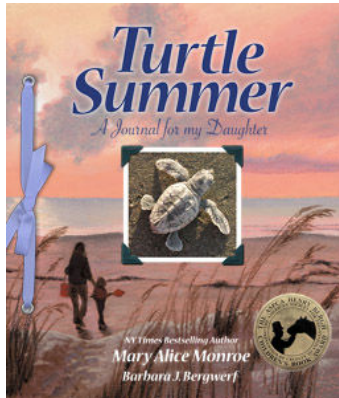


A Conversation with Mary Alice Monroe, author of Turtle Summer!



What is the story of *Turtle Summer*?

Turtle Summer is the companion book to *Swimming Lessons*, which is the sequel to *The Beach House*. A young mother named Toy is writing a journal for her young daughter, Little Lovie. The journal explains the nesting cycle of sea turtles and the natural life along the southeastern coast. The book features original photographs which readers will particularly enjoy!



Where do you find inspiration for your books?

I draw themes for my books from nature and their parallels with human nature. I try to bring to life the beauty and mystery of the fabulously varied Lowcountry ecosystem and various endangered species. I also work with several environmental groups throughout South Carolina, and my work with these groups has truly inspired me in my writing!

How did you know that you wanted to be an author?

As a child, you could always find me curled up with a book or writing. One of my strongest memories is visiting the public library for the first time—I couldn't believe that all of those books were there for me to read! I began my writing career by writing plays and musicals that my brothers and sisters performed. I later went on to freelance as a non-fiction journalist and co-authored or authored several non-fiction titles. Then, I was finally given the opportunity to write the novel I had always dreamed of writing. I was confined to my bed for the final months of my pregnancy, so I chose to write. I ended up giving birth to a baby and a book, and I've been writing books ever since!

What do you want your readers to gain from your books?

I want my readers to become inspired by my books to support efforts to protect various endangered species. Hopefully they will then understand the dangers that some of these animals face and how it's up to us to help them!

Want to continue this conversation? Schedule an interview!

Contact Sylvan Dell's publicist, Sara Dobie:

SaraDobie@SylvanDellPublishing.com

(877) 958-2600