



DEBBIE MACOMBER

The Best Is Yet to Come

Book Club Kit

NOTE FROM DEBBIE

Dear Friends,

I'm so happy you have decided to pick up my new and real book of my heart, *The Best Is Yet to Come*. This is the third time I've returned to the quaint coastal town of Oceanside. It's based on a real town in Washington State called Ocean Shores. Everyone seemed to love the characters and community from *Cottage by the Sea* and *A Walk Along the Beach*, and as my readers have often guided my career in so many ways, I decided to return once again to Oceanside.

This story is about a woman starting over after the loss of her twin brother due to war and a wounded ex-marine who is suffering from injuries most can't see. I heard a snippet of a news cast on a Sunday morning where a General was being interviewed and he talked about the loss of life and said a phrase that stuck in my mind. He said, "be worthy of their sacrifice." That's all I needed, it sparked the idea for this story.

I hope you enjoy this book club kit, which includes discussion questions, recipes, and a playlist—all inspired by the book. I can't wait to hear what you think: I love hearing from readers! Your support, as always, means the world to me.

Best (is yet to come),
Debbie



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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 the Hope and Cade's lives after the story closes?



RECIPES

Cocktail: *The Bright Side*

Source: patrontequila.com/cocktails/roca-patron-silver/the-bright-side.html

INGREDIENTS

- 2 oz. silver tequila
- .75 oz. lime juice
- .75 oz. pineapple nectar
- .5 oz. agave
- Muddled cilantro stalk
- Muddled green pepper
- Smoked Spanish paprika/salt rim
- Pineapple slice for garnish

DIRECTIONS

1. In a shaker, combine the tequila, lime juice, pineapple nectar, agave, muddled cilantro, and muddled green pepper.
2. Shake and pour over ice in a rocks glass rimmed with smoked Spanish paprika and salt.
3. Garnish with a pineapple slice and serve.



RECIPES

Dessert: *Puppy Love Cookies*

INGREDIENTS

- 1 package (16 oz.), refrigerated Pillsbury™ Ready to Bake!™ Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough (24-count)
- ¾ cup fluffy white whipped ready-to-spread frosting
- ⅓ cup chocolate creamy ready-to-spread frosting
- 24 large pink and red heart-shaped candy decors

DIRECTIONS

1. Heat oven to 350°F.
2. On ungreased cookie sheets, place 12 cookies 3 inches apart for puppy faces. Cut remaining 12 cookies in half; place 2 halves on sides of each whole cookie for ears. Bake 9 to 13 minutes or until golden brown. Cool 2 minutes on cooking sheets. Remove to cooling racks. Cool completely, about 15 minutes.
3. Frost puppy face with white frosting and ears with chocolate frosting. Decorate each puppy with heart shapes for eyes and nose. Spoon remaining chocolate frosting into small resealable food-storage plastic bag. Cut off tiny corner. Pipe each mouth using chocolate frosting. Store loosely covered.



PLAYLIST

FOR YOU

KEITH URBAN

HURT

JOHNNY CASH

HEARTFIRST

KELSEA BALLERINI

AS IT WAS

HARRY STYLES

AMERICAN
SOLIDER

TOBY KEITH

FIRST DAY
OF MY LIFE

BRIGHT EYES

IF I AIN'T
GOT YOU

ALICIA KEYS

TRAVELIN'
SOLIDER

THE CHICKS

YOU BELONG
WITH ME

TAYLOR SWIFT

WALKING ON
SUSNHINE

KATRINA & THE WAVES

SLOW DOWN
SUMMER

THOMAS RHETT

DRINK
A BEER

LUKE BRYAN

THE ONE'S THAT
DIDN'T MAKE IT
BACK HOME

JUSTIN MOORE

WAKE ME
UP WHEN
SEPTEMBER ENDS

GREEN DAY

THIS LOVE
(TAYLOR'S
VERSION)

TAYLOR SWIFT

THE BEST
IS YET
TO COME

BEN RECTOR

AIN'T NO
MOUNTAIN
HIGH ENOUGH

MARVIN GAYE,
TAMMI TERRELL

THE BEST
IS YET
TO COME

FRANK SINATRA COUNT BASIE

DON'T STOP
BELIEVIN'

JOURNEY



Check out *The Best Is Yet to Come* playlist [here](#)



OCEANSIDE SERIES

“Oceanside was the perfect place for her to escape,
put down roots and get a fresh start at life . . . ”

—*The Best Is Yet to Come*

The Best Is Yet to Come is the third novel of Debbie’s to be set in the fictional town of Oceanside. Check out the full “series” below!

