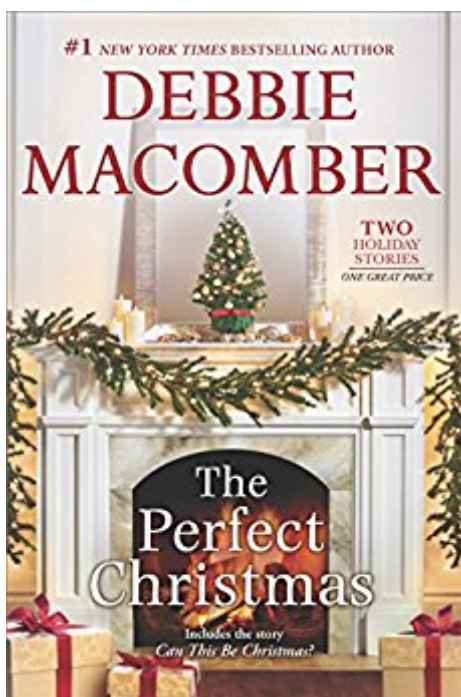


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The Perfect Christmas: Can This Be Christmas?



Synopsis

What would make your Christmas perfect? For Cassie Beaumont, it's meeting her perfect match. Cassie, at thirty-three, wants a husband and kids, and so far nothing's worked. Not blind dates, not the internet and certainly not leaving love to chance. What other options are there? Well, she could hire a professional matchmaker. Simon Dodson has quite a reputation, but he's very choosy about the clients he takes on, and very expensive. Cassie considers him a difficult, acerbic know-it-all, and she's astonished when he accepts her as a client. Claiming he has her perfect mate in mind, Simon assigns her three tasks to complete before she meets this paragon. Three tasks that are all about Christmas: being a charity bell-ringer, dressing up as Santa's elf at a mall and preparing a traditional turkey dinner for her neighbors (most of whom she happens to dislike). Despite a number of comical mishaps, Cassie does it all, and then she's finally ready to meet her match. But just like the perfect Christmas gift, he turns out to be a wonderful surprise!

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Customer Reviews

This is only the 2nd Debbie Macomber book I have read and I liked it a lot. I also bought her Christmas book from last year. This book tells the story of Cassie, a single woman in her 30s who

only wants the perfect Christmas. She has tried everything, blind dates, the internet, and still no luck. One day she received a Christmas card from her old college friends, and it's not even Thanksgiving yet! All she wants is the perfect husband and perfect kids like her friend. When you've tried everything what else can you do. How about spend \$30,000 on a professional matchmaker. Between the matchmaker himself, her tasks to complete before meeting her match, and the "kind" old lady next door who keeps stealing her paper to clip out coupons, what else could possibly happen. There's plenty of comic relief and it proves to be a quick, yet worthwhile, read. I recommend it anyone who needs an escape or just a quick pick me up in the hectic time that comes before, and includes, the holiday season.

Thirty-something Cassie Beaumont has her heart set on finding the perfect husband so she can have the perfect family and celebrate the perfect Christmas. With her biological clock ticking away, this professional woman is anxious to find her mate and get on with life. With urging from her best friend, she decides to get professional help and writes a check for thirty thousand dollars (the money she'd been saving for her dream wedding) to hire professional matchmaker Simon Dodson. The story is sweet and sentimental though at times slightly silly. Fans of Debbie Macomber will most likely find it satisfying as a light-hearted story for the Christmas season, despite its highly predictable main plot and sub plot.

Debbie Macomber's books are like potato chips, you can't read just one, no matter how much you realize you will know what happens in the end - girl gets boy. They are happy and sweet light reading novels that you know you will be able to enjoy. 'The Perfect Christmas' tells the story of 2 romances, one with Cassie Beaumont and one with her best friend Angie Barber; both find their true love in the end. The setting is Christmastime and Cassie and Angie are desperate to find husbands; so desperate that Cassie uses the \$30,000 she has saved for her wedding to pay a professional matchmaker. Both Angie and Cassie feel their biological clock ticking and want true love and a husband and babies; the problem as Macomber so astutely points out is that men do not have a deadline for fatherhood so they do not feel that push to get married before a certain age. Cassie is given 3 tasks by the matchmaker to prove her worth before she meets her perfect match - all are appropriate Christmas related activities. She has her mishaps, which make her more real to a reader and she does find her true love in a twist and turn in the plot (which I will refrain from spoiling for a future reader). Angie as well finds her true love and all ends happily. I did find in this day and economic time \$30,000 for a wedding and especially to hand over to a matchmaker an enormous

sum of money - it really disturbed me to think of that amount, but overlook that and you can have a pleasant Christmas read.

I love Debbie Macomber - love her. I enjoyed the Blossom Street series, the Dakota series and many of her Christmas books. That said - this book is awful. The male character is cruel, meanspirited, cold and a little sadistic. I spent the book completely confused as to why any one - much less the main character - would have any interest in this person at all. He is without emotion or personality. He is controlling and odd - a very sick man. In a short book - with only 2 real characters - it's awful when you hate one character (the man) and want the other character (the woman) to find someone (anyone!) else. Their "falling in love" is laughable - they spend maybe 2 hours together and that time is spent sniping and being mean to one another. To make matters worse - this mean male character is a psychologist who behaves unethically by kissing his client multiple times. It's wrong on so many levels. She is paying him. He is treating her like garbage. She is attracted to his cruelty - and then he steps over boundaries by kissing her repeatedly. It's a dysfunctional mess. The supporting characters are also completely unlikeable and mean as well - stealing newspapers, not holding doors, being rude. One of the things I love about Debbie's books is how much I love her characters and this book was full of characters I hated. I don't know what happened - but this book is a total disaster - cruel and meanspirited all the way through.

I usually love Debbie Macomber's books, but this one was a total disappointment. I'm also a sucker for any book with "Christmas" in the title, or any other holiday for that matter, so that's what attracted me to this one. I originally purchased it for my daughter, but then I couldn't help myself from cracking it open to read it myself first. Now I'm glad I did, as I think I'll skip passing it on to her. For starters, Ms. Macomber lost me as soon as I read the amount Cassie was shelling out to the matchmaker for his services. That absurd amount kind of made me ill, especially in today's economy. I knew right then I wouldn't be passing the book on to my daughter, who struggles financially as it is; no need to make her feel worse about her situation! The other thing that left me scratching my head was the whole concept of Cassie falling for the matchmaker with the horrid personality. Do yourself a favor and skip this one --- for me, it was far from a "perfect Christmas" story.

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