



# All the Single Ladies

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## All the Single Ladies Dorothea Benton Frank

The perennial *New York Times* bestselling author returns with an emotionally resonant novel that illuminates the power of friendship in women's lives, and is filled with her trademark wit, poignant and timely themes, sassy, flesh-and-blood characters, and the steamy Southern atmosphere and beauty of her beloved Carolina Lowcountry.

Few writers capture the complexities, pain, and joy of relationships—between friends, family members, husbands and wives, or lovers—as beloved *New York Times* bestselling author Dorothea Benton Frank. In this charming, evocative, soul-touching novel, she once again takes us deep into the heart of the magical Lowcountry where three amazing middle-aged women are bonded by another amazing woman's death.

Through their shared loss they forge a deep friendship, asking critical questions. Who was their friend and what did her life mean? Are they living the lives they imagined for themselves? Will they ever be able to afford to retire? How will they maximize their happiness? Security? Health? And ultimately, their own legacies?

A plan is conceived and unfurls with each turn of the tide during one sweltering summer on the Isle of Palms. Without ever fully realizing how close they were to the edge, they finally triumph amid laughter and maybe even newfound love.

## All the Single Ladies Details

Date : Published June 9th 2015 by William Morrow (first published June 2nd 2015)

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Author : Dorothea Benton Frank

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# From Reader Review All the Single Ladies for online ebook

## Beth Harbaugh says

This book had such a great premise but it didn't work. The editing was hit and miss, there were places where sentences made no sense and characters were talking who weren't even in the conversation. Some of the dialogue was really dumb, especially when Lisa was talking about sexual attraction. And all the giggling - really? Couldn't they just laugh or guffaw or use one of the many other words to denote finding humor in the situation? And finally, all the self-righteous prattle about marijuana - that was unnecessary and boring after the first time. I don't read a novel to be preached to, I read for entertainment. If I wanted a sermon or lecture on marijuana or any other topic I would go to a non-fiction source. While it was a quick read the book was a disappointment. Makes me wonder if I'm going to read the next book DBF writes.

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## Libby says

A nice beach read with likeable characters. Not the greatest writing and the editor must've been drunk, but still a sweet enough story.

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## Judy Collins says

*Dorothea Benton Frank* returns with laugh out loud entertaining, **ALL THE SINGLE LADIES**, a sassy, witty, and hilarious Southern Carolina Lowcountry gem. Three amazing middle-aged women are bonded by one woman's death, for a "must pack" beach bag, summer beach read! If you are a female in the 50+ range, you will relate and devour this one. *I am unfortunately in this group.*

**As the book opens**, we meet Lisa a nurse, who works in geriatrics and her favorite patient is dying of cancer. Divorced, in her early fifties, with a grown daughter, she barely makes ends meet; however, loves her job and her work. She is having all sorts of drama with her daughter, Marianne living in Colorado and involved in some things she considers rather questionable; currently estranged. Her no good ex-husband is of little help. Later she even loses the house she is living in.

**Lisa develops a friendship** with Carrie and Suzanne, the two devoted friends who were always by Kathy's side. When Kathy dies, the three woman develop a bond while trying to take care of Kathy's affairs. However, when they begin to clear out her house, they suspect her landlord is stealing furniture and things from her house.

**As they work together** to solve the past of Kathy, they bond in so many ways as each of them have their own issues, divorced, and over 50. From financial, dating, men, illness, clothes, sex, money, kids, and most of all eating Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, and eating LowCountry southern (bad/good)foods, and drinking wine. *(had to laugh, as one minute they are worried about food causing cancer and the next minute they are eating sugar).*

**Suzanne's ninety-nine-year-old grandmother**, was a hoot and they move in with her, taking turns taking care of her. I loved all the women living together, like The Golden Girls. She was a total riot, and had lots of

wisdom and fun with the ladies. Carrie's ex-stepchildren are selfish and greedy and of course, Lisa's mom and dad always stick their nose into her business.

**In the process of working** on the mystery behind Kathy's life, the women bond over clothes, food, booze, sex new relationships, and most of all friendship.

**A long time fans of DBF**, I listened to the audiobook and *Robin Miles*, as always- excellent! I could listen to her all day. *Dorothea Benton Frank and Robin Miles* are a match made in southern heaven. I always pre-order, knowing there is much in store, and this pair never disappoints! Listening, is like talking with girlfriends, over a glass of wine or coffee, with southern sass and great one liners, keeping you entertained for hours. (You do not want it to end). *Highly Recommend audiobook, in order to get the full southern "bless your heart" experience.*

**ALL THE SINGLE LADIES** may be one of my favorites thus far. Being in this same age range, have had similar conversations with friends over some of the same topics--can relate. As divorced single women of this age as we approach social security, it is a scary thought, thinking we will be working until we are 90. Of course, better poor doing what we want, than taking care of an old man! I also loved the part about being carded at the store one day, and then, in a blink of an eye, gravity hits; the clerk is asking you if you want the senior discount? (*or worse, not asking, just giving it to you*).

**A must read.** Put this one at the top of the summer beach chick-lit reading list! (Great cover). *Would make for a great Krispy Kreme Doughnut commercial.*

JDCMustReadBooks

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## **Karen Ashmore says**

Having grown up in SC, I read Dottie Frank's new beach novel every year. Some are better than others. This one was so-so. I have lived in Colorado for over 20 years now and can assure readers that the cannabis industry is not the evil industry she portrays. It is a well-regulated, fast growing (no pun intended) industry whose tax revenues help improve our schools.

The story was superficial and the characters were too goody-goody and judgemental, the romances too quick, the ending too tidy, and for heaven's sake, who can move all their belongings into a new residence in one hour?

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## **Jackie says**

I haven't read all of Mrs. Frank's books, only a few. Enough that I was left wondering who actually wrote this one. It reads like a first foray into writing. Seriously.

The main character is depicted as a 52 year old woman. I know lots of women in their 50's. None of them act this adolescent.

The dialogue is stilted. The descriptions come across as condescending; there's a mini-soap-box in multiple chapters. It felt like every single thing had to be defined because as readers we're too dumb to know anything.

Frankly I was just annoyed by the whole book. It actually did get marginally better toward the end, but really, there wasn't a single adult in the book that acted like an adult. And we're not talking young adults here, these women are all middle-aged.

Here's an example of the immature nature of the main character (as well as an example of the lackluster writing): "Marianne never returned my calls yesterday. My only child who carries my blood in her veins made me cry on her birthday. I thought it was so mean to deliberately hurt me when she knew I loved her so very dearly. " Sounds pretty self-centered for a 52 year old who should have plenty of life experience at this point.

I had a friend who urged me to read this author - which I did, years ago. I don't remember feeling this let down by that previous book. What has happened in the meantime?

The only way I'd recommend this book would be if someone wants to simply pass the time running their eyes over words on a page.

To give her credit, the author keeps it clean and nearly free of offensive language. That's pretty much the only recommendation.

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### **Mindi Montoro says**

I have enjoyed this author very much in the past, however this story was truly painful to read. It doesn't come close to the calibre of her past stories. Did someone else write this? Very disappointing.

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### **Patty says**

Dorothea Benton Frank's books have always been favorites of mine for light reading. This one, I'm sad to report, was just too trite. The characters were not up to her usual standards. The challenges faced by these women were not particularly onerous, and yet, somehow, it seemed as if they needed men to come riding in to fix everything.

I was a little disappointed with the one before this, but now I'm just done.

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### **Anna At A Wondrous Bookshelf says**

Lisa St. Claire is a divorced nurse who works in a nursing home named Palmetto House. The book starts with the death of one of Lisa's favorite patient, Kathy Harper. After the death of Kathy, Lisa becomes good friends with Kathy's friends Suzanne and Carrie and the three take on the job of cleaning out the old lady's apartment. In the process, the three middle-aged ladies embark on a mission of discovery and friendship.

I have to say that I was a little disappointed with this book. I felt that most of the dialogues were choppy and that the story did not flow well. As for character development, apart from Miss Trudie (Suzanne's grandmother) who was a darling, I had a hard time connecting with the three ladies. Overall, this book is an easy read with some really funny parts and a sweet story about friendship, aging, and learning to accept life's hurdles. However, I didn't feel this book was as good as her other novels.

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### **Raven Haired Girl says**

I'm not completely on board with DBF but I have to give the authoress credit outstandingly describing the surroundings of South Carolina. From delicious food, warm people, humidity so thick you can slice it with a knife, turncoat weather, stifling heat and of course the hospitality and mannerisms, you feel as if you've stepped knee high into it all. Extremely atmospheric.

I wasn't of the mindset of the three female protagonists by any means. Lisa was way too preachy on her marijuana bandwagon, became stale after a while. Carrie's dire financial situation provoking her to hunt for a husband to take care and support her, utter madness, her actions certainly didn't gain her points with this reader. Her behavior was unflattering. Suzanne experienced an unhealthy relationship long ago and therefore swears off men. I had absolutely nothing in common with these women, as a feminist I cringed. I will say the attempt to confiscate the items was ludicrous.

A contrived narrative of justice, love and friendship, perfect for the beach or airplane.

For this and other reviews visit <http://ravenhairedgirl.com>

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### **Connie says**

"All the Single Ladies" is a story about warm friendships among three middle-aged Southern women, each of whom has a special new guy in her life. There are also several older characters who are very loved--sweet Kathy and sassy Miss Trudie--who are dealing with health issues. The book is humorous, and filled with the local color of Charleston, South Carolina. Unfortunately, some parts of the story are unrealistic or predictable. It's a light beach read.

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### **Anna says**

Lisa St. Clair is a nurse at an assisted living facility. When one of her favorite patients, Kathy dies, she hooks up with the two friends, Suzanne and Carrie, who loyally sat with Kathy throughout her ordeal. All three women are single and over fifty. As they work together to solve the mysteries of Kathy's past, they bond over wine, donuts and secrets. They all live in Suzanne's ninety nine year old grandmother Trudy's home on the Isle of Palms. Trudy is an absolute riot! With the help and encouragement of each other, the women find you are never too old to fall in love, and experience new beginnings.

A great summer beach read. Robin Miles was wonderful as the reader of the audio book.

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## **Kori says**

I'm sorry to say I can't recommend this one. I have enjoyed many of the author's other books, but I just couldn't stand the constant commentary on the evils of recreational marijuana. I hope that dancing on that soapbox was worth ruining your book, Dorothea. We get it. You don't smoke pot. Neither do I, and you still annoyed me.

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## **Julie says**

All the Single Ladies by Dorothea Benton Frank is a 2015 William Morrow Publication. I was provided a copy of this book by the publisher and Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review.

I must confess up front that I have not, to my knowledge, read anything by this author. Gasp! I know that won't earn me any brownie points because I hear she is very well loved with a devoted fan base, which is why I was eager to read one of her books.

Sadly, I think I may have chosen the wrong book to start with and I am hoping is a 'one off' and is not the best representation of this author's work.

I love books that are set in the south, for some reason, and because this story is set in the Carolina Lowcountry, and was supposed to be centered around three strong southern ladies who are closing in on middle age, I was very excited to get started on this one. I had visions of sweet tea, good southern food, with lots of major life issues to solve, and of course some tears, laughter and a little romance to top things off.

Well, a lot of that is here, but it fell flat on its face, I'm afraid. Lisa, a divorced nurse, working in a nursing home, bonds with the friends of one of her long term patients, a woman named Kathy, who was dying of breast cancer. Suzanne and Claire are the two ladies who are left behind after Kathy passes away, and they discover there is no one to take care of the belongings she left behind. As they begin to sort through Kathy's personal effects, they decide to solve the mystery of who Kathy really was, what her time on this earth meant, and examine their own lives in the process.

There was nothing wrong with the set up, but, the pondering of life's mysteries and meaning never really got off the ground.

Lisa was too preachy for me. The use of medical marijuana is fine in my book, and she kind of let that idea stay in the neutral zone, but when it comes to recreational use, she was way too judgmental, especially since the person she took issue with lived in a state where it was legal.

Now, it is very important to divorce yourself from the author when a character gets up on a soapbox about an issue that's controversial. The character had strong opinions on the subject, but that doesn't necessarily mean the author feels that way.

However, if this author is using her talent as a writer to push her own agenda through characters in a book, then I take offense to that. I don't know this author well enough to know if this is out of character for her or not. So, I'll give her the benefit of the doubt this time and presume it was Lisa who had a personal problem. However, deep down, I did think the author went way overboard and the lecture got old in a hurry.

The deep emotional draw I was hoping for never materialized. Nothing these women faced were all that life altering. I never felt like cheering, nor did I feel righteous indignation, or anger. I never felt inspired, or sad, or moved in any way. The romances were nice, simply because it's rare to see middle aged women featured in any kind of romantic scenario, as though once we reach forty we no longer have romantic feelings or sex drives. So, from that standpoint, adding romance into the mix is refreshing. However, some of these romantic pairings had zero chemistry and I just couldn't see it working.

The dialogue was overblown as though the author was trying to create a certain stereotype of southern women and the southern lifestyle with the rich foods, and the hot, steamy summertime backdrop, but it had a forced feel to it. The writing is uneven and the story didn't flow well, and was awfully busy sometimes.

Overall, this book was disappointing for me since I had heard so many wonderful things about this author. I was expecting a little something more, I suppose. However, I am not adverse to reading one of her older titles at some point and giving her work another try someday. 2 stars

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## **Diane says**

One of the great things about summer is that I get to spend some time in South Carolina's Lowcountry when Dorothea Benton Frank's latest novel publishes. This year's terrific novel *All The Single Ladies* shows Frank in fine form with wonderful characters in a great story, topped off with Frank's signature one-liners that crack me up.

Lisa St. Clair is a divorced nurse, struggling to make do with a part-time job working at an adult home, sad that her 18-year-old daughter has moved to Colorado, where her estranged father has help set her up in her own legal marijuana tourist company.

Lisa has become close to Kathy, fifty-year-old patient who is dying of cancer, as well as the woman's two best friends, Carrie and Suzanne, who hold a constant vigil at her bedside. When Kathy passes away, Lisa, Carrie and Suzanne join forces to clean out Kathy's apartment, and they become closer.

What I liked about this book was that these are women of a certain age, who haven't been lucky in love up to this point, but they don't close themselves off to the possibilities in front of them. They support each other, and when Lisa loses her apartment, Suzanne offers her a room in her grandmother's home near the beach.

Suzanne grandmother Miss Trudie is an unforgettable character, the kind of grandma we'd all wish to have. She's 99 years-old, sassy, and full of life and advice. I fell in love with Miss Trudie.

Carrie is a thrice-widowed woman, and she is always on the lookout for husband number four. Suzanne owns her floral shop, but she doesn't have time or the inclination to look for a husband. Taking care of Miss Trudie and trying to keep her shop open takes all of her time.

Lisa not only has to deal with her strained relationship with her daughter, but her phone conversations with her parents are hilarious. I can almost see her banging her head against the wall as she tries to get through a call with them.

The friendship these women develop is heartwarming, they support and encourage each other in their individual endeavors. And the men that come into their lives are not stereotypical clueless guys, they feel



like real men, trying to do their best for the women they care about.

One of the men even gives a great piece of advice; he tells Lisa that children don't do things to hurt their parents, they don't even consider that their actions have anything to do with their parents. Smart man.

One of the best things about reading Frank's novels is that I can add so many great restaurants to my Charleston Pinterest board. Frank helped me add close to a dozen more, and the Chamber of Commerce of Charleston should send her a big bouquet of flowers because no one encourages more people to visit (and maybe even retire) to that beautiful area.

Grab a beach chair, your best girlfriends, a couple of bottles of Pinot Grigio, and a few copies of All The Single Ladies and make a day of it. Then go to dinner and plan your girls' vacation to Charleston.

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### **Denise Murphy says**

I love Dorothea Benton Frank. Loved Pawley's Island, Plantation and more. Not so much this one. Is she locked into a contract that forces her to crank out books by a certain date? That's what it feels like.

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