



## Beach House Reunion

*Mary Alice Monroe*

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## **Beach House Reunion** Mary Alice Monroe

Whisking you back to the shores of her bestselling Beach House series, Mary Alice Monroe weaves together a tale of the struggles and triumphs of the historic Rutledge family of Charleston, South Carolina. Beautifully wrought and rich with keen insight, this is an illuminating tale of new beginnings, resilience, and one family's enduring love.

Cara Rutledge returns to her Southern home on the idyllic Isle of Palms. Everything is comfortingly the same, yet each detail is rife with painful memories. Only through reconnecting with family, friends, and the rhythms of the lowcountry can Cara release the hold of the past and open herself to the possibility of a new love, career, and hope for the future.

Meanwhile, her niece Linnea, a recent college graduate who doesn't know where her life will take her, leaves her historic home in Charleston, with all its entitlement and expectations, and heads to her aunt's beach house. On the island, she is part of the freer, natural ocean lifestyle she loves, rejoining the turtle team, learning to surf, and falling in love. Remembering the lessons of her beloved grandmother, Lovie, the original "turtle lady," Linnea rediscovers a meaningful purpose to her life and finds the courage she needs to break from tradition.

In this heartwarming novel, three generations of the Rutledge family gather together to find the strength, love, and commitment to break destructive family patterns and to forge new bonds that will endure long beyond one summer reunion.

## **Beach House Reunion Details**

Date : Published May 22nd 2018 by Gallery Books

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Author : Mary Alice Monroe

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## From Reader Review Beach House Reunion for online ebook

### **Sherri Thacker says**

Good summer read. Read this in a day. This is my 3rd book by Mary Alice Monroe.

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### **Mary says**

Another wonderful journey back to the beach. MAM's writing is flawless as always. Her stories make me long for a family, a beach house, the ocean. As always, the sea turtle stories choked me up. This is more than a beach read. There's so much information about wildlife and conservation, done in an entertaining way. Loved it.

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### **Lisa Wingate says**

Isle of Palms, turtle rescue, tragedy, recovery, and complicated family dynamics combine to make Mary Alice Monroe's newest a true gem. The bonds of friends, family, neighbors, and generations take center stage in Cara and Linnea's story. Both have lessons to learn and lessons to deliver. Past pain need not be the predictor of a painful future. We all have the ability to change old habits, choose new paths, and forge the future into something beyond our imaginings. Mary Alice can always be counted on for a beach read that's as compelling and refreshing as a day at the shore.

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### **Linda says**

Have you ever read a book that pulls you in from the very first sentence? That's how I felt reading Mary Alice Monroe's new novel, Beach House Reunion. Cara, widowed for three years, is coming home to the Isle of Palms, bringing Hope, the baby she recently adopted. When she finds she needs child care help to successfully work from home, she asks her niece Linnea, a recent college graduate who has not yet found a full time job to stay with her for the summer. They are both members of the Turtle Team, a group that helps sea turtles. Cara, who for the first time since her husband's passing, considers the possibility of love, and Linnea, who falls for a handsome neighbor teaching her to surf, are but two of the characters who are drawn with depth and understanding by this exceptional author. The beauty of the natural world and the importance of friends and family are essential to this novel, and help to make it something more than a simple beach read. Once I started reading Beach House Reunion, I couldn't put it down--highly recommended

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### **Mrs Mommy Booknerd <http://mrsmommybooknerd.blogspot.com> says**

#FirstLine ~ All roads lead home.

Nothing says summer like a great book from Mary Alice Monroe. Beach House Reunion is such a delight. I

love this entire series. There is something for everyone in this book and in the series. You get a wonderful setting, a great story and characters that you cannot help but adore. There are truths about life in this story. Truths that readers will relate to, truths that they will connect with and truth that will move the reader throughout. This story captures good and bad as well as struggles and successes in perfect unison. Mary Alice Monroe can take bittersweet moments and provide the reader with hope and healing through her brilliant storytelling. A must read for summer!

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### **Chris Conley says**

The Beach House books are so lovely. Each one is like a visit to the low country. The turtle ladies have a wonderful surprise in this book. Cara also seems to have resolved her life in a delightful way.

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### **Toni says**

"Her Mama used to say that barrier islands protected the mainland from the storms. But in truth, the marshes protected the islands from the stress of the mainland."

Cara agreed with her Mama, life was different on the islands, and that's why she was coming back to stay. After three years away, the death of her husband, Cara, now 53, has quit her job and is returning to the beloved Beach House on the Isle of Palms, off the coast of South Carolina, that her mother left her after her death the previous year. There is one difference, she's bringing her one year-old, adopted daughter, Hope with her.

Cara feels being near friends and family is what she and Hope need most now, as she begins her own consulting business. She hires her niece, Linnea, recently graduated from college, to help with childcare while she's in the job search process. A win-win solution.

Linnea's brother Cooper, has just graduated HS and is enjoying a summer of graduation parties and is looking forward to attending college in the fall; but not the one his father has planned for him.

Palmer, Cara's big brother (Linnea & Cooper's Dad) seems to be under a lot of stress lately, and is drinking more than he should, much like his father did. Cara has noted that Julia, his lovely wife, has had to intervene in several unpleasant and public family squabbles.

The Rutledge family members will bond with old friends, form new relationships, break old patterns and heal old wounds together. There's pain, discovery and celebration. It's worth coming to this reunion, whether for the first time, or as an old friend. Don't miss it!

Thank you NetGalley, Gallery Publishing, and Mary Alice Monroe

Note: I found the "turtle facts" that open each chapter both informative and delightful, especially since our author is involved in their conservation herself. (Lovie, Cara's Mom, was the original "Turtle Lady" on the Isle of Palms.)

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### **Sue says**

A HUGE thank you to Mary Alice Monroe for writing this Beach House series!! I enjoyed it SO much!!! This final book brings everything to a conclusion with the characters. If you have been reading heavier stuff -

you may just might like a change - take yourself to Primrose Cottage on the Isle of Palms (a future trip for my husband I sooner than later I hope) and enter into the lives of Lovie and her family and extended friends - you will not be sorry. And each book teaches you about endangered loggerhead turtles. ?

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### **Elizabeth says**

Mary Alice Monroe is another favorite author of mine. I love most books taking place in the South and on the beach, so this is my kind of book. I have also come to love "Turtle Time." We have stayed at several resorts where turtles are welcomed and the beaches protected so that the eggs will hatch without human intervention.

I really enjoyed this book. I love the turtle information the author includes and the story brought back some of my favorite characters and added a few more! It makes me want to spend time on the beach watching the waves roll in!

Thank you to NetGalley and Gallery, Threshold, Pocket Books for the opportunity to read and review this book.

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### **Ann says**

I adore this series and love just about everything Mary Alice Monroe writes. She pulls you into the tale as if you're sitting on the beach with Cara and Linnea. Isle of Palms, South Carolina sounds like my dream home when it's off season. I love "hearing" all the ladies reminiscing about Lovey and her Turtle Rescue program. The story centers on Cara returning to the Beach House and getting involved with the rescue program. She welcomes her niece Linnea who has graduated from college but is at loose ends. Always lots of family interaction and multi-generation bonding. The perfect summer read with romance, ecology and family drama. Also helpful is the information about the endangered Loggerhead turtle gives you food for thought. I received a copy of this ARC in exchange for a fair and honest review.

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### **Julie says**

Beach House Reunion by Mary Alice Monroe is a 2018 Gallery Books publication.

Summer just wouldn't be summer without a visit to Cara Rutledge's beach house!

Just when you think this series couldn't get any better- it does!

It's been three years since Cara's life turned on dime... again. After a huge emotional gut-punch, Cara rose to the occasion and battled to find her way again. Despite her determination and bravery, I still felt her fragility permeating from the pages, even though we left her in a very stable frame of mind and in a good place.

But, I was still very relieved when I found out we would get a chance to check in with Cara again. However, I never would have imagined the course her life has taken since we last touched base with her.

Cara FINALLY gets her chance at motherhood after adopting a child. She knows deep in heart she wants Hope to be raised at home, with her friends and family nearby, at her beloved beach house, where the spirit of her mother still lingers. So, she leaves Tennessee and heads back to South Carolina where life brings her even more challenges and a few wonderful surprises.

This story covers three generations- Lovie, whose spirit still haunts the beach house, her choices and decisions still reverberating as Cara learns all about motherhood, and Cara's niece, Linnea, struggles against old school southern mores, hoping to break the chain of destructive family traditions and create a new path for her family that will give her the chance to pursue her dreams and make her family proud.

I love this series! The beach house is truly one of my favorite places to escape to.

As I said in my review of the first book in this series, where Lovie's actions were revealed, this family dynamic is very realistic. In this novel, Mary Alice Monroe examines fathers passing macho- strong-man-qualities down to their sons, placing the women in their lives in certain set roles they dare not deviate from, which tragically ends up becoming a vicious cycle unless someone steps up and challenges that authority and begins to chip away at traits that bring misery and unhappiness to everyone.

Here, we see Palmer, who despite being unlikeable in so many ways, is really a man drowning, caught in a trap, unable to see a way out of it. Deep down he's a good guy, and just as much a victim of his father's abuse as Lovie and Cara were. Sadly, he's headed right down the same path as his father, working hard to pass his hard -nosed ways and traditions down to his son, who also feels like he must do what he's told to make his father happy and his family proud. There seems to be no end or relief in sight- until our strong southern women step in to intervene.

As always, each chapter begins with an interesting and related detail about the turtles. This story, while working to dispel generations of bad traditions, still upholds and passes on the strong Turtle club traditions that Linnea embraced, and will no doubt pass on to future generations, as Cara will do with Hope. I really loved the correlations between Linnea and Cara. Cara was a wonderful influence on Linnea, and her choices gave Linnea the courage to make a stand.

It never occurred to me that Cara would have, or even consider having, a second chance at love, and you could have knocked me over with a feather when I realized who her love interest would be! I LOVED this! I also enjoyed seeing how everyone else is doing and was quite pleased with Linnea's romantic interest as well.

Previous installments in this series have touched on many important issues. The ecology and climate changes are gently addressed, as is the importance of respecting sea creatures, especially in a tourist environment. The family unit, relationships, the curveballs life throws at us are realistically portrayed, and never fails to evoke a gamut of emotions from frustration and anger to heartbreak to laughter and immense pleasure at seeing these strong southern ladies prove their mettle.

But, never has a story in this series crackled with this level of taut suspense. One stormy scene, in particular, had me on the edge of my seat. It was absolutely riveting, unnerving, and incredibly intense. While there were some edgier moments in this one, the 'beach read' atmosphere is still intact, with the calm after the storm restoring a long overdue peace, which is inspirational and rejuvenating. The conclusion could not have been any more fitting!

Do not head to the beach this summer without this book!!

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### **Elizabeth of Silver's Reviews says**

Two women coming home for two different reasons to the place they loved and the place with many memories.

Linnea had finished college, and Cara was coming home to be with family.

Linnea came home from college and had no choice but to return, and really didn't want to be in her childhood home with all the drama and the rules.

Cara came home because her husband had passed away a few years earlier, she adopted a friend's baby, and she wanted to have her daughter grow up where she grew up with family and summer beach memories.

Both women needed something, and with Linnea being Cara's niece, the problem was solved because Linnea was going to be Cara's nanny. That would save Linnea from staying with her parents all summer and would be a warm remembrance of her childhood times at the beach house, Primrose Cottage. Cara would get to spend time with her niece to catch up and have someone to finally help her so she wasn't alone.

BEACH HOUSE REUNION was a very pleasant, heartwarming read that made you want to for the most part be in the Rutledge family and in Primrose Cottage as well as Sullivan's Island.

Everything about the book was comfy and inviting.

The characters and the beachy setting were quite pleasant.

Learning about loggerheads, surfing, seeing the love between family members and others, and joining in the family fun are some of the reasons you will want to read this book.

I actually want to learn more about the sea turtles (loggerheads). It sounded fascinating, and the excitement the characters had about them had me wanting to learn more.

BEACH HOUSE REUNION is an easy, sweet read that will be a perfect addition to your summer reading list. 5/5

This book was given to me free of charge and without compensation by the publisher and NetGalley in return for an honest review.

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### **Patricia Romero says**

I am so happy that Cara is back home on Isle of Palms. And she brought a pretty great surprise with her! Facing memories of her late husband and the special bond they had, as well as wishing her mother, Lovie, was still here to give her advice, she plows forward much like her beloved Loggerhead Turtles.

While she settles back into life at Primrose Cottage, her niece, Linnea, has graduated from college and is at loose ends. Feeling stifled in her family's Charleston mansion, she heads to the beach. Home to Cara and Primrose. With no expectations to be anything other than happy.

With new love a possibility and her mother to guide her, Cara will pull her family together and break a long cycle of bad behavior, freeing them all to be who they are and live their best lives.

This series is so loving and beautiful. While the bad habits in a family can be broken, the strong bonds of these women can not. Very well done!

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Netgalley/SimonandSchuster May 22, 2018

## **Lisa says**

Beach House Reunion

Mary Alice Monroe

MY RATING ??????????

PUBLISHER Gallery Books

PUBLISHED May 22, 2018

Beach House Reunion is light and breezy and a joy to read.

## **SUMMARY**

Beach House Reunion is the fifth novel in the Beach House series by Mary Alice Monroe. The series weaves together the triumphs and struggles of the Rutledge family of Charleston South Carolina. Beachhouse Reunion is a tale of new beginnings, as Cara Rutledge, 53, returns from Tennessee to live once again in her beloved beach house on the Isle of Palms, with her newly adopted baby, Hope. In need of childcare, Cara hires her niece, Linnea, to help her for the summer. Linnea has recently graduated from college and is struggling to figure out her next steps and relishes the idea of living with her aunt at the beach until she knows what she wants to do. Both women join the "turtle team," make new friends, explore new directions for their lives and find the strength to attempt to break destructive family patterns.

## **REVIEW**

A perfect book for a day at the beach. It's light and breezy and a joy to read. A delightful tale that can either be devoured in a day or savored over several. Mary Alice Monroe is known as an active conservationist, particularly regarding sea turtles, and sea turtles always plays a meaningful role in the Beach House series. While you don't need to read each book in the series in order, if you are anything like me, after reading one, you are going to want to go back and read the others. Now, I consider Cara Rutledge a good friend and totally enjoy reading her ongoing story. Thanks to Netgalley, Mary Alice Monroe and Gallery Book for an advance reading copy in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Yvonne says**

Cara Rutledge is heading home to Charleston, South Carolina where the beach house she inherited from her mother is located. Cara's past haunts her, but she's determined to put it behind her and start living again.

Cara's niece, Linnea, is looking to put her life on track as well. Now that she's a college graduate, she needs to figure out her career and what direction her life will go. Unfortunately, she has to escape her family's plans first and go her own way. She stays with Cara at the beach house to try and accomplish this.

Cara and Linnea have much to deal with including new romantic and career possibilities. Now if they can just put the Rutledge expectations behind them, all would be well.

Mary Alice Monroe does a wonderful job of transporting the reader right to the beach in South Carolina. These are realistic characters with realistic problems to solve. I think readers can identify and care about these characters. I know I did.

The pages turn quickly and I didn't want the book to end. I wanted to stay with the Rutledges at the beach house and see what else is in store for them. It's a poignant, moving story of a family that truly loves each other, but is controlled by their past and can't seem to move forward.

This is the 5th book in the Beach House series. I've only read #4 and now #5. I quickly became a fan. I do want to go back and read the first three books, but it feels like I already know the history. Mary Alice Monroe is quickly becoming a "must read" author for me.

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FTC Disclosure: I voluntarily reviewed an Advance Reader Copy of this book from NetGalley and the publisher. I was not required to write a positive review. All opinions expressed are my own.