

JANICE
DAUGHARTY

JUST DOLL

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BOOK ONE OF THE STATEN BAY TRILOGY



JANICE DAUGHARTY

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PUBLISHERS



Wes Sewell / Mirage Studios

JANICE DAUGHARTY is the author of six contemporary novels and one story collection. *STATEN BAY* is her first historical novel, in three consecutive books, of which *JUST DOLL* is the first. She is writer in residence at Valdosta State University near her home in South Georgia.

Cover design: Mark Moore

In August of 1887 Doll Baxter will marry a man named Daniel Staten... She is seventeen years old. The union will save her mother's plantation, because Mr. Staten has agreed to pay off Mrs. Baxter's mortgage if he can have the hand of her youngest daughter in marriage... Daniel owns most of the land where the story takes place, but before Doll can make Staten Bay plantation her home, and raise children there, she wants to know who he is, where he goes for weeks at a time...

Thus begins Janice Daugharty's first historical fiction, based on characters who dreamed large and left their mark in South Georgia where they built and farmed. Their stories are told with Janice's signature prose, sinuous or snappy as it moves through the flatwoods, stately as it takes us through the sleepy towns of the day, with Daniel riding in his wagon and Doll astride his black stallion, or turning heads some other way. And no one does conversation better on a porch at sunset, with long drinks and sudden footfalls, or in bed much later, where innocence and experience are whispering.

Without giving away what she finds, let it be noted only that Doll succeeds in her quest, but in stages. Through the medium of Daugharty's magical prose, each time she has to put her broken world back together and make it new she grows wiser and more capable—and more loving.

“Janice Daugharty...the hottest new writer in Southern fiction.”

Chauncey Mabe on *Pawpaw Patch* in the Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel

“These two books work a miracle. By resurrecting Southern spirits that looked gone for good, they restore the redemptive and violent country of Flannery O’Connor...” The New York Times (of Daugharty’s first two books)

“*Whistle* is a triumph...Daugharty has produced a taut and redolent story of victory...a glad experience.” Fred Chappell/Raleigh News and Observer

“...the kind of novel (*Whistle*) that makes you want to collar other fiction lovers on the street and insist that they read it.” Lisa Alther/Washington Post

“Janice Daugharty has what every writer wants...Critical success and broad appeal.”
Hartford Advocate

“...fans will rejoice to see Daugharty do what she does best: showcase one character, setting her off against a thousand daily details, like a diamond nestled in the shards of lesser gems.”
USA Today of *Like a Sister*

“Getting into a Janice Daugharty novel can be like moving into the rural Georgia she writes about...By the time you have to go, you wish you could stay a spell longer.”
Orlando Sentinel

“Daugharty is a storyteller of startling powers...A dynamic teller of tales.”
Chattanooga Free Press

“(Daugharty) has created a world of harsh beauty and given us the poetry of common speech.” (on *Earl in the Yellow Shirt*)
The Detroit Free Press

“A very human story with a very human ending. Seldom has living been presented with such stark clarity.”
Atlanta Journal Constitution