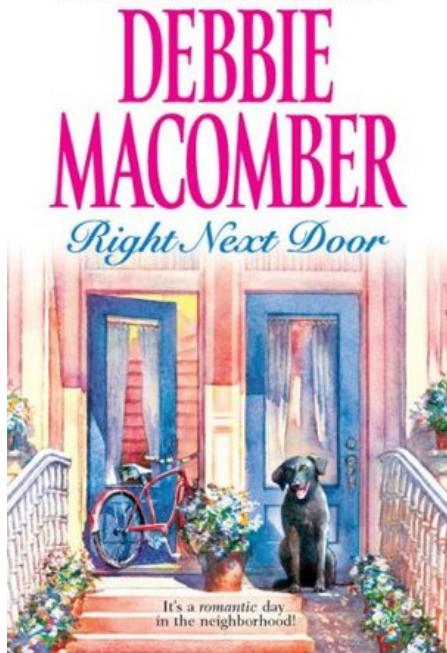


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Right Next Door - The Courtship of Carol Sommars & Father's Day

Debbie Macomber

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The Courtship of Carol Sommars

Peter Sommars is fifteen, and what he needs is a little more independence. Which is why he'd like his mom, Carol, to start dating. He even knows the perfect man Alex Preston, his best friend's dad. As it turns out, Alex is interested, but Carol's doing everything she can to sidestep his pursuit. Which only makes Alex and the boys more determined!

Father's Day

Robin Masterson's ten-year-old son, Jeff, figures he needs a dog more than anything in the world. And there just happens to be one right next door! But the friendly black Lab belongs to Cole Camden, the *unfriendliest* man in the neighborhood. Still, Jeff persists...and soon his mom and Cole are looking at each other in a whole new way.

Right Next Door - The Courtship of Carol Sommars & Father's Day Details

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Debbie Macomber

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Jenifer says

Two stories in one book, Debbie Macomber does it again and I read this book in less than 24 hours.

I can understand why a lot of people would have issues with these stories, but keep in mind that they were originally published in early 90's and times have changed quite drastically since then. Keeping that in mind I went into these stories with an open mind.

Father's Day is about 10-year-old Jeff Masterson and his desire for a dog of his very own. Problem is, the dog that he has connected with already has an owner. Cole Camden is quite unfriendly the first time he meets Jeff and Jeff's mother, Robin, but his black Lab has bonded with the boy and soon Cole is finding himself interested in Robin. Robin has been alone since her husband died and she hasn't had an desire to find a new guy, but for some reason Cole has become more friendly, both to her and her son, and her heart is finding that it likes Cole too.

This story was very sweet. Cole starts off as a bit of a jerk, while trying to maintain himself with his new neighbors. Jeff is just a fun-loving 10-year-old with a love for animals. Robin is a young mother raising her son alone after her husband passed away. Blackie is a sweet black Lab that loves hanging out with Jeff. These four come together in such a sweet way that you can't help but like them.

While I find the story very sweet overall, my biggest issue is the love story between Cole and Robin. I find no reason why Cole is suddenly drawn to Robin. I completely understand why Robin is confused the entire time they are together and is questioning his motives. The romance came extremely fast. When Cole tells Robin when he realized he was falling for her, I found that it didn't make much sense because their interactions had been so minimal before then that to say he was falling for her at that point wouldn't have made any sense. It just seemed a bit rushed to me.

The Courtship of Carol Sommars introduces us to Peter Sommars, 15-years-old, who wants a little more guy stuff in his life. Problem is, his mother, Carol, isn't interested in dating and that makes it extremely hard to go camping or fishing like he would love to do. Peter's best friend, James, has a great, and single, father, Alex, who both boys think would work great for Carol. Alex is also taken with Carol as well, but Carol is doing everything she can to keep her wits about her and try to keep herself from falling for this seemingly wonderful man.

Another very sweet story. Carol is a character that we can relate to and still be interested in. Alex is a strong male character that has that sensitive side as well. Both boys, Peter and James, are insightful and noisy, just like typical teenage boys. Unlike the previous story, this one, I felt, had a romance that made sense. Was it still a little rushed? Yes, but I felt like both characters had more time to get to know each other and more time to really assess how they felt about the other. It was also good to get some of the perception from Alex's point of view, which was something that was lacking in the previous story.

While I enjoyed this story a bit more than the first, I still feel like it had its issues here and there. While I loved both Peter and James, at times I felt like they were closer to 10 or 12 rather than 15. There are a few times when you can tell they are 15 by the way they act, but most of the time I had to remind myself that they were older because they felt so much younger.

Both stories were fun to read and I enjoyed them. I would definitely read this again.

Janice says

I love Debbie Macomber and have read many of her books. This one was a disappointment. I felt nothing for any of the characters or the story line. I actually checked to see if someone else had written this book. I will still continue to read her books but was glad when this one came to the end.

Heather Bridson says

I adore books like these. Sweet, and just wonderful stories. This one has two separate stories, and I can't decide which one I like better. Debbie Macomber writes so well with great characters! I can't wait to read the next book of hers I find! I picked this one up at a local book store, and I will stop there Thursday for another!

Denise Kusunoki says

Loved the ending of Courtship of Carol Sommars!

Dawn Schupp says

great stories

Rachel Tiggleman says

The second book in this book was hard to get into which is why I have the book a 4 star. The first book was fantastic and when it ended I was rather sad.

Abbie says

Meh. The first one was ok. The 2nd story was not very good.

Kathi says

Two sweet romances, although both story lines were very similar so perhaps they shouldn't have been combined into the same volume. A little too much repetition of plot details.

Michele says

Cute, simple read.

Kristi says

This book has two stories both along the same line. Girl meets boy, they like each other, something comes between them that keeps them apart, then they get together. Very formulaic romance stories but I enjoyed since I don't read this type of book very much.

Chloe says

See individual books for reviews.

Cheryl says

No start or finish dates possible on these two books as I have them both on audio and have listened to them more times than I can remember. They are both delightful stories of love the second time around. The narrative on the CDs is wonderful with the same woman doing both stories. She has a great voice to listen to and really brings warmth to the characters. Highly recommended books!!

Tiffany says

I have know read a few of Debbie Macomber novels and I have noticed a strong theme in all of them. Most of them have to do with a widowed woman and a cantankerous man. All of which have a bad first meeting but then usually without exchanging much verbally they find themselves kissing. Usually there are some matchmaking children involved as well.

Robin says

Really a big fat waste of time...but it is convincing me that perhaps I could write a book. After all, if THIS gets published...

Update: A TOTAL waste of time. The second short story in this book literally had me rolling my eyes. The SAME scene happened over and over again...really, truly annoying. But I'm one of those people who just HAS to finish something I start (unless it's my kids' scrapbooks), so I pushed forward. I'm so happy to be DONE with it. And I threw the book in the recycle bin when I finished because NO ONE else should waste

time on this trash. Am I being clear?

Janice Cafarelli says

this book contains two stories.

Father's Day is about Robin and her son who move next door to Jeff. Both Robin and Jeff are still recovering from losses and have walls up but Robin's son and Jeff's dog Blackie continually keep them interacting and as they learn more about each other and their pasts they become friends but can they move forward to a deeper relationship?

The courtship of Carol Sommars is about 2 teenage boys who try to get their parents together, but lack of knowledge and understanding of what each other has gone through with their previous spouses causes many problems for them. When Alex asks Carol to marry him not knowing or understanding what she dealt with in her previous marriage she can't say yes and asks for time but just how long will Alex wait?
