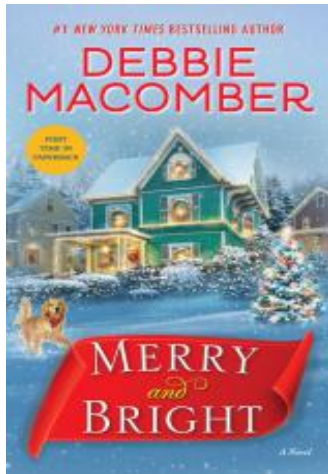


Merry and Bright

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 --- the author of A CHRISTMAS DUET, MUST LOVE FLOWERS, THE BEST IS YET TO COME, IT'S BETTER THIS WAY, A WALK ALONG THE BEACH, WINDOW ON THE BAY, COTTAGE BY THE SEA, ANY DREAM WILL DO, IF NOT FOR YOU and the *Rose Harbor* Inn series --- is a leading voice in women's fiction. Thirteen of her novels have reached #1 on the *New York Times* bestseller list, and five of her beloved Christmas novels have been hit movies on the Hallmark Channel, including *Mrs. Miracle* and *Mr. Miracle*. Hallmark Channel also produced the original series "Debbie Macomber's Cedar Cove," based on Macomber's *Cedar Cove* books. She is, as well, the author of the cookbook DEBBIE MACOMBER'S TABLE. There are more than 200 million copies of her books in print worldwide.

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