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**GONNA LAY DOWN MY BURDENS, THE NEW NOVEL FROM CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED
NOVELIST MARY MONROE, IS PUBLISHED BY DAFINA BOOKS**

Blackboard and Essence bestselling author Mary Monroe is well known to readers and reviewers as the author of the “visionary,” (Chicago Sun Times) “powerful...outlandish...[and] impressive” (Wisconsin State Journal) **The Upper Room** and of **God Don’t Like Ugly**, a “coming-of-age journey depicted with wit, poignancy and bite” (Publishers Weekly). Now, this acclaimed novelist brings readers a tale of friendship, passion, loyalty and the healing power of love in **GONNA LAY DOWN MY BURDENS**, just published in hardcover by Dafina Books.

Eleven years elapsed between the publication of Mary Monroe’s first novel, **The Upper Room**, and the publication of **God Don’t Like Ugly** in November 2000. Readers eagerly embraced Mary upon her return to bookshelves, making **God Don’t Like Ugly** among the most requested of all of Dafina Books titles. Just two years later, readers can again discover the unique vision of Mary Monroe, this time in a story of a young girl in small town Alabama, whose life takes some unexpected twists and turns.

GONNA LAY DOWN MY BURDENS is set in the sweltering little town of Belle Helene, Alabama, where Carmen Taylor keeps her tears to herself. She’s too busy shouldering the burdens of her troubled friends, like Desiree, the daughter of a doctor who tries to beat the wildness out of her, and Burl, who ended up in a wheelchair because of a prank Carmen played on him. Carmen has promised to spend the rest of her life making it up to him—at the cost of her own happiness. Guilt mixes with betrayals, betrayals with loyalty, loyalty with love, and soon all lines blur, passion rules principle, and the truth traps everyone. Carmen is left with just one direction to travel, one hope for redemption and one way to finally lay down her burdens.

GONNA LAY DOWN MY BURDENS
Mary Monroe
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