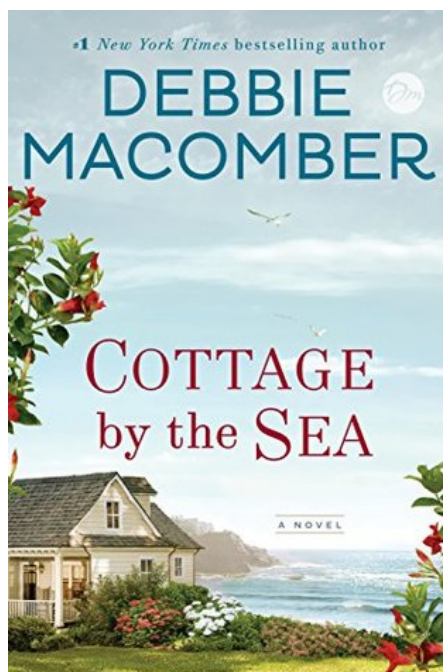




Cottage by the Sea

Debbie Macomber

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Cottage by the Sea Debbie Macomber

A seaside town helps one young woman reclaim the light after darkness in a brand-new novel from #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Debbie Macomber.

Annie Marlow has been through the worst. Rocked by tragedy, she heads to the one place that makes her happy: Oceanside in the Pacific Northwest, the destination of many family vacations when Annie was a teenager.

Once there, Annie begins to restore her broken spirit, thanks in part to the folks she meets: a local painter, Keaton, whose large frame is equal to his big heart--and who helps Annie fix up her rental cottage by the sea; Mellie, the reclusive, prickly landlord Annie is determined to befriend; and Britt, a teenager with a terrible secret. But it is Keaton to whom Annie feels most drawn. His quiet, peaceful nature offers her both comfort and reprieve from her grief, and the two begin to grow closer.

Then events threaten to undo the idyll Annie has come to enjoy. And when the opportunity of a lifetime lands in her lap, she is torn between the excitement of a new journey toward success and the safe and secure arms of the haven--and the man--she's come to call home.

In this heartwarming tale, Annie finds that the surest way to fix what is damaged within is to help others rise above their pain and find a way to heal.

Cottage by the Sea Details

Date : Published July 17th 2018 by Ballantine Books

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Author : Debbie Macomber

Format : Hardcover 352 pages

Genre : Romance, Fiction, Contemporary, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit

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From Reader Review Cottage by the Sea for online ebook

Beth says

Cottage by the Sea was a great, clean, heart-warming, hometown story with more than one romance. I love how Macomber takes a bunch of emotionally scarred people and brings them together to make a family. Amazing protagonosit!

I received this ARC copy of **Cottage by the Sea** from Random House Publishing Group - Ballantine Books. This is my honest and voluntary review. **Cottage by the Sea** is set for July 17, 2018.

My Rating: 5 stars

Written by: Debbie Macomber

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Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Cottage-Sea-No...>

Barnes & Noble: <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/cott...>

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Susan says

Cottage by the Sea

Debbie Macomber

Wow, all I can say is, this story blew me away! Keep the tissues close by as you are reading COTTAGE BY THE SEA by Debbie Macomber. She will have your emotions all over the place. Once I started reading, it was very hard to stop! The twists and turns made it impossible to put down, as I had to know what was going to happen to Annie after so much heartache! What an awesome story. All of Debbie's characters feel genuine and relatable and put your emotions on one heck of a roller coaster ride. As you are reading, you will find yourself cheering for all of them, praying they can work out their problems and be happy once again. You will also wonder how much heartache a person can stand before they completely break down and shatter.

COTTAGE BY THE SEA is all about family and the past and the secrets that come out are heart tugging. It had me flipping through the pages like a woman on a mission. I had to know what was going to happen to Annie and Keaton and all the secondary characters. Annie is shattered after a family tragedy that leaves her all alone in the world. How will she ever get over her grief? She decides the only place she can be happy is at the cottage her family rented every summer. Maybe she can find the meaning of her life once again.

COTTAGE BY THE SEA is a heart tugging story that will hold you hostage until the very last page. Once you start reading, it will be very hard to put down!

COTTAGE BY THE SEA is without a doubt one of the best books I've read in 2018 so far. I was instantly emotionally invested in all of the characters. My heart broke for Keaton and Annie and for all they were dealing with but Keaton shredded me. He had such a lonely and loveless childhood and no one deserves to grow up like that. His Dad blamed him for his mother leaving them. Who puts that kind of guilt on a child? Debbie Macomber really knows how to write about family drama, heartbreak, and forgiveness. I can not wait to read more by this wonderful and heart tugging author. I have many of her older books to read and that brings me so much joy and happiness to know they are waiting for me!

I received a complimentary copy of this book from Ballantine Books through Netgalley. Opinions expressed in this review are completely my own.

Suzanne says

I absolutely tore through this book and got it all read in one day, which shows how quickly it got and kept my attention. After a devastating tragedy, Annie moves to her childhood family vacation cottage, where she begins to heal. Really all of the characters in the story are scarred by their pasts in one way or another, and this was a sweet story of connection and friendship. The romance was there, certainly, but the several friendships (including the romantic one) were what resonated with me.

Thanks to the publisher and netgalley for letting me read this book early. It was just what I needed for a stressful week!

Kathleen says

Wow, Debbie Macomber! I just found myself a new favorite author. After a devastating tragedy, Annie moves back to her childhood family vacation home. Where she slowly begins to heal. This book was about loss, heartbreak, friendship, family, second chance and more. I highly recommend this book, it was a wonderful summer read!!!

Chris C - A Midlife Wife says

Awesome story of loss and love.

~~~~~

When you pick up a book by a favorite author like Debbie Macomber, you tend to know what you're going to get. Similar themes and that warm sweet romance that we love.

However, this book was something so much more than that. It literally grabbed me from the beginning and never let me go. I feel like I was either crying or smiling throughout the entire story.

We all have heartbreak in our life but not the type of heartbreak that this book is about. However, the author took a deep and highly emotional story and created a main character that was barely living and breathed new life into her.

The author also created a big, strong man who could bear the weight of her brokenness and pain and give her strength, love, and caring. And she also gave him the same. The connection these two characters had was amazing.

Trust me when I say this book will be difficult to forget. Cottage by the Sea has left a deep impression on me as well as a longing to find my own happiness by the sea. This is definitely a book you will read again and again. Fabulous story.

\* Copy received for review consideration

\* Full Review - <http://amidlifewife.com/cottage-by-th...>

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## Dave says

I wanted to like this book, I really did.

Unfortunately, there never came a time where I was able to truly connect with the characters and their emotions.

The premise of this story and the real-life events it is based upon drew me in immediately. It was gut-wrenching from the start, but that emotion slowly leaked from my heart as the characters in Oceanside were presented to me. I appreciate the struggles and history of characters like Keaton and Mellie, but his clipped conversation and her brusque tone left me... disconnected.

The manner in which events were detailed in one paragraph, and then repeated almost verbatim in subsequent paragraphs and chapters began to weigh on my patience as a reader. I fully accept responsibility for this dislike, as I am obviously in the minority based upon the landslide of positive 5-star reviews for this novel. Told from a 3rd person point of view didn't help the forming of my opinion as I've grown accustomed to and enjoy the more intimate storytelling from a 1st person perspective.

Ironically, the person I connected with (but didn't necessarily like) the most was Keaton's father. His character flaw was real and understandable. It showed his human side with a rawness that was genuine. I empathized with what he felt, even if it was unreasonable, cruel, and unjust to Keaton.

The most important part of a book for me is connecting with the main characters and feeling what they do in a relatable and realistic way. I wish I could have accomplished that with Annie, Keaton, Mellie, and Preston. Unfortunately, that never occurred for me. But, this is why there are so many books in the world.

There is a book out there for everyone, one that will impact them in a positive and inspiring way. I hope this book is that to many, it just wasn't that one for me.

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## Anna says

Annie Marlow has lost her entire family in a tragic mudslide that destroyed their home. Rocked by grief and

guilt, she is struggling to move on with her life. She returns to the place from her childhood where she felt true happiness, Oceanside in the Pacific Northwest. Her family rented a cottage there during the summer as she was growing up. There she meets some fellow broken souls who quickly find their way into her heart. Together they find, with the support of one another, they can move past the challenges of their past, and redefine the meaning of family.

In Debbie Macomber's signature style she has once again written a touching, thoughtful story of family, romance and finding hope in new beginnings.

3.5 stars rounded up to 4.

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## **Berit??? says**

4.5 heart Warming Stars ?????

Debbie Macomber! We're not on Blossom Street anymore! This book had all the feels... it touched on every single emotion you have! Wow... just wow!

I picked up this book expecting a sweet fluffy love story and what I got was so much more... this was a book about loss, heartbreak, friendship, family, second chances, and so much more... at times during this book I was reaching for a tissue and at other times I couldn't get the big smile off my face... what a beautiful story about resilience and peoples need for one another...

Annie has suffered a major tragedy... so to heal her wounded heart she returns to a favorite vacation spot from when she was a kid...Annie was a tremendously likable character and you really felt for her and wanted her heart to heal...Keaton was a big strong insecure man who made you want to reach through the pages to give him a big hug and tell him he is a good person! The relationship between these two was so lovely and so much more than a simple romance... it was a healing love... The secondary characters in the story added even more emotion to this book.... The book touched on some pretty serious subject matter, but it handled it with grace and thought....

I think this is Debbie Macomber's best book yet! So if you are a fan of this author I cannot encourage you enough to pick this one up and if you have not read anything from her yet... what are you waiting for? This is a book about the power of love, but it is so much more than a romance! The love in this book is not only romantic love, but the love between friends... so as much as I adored the romance between Keaton and Annie, I loved the friendship that bloomed between all these characters in this book!

Absolutely recommend... you will want to find your own cottage by the sea?

\*\*\* many thanks to Valentine Books for my copy of this delightful book \*\*\*

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## **Carrie says**

Debbie Macomber has quickly become for me an author that when picking up one of her books I have some pretty high expectations having enjoyed the previous titles I've read. Thankfully when finished with this new novel I can say that she completely met all my expectations and gave me a bit more.

Cottage by the Sea begins by introducing Annie Marlow as young and carefree with a bright future ahead of her. But for Annie things come crashing down in her world when she gets some devastating news and

finding her way out of the despair seems like an impossible task.

Taking some advice from a friend Annie begins the task of picking herself back up by finding someplace that once made her happy. This triggers the move from California to the Pacific Northwest to a place that her family had once visited with the intention of trying to bring back those memories.

The ups and downs in Cottage by the Sea are safely categorized as an emotional roller coaster ride that readers may want to have some tissues handy. The book falls in the contemporary romance genre but it certainly isn't your typical two beautiful singles meeting and falling in love cookie cutter read. Instead what you find within the pages are characters that mirror real people with real problems and the struggles to overcome them.

Not only are grief and tragedy addressed but so many other issues with not only the main character but many other secondary characters and the small town charm begins to work its magic and bring everyone together to build their strength and bonds to last a lifetime. A beautiful story that is sure to capture readers hearts.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley.

For more reviews please visit <https://carriesbookreviews.com/>

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### **Dawn Wells says**

Great novel about survival, hope, love and healing. The best part of this book is the young woman's discovery of helping others is how to heal, grow and move on. The romance is a plus.

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### **Yvette says**

A summer read, a beach read, a cozy up in the fall read – depending on when you read it, this fits all of those categories. Debbie Macomber has taken inspiration from a very real tragedy that is still in the memory of many in the Pacific Northwest, myself included, and crafted the story of a woman's struggle to go on after losing her entire family in a devastating landslide that occurred in Washington state.

This is a story that deals with profound grief, where Annie Marlow returns to the only place she feels at peace and works to build a new life there. It is also about the lives of those her presence impacts, particularly Keaton, the local painter who irrevocably fell for her at a distance one summer long ago.

While this is ultimately a hopeful story, it does deal with deep sadness and the negative affects of past trauma on Annie, Keaton, and other characters important to them. It does not delve or dwell too deeply, however, and the reader easily dismisses any fleeting thoughts of unlikeliness in the convergence of these characters and events. This is a sweet, clean, and lovely contemporary romance that captures the feel of a small coastal town in the Pacific Northwest.

It is easy to see why Debbie Macomber has loyal readers, and I am pleased to have finally given this "local" author a try. 3.5 stars

This review refers to a paperback Uncorrected Advanced Reader Copy won in a GoodReads giveaway, courtesy of the publisher. Reviews are strongly recommended, but not required. All opinions expressed are

my own.

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## **Bree Hill says**

Debbie Macomber does such a wonderful job at capturing human emotions. This book tackles grief, and what it's like to lose those closest to you in the blink of an eye. It deal with regret, and what it's like to live with the what if's and 'I should've been theres' You experience anger caused by seeing someone innocent grapple with abuse. So many things take place in this book and you see these wonderful, realistic characters navigate these tough situations. The romance in this story is one of my new favorites by her. Such a well written story.

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## **Madeline ♥? Romance Bibliophile ♥? says**

### **♥♥ 4 Healing Stars ♥♥**

After unspeakable tragedy, Annie is left reeling and trying to find a way through her grief. She's been barely making it through everyday life for over a year when she decides to get out her haze and find her "happy place". Remembering her childhood vacations to a cottage in a sleepy beach town, she decides to see if she can find meaning in her life again there. Annie insinuates into her new town and slowly ingrains herself into the lives and hearts of those around her.

While this story definitely has romance going on, it's all very PG. I haven't read that much by Ms. Macomber, so I'm not sure if this is part of her writing style or not, but I was really hoping for at least a couple hot sex scenes. I think Keaton had the potential to be a really hot brooding alpha male type guy, but he was much more reserved and gentle than expected. That being said, he still gave me those gooey feelings and was super sexy when he got all protective of Annie. I felt that while the story focused more on Annie's journey to healing more than the romantic development between Annie and Keaton, Annie didn't seem to address her past basically at all. The tragedy is what brought her to the town and allowed her to connect with so many others, but it's not until almost the end of the book that she talks about her past with someone, and it's not even with Keaton! And when Keaton finds out, he's so blasé about it and they don't even talk about what happened. For this to be the whole premise of the book, I felt like it was basically just a sidetone by the end of the book.

Overall, I thought this was a fairly easy and light read (with the exception of the first couple chapters). It's not often that I find myself interested in the lives of the secondary characters, but I found myself almost caring more about the others' development than the main characters'!

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## **Julie Carpenter says**

My emotions were all over the place with this book. I loved it and I loved the characters so much! I will admit that I shed some tears while reading. I felt that heartbreak and sorrow from these characters. It may be focused more on Annie as the main character, but let me tell you that she is not the only one in this book who has heartbreak or the need for healing. This is one of my favorite books I've read by Debbie Macomber and one I won't be forgetting anytime soon. I think it and the characters will be in my thoughts for a long time.

When I saw the setting for this book and the title, I thought, yay a sweet beach read. Many years ago, I lived close by Oceanside, where this book is set. So of course, that and loving this author's books, I had to read it. Let me tell you that I loved reading about this quiet little town. The author did such a great job describing it and the quietness of it during the off season for visitors. The little movie theater, the coffee shop, the doctor's office, the kite store...all places that I'm familiar with. I actually saw one of the Twilight movies on opening night at that movie theater. Ha! Crazy right?! The movie theater where I lived was all sold out and I had debated about going for opening night with my friends until too late to get a ticket. But my friend's family lived in Long Beach/Oceanside and snagged several tickets for us when that movie theater was able to show the movie last minute. It was kind of a big deal too because we weren't that far from Forks, WA.

Ok, little tangent there. But all my memories helped connect me to this book. Annie was a beautifully written character. A woman who has everything going for her, and thinks that nothing is coming her way, when suddenly everyone she loves deeply are gone from her life. Trying to survive and not be emotionally overwhelmed is not working. Annie finally remembers a place she loved and has great memories of her family. When she moves to Oceanside, her scars are hidden and she becomes connected to many others who don't hide their scars (figuratively) beneath the surface.

I absolutely loved Annie and watching her befriend this group of characters in this book. The slow healing. The connections that come, as well as the small connections from Annie's youth. The older I get, the more I see how interconnected people are (and many times without even realizing it themselves). My husband had a college professor who could make a connection with anyone, within 6 people. It was pretty amazing to see him do that with every and any student. Absolutely amazing. I thought about that a few times while reading this as these characters are returning to each other's lives. I love connections and feel that they are so important. Especially in helping us as individuals in our healing, and we all have many moments when we need to have healing and peace.

Without saying too much more because it really would spoil this story, the sweet love story was really just that, sweet. I loved it! Ok, I might keep saying 'I love it,' but it's true. I did, I do! If you are a Debbie Macomber fan, or need a beach read that's a beach read but so much more, grab this gem. And I will recommend tissues. Especially for the beginning of the book. I didn't have any and was riding in the car with tears streaming down my face. I was a mess. Grab it and fall in love with this quiet, quaint little town. And then go visit there if you haven't.

Content: Clean. A tragedy, loss of family members, talk about physical abuse and children with bruises/broken bones, a minor character who threatens Annie, and a character who refuses to leave her home. Some kissing and mild innuendos but no sex scenes.

I received a copy from the publisher, Ballantine Books, via NetGalley. All thoughts and opinions in the review are my own.

Happy Reading!!!

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## **Kate Olson says**

Thanks to the publisher for this free review copy!

You all know I read a LOT of steamy romance now, but in my early 20s, I definitely did NOT.....and that was when I stumbled upon and fell in love with Debbie Macomber's work. COTTAGE BY THE SEA is the exact type of romance I inhaled back then and still more than appreciate today ~ sweet, chaste, and clean in

all ways. This story has a beautiful setting in a tiny Pacific Northwest beach town and the characters are so refreshingly unique ~ a troubled male painter of few words, a grief-stricken female physician assistant and a woman afraid to leave her own home. Also, while a traumatic event does start out the book, I promise that this is NOT the focus of the story beyond showing a strong female overcoming grief.

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If you are looking for an inspirational (but not overtly Christian) love story, definitely consider picking one up sooner than later. And if you haven't read her work before, please also try out the Blossom Street series ~ that's my favorite!

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