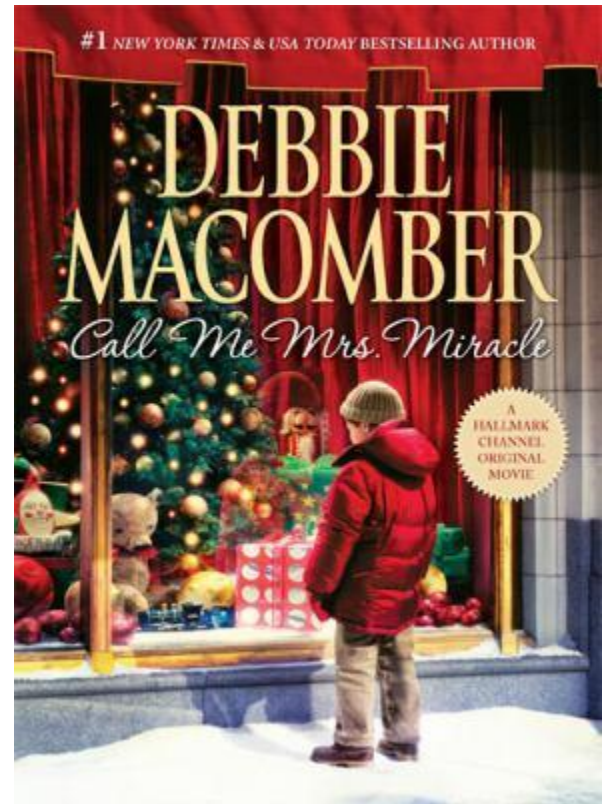


***Call Me Mrs. Miracle* by Debbie Macomber. Mira, 2010. \$16.95, 256 pages.**

Dubbed “The Official Storyteller of Christmas,” Debbie Macomber has been writing Christmas-themed novels since 1986. This year’s holiday offering, *Call Me Mrs. Miracle*, is the sequel to *Mrs. Miracle*, which was first released in 1996. *Mrs. Miracle* also debuted as a Hallmark Channel movie last year, and due to the overwhelming response, Macomber decided to pen a second volume following the adventures of Mrs. Miracle. While the sequel is the continuation of Mrs. Miracle’s story, the good news is that if you don’t need to have read the first book to enjoy the sequel.

In *Call Me Mrs. Miracle*, the magical Mrs. Miracle has taken a seasonal job working in the toy department of the family-run department store Finley’s in New York City. She meets Jake Finley, the owner’s son who is trying to prove to his father that he is capable of inheriting and running the family store. He’s having a tough time this holiday season because he followed his gut and ordered 400 of what he thinks will be the hot ticket Christmas toy this year—Intellytron the SuperRobot. Most stores only ordered about 50 because of the high price tag of \$250, and Jake’s father can’t believe that his son would be so reckless with his order given the economy. However, Jake is bound and determined to sell all the robots before Christmas. Though he’s not sure about having Mrs. Miracle on his sales team, it’s clear that she’s on a mission to make a change in his life. She quickly proves herself to be an asset, selling some robots in her first few days, and Jake decides to keep her on, unknowingly opening himself up to Mrs. Miracle’s mysterious plan for his life.



Mrs. Miracle also has a plan for Holly Larson, a single woman trying to make ends meet as she takes care of her nephew, Gabe, while her brother is deployed overseas. When Holly stops in at a local coffee shop for a morning pick-me-up on her way to work, Holly discovers that she doesn’t have enough money to pay for her coffee, but Jake Finley, in line behind her, covers her tab. Holly goes off to work, wondering if she’ll ever see Jake again. Wanting to give Gabe the best Christmas possible, Holly takes her nephew to Finley’s to see Santa Claus, afterward stopping in the toy department so Gabe can see the one present he wants more than anything, an Intellytron SuperRobot. Despite the high price tag, Holly is determined to make her nephew’s Christmas wish come true, especially when she watches him happily showing Mrs. Miracle all the tricks that the robot can do. Holly is also surprised but pleased to run into Jake Finley at the store, and they soon begin seeing one another, though they still don’t know exactly what is in store for them.

All throughout the novel, it’s clear that Mrs. Miracle has something up her sleeve, and with some gentle meddling, she seems to be on her way to giving Jake, Holly, and Gabe their best Christmases ever. *Call Me Mrs. Miracle* is a wonderful, light read guaranteed to get you into the holiday spirit and make you believe in the magic of Christmas.

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