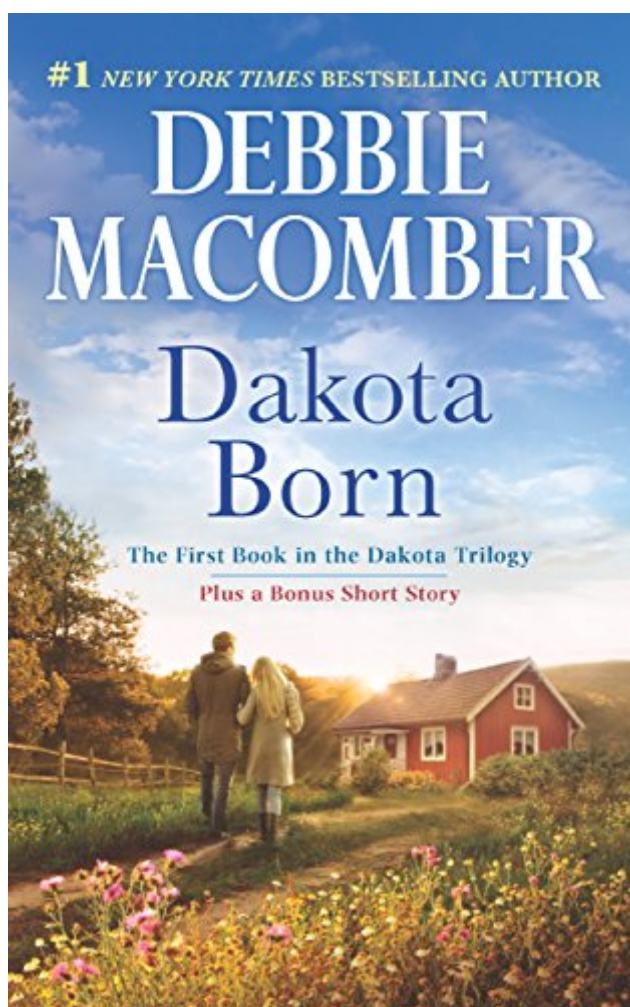


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# Dakota Born (The Dakota Series)



## Synopsis

Buffalo Valley, North Dakota. A second-chance town! Like many small towns, Buffalo Valley is dying. Stores are boarded up, sidewalks are cracked, houses are in need of a coat of paint. But despite all that, there's a spirit of hope here, of defiance. The few people still left here are fighting for their town. Lindsay Snyder is a newcomer. She's an outsider, even though she spent childhood vacations here. Now she returns to see the family house again, to explore family secrets and to reevaluate her life. And soon after she arrives, she meets a local farmer named Gage Sinclair. Lindsay decides to stay in North Dakota. Her decision marks a new beginning for Buffalo Valley and for her. Because in this broken little town she discovers the love and purpose she's been seeking.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I received Ms. Macomer's latest book "Dakota Born" in the mail yesterday and finished reading it this morning. I thoroughly enjoyed it. Having spent most of my life in a small town I can relate to this story. The characters of Lindsay, Gage, Brandon, Joanie, Rachael, Heath, Buffalo Bob, Merrily, and

Hattie are all appealing and well developed. Their lives all entwine with each other for a very entertaining story. I was especially glad to see Lindsey and Gage finally get together and Gage's half brother Kevin get to live his dream. Was disappointed that the problems Brandon and Joanie are having did not get resolved in this book. Also, the storylines of Rachael and Heath, Sarah and Dennis, Buffalo Bob and Merrily left me wondering. Hopefully there will be more of their storylines in "Dakota Home". Cannot wait until September 2000 to see what happens in Buffalo Valley. Great book which I couldn't put down - ENJOY....

Buffalo Valley, North Dakota appears to be a town doomed to die in spite the courage and desire of the locals to preserve their lifestyle. Adding to the townsfolk's worries is the recent death of the schoolteacher with no replacement prospect imminently on the horizon. Needing to escape her troubled relationship with no future, Savannah resident Lindsay Snyder flees to Buffalo Valley. She remembers spending many happy summers in the hometown of her grandparents and hopes to recapture some of those feelings rather than remain in a fruitless relationship. Lindsay signs a contract to teach at the high school for one year. Instead of the anticipated boredom, Lindsay loves the job almost as much as she loves local rancher Gabe Sinclair. However, though she tries very hard to belong, the townsfolk make her feel like an outsider and Gabe refuses to open up his heart because he expects the outsider to return to Georgia. DAKOTA BORN is more than just a regional contemporary romance. The tale centers on the residents' reverence to the spirit of small town living even when the future seems very bleak. The lead couple is a wonderful pair and the support cast brings North Dakota to life more so than the movie, Fargo. It is the local residents who turn New York Times best-selling author Debbie Macomber's latest work into a triumph of the human spirit leaving fans wanting an earlier release to the remaining two novels. Harriet Klausner

Although I haven't yet read this book, I wanted to give an outstanding recommendation via my 80-year-old mother who was born and raised in North Dakota and was a schoolteacher there in the 1940s. She grabbed the book from me while we were traveling in the South Dakota together earlier this month and despite her complaint of "small print" (she has vision difficulties) she couldn't put it down. She couldn't stop remarking on how much she was loving DAKOTA BORN. For a person who reads only one or two books a month, this is outstanding praise.

I liked both of the main characters in this book. Lindsay takes her life in her hands and moves to a small town, and I appreciate that kind of gumption. Gage obviously cares about the town, his family,

and the land. I thought that he would be boring (small-town farmers aren't an automatic turn-on for me), but I was wrong. He actually is very conflicted about his responsibility to his family and his need to find love. Although I liked Lindsay and Gage (they made me want to move to a town like Buffalo Valley!), I still didn't feel any sparks. Their love sort of blossomed, they had a small stumbling block, then it turns out OK. There didn't seem to be any huge conflicts, and that's what I usually like about Romance books (just my own personal taste). Maybe this one was just a little too real-life like for me. I also enjoyed following the other love stories that develop throughout the book (a widow and the rich guy in town, a married couple having trouble, a single mom and a younger man, and the bar owner and his girlfriend who regularly takes off for a couple months at a time). The issues these characters play out are mirrored in the main characters' relationship and I enjoyed that. These "other" love stories are both poignant and funny. At times they were more interesting than the main characters' story, and I look forward to following these stories in the next two installments of the trilogy. Overall, I enjoyed reading the book and am looking forward to the next installment in the trilogy - Dakota Home. I'm guessing that it's about Maddy (the soon to be ex-social worker) and Jeb McKenna (the recluse who lost a leg). There should definitely be some sparks there!

Dakota Born is the story of Lindsay Synder who, deciding she needs a change in her life and needs to get away from ex-boyfriend Monte, moves to Buffalo Valley to become a teacher. Buffalo Valley is a small town that has fallen on hard times and is on the verge of becoming a ghost town. Lindsay brings hope for the future to the town. Dakota Born is an absolutely wonderful book. The characters are very well developed. They all interact with each other as is often the case in small towns. The characters are all very likable (well, maybe not Monte) and believable. I found Brandon and Joanie to be two characters in the book that I really liked and was hoping would resolve their problems (hopefully in the second or third book they will). This book runs the gamut of emotions. There are funny parts and parts that will bring tears to your eyes. Ms. Macomber writes about people and places that you can believe in and cheer for until the end. This is definitely a book you'll want to read more than once.

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