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Hurry and the Monarch

Laura Wadley

O'Flatharta, Antoine. *Hurry and the Monarch*. Illustrated by Meilo So. Random House, 2005.
ISBN 037583003. $14.95. 40 pp.

Reviewer: Laura Wadley
Reading Level: Preschool
Rating: Dependable
Genre: Picture books;
Subject: Butterflies-Juvenile fiction; Tortoises-Juvenile fiction; Book--Reviews;

Hurry the Tortoise lives in Wichita Falls and one day, as winter approaches, a monarch butterfly lands on his shell. Hurry and the Monarch visit about their differing ways of spending the winter; the Monarch leaves for Mexico while Hurry settles down to wait for the inevitable return of spring. When spring comes again, The Monarch passes back through Hurry's garden in, lays her eggs, and then flies on to a timely demise on a restaurant curtain in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Her child lives to emerge from a cocoon and talk to Hurry before flying away to see the world.

Hurry and the Monarch has some uneven spots, but on the whole is a good general introduction to children about migratory species, Monarch butterflies, and the wonders of nature. The obvious comparisons between the aged tortoise and the short-lived insect work well in the story. The illustrations are good, but neither the text nor the pictures will give the child a sense of distance or changing landscapes. However, the story has a sweet feel for nature and her creatures.