



# The Butterfly's Daughter

By Mary Alice Monroe

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Mary Alice Monroe, *New York Times* bestselling author of the Lowcountry Summer trilogy, once again touches hearts with her lyrical, poignant, and moving novel *The Butterfly's Daughter*!

Every year, the monarch butterflies—*las mariposas*—fly more than two thousand miles on fragile wings to return to their winter home in Mexico. Now Luz Avila makes that same perilous journey south as she honors a vow to her beloved *abuela*—the grandmother who raised her—to return her ashes to her ancestral village. As Luz departs Milwaukee in a ramshackle old VW Bug, she finds her heart opened by a series of seemingly random encounters with remarkable women. In San Antonio, however, a startling revelation awaits: a reunion with a woman from her past. Together, the two cross into Mexico to await the returning monarchs in the little village Abuela called home, but they are also crossing a border that separates past from present . . . and truth from lies.

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## The Butterfly's Daughter By Mary Alice Monroe Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Luz Avila's mother abandoned her when she was a very young child to be raised by her grandmother, who she calls Abuela. When Luz is a grown woman, Abuela insists on making a trip to her home village, Anganguero, in Mexico, where the monarch butterflies migrate each year, but Luz is reluctant to interrupt her life. Abuela dies before they can make the trip, and Luz, tormented by regrets, decides to make the journey with Abuela's ashes, driving from Milwaukee to Mexico, following the path of the butterflies. Along the way, Luz meets extraordinary women who transform her: a tough but gentle young girl scarred by life; a free-spirited wanderer; a prim and proper woman who has lost opportunities. Arriving in San Antonio, Tex., to find her aunt, Luz meets her mother, who she had always believed dead. Now Luz must face her mother's reappearance in her life and get her grandmother's ashes to Mexico for the Day of the Dead. Monroe (*Time Is a River*) has succeeded, in her third novel, in taking a straightforward coming-of-age story and adding a Mexican twist to it, but the characters are stock and the outcome predictable, though readers who take comfort in knowing what comes next will not be disappointed. (May)

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## Review

"In 'The Butterfly's Daughter', Mary Alice Monroe gives us a novel that, like the monarch butterfly, has a plentitude of beauty and wonder. Luz Avila is a character we cheer on as she makes her journey from Wisconsin to Mexico and, equally, toward knowledge and forgiveness."

--Ron Rash, "New York Times" bestselling and award-winning author of "Serena"

"Monroe, known for her environmental fiction (*The Beach House*; *Sweetgrass*), skillfully incorporates lore about the monarch butterflies into a rich novel about generations and tradition. This book, filled with unusual female characters, is highly recommended for book clubs and readers of women's fiction."

- "Library Journal"

## About the Author

Mary Alice Monroe is the *New York Times* bestselling author of more than a dozen novels, including *The Summer Girls*, *The Summer Wind*, *The Summer's End*, *Last Light Over Carolina*, *Time Is a River*, *Sweetgrass*, *Skyward*, *The Beach House*, *Beach House Memories*, *Swimming Lessons*, *The Four Seasons*, and *The Book Club*. Her books have received numerous awards, including the 2008 South Carolina Center for the Book Award for Writing, the 2014 South Carolina Award for Literary Excellence, the 2015 SW Florida Author of Distinction Award, the RT Lifetime Achievement Award, and the International Book Award for Green Fiction. An active conservationist, she lives in the lowcountry of South Carolina. Visit her at [MaryAliceMonroe.com](http://MaryAliceMonroe.com) and at [Facebook.com/MaryAliceMonroe](https://www.facebook.com/MaryAliceMonroe).

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