



The Four Seasons

Mary Alice Monroe

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As girls they had rejoiced in a world where dreams are born. Until the fateful day that changed their lives forever. Now grown women, the Season sisters—Jillian, Beatrice and Rose—have lost the ability to believe in life and in themselves. As they gather for the funeral of their youngest sister, Merry, they are reminded of a painful event from long ago, one that inspires a cross-country journey to find a stranger who might have the power to mend their shattered dreams.

Previously published.

The Four Seasons Details

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From Reader Review The Four Seasons for online ebook

Laura says

I normally love her books, but I found these characters sickening and annoying. This took me forever to get through....but I just couldn't abandon it...I am no quitter. But, really, don't bother.

Katie says

Mary Alice Monroe has a gift for telling entertaining tales about families and relationships. I find myself engrossed in the story and spending my evenings enjoying her novels.

Laurie says

This novel tells the story of the four Season sisters . When they gather for youngest sister Merry's funeral they are presented with the chance to confront a family secret that has festered for nearly thirty years. As they gather for the funeral each of the Season sisters is awash in her own problems. Investigating an old family secret gives them the opportunity to face their own demons, as well as to fulfill Merry's dying wish. If the plot sounds a bit hackneyed, that's because it is. The plot is entirely predictable. At no point was I surprised, and I saw the end coming from a mile away. The writing is also clunky. The prose is littered with excess detail, which serves no real purpose. Ultimately this book was far too predictable and sentimental to be enjoyable.

Amber says

This was my second book from Mary Alice Monroe that I have read and it was a pretty good read. It was about three sisters who reunited with each other after their youngest sister died and gives them a quest to go on: to find Jilly's daughter Spring and give her the time capsule they all made. They all go on the trip to rediscover their childhood and to face their fears of the unknown. Definitely check it out.

Melissa says

Not a favorite of mine. Completely predictable and while the jacket led me to believe there would be depth to this story, sadly it was lacking.

Diane Harris says

I loved this book!! I felt such a part of these sisters. I don't have a sister and as I've gotten older, I miss

having one even more. The author developed interesting characters and as the story unfolds, we discover how they got to be who they are today. I love the complexity of each person and the hopefulness for their future. The depth of the plot keep me turning the pages and the outcome did not disappoint. (I hate sad or cliff-hanging endings). This would be a great summer read! Or curl up in the winter and read. I'm headed to the library to check out another of Monroe's books.

Brenda says

This is by far my least liked book by this author. I found the characters to be whiny and hard to connect to. I finished it, but nearly DNF it about halfway through. I'll stick to her southern works.

Debbie says

Another good one by this author- The characters are so well developed- as the book progresses, so do the characters; adding more depth and interest. Again, the South Carolina low country setting which brings another element to the story. Love how the plot is always interesting in all of Mary Alice Monroe's books but even so it takes second fiddle to character development . Love all of her books. Know each book will be a good read and have enjoyed each and every one of them!

Dale Harcombe says

This is this cover I have but it is not a Kindle edition, but a paperback by Mira. However it doesn't seem to be on the site so rather than fuss around, I have just gone with this so you see the cover.

Different moods and times call for different books. Sometimes you just want a book that is not a literary masterpiece, is not heavy or thought provoking but will just let you escape into it for a few hours and get lost in the lives of the characters. I found that with this story of the Season sisters, Jillian, Beatrice, Rose and Meredith, or Jilly, Birdie, Rose and Merry as they are more commonly known. Jilly, Birdie and Rose have gathered at the family home for the funeral of their youngest sister Meredith. It is Merry's final request that initially sparks anger, but in the end will be the catalyst for a search that will uncover secrets, resentments, guilt and feelings long covered over which have simmered under the surface for a number of years.

Over the course of the journey the sisters learn more about themselves and their family. I was happy to go along on this journey with them, even though at times I did find things a little predictable or that they worked out a bit too neatly. I liked the way how, as the story went on, more of the characters and their pasts were revealed and I liked the way the relationships developed over the story. It's not only the relationships between the sisters but also between Birdie and her husband and daughter that need change. There is a romance element or two in the book but the scene with the massage and rose petals could have been left out. It was superfluous. But all in all I enjoyed the story and laughed and shed a tear or two along the way. Someone had written on the back of my library copy, 'brilliant.' While I wouldn't quite go that far, it was a good escapist read and sometimes that's all you want.

Emily Higgins says

The youngest sister, Merry, has been in fragile health since a childhood injury. Merry dies and Jillian returns from France for the funeral. Rose has cared for Merry all these years. Birdie, now a doctor, married with a daughter also comes home. It is time to sell the house and dispose of the household contents. In the process, family secrets and childhood resentments come to light. It is a process of getting to know their siblings as grown ups and let go of past hurts.

Jann says

I thought the book was wonderful. Three sisters, Rose, Beatrice/Birdie and Jillian/Jilly reunite for the funeral following the death of their youngest sister, Meredith/Merry. Rose has never left their childhood home and, since the death of their parents, has been the carer for Merry who has been mentally handicapped since early childhood following an accident in the family swimming pool. This accident has affected the whole family in various ways and as the three of them reunite after having been virtually estranged for twenty-six years they gradually get to know each other again and feel the love which had made them such wonderful companions to each other in their childhood.

Even though this was written in 2001 the personalities are still fresh and appealing. The life experiences of the three are completely plausible and the emotions ring true. The reader feels the pain of each of them and, if they are like me, they will empathise and be really hoping that the three manage to overcome the hurt and be reconciled.

Julie Barrett says

The Four Seasons by Mary Alice Monroe

The funeral will bring the sisters together: Jillian, Beatrice (Birdy), Rose. Mary the 4th is now dead.

Model in Paris, pediatric doctor and word processor working from the family home, were their professions.

In Mary's last wish video they learn she wants them to find Spring and give her the share of her money from the estate.

The book goes back in time to when she told her parents she was pregnant and we learn all the details.

Alternating chapters from the present to the past...She's sent away to a convent for unwed mothers and they will give the baby to a family.

The woman and daughter gather together to trace the one baby given away. Feel the emotions as they go through them, different for each of them as they go onward.

The secret I wonder, will it come out as to who the father could really be or remain a secret forever.

I received this book from National Library Service for my BARD (Braille Audio Reading Device).

Sandy Ahn says

I can't believe all the reviews that were 4 and 5 stars. I found this book to be not very well written and terribly predictable.

Cindy says

This book is begging for a sequel although I doubt that'll happen since it was written 16 years ago! But, I really liked how it wasn't all sewed up in a pretty bow at the end, as all the issues that came to light in such an insightful way would take years of experiences and discussions to resolve. I found all the characters likable and realistic in light of the tragedy that had affected their family and thought there were a lot of wise gems of humanity and compassion interspersed throughout.

Judi Asdell says

Very heartwarming read of sisters and their lives . We become what we are meant to be sometimes in spite of our childhood. ...AWESOME book
