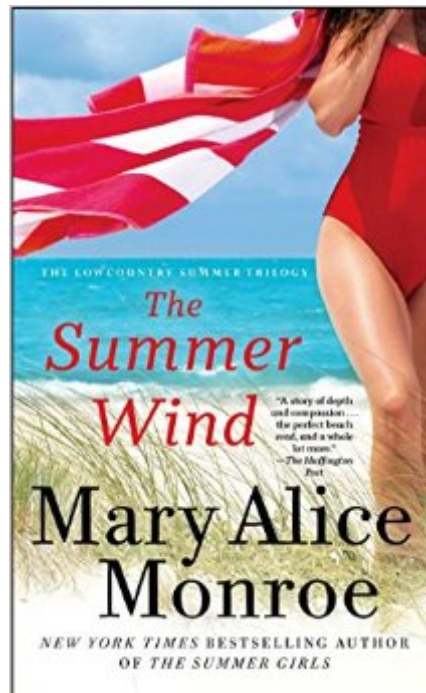


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The Summer Wind (Lowcountry Summer)



Synopsis

The Summer Wind is the second book in Monroe's Lowcountry Summer trilogy, following the New York Times bestselling *The Summer Girls*. This series is a poignant and heartwarming story of three half-sisters and their grandmother, who is determined to help them rediscover their southern roots and family bonds. It's midsummer and Eudora, nicknamed Dora, is staying at Sea Breeze, the family's ancestral home on Sullivan's Island. For years, Dora has played the role of the perfect wife and mother in a loveless marriage. Now her husband filed for divorce, her child is diagnosed with autism, and her house is on the market. Dora's facade collapses under the weight of her grief and she suffers a broken heart syndrome. • Mamaw and the girls rally around Dora "but it's up to Dora to heal herself as she spends the summer prowling the beach, discovering the secrets of the island and her heart. This is a summer of discovery for all the women of Sea Breeze. Carson returns from Florida to face life-changing decisions, Lucille confronts a health scare, and an unexpected visitor has Harper reconsidering her life's direction. When tropical storm winds batter the island, the women must band together and weather the tempest "both the one outside their windows and the raging sea of emotions within each of them. They must learn again what it means to be a sister. It is up to Mamaw to keep the light burning at Sea Breeze to guide the girls through the lies, the threats, and the rocky waters of indecision to home.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I love reading Mary Alice Monroe because of the low country settings. These books are great adventures and easy read. This book had the one of the worse endings. It just sort of stopped. That's why I gave it 3 instead of 4 stars.

I usually love Mary Alice Monroe....did not really like the first book in this series and am not liking this book. These grown women are so whiney I cannot stand it. They seem on the surface to have it all and yet here they are complaining, "I'm not good enough, I'm too old, I can't be pregnant", just a few of the many, many complaints coming out of their mouths. Dora especially gets on my nerves. She starts an affair with an old beau while still married to a husband who all but abandoned her and her special needs child, but still can't make up her mind to divorce him. UGH! I also thought that by having Lucille open up a little about her past we would have really had her play a bigger role in the story line, what we actually got was a teaser. Actually learned more about the dolphins than we did Lucille. And a final note, I do not know what in the hell a "smirk" looks like, but everyone in this book on it seemed like every other page was frickin' smirking!!!! Hated that. I swear Mary Alice even had the dolphins smirking and when you paint a guy as a buff ex-marine and have him smirking, I am so done.

Their final summer at Sea Breeze on Sullivan's Island, South Carolina, continues, with some new challenges for the three half-sisters. Mamaw (Marietta Muir) is firm in her support, albeit still planning to sell the summer estate. Dora is in the midst of settling the divorce issues and helping little Nate with his grief over the dolphin's injuries earlier in the summer. A health crisis causes big changes in how she faces her life. Carson is instrumental in helping her nephew heal, by taking him to Florida to the treatment center where children and injured dolphins heal together. But her own unexpected life change leads to moments of facing her fears. Harper plants a garden and deals with her own issues. Secretly she writes on her computer, but shares nothing with the girls or her grandmother. Like the summer winds that come along toward the end of the story, with a big storm that resembles their own challenges, the three women will move a little closer to their own resolutions. I enjoyed *The Summer Wind* (Lowcountry Summer Book 2) and reconnecting with the characters. The support and advice of Mamaw and their old maid Lillian felt like the kind of true strength offered by a close family. I also loved how the author painted a picture of the lowcountry, making me feel as if I were right there with them. The story concluded without an end to the conflicts and challenges, but a feeling of moving in that direction. There were sad moments, but also a stronger bond between the women. I am looking forward to the final book in the trilogy. 4.5 stars.

It's an easy summer read but not a novel where I actually learned something new. I found the characters not all that likable and the story lines of the characters seemed kind of superficial. A really good novel to me is one which compels me to look things up on Google to find out more. That did not happen with this book.

It's like slipping on your favorite pair of jeans or robe. Everything fits and feels familiar. Monroe takes the reader back to Sullivan island, the mix of family with the love of the area and the preservation of dolphins. The three sisters learn something new about themselves and each other. Love her work

After reading the first in this series of books, I felt compelled to follow up and so I ordered the final two books. *The Summer Wind* started out a little slow and somewhere in the middle of the book I was seeing it as being way too predictable. I almost put it away... but I figured, I have come this far, I need to continue. I am so glad I did! Not long after that, the story became meatier and I couldn't wait to continue. (I read a chapter a night before bed). A story's ending is what brings it all together for me. If the ending stinks, so does the book. The ending of *The Summer Wind* offered a beautiful look at life and its purpose. I cried a little, and then a lot. Mary Alice Monroe brought her characters to a turning point in their lives with grace and dignity. Her poetic descriptions were heartfelt and tugged at the heartstrings and I cannot wait to read the final book in this trilogy.

Three half sisters, their grandmother and her life long employee turned lasting friend strive to reconnect and rebuild their lives together and separately. The sisters, each so different, search for what binds them, encouraged by the grandmother who loves each without reserve. There are dolphins, turtles, tropical storms, a special needs child and long ago loves. A good read.

This second in the charming Lowcountry Summer series was better than the first ("The Summer Girls"), and kept my interest from start to finish. First, let me say that I am an intense fan of Mary Alice Monroe, have read everything she has written, and look forward to every book. I felt that the first in the series was a tad slow, but this one enlarged upon the characters, gave us something to hold on to, and as always with Monroe's books, made us care about a wild species, in this case, dolphins. We first met Delphine the wild dolphin, a viable character in her own right, in "The Summer Girls." Spoiler Alert if you have not read this one: Delphine meets with a possibly fatal accident due

to the carelessness of humans. Enough said. In THIS book, there is quite a lot of information about dolphin conservation and care, and I ate it up. It was secondary to the plot, but melded in beautifully, just like Monroe has melded in her stories of wild turtle conservation in so many of her previous books. Yes, Monroe has an agenda, and that is the preservation of the Low Country's creatures, beaches, environment, and charm. And yes, she preaches her message, but unlike other authors of the same ilk, she draws the reader in without lecturing or badgering. Maybe that's because she always weaves her tales around such interesting people, and this book is no exception. The main characters, five women in different stages of their lives with different problems and agendas and yet bound together by family, are well drawn and totally believable. Each has to solve a problem on her own, some very serious life-altering problems--but each has the love of the others to keep her strong. This book left me very anxious to read the last in the trilogy. I hope it appears soon!

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