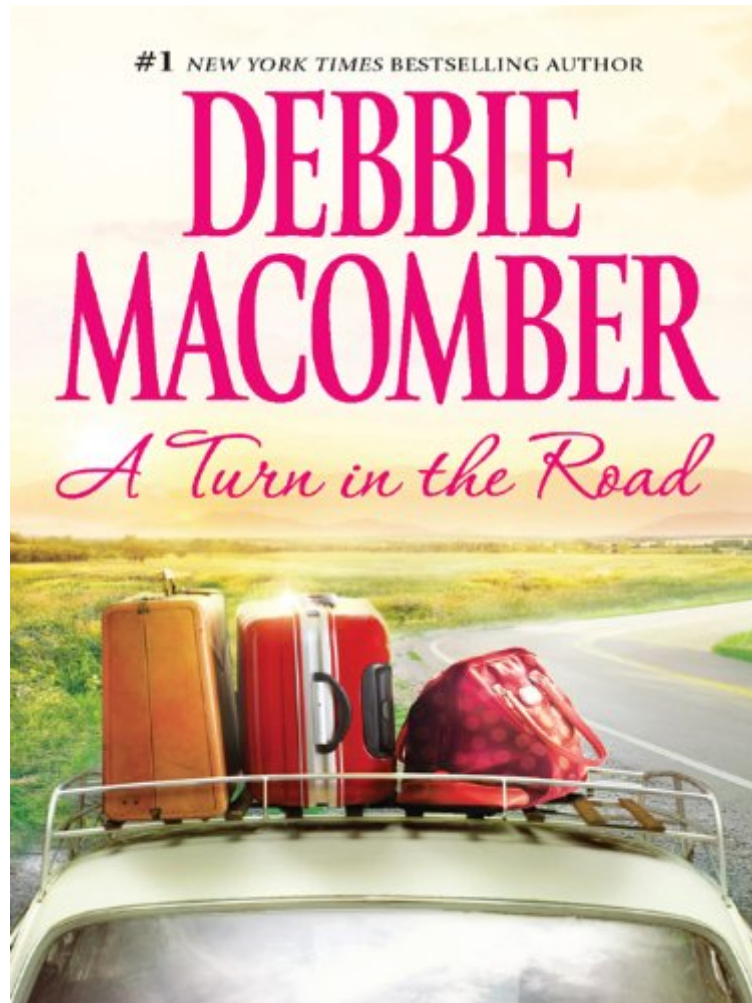


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A Turn In The Road (A Blossom Street Novel Book 8)



Synopsis

Sometimes, where you think you're going isn't where you end up. In the middle of the year, in the middle of her life, Bethanne Hamlin takes a road trip with her daughter, Annie, and her former mother-in-law, Ruth. They're driving to Florida for Ruth's 50th high school reunion. A longtime widow, Ruth would like to reconnect with Royce, the love of her teenage life. She's heard he's alone, too. Bethanne needs time to reflect on a decision she has to make; whether or not to reconcile with her ex-husband, Grant, her children's father. Meanwhile, Annie's out to prove to her onetime boyfriend that she can live a brilliant life without him! So there they are, three women driving across America. They have their maps and their directions; but even the best-planned journey can take you to a turn in the road. Or lead to an unexpected encounter; like the day Bethanne meets a man named Max.

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Customer Reviews

"A Turn in the Road" by Debbie Macomber is the latest installment in the Blossom Street series. Our main character is Bethanne Hamlin who we met earlier in the series after her husband, Grant, left her and her two children for a younger woman. Six years have passed and her ex-mother-in-law is

planning to drive from Seattle to Florida to attend her 50th high school reunion. Grant has seen the error of his ways, divorced the lovely Tiffany, and wants to reconcile with Bethanne. There is nervousness in the family about the older woman taking on such a cross-country drive and Bethanne sees the opportunity to get away and contemplate her decision so she offers to go along and assist with the driving. When Bethanne's daughter, Annie, has a major bump in her romantic life, she decides to go along as well and our three-generational triad is formed. I have largely enjoyed Debbie Macomber's Cedar Cove series (with the exception of the latest one) and I have also enjoyed the Blossom Street series until now. I know I am going to take a beating from the die-hard Debbie Macomber fans (and will watch all the "unhelpful" votes roll in which likely mean they don't agree with me), but I didn't find this book to be very good. The premise is great and, while fans will miss the cast of characters from Blossom Street, I thought this road trip had the potential to offer story variety which would keep things fresh in the series. I recently finished "The Knitting Diaries" which contains a short story of the Blossom Street characters and thought I had my "fix" so I was ready to hop in the car and go along for an enjoyable ride. This time out, the beginning starts out well and the end is interesting but the middle is repetitious.

Bethanne Hamlin has recovered very well since her husband left her for another woman. She had started her own business and it has been very successful. Her daughter Annie, will be starting her last year of college and she helps her mom with her business. Bethanne's ex-mother-in-law, Ruth, is planning to drive from Seattle, Washington to Vero Beach, Florida to attend her 50 year high school class reunion. This trip will not happen if her daughter Robin has anything to say about it. Three women all at different places in their lives, all facing some important decisions. Bethanne's ex-husband has made it known he wants her back now that his second marriage has fallen apart. Can she forgive him for all the pain he has caused her? She is no longer the same woman he left behind. Annie thought her boyfriend was going to propose marriage and instead he broke her heart by telling her he was going to travel Europe with friends for a year, just expecting her to wait for him. Ruth is going back to see old friends, but there is one special friend she really wants to reconnect with so she can apologize for hurting them. Bethanne and Annie decide to travel cross country with Ruth to give them time to make the right decisions and with them going along Ruth's daughter can't keep her from a trip she has been planning for almost 50 years. Packed up and with their route mapped out they head out for the trip of a lifetime. But "A Turn in the Road" can make a well-planned excursion have a few unexpected surprises. This turns out to be a trip that will change the lives for several people, especially Ruth, Bethanne and Annie. I LOVED IT!!!! You can never go

wrong with a Debbie Macomber book.

I've read a lot of Macomber books, but this one is a complete failure. One of the Blossom Street novels, the main character Bethanne Hamlin takes a road trip with her daughter Annie and her ex-mother-in-law Ruth. In a previous novel, Bethanne's husband Grant had cheated on her for years, divorced her, and married his bimbo lover. Now in this book, Grant has had his fun, is finished with his second marriage, and conveniently wants Bethanne back now that he's alone and she makes more money than he does. Macomber attempts to convince the reader that Grant is sorry and fails miserably. It becomes obvious that he's merely feeling sorry for himself, is in the market for a new woman, and Bethanne is convenient, not to mention wealthy. Most disturbing about the story is the rampant sexism regarding men. Men are portrayed as basically amoral people that have affairs due to their need of a second adolescence at midlife. This is the rationale used to excuse Grant's behavior and compel Bethanne to take him back. Statements abound such as, "Men don't know what is really important," etc. The devastation Grant inflicted is portrayed as completely normal because, after all, men have midlife crises and this is to be expected. Disgusting and irresponsible. Grant even makes the outrageous statement that even when he was with Tiffany (in bed with her) he was still loving Bethanne. I don't know about you, ladies, but that kind of "love" I can do without. Call me crazy, but I'd rather my husband NOT show his "love" for me by getting it on with and subsequently marrying another woman. As for the other characters, Annie is supposedly in grad school but spends the entire book whining like a 15-year-old about wanting mommy and daddy to get back together. Please.

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