



Always Dakota

Debbie Macomber

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Buffalo Valley, North Dakota. A few years ago, this was a dying town. Now it's come back to life!

People are feeling good about living here again—the way they used to. They're feeling confident about the future.

Stalled lives are moving forward. People like Margaret Clemens are taking risks on new ventures and on lifelong dreams. On happiness. Margaret is a local rancher who's finally getting what she wants most. Marriage to cowboy Matt Eilers. Her friends don't think Matt's such a bargain; neither did her father. But Margaret is aware of Matt's reputation and his flaws. She wants him anyway.

And she wants his baby...

Always Dakota Details

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Carla says

I didn't like this book as much as I liked her other books - Montana, Blossom Street series, etc. I think my dislike stemmed from the Axel subplot and the handling of Shelley's pregnancy.

Having friends/family who have endured the adoptive process, I really disliked the way Axel was taken from the couple. I work as a volunteer GAL, and the first mandate is to keep the child feeling stable. Unless the home was truly unfit (and this would be determined by a caseworker as WELL AS a CASA volunteer), the child most likely would have stayed in that very loving home he already knew. I also didn't like the way it was 'wrapped up' so neatly with him adjusting so easily - again, personal experience.

I am also a stepmother, and my DH's ex is a lot like Shelley - used the children for personal gain, vindictive, hateful and spiteful. I can guarantee you that she will never give up her rights like that - no matter how much she would like. In fact, most stepmothers that deal with vindictive exes have pretty much the same experience - even when mothers abandon their young (one moved to England with no visits) they still play victim and refuse to give up their rights. The hate runs too deep.

I also know that the strain on the marriage would have been nearly unbearable once the baby was on the EOW schedule and the women were interacting (which would be inevitable). It would not have been so easy to just pack him off to the hospital for that first visit, and it's never that easy to just "forgive, move on and love another woman's child" - trust me. Again, the ending for this part of the book was too "neat and tidy" to align with my personal experience.

Erin says

I rarely go looking for a Debbie Macomber book, but when I happen to pick one up, I always seem to enjoy it. They aren't overly serious or thought-provoking, but they provide a nice dose of escapism when you are in need. What I always enjoy about Macomber's books is that she makes you believe that people tend to be good at heart, and that life doesn't have to be overly complicated, if you just stick to what is important. I also enjoy that her books tend to run in series or trilogies, so you get to see a lot of different characters in different times/settings over and over again. So....I wouldn't say these books are going to change your life, but they will probably be enjoyable. The Dakota series is pretty typical Macomber fare, and if you are looking for a little brain-candy, I recommend them.

Nancy Morse says

Loved what I thought was the final book in the series. Imagine my surprise to find out there is a 4th one, which I am reading now.

Lisa says

Margaret wants to marry Matt. She sees something in him that nobody else does. Matt's girlfriend cooks up a plot for Matt to marry Margaret; get all he can from her, divorce her and then marry the girlfriend. Only Matt falls in love with Margaret. Too late he finds out that he has both women pregnant. What a mess!

Bob figures out that Merrily has kidnapped the little boy only to keep him safe from the abuse of his parents. Bob does the right thing and the authorities take the little boy. Bob and Merrily fight for him but because of their pasts, they lose him.

Calla is a 17 year old spoiled brat who thinks her father is perfect and she picks fights with mom and refuses to accept her mom's new boyfriend.

Another well-written Debbie Macomber story!

Jennifer says

Two tales dominate this book. We learn more about Buffalo Bob and his Buffalo gal. Then there's Margaret who decides she's going to marry the bad boy in town because she knows she can give him what he wants: her ranch passed on to her after her father's death.

Lynn says

Very disappointed, the story of Matt and Margaret was a very small part of the book, there was not enough detail of her finding out his screw up and it went from one story to another and I was so confused most the time I could not enjoy it. The story I was interested in was a failure in that I did not remotely think Matt was redeemed and found the whole nasty woman surrendering her kid a token plot device of trying to clean up that horrid relationship and Margaret's willingness to take all the crap that came with Matt made me feel she was weak and needy and not a survivor....

Matt was a d&ck period... he had one..he was one... I wanted to understand how Margaret would be able to hold her head up in that town where everyone knew Matt married her for financial gain while whoring with the vile mistress...

Jill says

I have to say, I was pretty disappointed with how much of the book was actually about Margaret and Matt. I felt like their story line was pretty much finished before the book was halfway done, and there were just little tidbits about them later that were neatly wrapped up. That being said, I did like "visiting" Buffalo Valley again.

Dee says

Two-haiku review:

She was raised like boy
Falls for neighboring rancher
He's a real A-hole

Ongoing side plots
Didn't love these characters
Good end to series

Kristen says

This is book 3 of her Dakota Series. Will be looking into getting the last book

Jane(Janelba) says

What a beautifully written end to this trilogy. I loved every page of this series.

Connie N. says

The 3rd in the Dakota series started out slow, but I really liked it by the end. I didn't think I was interested in reading about Margaret and Matt since they hadn't appealed to me as interesting characters in previous books, but as their relationship developed, so did their personalities. Actually, this whole book seemed to deal with various people living good lives despite setbacks in their pasts. They had to mature and deal with the consequences of their histories. Calla...Bob and Merrily...Sarah and Dennis...Margaret and Matt...lots of good story lines here. I'm definitely moving on to the next in the series.

Terri Schrandt says

Although this book had a satisfying ending to the entire series, I felt improvements could be made. The narrator whispers too much for effect. When listening to the audio version in the car, it was often hard to hear what was being read. I get that it is for dramatic effect, but it was overdone. This being the third and final book in the series, Macomber spent too much time rehashing info from the previous two books about the characters.

I appreciated the series for introducing and fleshing out all the characters, and each book focused on a set of characters, but with each new book, they were barely heard from again. The worst part I felt was the end of the first book, Dakota Born, where Lindsey's aunt makes a return in the epilogue, but there was no reference to it in the rest of the series.

All in all, great "chick-lit."

Julie Akeman says

Wonderful ending to a trilogy, though there is one more book, it's a short one, a quick return to Buffalo Valley. The main story in this one is the mannish rancher's daughter finally gets married, though they guy wasn't 'in love' with her at the time, and he just got out of a relationship with a conniving woman who wanted him to marry the rich ranch daughter, then divorce her so she could marry him...and when he refused to have anything else to do with her she tries to wreck vengeance in his life. It's pretty good how all the storylines tie up. Macomber's such a great writer.

Maria says

Like the Cedar Cove series, this book reads like five or six short stories interwoven with each other, which makes it somewhat choppy. You read a bit about two or three characters, then stop, and read about two or three others, then stop, and so on. Eventually the story for the first two or three characters continues, but you have to wait, which may be a good thing and may be bad, depending on how you like your stories to read. The writing itself is smooth, and I have no trouble understanding the characters and where they are coming from, so from this aspect, I really enjoyed the book and will probably go on to find the rest in this series.

Margie Gundelach says

I really enjoyed this book - read it in less than one day! You'll probably enjoy it more if you read the first two books of the trilogy first. These are the first Debbie Macomber books I've - I am now a fan!
