

Book Buzz

so many books...so little time

Women Authors with a Southern Slant

Andrews, Mary Kay. *Savannah Blues*. 2001. Collection: Fiction Call #: Andrews

Eloise Foley's life has turned upside down. She's been removed from her beloved home, relegated to the carriage house, and is almost broke. A single item from an estate sale could bring enough profit for her to start her own antique business. Her luck holds as she sneaks into the old house and accidentally discovers the corpse of Caroline DeSantos, her ex-husband's fiancée.

Ballard, Mignon. *Shadow of an Angel*. 2002. Collection: Mystery Call #: Ballard

Young widow, Arminda Hobbs returns to her hometown of Angel Heights, South Carolina to find solace. What she finds instead is the body of her cousin Otto in the ladies room of the Minerva Academy Girls' School, and a guardian angel, Augusta Goodnight. Augusta helps Minda find the clues in the past and the present to solve the puzzle of Otto's death. Augusta Goodnight Mysteries Series – Book Three.

Also available: LP

Burns, Olive Ann. *Cold Sassy Tree*. 1984. Collection: Fiction Call #: Burns

The story of Cold Sassy, Georgia is told through the eyes of fourteen- year-old Will Tweedy. The adventure begins when Grandpa Rucker Blakeslee announces his intentions to marry Miss Love Simpson - half his age, and only three weeks after Grandma Blakeslee has gone to meet her maker. Will sees the sleepy little town changed forever.

Also available: Cassette

Flagg, Fannie. *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistlestop Café*. 1987. Collection: Fiction

Call #: Flagg

The elderly and kind Mrs.Threadgoode conveys the tales of the Whistlestop Cafe of the 1930's in Whistle Stop, Alabama to Evelyn, a nursing home visitor. As Mrs. Threadgoode reflects on the adventures of Idgie and Ruth in a bygone age, she becomes the guide for Evelyn as she considers her own life, a story of change and acceptance.

Also available: LP

Frank, Dorothea Benton. *Isle of Palms: a Lowcountry Tale*. 2003. Collection: Fiction

Call #: Frank

Anna Lutz Abbot, a hairdresser and single mother, finds her life spinning nearly out of control when her college age daughter, her ex-husband, her new boyfriend and her daughter's biological father arrive on her doorstep. Her two elderly neighbors, Miss Mavis and Miss Angel don't miss a minute.

Also available: LP

Kidd, Sue Monk. *The Secret Life of Bees.* 2001. Collection: Fiction Call #: Kidd

Lily is a 14-year-old girl whose miserable existence is darkened by the death of her mother, but brightened by Rosalee, the housekeeper. A cherished label from her mother's jar of Black Madonna Honey has nurtured Lily's fantasies that it held the secrets of her mother's life. Circumstances of a racist era take the unlikely pair to Tiburon, South Carolina where three sisters influence Lily's happiness and outlook on life itself.

Also available: LP, Cassette, CD

McCrumb, Sharyn. *The Hangman's Beautiful Daughter.* 1992. Collection: Fiction

Call #: McCrumb.

Newcomers to the Appalachian mountains, a retired Army major, his wife and one son, are shot to death by their eldest son who then kills himself. The minister's wife becomes guardian to the two remaining siblings. An old mountain woman with the "sight," proves it when the graveyard quilt she's making has four coffins, but then she adds two more. Ballad Series - Book Two.

Also available: LP, Cassette

Medlicott, Joan. *The Ladies of Covington Send Their Love.* 2000. Collection: Fiction

Call #: Medlicott

When Grace, Hannah, and Amelia meet in a Pennsylvania boardinghouse, they believe that three meals a day and a sagging bed are all their twilight years have to offer. But friendship takes them on a journey to a North Carolina farmhouse where they realize their lives still have more to give: confidence, competence, and love. Covington Series - Book One.

Also available: LP

Monroe, Mary Alice. *The Book Club.* 1999. Collection: Fiction Call #: Monroe

Gathering for their monthly book club meetings, five suburban women do more than just discuss books as they help each other deal with infidelity, death, infertility, difficult relationships, illness, and the inevitable changes that life brings.

Also available: LP

Siddons, Anne Rivers. *Low Country.* 1998. Collection: Fiction Call #: Siddons

Caroline Venable has everything including a low country island, an oasis of beauty, home to a band of wild ponies. Then she learns her husband must develop the island or lose the business. To save the island she must shatter long held ideals about her role in society, her marriage, and herself.

Also available: LP, Cassette, CD

Smith, Julie. *Louisiana Lament.* 2004. Collection: Mystery Call #: Smith

African -American poet and fledgling detective Talba Wallis journeys through the not-so-genteel New Orleans literary scene, where backbiting and petty jealousies abound and mint juleps are served along with murder. Talba Wallis Series - Book Two.

Smith, Lee. *Fair and Tender Ladies.* 1988. Collection: Fiction Call #: Smith

The story of Ivy Rowe, born near the turn of the century in the Virginia mountain enclave of Sugar Fork, is told completely through letters that Ivy was forever writing family and friends.

Also available: LP, CD

Wall, Kathryn R. *In For a Penny*. 2001. Collection: Mystery Call #: Wall

When a body is discovered floating near the ruins of an old Carolina plantation house, Bay Tanner is forced to search amid the ruins of antebellum splendor in a tale of murder and blackmail. Someone is making a killing in real estate. Bay Tanner Series – Book One.

Wells, Rebecca. *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*. 1996. Call #: F Wells

Vivi, Teensy, Caro, and Necie are lifelong friends and members of the Ya-Ya sisterhood. When Vivi's daughter, Siddalee is interviewed and tells "all" her feelings about her mother and her Georgia childhood, a huge riff materializes. The Ya-Ya's decide that Sidda needs to understand why her mother is the way she is and divulge the "divine secrets".

Also available: LP, Cassette, CD

White, Bailey. *Sleeping at the Starlite Motel: and other Adventures on the Way Back Home*. 1995. Call #: F White

Bailey White spins several tales of Southern charm, grace, and eccentricity. This collection is a reflection of the people, places, and memories of a retired school teacher, mostly from her native Thomasville, Georgia, written in a style filled with humor and compassion.

Also available: LP, Cassette