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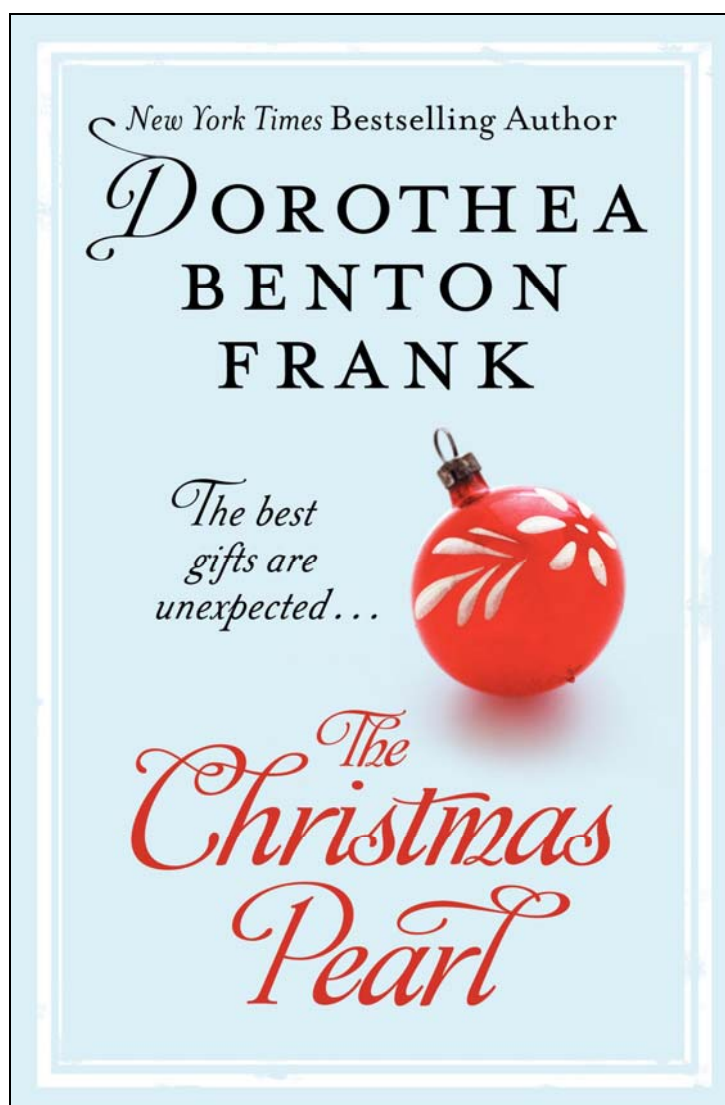
WILLIAM MORROW

An Imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers
10 East 53rd 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.

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

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