ReadingGroupGuides
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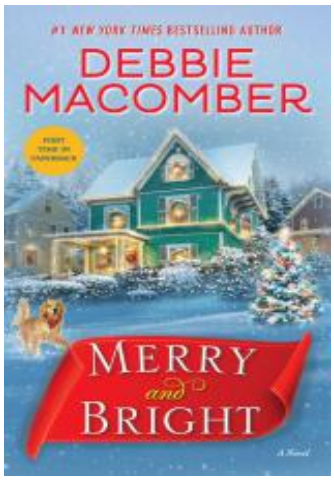
Merry and Bright

by Debbie Macomber



About the Book

Christmas is the season of the heart, and #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Debbie Macomber is here to warm yours with a delightful holiday novel of first impressions and second chances.

Merry Smith is pretty busy these days. She?s taking care of her family, baking cookies, decorating for the holidays, and hoping to stay out of the crosshairs of her stressed and by-the-book boss at the consulting firm where she temps. Her own social life is the last thing she has in mind, much less a man. Without her knowledge, Merry?s well-meaning mom and brother create an online dating profile for her --- minus her photo --- and the matches start rolling in. Initially, Merry is incredulous, but she reluctantly decides to give it a whirl.

Soon Merry finds herself chatting with a charming stranger, a man with similar interests and an unmistakably kind soul. Their online exchanges become the brightest part of her day. But meeting face-to-face is altogether different, and her special friend is the last person Merry expects --- or desires. Still, sometimes hearts can see what our eyes cannot. In this satisfying seasonal tale, unanticipated love is only a click away.

Discussion Guide

1. What are the main themes of the novel? What did you find most interesting?

2. The story is told from the perspectives of both Merry and Jayson. Who do you think is the main character? Why?

3. Merry?s brother, Patrick, is a huge part of Merry?s life. How does his presence affect Merry and Jayson?s relationship?

4. If Merry and Jayson hadn?t met through online dating, do you think they would have ever made a connection on their

own? Why or why not?

5. In Chapter 12, Merry tells Jayson that ?Christmas is a condition of the heart... It?s being open and sincere, generous and kind to those with less, or showing our love to those we cherish.? What does Christmas mean to you? Does this definition match how you feel about the holiday season?

6. How does the phrase ?Don?t judge a book by its cover? relate to this story?

7. How does Merry change Jayson and his relationships with others?

8. Which character did you most easily relate to? How are you similar? Different?

9. Who would you cast to play each of the characters in a film adaptation of MERRY AND BRIGHT? Why?

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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