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DAFINA BOOKS PUBLISHES **GOD STILL DON'T LIKE UGLY**, AWARD-WINNING  
AUTHOR MARY MONROE'S HIGHLY ANTICIPATED NEW NOVEL,  
**AND THE FOLLOW-UP TO GOD DON'T LIKE UGLY**,  
HER MOST POPULAR NOVEL EVER

Blackboard and Essence bestselling author Mary Monroe is well known to readers and reviewers as the author of the “visionary,” (Susan Fromberg Schaeffer, Chicago Sun Times) and “magnificent” (Patricia Holt, San Francisco Chronicle) **The Upper Room**, of **God Don't Like Ugly**, a “coming-of-age journey depicted with wit, poignancy and bite” (Publishers Weekly), and **Gonna Lay Down My Burdens**, a novel with “richly drawn characters [that] will stay with readers long after the book is finished” (Booklist). Now, this acclaimed novelist reintroduces readers to the memorable characters of her most popular and talked about novel, **God Don't Like Ugly**, in the upcoming **GOD STILL DON'T LIKE UGLY**, which Dafina Books will publish in September 2003.

“A lot of my material is autobiographical,” says Monroe whose novels can, minimally, be described as larger-than-life. She poses extraordinary circumstances and, often, unsettling portrayals of people on the fringe of society—privy to the sort of secrets and violence few among her readers will ever encounter.

Although eleven years elapsed between the publication of her first novel, **The Upper Room**, and **God Don't Like Ugly** in November 2000, readers eagerly embraced Monroe upon her return to bookshelves. So much so that **God Don't Like Ugly** has over 100,000 copies in print and—more than two years after publication—continues to be among the most requested of all of our Dafina titles.

Quite simply, the characters and themes of **God Don't Like Ugly** left readers wanting more—wanting to know what happened next to Annette. Did she flourish? Did she thrive? Did she manage to move beyond the abuse and pain experienced in her mother's house? Where is

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Rhoda? What price, if any, did she pay for Annette's salvation and the death of Boatwright? How did these two girls, who became women in the course of the story, reconcile the events of their lives and move on?

Taking readers back to that world, Monroe begins with Annette Goode who, growing up, thought all men were as low-down as the father who deserted her, and saw little to prove otherwise. There was Mr. Boatwright, the boarder who abused her—until her best friend Rhoda murdered him. Of course, none of the men she slept with for the money she needed to run away was exactly the picture of chivalry either. But now, after years of soul searching—and mountains of heartache—Annette has reunited with the father she never really knew. She's severed all ties with the dangerously unstable Rhoda. And finally her *real* life has started to take shape. Sadly, things begin to fall apart at—of all places—Annette's own pre-wedding celebration when a guest reveals that the beautiful bride-to-be once turned tricks for a living.

No sooner does her fiancé walk out than, after a five year separation, Rhoda walks in. It's a necessary reunion—and one that will change Annette's life forever. Annette has to decide what she should believe—and what she can forgive—as she tries to salvage the one relationship that she can't seem to abandon.

#### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

**Mary Monroe** is the third child of Alabama sharecroppers, and the first and only member of her family to finish high school. "I am from a family of Bible-thumping farm workers and domestics," says Monroe, and "I received no support from the people I grew up around. At one time I was thought to be crazy because of my passion for literature." Monroe never attended college or any writing classes. She spent the first part of her life in Alabama and Ohio, moved to Richmond, California in 1973, and has lived in Oakland since 1984. Her first novel **The Upper Room** was published in 1985 and was widely reviewed throughout the U.S. and in Great Britain. She is also the author of the bestselling **God Don't Like Ugly** and **Gonna Lay Down My Burdens**.

#### **MARKETING**

The publication of **GOD STILL DON'T LIKE UGLY** is an event for the many followers of Mary Monroe's work. Dafina Books is treating it as such, with strong marketing support and visits by Mary Monroe to bookstores across the nation. The book is already a selection of the Black Expressions Book Club. Additionally, the publication of **GOD STILL DON'T LIKE UGLY** is preceded by the republication of **God Don't Like Ugly** as a specially designed, limited edition trade paperback with French flaps and a letter from the author.

#### **GOD STILL DON'T LIKE UGLY**

**Mary Monroe**

**Dafina Books, an imprint of Kensington Publishing**

**September 2, 2003/Hardcover/Fiction**

**\$24.00 (\$34.00 Canada)/1-57566-912-9**

**Author's Home: Oakland, California**