

THE CHARACTERIZATION OF MARY ALICE MONROE'S FICTION

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Abstract. The article analyzes the literary contribution and achievements of the American writer Mary Alice Monroe. Alice Monroe is the author of 22 New York Times best-selling novels and two children's picture books. His "green" fiction explores the complex similarities between nature and human nature. The article presents the chronological order of Mary Monroe's novels. Many of his novels are devoted to environmental issues. Monroe writes thought-provoking stories that explore in depth the complexities of interpersonal relationships and the similarities between humanity and life.

Key words: "green" fiction, human nature, "Beach House" series, trilogy, environmental issues.

Introduction. Mary Alice Monroe is one of the top rated creator of America, who is especially celebrated for composing her books based on the natural fiction class. Mary was born on May 25, 1960, in The United States of America. She believes that moving to the coastal South Carolina was the ultimate decision which helped her to get close to the nature and write environmental fiction novels.[5] Before moving there, she was already a noteworthy author. But, her new home allowed her to witness the fragility and the beauty of nature surrounding her new home. [4] The quickly changing habitat of the region made her experience the necessary and the strong things, which she used in her books. Many of the books written by Mary are richly textured and delve into the numerous complexities of the parallels and the interpersonal relationships of the life and land. Mary Monroe's books fall under several categories such as:

- Fiction
- Children`s books

- Non-fiction
- Anthology

Main part. The books composed by Monroe have been distributed all over the world and have also been translated into a number of foreign languages. The victory of the books has permitted creator Mary to be included in a number of bestseller lists, including the USA Today, the New York Times, and SIBA. Here we can see the chronological order of the author's novels:[6]

I.Standalone Novels

Name of the novel	Publication Year
The Long Road Home	(1995)
Girl in the Mirror	(1998)
The Book Club	(1999)
The Four Seasons	(2001)
Skyward	(2003)
Sweetgrass	(2005)
The Secrets We Keep	(2005)
Time is a River	(2008)
Last Light Over Carolina	(2009)
The Butterfly's Daughter	(2011)
Second Star to the Right	(2013)
The Summer Guests	(2019)

Monroe's early fiction, including *The Long Road Home*, *The Girl in the Mirror*, *The Book Club* and *The Four Seasons* inspires subjects of solid ladies with individual battles who overcome catastrophe and create recuperating interpersonal connections. Writing under her married name Mary Alice Kruesi, later Monroe published two romantic fantasy novels: *Second Star to the Right* and *One Summer's*. Both novels weave about daydream universes with sentimental story lines.

Monroe's *New York Times* bestseller, *The Butterfly's Daughter* (2011), takes after four ladies along the relocation way of the ruler butterfly between Wisconsin and Mexico. This coming-of-age story centers on the otherworldly travel of the most hero, Luz Avila, as she carries her grandmother's fiery remains to Mexico. Winner of the 2011 International Book Award in the category of "Fiction: Environmental/Green Fiction," this title was also accepted as a Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance (SIBA) Book Award finalist.

II. Beach House Series

Name of the Novel	Publication Year
The Beach House	(2002)
Swimming Lessons	(2007)

Beach House Memories	(2012)
Beach House for Rent	(2017)
Beach House Reunion	(2018)
On Ocean Boulevard	(2020)
The Summer of Lost and Found	(2021)

Checking a significant improvement in her advancement as a writer, her compositions started to mix both women’s fiction with natural messages and metaphors—thus tying together her life as an essayist and protectionist. To begin with seen in her southern fiction make a big appearance, *The Beach House* (2002), Monroe shrewdly mixes the passionate flow of a mother-daughter relationship with a conservationist’s endeavors to secure imperiled loggerhead ocean turtles [2]. Her novel, *The Beach House*, was selected into a Hallmark Hall of Fame movie starring three-time Golden Globe nominee Andie MacDowell, Minka Kelly, and Chad Michael Murray.

III. Lowcountry Series

Name of the Novel	Publication Year
The Summer Girls	(2013)
The Summer Wind	(2014)
The Summer's End	(2015)
A Lowcountry Wedding	(2016)
A Lowcountry Christmas	(2016)

In this charming set of three set on Sullivan’s Island, South Carolina, Monroe captures the complex connections between Dora, Carson, and Harper, three half-sisters scattered over the country—and a grandma decided to assist them rediscover their family bonds. New York Times top of the line writer Pat Conroy acclaims the novel *Summer girls* as the following:

“ In The Summer Girls, she sings a song of praise to the bottlenose dolphins that bring so much joy to the men and women who gaze at the creeks and rivers of the lowcountry each evening. Like all her books, The Summer Girls is a call to arms.”— **New York Times bestselling author Pat Conroy** [3]

IV.Children`s books

Name of the Novel	Publication Year
Turtle Summer (A Journal for My Daughter), picture book	(2007)
A Butterfly Called Hope	(2013)
The Islanders	(2021)

Instructing children almost coastal preservation, this adolescent title inevitably won a few grants counting the ASPCA Henry Bergh Award for 2007 and the Children’s Book Council Award. Monroe’s first Middle Grade book, *The Islanders*, will be released June 15, 2021. [1]

V. Anthologies

Name of the Novel	Publication Year
Reunion Beach: Stories Inspired by Dorothea Benton Frank	(2021)

Monroe has received numerous awards, including the 2008 Award for Writing from the South Carolina Center for the Book, 2014 South Carolina Award for Literary Excellence, 2015 SW Florida Author of Distinction Award, the RT Lifetime Achievement Award, the International Book Award for Green Fiction. In 2018 Mary Alice Monroe was inducted into the South Carolina Academy of Authors.

Conclusion. Mary Alice Monroe, an effective creator, was captivated by the excellence and delicacy of the nature. Her encounters living within the middle of an environment that was rapidly changing gave her a solid and critical center for her books. For occasion, Monroe, “skilled storyteller, who never lets her perusers down” (Huffington Post) returns to her cherished Beach House arrangement with most stories of modern beginnings, strength, and one family’s persevering adore. Other “authentic, liberal, and heartfelt” (Mary Kay Andrews, *Modern York Times* top of the linewriter) books from the *New York Times* top of the line author are approximately the bonds and modern beginnings that are born from catastrophes and how, indeed amid the most exceedingly bad of circumstances—or maybe since of them—we find what is most imperative in life.

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