



Kensington Publishing Corp.

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**MARY MONROE, ACCLAIMED FOR HER NATIONAL BESTSELLERS,
GOD DON'T LIKE UGLY AND GOD STILL DON'T LIKE UGLY,
RETURNS WITH HER HIGHLY ANTICIPATED
NEW NOVEL, RED LIGHT WIVES**

**Monroe's Emotional Story of Six Extraordinary Women in the
World's Oldest Profession is Published in Hardcover by Dafina Books**

"Monroe's literary canvas is painted with broad strokes, with verve and
humor and passion."

The Christian Science Monitor

Nationally bestselling author **Mary Monroe** has been described as "a remarkable talent" by the Chicago Sun-Times, and the San Francisco Chronicle has described her writing as "magnificent, coarse, funny and terrifying." The Essence® bestselling author of four novels that explore the complicated relationships between friends, lovers and family, Monroe now brings readers **RED LIGHT WIVES**, a powerful and passionate new story about six high-spirited women.

"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—pry to the sort of secrets and violence few among her readers will ever encounter.

With **RED LIGHT WIVES**, Monroe, whose Gonna Lay Down My Burdens was named among *BET.com's Best Books of 2002*, casts her eye

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on six extremely different women—haughty and humble, beautiful and plain, young and not-so-young, black, white, Latina, and origins unknown. Lula Mae, Ester, Megan, Rosalee, Helen and Rockelle are “colleagues” in the world’s oldest profession, and despite their surface differences, all have a gift for laughing in the face of hardship. “Managed” by Clyde, who calls the women his “wives,” they do what wives are expected to do—take care of him and his young daughter, Keisha. The women see no way out of their lives with Clyde, until one day, a daring act of defiance changes everything.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mary Monroe is the Essence® nationally bestselling author of **God Don’t Like Ugly**, which received the PEN/Oakland Josephine Miles Award, **God Still Don’t Like Ugly**, **The Upper Room**, and **Gonna Lay Down My Burdens**. The third child of Alabama sharecroppers, and the first and only member of her family to finish high school, 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, California since 1984.

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 well over 100,000 copies in print and—more than four years after publication—continues to be among the most requested of all the Dafina titles.

RED LIGHT WIVES
by Mary Monroe
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