# The Best Is Yet to Come

by Debbie Macomber

## About the Book

**When a woman alone in the world bravely chooses to open her heart, two lost souls have a new chance at belonging in this intimate novel from #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Debbie Macomber.**

A new beginning in charming Oceanside, Washington, is exactly what Hope Godwin needs after the death of her twin brother. There are plenty of distractions, like her cozy cottage with the slightly nosy landlords next door, and a brewing drama among her students at the local high school.

Even having settled quickly into the community, Hope still feels something is missing. That is, until her landlords convince her to volunteer at their animal shelter. There she meets Shadow, a rescue dog that everyone has given up on. But true to her name, Hope believes he?s worth saving.

Like Shadow, shelter volunteer Cade Lincoln Jr. is suffering with injuries most can?t see. A wounded ex-marine, Cade identifies with Shadow, assuming they are both beyond help. Hope senses that what they each need is someone to believe in them, and she has a lot of love to give. As she gains Shadow?s trust, Hope notices Cade begins to open up as well. Finding the courage to be vulnerable again, Cade and Hope take steps toward a relationship, and Hope finally begins to feel at peace in her new home.

But Hope?s happiness is put to the test when Cade?s past conflicts resurface, and Hope becomes embroiled in the escalating situation at the high school. Love and compassion are supposed to heal all wounds, but are they enough to help Hope and Cade overcome the pain of their past and the obstacles in the way of a better future?

## Discussion Guide

**1.** Hope and Cade each carry unspeakable traumas with them through most of their lives. How do memories of traumatic events manifest in their behavior over the years?

**2.** How does this book convey the ways in which human beings are shaped and altered by their encounters and relationships with one another?

**3.** Grief is a major theme in the novel, and many of the characters have suffered as a result of their losses. Explore how grief appears throughout the book. What or who does each character grieve? How is grief expressed in nontraditional ways? What does Hope?s experience tell us about grief? How do Hope and Cade differ when it comes to grieving?

**4.** Hope comes to love the stillness and tranquility of Oceanside, Washington, making it her new home. Is there a place that you consider a sanctuary in your own life (perhaps a longtime vacation spot)? Why is it important to you?

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

**6.** In what ways does the past influence the present in THE BEST IS YET TO COME? How do the characters try to repress or escape the pain of their histories? What does the novel tell us about the relationship between past and present? How does this affect their relationships and help them heal?

**7.** Discuss the novel?s title. Did your understanding of it shift throughout the book?

**8.** Every satisfying novel shows character growth. In what ways were Hope and Cade different at the end of the book than they were at the beginning?

**9.** THE BEST IS YET TO COME is filled with multiple themes --- grief and loss, love and attraction, secrecy and connection. Is there a theme that resonates most with you? Explain.

**10.** By the end of the book, the main characters? lives are transformed by the power of love. Discuss how this happens in each instance.

**11.** What did you think about the ending? Were you satisfied or disappointed with it? How do you picture Hope and Cade?s lives after the story closes?

## 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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