would I become spiritual or wildly generous, give up red meat and exercise? How would it effect and change the people around me? Would we be more compassionate, forgiving, or tolerant?

At the time I was at my home on Sullivan's Island without my family. I flipped on the television and what did I see but a Discovery Channel Special called something like *The Historical Mary*. They were talking about Mary and the Devil and all sorts of bizarre things. One of the guests was Randall Sullivan, a former writer for *Rolling Stone*. He was talking about his book, *The Miracle Detective*. I came home to NJ, bought the book and read it. Raised by atheists, he was easily as skeptical as I have always been but by page five hundred, he had become a Catholic. He actually witnessed a spontaneous exorcism in Medjugore, in addition to many other things off the charts.

Okay, then the seed for a book builds momentum and everywhere I look is a Mary story, a miracle story – it was too coincidental to be coincidence. At this point, I am wondering how to tell this story without alienating my readers or offending good people of honest faith. Especially when I have something of a reputation as a sassy girl.

I start having an occasional nightmare that someone's in my bedroom besides my husband and me. And it's a dark thing. Next, I meet a woman who records my book *Pawley's Island* on tape and completely unsolicited or clued into my thoughts, she presses a Miraculous Medal into my hands and says it's for protection. It was a little unnerving.

The final straw came one night when I was waiting for my husband to come home. Once again, flipping through the channels, I saw a huge image of Our Lady of Guadalupe and flipped back to the Catholic Channel. When I listened to the story of Juan Diego's tilma, every hair of mine stood on end. I knew then that this was the story I had to write. And somehow, make it entertaining, meaningful and plausible.

I hope readers will enjoy **FULL OF GRACE** told with my usual irreverence and take it in the spirit in which I offer it, which is just to make us think about things. That's about it. Except that several years ago I was scheduled for surgery to remove a tumor. Unknown to me, Gail Fortune, my editor at the time now my agent, had two prayer groups pray for me and something told me to go for a second opinion. I did. The tumor was gone. Go figure.

And it's in the news – on April 11, 2005, both ABC News and The Associated Press reported that there have been honest-to-God miracles attributed to Pope John Paul II. Get your "Google" on – search a little bit. You'll be surprised at what you read...and how it comes to affect your belief.

One last thought. I would love to hear stories of miracles from readers. If anyone has a real lollapalooza, over the top story to tell, please ask them to email me at [dot@dotfrank.com](mailto:dot@dotfrank.com). Thanks!

# **AUTHOR TOUR SCHEDULE:**

## **DOROTHEA BENTON FRANK / FULL OF GRACE**

**CHARLOTTE, NC**  
**Tuesday, May 2, 2006**

12 noon  
**Park Road Books**  
4139 Park Road  
Charlotte, NC 28209  
704.525.9239

**CHARLOTTE, NC**  
**Tuesday, May 2, 2006**

7 p.m.  
**Barnes & Noble 2812**  
3327 Pineville-Matthews Road  
Charlotte, NC 28226  
704.341.9481

**RALEIGH, NC**  
**Wednesday, May 3, 2006**

12 noon  
**Books-a-Million Author Luncheon at Restaurant Savannah**  
4351 The Circle at North Hills St.  
Raleigh, NC 27609  
919.847.2486

**RALEIGH, NC**  
**Wednesday, May 3, 2006**

7 p.m.  
**Quail Ridge Books**  
3522 Wade Avenue  
Raleigh, NC 27607  
919.828.7912

**GREENVILLE, SC**  
**Thursday, May 4, 2006**

11 a.m.  
**Greenville County Legal Auxiliary**  
(Hosted by The Open Book)  
Poinsett Club  
Greenville, SC

**GREENVILLE, SC**  
**Thursday, May 4, 2006**

7 p.m.  
**Barnes & Noble 2558**  
735 Haywood Road  
Greenville, SC 29607  
864.458.9113

**PAWLEY'S ISLAND, SC**  
**Friday, May 5, 2006**

11 a.m.  
**Litchfield Books/Moveable Feast**  
14427 Ocean Highway, Unit G  
Pawley's Island, SC 29585  
843.237.8138

**MT. PLEASANT, SC**  
**Saturday, May 6, 2006**

2 p.m.  
**Barnes & Noble 2973**  
1716 Towne Center Way  
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464  
843.216.9756

**SURFSIDE, SC**  
**Sunday, May 7, 2006**

2 p.m.  
**Wal\*Mart 574**  
2751 Beaver Run Blvd  
Surfside, SC 29575  
843.650.4800

**ST. SIMON'S ISLAND, GA**  
**Monday, May 8, 2006**

5 p.m.  
**G.J. Ford Bookshop**  
600 Sea Island Road  
St. Simon's Island, GA 31522  
912.634.6168

**ATLANTA, GA**  
**Tuesday, May 9, 2006**

6 p.m.  
**Margaret Mitchell House**  
990 Peachtree St., NE  
Atlanta, GA 30309  
404.814.2064

**HILTON HEAD, SC**  
**Wednesday, May 10, 2006**

12 noon  
**University of South Carolina/ Continuing Education**  
The Country Club of Hilton Head  
70 Skull Creek Drive  
Hilton Head, SC 29926  
803.777.7695

**ATLANTIC BEACH, FL**  
**Thursday, May 11, 2006**

3 p.m.  
**BOOKMARK**  
299 Atlantic Boulevard  
Atlantic Beach, FL 32233  
904.241.9026

**VERO BEACH, FL**  
**Friday, May 12, 2006**

6 p.m.  
**Vero Beach Book Center**  
2145 Indian River Blvd  
Vero Beach, FL 32960  
772.569.1153

**FAIRHOPE, AL**  
**Saturday, May 13, 2006**

4 p.m.  
**Page & Palette**  
32 South Section Street  
Fairhope, AL 36532  
251.928.5295

**DALLAS, TX**  
**Monday, May 15, 2006**

6 p.m.  
**Waldenbooks 444**  
Northeast Mall  
1101 Melbourne Road  
Hurst TX, 76053  
817.589.1021

**DALLAS, TX**  
**Tuesday, May 16, 2006**

7 p.m.  
**Hastings**  
2311 Colorado Blvd.  
Denton, TX 76205  
940.565.1764

**BIRMINGHAM, AL**  
**Wednesday, May 17, 2006**

11 a.m.  
**Junior League of Birmingham with Books-a-Million**  
Junior League Auditorium  
2212 Twentieth Avenue South  
Birmingham, AL 35223  
205.943.0593

**NASHVILLE, TN**  
**Thursday, May 18, 2006**

12 noon  
**Davis-Kidd Booksellers**  
2121 Green Hills Village Drive  
Nashville, TN 37215  
615.783.0218

**ANNAPOLIS, MD**  
**Saturday, May 20, 2006**

2 p.m.  
**Borders 451**  
1115 Annapolis Mall  
Annapolis MD 21401  
410.571.0923

**GREENVILLE, NC**  
**Monday, May 22, 2006**

7 p.m.  
**Barnes & Noble 2775**  
3040 Evans Street  
Greenville NC 27834  
252.321.8231

**GREENSBORO, NC**  
**Tuesday, May 23, 2006**

7 p.m.  
**Barnes & Noble 2795**  
3102 Northline Avenue  
Greensboro, NC 27408  
336.854.4200

**SPRINGFIELD, NJ**

**Thursday, June 1, 2006**  
7:30 p.m.  
**Barnes & Noble 1884**  
240 Route 22 West  
Springfield, NJ 07081

**MONTCLAIR, NJ**  
**Friday, June 2, 2006**

7:30 p.m.  
**Watchung Booksellers**  
54 Fairfield Street  
Watchung Plaza  
Montclair, NJ 07042  
973.744.7177

**HAMPTON, VA**  
**Sunday, June 4, 2006**

2 p.m.  
**Friends of the Hampton Public Library**  
757.850.3500

**COLUMBIA, SC**  
**Tuesday, June 6, 2006**

12 p.m.  
**Paradies Airport Bookshop**  
Columbia, SC Airport  
803.822.8075

**COLUMBIA, SC**  
**Tuesday, June 6, 2006**

5 p.m.  
**The Happy Bookseller**  
4525 Forest Drive  
Columbia, SC 29206  
803.782.2665

**CINCINNATI, OH**  
**Wednesday, June 7, 2006**

7 p.m.  
**Joseph-Beth Booksellers**  
2692 Madison Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45208  
513.731.7770

**LEXINGTON, KY**  
**Thursday, June 8, 2006**

7 p.m.  
**Joseph-Beth Booksellers**  
161 Lexington Green Circle  
Lexington, KY 40503  
859.422.1424

**FAIRFIELD, CT**  
**Wednesday, June 14, 2006**

7 p.m.  
**Borders 419**  
1499 Post Road  
Fairfield CT 06824  
203.256.1619

**BOONSBORO, MD**  
**Saturday, July 15, 2006**

1 p.m.  
**Turn The Page Bookstore**  
18 N. Main Street  
Boonsboro, MD 21713

**For More Information, Contact:**

Pamela Spengler-Jaffee,  
212.207.7495

[Pam.jaffee@harpercollins.com](mailto:Pam.jaffee@harpercollins.com)