



Same Time, Next Year

Debbie Macomber

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Return to the Manning Family with book 6 in this fan-favorite series of classic romances, by #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Debbie Macomber.

James Wilkens was almost a Manning groom—because he almost married one of the Manning sisters. With that broken engagement behind him, he spends New Year's Eve in Las Vegas...where he meets Summer Lawton. She's just suffered a painful betrayal, and James promises her that in a year, she'll be over it. To prove his point, he makes a date to meet her in Vegas Same Time, Next Year. Except it turns out to be more than a date—it's a wedding!

Originally published in 1995

Same Time, Next Year Details

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Author : Debbie Macomber

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From Reader Review Same Time, Next Year for online ebook

Charlotte Wallace says

It was a cute read, quick and very predictable. Good anyway.

Desha says

I didn't make it past the 5th chapter. I thought it was boring and predictable, I couldn't hold out till the end because I just didn't care enough to see how it ended.

Dana Jacobs says

couldn't put it down lover her books

Jill Cohen says

Best book in the series. The first year of James and Summers relationship is very touching.

Denise says

I thought I'd try this bestselling author at least once. This book is over 20 years old, so maybe it's not a fair representation. There wasn't anything but a textbook cleanish romance novel here.

Joyce Gamble says

Loved the Manning series and so glad you included James, as he was in all the other stories!!

Julianna says

Reviewed for THC Reviews

Same Time, Next Year is the fourth and final full-length novel in Debbie Macomber's *Those Manning Men* series. As with pretty much all the books in the series, it's a sweet, light romance. Although thankfully, Ms. Macomber doesn't gloss over sexual attraction, there are no explicit elements, making it suitable for most romance readers. In this book, James, Christy Manning's ex-fiancé and the man she left in the dust, finally gets his HEA. While James isn't a Manning by blood, he's been a friend of the family for years and is basically an honorary Manning. The Manning parents definitely treat him like one of their own and welcome

Summer into their lives as well, but of course, they each have their own parents too, so it makes for a large, warm, family-oriented story.

James is a hard-working attorney who has just been appointed to serve out the term of a retiring Superior Court judge. At thirty-seven, he's the youngest person to be appointed to the bench in Seattle, and he has every intention of running for office in the fall in hopes of making his new job permanent. Most people seem to view James as something of a stodgy, stuffed shirt, which could kind of be seen in some of the previous books of the series. Although he does begin the book seeming rather reserved, he gets over that pretty quickly when Summer comes into his life. Once he realizes how much in love with her he is, he's transformed into a very loving and passionate man. I suppose it could be said that Summer simply brought out the best in him.

Summer is a light and breezy character most of the time, but her emotions still occasionally get in the way of her making the best choices. She's an actress and singer who performs at Disneyland. She really enjoys her job, but when she falls for James, she's more than willing to give it up to stand by his side as he pursues his career. Much like with the other heroines in this series, her parents are well-meaning, but a bit overbearing, and she kind of allows them to run rough-shod over her, though not nearly as much as Christy did in her book. I'm glad that Summer stood up to her cheating ex-fiancé, although I did question her judgment just a little when she didn't tell James about her ex continuing to call her even after they were married. I also felt like she let James's campaign manager get to her way too easily. I kind of understood that she wanted to do what was best for her husband and his campaign, but the man was obviously an idiot. Ultimately, I felt like she was a bit naive and should have had an open, honest conversation with James about it before essentially running away.

James and Summer are a cute and well-matched couple, but I have to admit the beginning of the story was a little slow for me. I just didn't really feel that building attraction like I wanted to. They met in Las Vegas on New Year's Eve right after Summer had discovered her fiancé's infidelity, and James consoled her. Having gone through a similar break-up himself, he understood her and assured her that she would feel much better within a year, which led to them making a 'date' to meet in Vegas again the next New Year's Eve.

Throughout the coming year, they exchanged letters monthly, which I thought was a sweet gesture since few people actually write letters anymore. Supposedly a deep friendship built between them during that time, but we don't really get to see that happening. When they meet up again, Summer initially isn't even thinking of James in a romantic way, so the sudden attraction to one another and the quickie marriage felt like they were going from 0 to 100 within only a few days time. It might have been nice if they'd actually started experiencing romantic feelings for one another through their letter writing. Once they're married, though, the love and passion they feel for one another is very obvious. They can hardly stand being apart (honestly I don't think the long separation was all that necessary, but will grudgingly admit it added conflict and tension), and when they're together they can hardly keep their hands off each other.:-) I was so glad when James's dad finally put an end to their misery and brought Summer home to James.

With all the family ties, there are secondary characters aplenty. James's dad was my favorite. He's been wanting James to marry and give him grandkids for a long time, so he's crazy about Summer. He very much treats her like the daughter he never had, and has lots of great fatherly advice to dispense to both James and Summer. He's very involved in their lives, without being overbearing like Summer's family and the Manning parents can sometimes be. Of course all the Mannings who reside in Seattle show up at some point in the story, and it was fun to see them and their growing families.

Overall, *Same Time, Next Year* was a sweet story that I mostly enjoyed. Having read the entire *Those Manning Men* series now, plus *The Manning Sisters* duet, I know that Debbie Macomber sometimes uses

soap-opera-style plotting that makes me want to groan, yet somehow it all works out in the end and I can't help feeling happy for the loving couple. Not to mention, her stories always express the all-important emotion I look for in a romance. There's one more wrap-up novella in this series, *Silver Bells*, that is supposed to reunite the entire Manning clan for Christmas while telling a new story. I have no idea who the main characters might be, but I'm looking forward to reading it this coming holiday season. *Same Time, Next Year* was originally published as a stand-alone novel in the Silhouette Special Edition line, and was later reprinted in the single-author anthology *The Manning Grooms* along with the third book of the series.

Isabelle says

To be fair, I'm generally not that interested in romance novels — picked this up because it fulfills part of the reading challenge I'm doing. Not much substance to it, rife with stereotypes and archaic gender roles — James making the pregnancy all about him, even saying that it's harder on the men? ick — but fairly well written, nice family/friend relationships.

Sherene says

Emily Higgins says

Summer Lawton was supposed to meet her boyfriend in Las Vegas to celebrate New Year's. Instead, she found him in the arms of another woman. Devastated, Summer was wandering through the crowds trying to decide what to do next when she ran into James Wilkens. Summer tells James about her feelings of hurt and betrayal. James assures her that she would be feeling much better at the same time, next year. To prove it, he suggested that they meet in Las Vegas again next New Year's. After a year long correspondence, they meet and suddenly decide to marry. This is a cute story.

Lee Yahnker says

The title was so intriguing that I chose the book even though I avoid romance novels because of their predictability and "goody goody" themes. By the 2/3 point I couldn't read anymore and skipped to the last chapter. No more romance novels!

Lillian Brown says

Very Good

Deborah says**Total happiness**

How cute is this rain because I enjoyed this book immensely through the ups and downs some of those hide and some low blows but through it all late in Diridon came through I'd recommend this book to any romantic at heart

Sara Jo says

Old book, new cover. Terrible story. Original starter but horrible story. What 28 year old runs away from a happy marriage (when she's pregnant no less) just because some idiot said it would be good for her husband's career? Not buying it.

Debbie Heaton says

In Macomber's romance novel, Summer Lawton finds herself suffering the sting of betrayal. Judge James Wilkens not only rescues her, he assures her that with time, things will be better next year. Impulsively, Judge Wilkens makes an appointment to meet Summer in Vegas in one year just to prove his point. But one year later, they do indeed meet up again only to find the odds stack against them.

As always, Macomber weaves a tale of romance littered with obstacles to true love.
