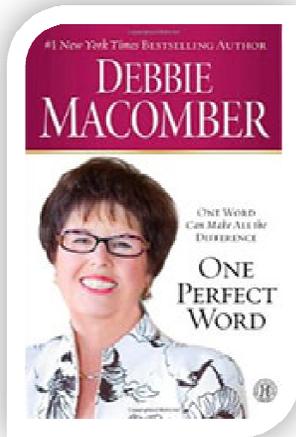


Readin' & Writin' with Lauraine- February 2013



I am utterly spoiled, living in Tehachapi. When I read about the horrendous storms in other parts of the nation, it makes me feel almost guilty. Almost, but really more grateful since winter is not my favorite season. White stuff is not my favorite yard decoration.

Yes, it can be beautiful. Yes, the shadows of the trees on the snow are spectacular and most likely worth taking pictures of and perhaps even painting. But, let's not encourage it to stay around. That's my way of thinking.

Two of the many good things about winter, are wood stoves and fireplaces. There is something about wood heat that warms one's bones. Such a comforting warmth. And with a good book and a cup of either hot chocolate or flavored coffee or some combination thereof, is a fine way to enjoy these shorter days. Oh, and don't forget to have a pot of homemade soup simmering in the kitchen.

So what am I reading this winter? Not enough is my first answer. My to-be-read stack keeps growing. However, one of the excellent books I've been reading, (one chapter each night, after the novel I'm reading and before re-reading *Jesus Calling*), is *One Perfect Word* by Debbie Macomber.

Debbie is best known for her fiction, but I have been enjoying her once a year releases of a nonfiction book. Debbie is a master journaler--I can't say journalist, since she does not write for the media--and I learn so much from her.

All of her nonfiction books are drawn from what she has learned through her life. Besides writing, she is a highly successful businesswoman; her writing is just one facet of her business ventures, along with motivational speaking, owning commercial property, and being generous. She is and has been a student of success for years.

One Perfect Word comes from her experiences with choosing a word for the year each January. She studies the chosen word, and allows that word to mold her through the year, sometimes pushing and sometimes leading the way. She has found this practice to be highly beneficial on so many levels including her faith, her home, family and business life. She has learned to listen to what God has to say.

In *One Perfect Word* she tells stories not only from her own life, but also from many other famous people both contemporary and historical. This is a book to make you think and add richness to your life, and I so highly recommend it. You can find it in all book delivery formats, printed book form, audio, e-readers and online.

My book releases for this spring are *A Place to Belong* which wraps up Cassie's adventures in South Dakota in the Wild West Wind series, and *Second Hand Horses*, the third installment in the S.A.V.E. Squad series for readers in the 7-11 year old bracket (and all others who are enjoying these animal rescue adventures).

So, as ever, I wish you happy reading and hopefully some of you are writing. We have a lot of writers and artists of all kinds in our little town. We are indeed privileged.

Until next time,

Happy readin' & writin' from Lauraine

Visit www.LauraineSnelling.com for additional samples of *Readin' and Writin'*