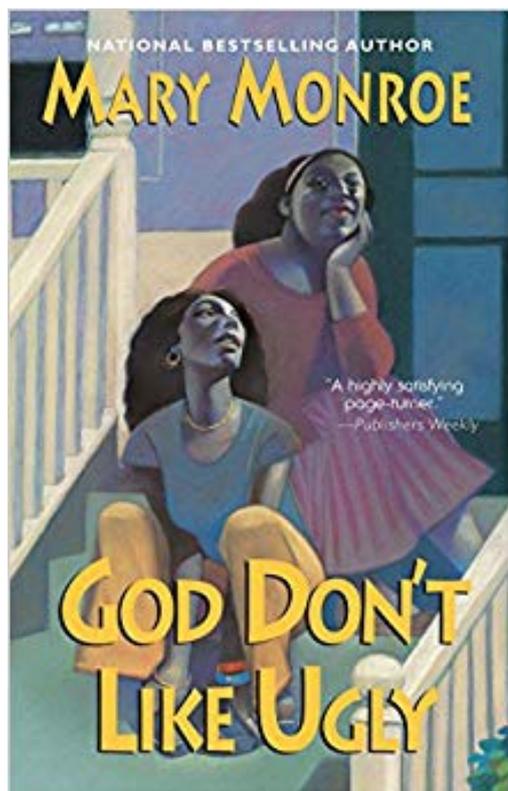


## God Don't Like Ugly *by* Mary Monroe



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**Author:** Mary Monroe

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In her richly drawn debut novel, Mary Monroe brings to life the bond between two girls from opposite sides of the track—and the shattering event that changes their lives forever. At the heart of the story is Annette Goode, a shy, awkward, overweight child who keeps a terrible secret. Mr. Boatwright, the boarder her hardworking mother has taken in, abuses her daily. Frightened and ashamed, Annette withdraws into a world of books and food. But the summer Annette turns thirteen, something incredible happens: Rhoda Nelson chooses her as a friend. Dazzling, generous Rhoda, who is everything Annette is not—gorgeous, slim, and worldly—welcomes Annette into the heart of her eccentric family, which includes her handsome and dignified father; her lovely, fragile, “Muh'Dear;” her brooding, dangerous brother Jock; and her colorful white relatives—half-crazy Uncle Johnny, sultry Aunt Lola, and scary, surly Granny Goose. With Rhoda's help, Annette survives adolescence and blossoms as a woman. But when her beautiful best friend makes a stunning confession about a horrific childhood crime, Annette's world will never be the same. Set on the streets, porches and parlors of 1960s and 1970 Ohio, *God Don't Like Ugly* sparkles with clear-eyed wit and uncompromising honesty. Readers will find this remarkable new novel full of laughter, inspiration, and pure enjoyment.



# Reviews of the **God Don't Like Ugly** by Mary Monroe

Preve

I wish I could meet this wonderful author in person. I have been reading her books for years. I have read and re read all of her books and she never disappoint. A great story teller. God don't like Ugly series follow Annette from childhood to adult hood all the hardships she has endured and overcame. It's sad and it's funny and sometimes you can relate to certain situations of your from the south like I am. Annette is my hero because she became a strong woman. I love how the series followed the same characters into old age. Whoever read this make sure you have time because once you start reading you will not put this book down.

Ylal

I didn't expect to enjoy this because I don't like books or movies where children are victimized. I also considered this to be a teenager's book, as my daughter read it in high school. I thoroughly enjoyed this! It has enough hooks to keep things moving on the suspense actually had my heart racing at one point! It was depressing, and with all the horrid secrets kept, it never was completely uplifting, but you feel good for the main character, Annette, and her Muh'Dear at the end.

I still have the sequel under the stairs. I will be digging it out soon.

Grari

Plot/Storyline: 5 Stars

The storyline of this book, though very depressing, was still one that kept me glued to my Kindle. Annette's, the main character's, narration was both riveting and heartbreaking. Her childhood told through her eyes had such a low-key voice, yet this is what made the story so horrific.

In need of financial aid, Annette's mother took in a boarder, Mr. Boatwright, a man she considered to be an upright Christian, which is how he presented himself to her and the world. This is why, when he raped Annette, she didn't feel that anyone would believe her if she were to tell. Her thought processes about the abuse are so realistic as to be painful. Her almost complacent acceptance is wrenching.

When Rhoda, Annette's new best friend, entered the tale, I felt like cheering. I thought that she would be the one to 'save' Annette. After that, I was amazed, though not completely incorrect, at the direction the book took.

I was concerned while reading this about the fact that there was a sequel. So many books that are part of a series, or even have just one sequel, are unsatisfying in themselves. That was not the case here. This book was a terrific stand-alone, with a full, satisfying ending.

Character Development: 5 Stars

Annette was a simplistic character, which befitted the storyline. She wasn't particularly unique, which made her tale that much more heartbreaking. You could imagine just about any child going through what she did.

Rhoda was a roller coaster ride. All I will say is that she was intriguing. After finishing the book, I thought back on her character and nodded my head. It all fit. She was definitely my favorite character.

Mr. Boatwright was a sad excuse for a human being. I loved the way the author actually introduced some "empathetic evidence", yet did not expect the reader to buy it.

Writing Style: 4 3/4 Stars

The writing style was a little simplistic, even for being told from Annette's viewpoint. The sentence structuring could have been a little more complex; instead, it was more of a YA style. However, for all that, the style still made for an easy read. Also, in an odd way, this simplistic style made the story evoke stronger emotions.

Ms. Monroe handled the "graphic" scenes in a respectful and tactful manner without any detriment to the horror of it.

Rating: R for Pedophilia and Rape

Black\_Hawk\_Down.

Poor Annette! This book showcased true dysfunction. Rhonda is psychotic. Annette needs to experience true love. I felt sorry for her the entire book. She truly didn't know her worth. Mr Boatwright was just downright disgusting and miserable. Pee Wee is a mystery. Annette's mother could have done better by her. I enjoyed reading this book but it did drag a little.

Quynaus

I love this story and am on my way to read the next one. It was a heartwrenching novel. To go through everyday with so much pain, but it happens so much and for whatever reason, most people don't tell. Mary Monroe you are amazing.

Eng.Men

Wow, the writing in this book is phenomenal. Story is about a young, poor Black girl of about 3 or 4 (Annette), whose daddy runs off and she and her mom endure a lot of struggles to achieve a better life. This book contains some heavy themes--racism, child abuse, prostitution, and even murder, but it is not a depressing read at all. It doesn't beg for your sympathy--it lets the characters voice their often different opinions about the events. It also encompasses love, family, friendships, and the human will to persevere. The characters were rich in their depth, the dialogue seemed very natural and the plot kept my attention. This is one of my favorite novels I've read this year, and led me to buy the sequel: God Still Don't Like Ugly. Highly Recommended

Oghmaghma

This is one book I wouldn't mind reading again. Although only a story it hurt my heart to endure Annette being molested for so many years and at such a young age by a man living under the same roof. Sadly, this story rings true in real life. But it was refreshing to progress through the story and watch her grow up and find some friends in Pee Wee and Rhoda. Even though they had major character flaws, they seemed to care about Annette.

For lack of better words, I simply loved this book. It was an interesting story, and the characters were all at least interesting (Scary Mary) even when they were not likable (Mr. Boatwright), although I did feel terribly bad for what Mr. Boatwright endured as a young boy.

I can not imagine anyone reading this book and not growing angry because of the abuse that the young lady must endure at the hands of a one-legged man that her mother trusts enough to take into their home. While at first, I was hoping she would shout out her problems to the world to put an end to the anguish, I grew to appreciate the author letting it drag out for years. Why? Because it really happens like that. I was watching a talk show the other day and the guest was a woman that was abused by her stepfather from the ages of 3 to 27. The characters in this novel are flushed out beautifully and you will be riveted to the pages. Mary Monroe did a wonderful job with this novel and I can not wait to read whatever she publishes next.

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