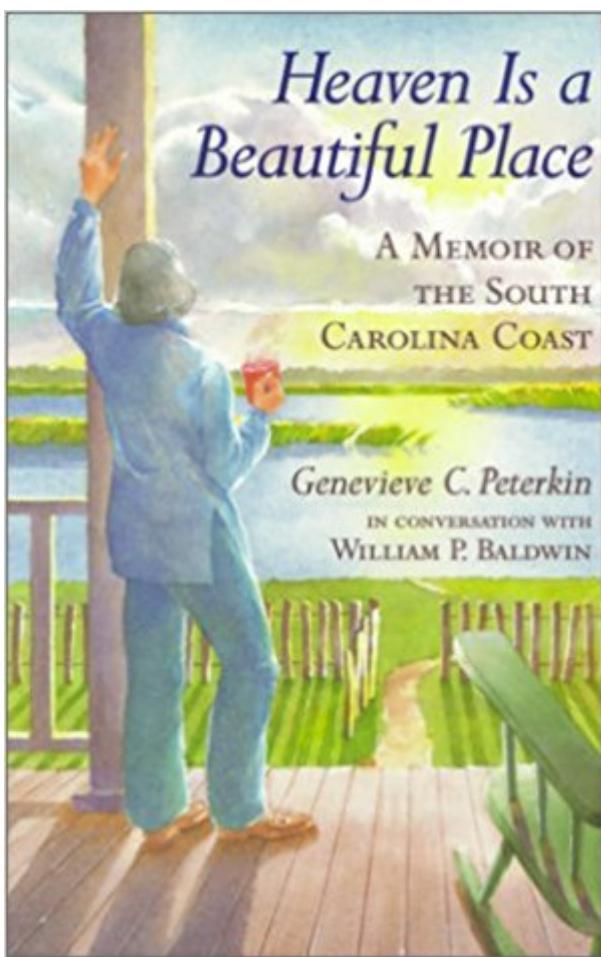


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# Heaven Is A Beautiful Place: A Memoir Of The South Carolina Coast



## **Synopsis**

Beneath this country girl memoir, Genevieve Peterkin tells a story that deals with the struggle for racial equality in the South and the sometimes painful adventures of marriage and parenthood with inner struggles for faith and acceptance of God's mysterious ways.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

In any literary undertaking, to capture the "essence of a place" truly is no easy matter. Baldwin achieves this feat by teaming up with 72-year-old local historian Peterkin to deliver a century's worth of stories about Murrells Inlet, SC. Touching on family bonds, culture, racial relations, war, love, memories, the hurricane of 1893, and plantation life, the memoir affords readers a unique perspective of this coastal area. Titled after the popular spiritual, this book candidly depicts the life and times of many residents of the Lowcountry through stories that sing of the joys and sorrows of everyday life. Peterkin's conversational delivery draws readers into her life, and the interest level escalates during the latter half of the book. Although the book is recommended for its value as both a cultural study and memoir, it will mostly appeal to a restricted regional audience.

A Jo-Anne Mary Benson, Osgoode, Ontario Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I'M HALFWAY THROUGH THIS SUPER BOOK. TRULY IT IS WELL WRITTEN AND SO ENJOYABLE LEARNING THE VALUE OF TREASURES FROM THE PAST . YOU CANT HELP BUT FEEL STRONG EMOTIONS ON TOPICS SUCH AS RACIAL SEGREGATION AND IT'S DESRTRUCTION, ITS BRUTAL DISREGARD FOR OUR FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS. PLUS IT

MAKES US AWARE THAT THE UNFAIRNESS IS STILL MUCH IN EXISTENCE TODAY THAT NEEDS CHANGING. THE BEAUTY OF THE BOOK IS ALL ABOUT WHOLESOME LOVING, LIVING AND LEARNING TOGETHER IN GOOD TIMES AND BAD. THE DESCRIPTIONS OF THAT COASTAL AREA MAKE YOU WANT TO HEAD TO MURRELLS INLET AND TASTE THE FRESH OYSTERS AND RELAX IN THE SUNSHINE WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY.

"Sister's" book really brings home to me the times in the summer when we would come to the Inlet for vacation in the Nye's big house just down from my Great Aunt Julia's home. Sister/Genevieve Peterkin was so sweet to us young children, showing us around the waters of the inlet and sharing time with us. Also sitting around with her mother Genevieve Chandler always referred to in my family a Cousin Genevieve), my Grandmother and family, hearing all the stories and ghost tales and just tales of the inlet. A truly beautiful lady reflected in a wonderful book.

I was not going to read this book, figuring it was yet another trivial book by a local person with famous connections (Julia Peterkin, a novelist who won a Pulitzer, was the author's mother-in-law). Was I wrong! This is one of the most riveting books I have ever read. Peterkin is a gifted storyteller with amazing stories to tell, stories that are right up there with the best fiction. I want to compare her to Flannery O'Connor, to Nabokov, to Kipling, to Dickens, to any fiction writer whose stories linger with us for the rest of our lives. Yet these powerful stories are true and open a window into recent times. Some of her stories prove that truth is stranger than fiction. They are in turns hilarious, outrageous, tragic, moving and illuminating. Please, get this book. I don't know Peterkin but I wish I did. I picked up the book by accident and never put it down till I finished. Beg, borrow or steal it, whatever it takes to get it in your hands.

This is a book I've read and recommend to all my friends. I have sent several copies to friends as gifts. It's a book that anyone will get something from it. My friends who have read this book say they read it from cover to cover.

Loved reading a book with so much local history. If you live in the Waccamaw Neck you will enjoy this book!

The South Carolina Coast is one of the best places. It's the south at it's best & hasn't succumbed to the Northern nonsense.

ok not what i expected

I AM PRIVILEGED TO HAVE MET MRS. PETERKIN AND, BY CHANCE, BEEN ABLE TO ACCOMPANY HER AS SHE DELIVERED COPIES OF HER BOOK TO A FEW OF THE DESCENDANTS OF LILLY KNOX, HER "OTHER MOTHER." SOME OF WHAT MRS. PETERKIN INCLUDED IN HER BOOK, SHE WOULD NOT HAVE KNOWN, HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE ELDERS OF THESE DESCENDANTS. EVERYWHERE SHE WENT SHE WAS WELCOMED WITH OPEN ARMS AND SMILING FACES. TO SEE THE LOOK OF LOVE AND PURE JOY ON THOSE BEAUTIFUL BLACK FACES AT THE SIGHT OF THIS WHITE WOMAN AT THEIR DOOR MAKES ME WONDER HOW IN THIS CENTURY THERE CAN BE ANY PROBLEMS WITH RACE. IF ONLY THERE WERE MORE PEOPLE LIKE MRS. PETERKIN AND HER FAMILY.

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