ReadingGroupGuides
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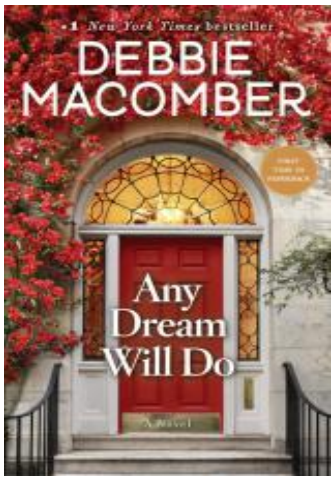
Any Dream Will Do

by Debbie Macomber



About the Book

Beloved and bestselling author Debbie Macomber returns with a powerful stand-alone novel about a woman forced to start her life anew, embarking on the most courageous journey of all --- to a place where she learns what love and trust really mean.

Shay Benson adored her younger brother, Caden, and that got her into trouble. When he owed money, Shay realized she would do anything to help him avoid the men who were threatening him, and she crossed lines she never should have crossed. Now, determined to start fresh, she finds herself in search of a place to stay and wanders into a church to escape from the cold.

Pastor Drew Douglas adored his wife. But when he lost her, it was all he could do to focus on his two beautiful kids, and his flock came in a distant third. Now, as he too is thinking about a fresh start, he walks through his sanctuary and finds Shay sitting in a pew.

The pair strike up a friendship --- Drew helps Shay get back on her feet, and she reignites his sense of purpose --- that, over time, turns into something deeper, something soulful, spiritual and possibly romantic. Even Drew?s two children are taken with this woman who has brought light back into their lives. Perhaps most important, Shay learns to trust again as she, in turn, proves herself trustworthy to her adopted community.

But Caden?s return to town and a disastrous secret threaten to undo the life Shay has tried so hard to rebuild. It will take the utmost courage and faith if she and Drew hope to find healing and open their hearts to a brighter future.

Discussion Guide

1. What are the major themes of the novel? How are these themes demonstrated through the characters? actions?

2. This story is told from the perspectives of both Drew and Shay. Who is the main character? Why?

3. How does Shay change throughout the course of the novel? What precipitates her change? How does her change reflect the themes of the story?

4. In Chapter One, Shay mentions how much her father avoided religion when she was growing up. How does her childhood affect the way she views the church? The way she views Drew?

5. Both Mark and Sarah are extremely perceptive. How does their presence affect Drew and Shay?s relationship?

6. In chapter twenty-six, Linda says ?I?m afraid that loving Shay is going to cost you your ministry.? What does she mean by this? What does Linda?s opinion mean to Drew? Is it important? Why or why not?

7. How do Drew?s sermons impact the characters in the story? Do they represent any major themes in the book? Why?

8. Discuss the title of the book as it pertains to each character. How does the title reflect each character?s journey?

9. Shooter and Caden both mistreat Shay at multiple points in the novel. How do their actions affect Shay?s relationship with Drew? What about her relationship with the other characters?

10. Who would play each of the characters in a film adaptation of ANY DREAM WILL DO? Why?

11. At the end of the story, does Caden find redemption? Why or why not?

12. At the end of the novel, Shay says ?As I looked around me, I had more than a handful of dreams and every one of them seemed to be coming true.? What were Shay?s dreams at the beginning of the novel? The end? Did they all come true? Why or why not?

Author Bio

Debbie Macomber is a renowned #1 *New York Times* bestselling author and one of today?s most cherished writers, with over 200 million copies of her books sold globally. Her novels beautifully depict meaningful relationships, celebrating family bonds and enduring friendships, and inspire readers with stories of connection and hope. Macomber?s works have collectively remained on the *New York Times* bestseller list for more than 1,000 weeks, with 15 titles reaching the top spot.

In addition to her captivating fiction, Macomber has authored bestselling cookbooks, adult coloring books, numerous inspirational and nonfiction titles, and beloved children?s books. Known as ?the official storyteller of Christmas,? her annual holiday tales are adored by fans, many of which have been adapted into original Hallmark Channel movies. She is also the author of the bestselling *Cedar Cove* series, which was adapted into the Hallmark Channel?s first dramatic

scripted television series, enjoying a popular three-season run.

Debbie and her husband, Wayne, are dedicated parents, grandparents and recently great-grandparents. They reside in the Pacific Northwest --- the charming area that inspired many of her books.

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