

## FANTASTIC FICTION SET IN CHARLESTON AND THE SOUTH

### CHARLESTON

#### **Brown, Sandra--The Alibi**

Charleston District Attorney Hammond Cross meets a mysterious and completely irresistible woman, only to find out that she is the main suspect in a murder. She insists she's innocent---and he is her airtight alibi for the night of the murder! What's the truth? This is a fun and quick read.

#### **Conroy, Pat--South of Broad**

It's 1969, and 18-year-old Leo has just discovered that his mother had once been a nun. That is only the first of a long line of upsets in this coming-of-age story that includes his group of friends, who by the 1980s have found success in a variety of careers, but are still haunted by their evocative and troubling Charleston past. South of Broad is just one of many Conroy titles and book-based movies set in the South.

#### **Frank, Dorothea Benton--Sullivan's Island: a Lowcountry Tale**

Devastated by her husband's affair, Susan tries to rebuild her damaged life on Sullivan's Island, only to find that she must confront the racially-charged problems from her troubled family's past. Can Susan's wit and determination, and the undeniable charm of the island, carry her through to a new, fulfilling life? Sequel is Return to Sullivan's Island.

#### **Kidd, Sue Monk--Invention of Wings**

Starred by *Booklist* magazine, this story is inspired by the true story of early-19th-century abolitionist and suffragette Sarah Grimké. Independent, rebellious Sarah is wealthy and cosseted, but thwarted from her dream of becoming a lawyer. She finds a kindred spirit in her smart and brave slave. Their unlikely friendship, told in first person from alternate perspectives, chart their respectful but also resentful friendship from childhood to middle age.

#### **Monroe, Mary Alice--Lowcountry Summer trilogy**

From the Publisher: Three granddaughters. Three months. One summer house. In this enchanting trilogy set on Sullivan's Island, South Carolina, *New York Times* bestselling author Mary Alice Monroe captures the complex relationships among Dora, Carson, and Harper, three half-sisters scattered across the country—and a grandmother determined to help them rediscover their family bonds

#### **Sadler, Sarah. Southern Solstice**

Broken-hearted 24-year-old Larken moves back from the West Coast to Charleston to try to rebuild her life as part of a charmed, aristocratic family. In addition to her suitors, the other character in this love story is Charleston itself. As one reader said, "If Sadler's descriptions don't make you want to pack up and move to Charleston, I don't know what will. The book will draw you in from page one and won't let go."

### **Waldfoegel, Sabra--Slave and Sister**

Adelaide, the daughter of Jewish slaveholders, and Rachel, her slave, share a shameful secret---they have the same father. This not only shadows their childhood, but continues into Adelaide's marriage, when her husband falls in love with Rachel. As the Civil War breaks out and chaos erupts, how will they both cope, as well as survive?

### **White, Karen--House on Tradd Street**

Melanie, a real estate agent who loves everything modern and orderly, finds herself burdened by the inheritance of an old house in Charleston. The will says that she must live in it for a year and restore it to its former glory before selling it. That year brings back her tragic past, ulterior motives of colorful locals, and perhaps love. *Publisher's Weekly* says: "White skillfully balances her tale at the meeting point of romance, mystery and ghost story. The supernatural elements are not played for scares, but instead refine and reveal Melanie's true character. A fun and satisfying read."

## **THE SOUTH**

### **Butler, Octavia--Kindred**

Dana, a contemporary young black woman, is transported back in time to the antebellum South, where she has been summoned to save Rufus, the white son of a plantation owner. Dana finds herself repeatedly and involuntarily drawn back in time to the slave quarters for longer and increasingly dangerous adventures. Will she die before she can get back to her own time--permanently? Butler was an African-American author who wrote many science fiction novels.

### **Godwin, Gail--A Mother and Two Daughters**

Reader Review: "A truly wonderful book, with real and rich characters. A Southern widow who is a good, decent woman faces the daily ritual of Southern genteel life, but is challenged by the rivalry of her two daughters Cate and Lydia. Full of the flavor of Southern life and customs, and lush detail. You will be drawn into the story and will wish the story kept on going when it ends." Godwin is a National Book award winner who has written many evocative, absorbing novels set in the South, including her latest, Flora.

### **Mee, Susie--Downhome: An Anthology of Southern Women Writers**

Publisher's Description: A powerful collection of short stories by Southern female writers, from Eudora Welty and Zora Neale Hurston to Ellen Gilchrist and Dorothy Allison. Written in a time period spanning several decades, the selections reflect the sights, sounds, tastes, and smells of Southern life. They also tap into the darker side of Southern life.

## **Classic Southern Writers**

William Faulkner, Flannery O'Connor, and Eudora Welty.