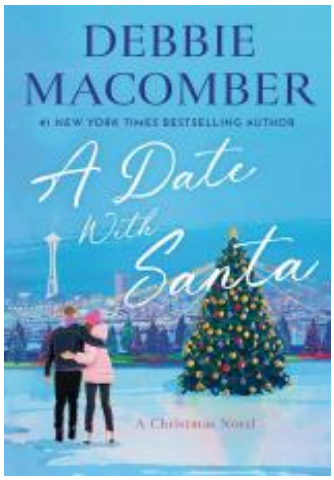
A Date with Santa

by Debbie Macomber



About the Book

Romance blooms when an unlikely couple plans to surprise a child in need of some Christmas magic in this sparkling holiday novel from #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Debbie Macomber.

For single career woman Sage Madison, Christmas means premade cookies?and?artificial trees. But when her sister needs her help, Sage volunteers to care for her five-year-old nephew, Ricky.

Determined to give Ricky?a?memorable Christmas, Sage enlists help from her assistant and close friend, Erica, who loves kids,?and her colleague, Ethan, who?agrees to dress up?as?Santa --- if Sage and Ricky join him in holiday fun to get in the spirit.

As Sage navigates the challenges of caring for her nephew?and the prospect of romance?with?Ethan, she begins to discover the true magic of the season. Ethan?s bond?with?Ricky?and his kindness toward Sage bring unexpected joy? and new?adventures --- filled?with?ice skating, baking?and?a?sense of fulfillment she never expected.

But when her old life threatens to interfere?with?the festivities,?Sage must decide what she truly wants before the season?s magic slips?away.

Discussion Guide

1. At the beginning of the novel, Sage has built her life around her career and carefully guarded independence. How does Ricky?s unexpected arrival challenge the way she defines success and happiness?

2. Sage initially views caring for Ricky as an obligation that could jeopardize everything she has worked for. When did you first notice her feelings beginning to change? Which moment in their relationship touched you most?

3. Ricky is determined to preserve the Christmas traditions he shares with his mother --- from homemade cookies to decorating the tree. Why do you think these traditions matter so deeply to him? Are there holiday traditions in your own family that carry special meaning?

4. Sage tries to give Ricky a ?perfect? Christmas, but many of her efforts don?t go according to plan. What does the story suggest about the difference between creating a picture-perfect holiday and creating a meaningful one?

5. One of the novel?s funniest episodes occurs when Sage?s attempt to bake cookies leads to the discovery of the shoes she has stored in her oven. How does humor help balance some of the more tender themes of loneliness, loss and separation in the story?

6. Ethan?s willingness to become Ricky?s ?real Santa? brings him more deeply into Sage and Ricky?s lives. What do his actions reveal about his character?

7. Ricky becomes an unexpected teacher to the adults around him. What does he teach Sage about love, faith, family or priorities? Did any of his simple observations strike you as especially wise?

8. Faith becomes increasingly important to Sage as the Christmas season unfolds, from listening to Ricky?s prayers to returning to church and reflecting on the meaning of Christmas. How would you describe Sage?s spiritual journey?

9. During Ricky?s meeting with ?Santa,? he is reminded of the true meaning of Christmas. How did that scene shape your understanding of the novel?s themes of faith, hope and Christmas miracles?

10. By the end of the novel, Sage receives much of what she once wanted professionally --- but those accomplishments no longer define her happiness. Looking back over her journey, what do you think is the greatest gift Sage receives that Christmas?

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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