



Maggie's Turn

Deanna Lynn Sletten

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Sometimes you just have to walk away...to rediscover who you are.

Maggie Harrison is a devoted wife and mother, always putting the needs of her family ahead of her own. Then, one day, without planning to, she drives away, leaving behind an indifferent husband and two sulking teenagers. Maggie goes off on a quest of self-exploration, enjoying adventures, meeting new people, and rediscovering her passions. For the first time in years, she dreams about what she wants out of life, and she realizes that her deteriorating marriage can no longer continue as it is. Can she and Andrew repair their floundering relationship, or is their marriage finally over?

Andrew Harrison likes his life to be in perfect order. He enjoys his work and status in the community, leaving Maggie to take care of everything at home. He knows his marriage isn't perfect, but after twenty-three years and two kids, whose marriage is? But when Maggie leaves without a word, he is forced to start paying more attention to his home life and his almost grown children, and he begins to do a little self-exploration of his own. Slowly, he begins to understand what drove Maggie away, and how important she is in his life. Is it too late to resolve their differences and save their marriage? Or will Andrew lose Maggie forever?

Maggie's Turn Details

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From Reader Review Maggie's Turn for online ebook

Megan says

I was delighted by how enjoyable a read *Maggie's Turn* ended up being. I immediately was drawn into the story and was connected to the characters.

Maggie is a wife and mother who has been underappreciated for years and has reached her breaking point, so one day she just takes off. First with the intention of only being gone for a few hours, however that quickly evolves into a journey that takes her through many states and making many new experiences.

Andrew, Maggie's husband, definitely needed a wake up call. His behavior was horrible and I could understand why Maggie felt she had to get a break. I loved the scenes with him realizing how much work Maggie does, not only around the house but for others as well, and that everything she does isn't as simple as he thought.

I personally didn't like that Maggie went off alone with men and put herself into situations that caused her to be tempted to cheat. I won't say whether or not she actually did anything but I feel, and this is a view I know isn't shared by everyone, that when you are married you should never put yourself into a situation that might cause you to stray - physically or emotionally.

Maggie's Turn was a great book and one that I recommend.

I received a complimentary copy of this book to review. I was asked to give my honest opinion of the book - which I have done.

Ann Swann says

From the stunning cover to the superb storytelling, *Maggie's Turn* quickly snagged me by the heart and kept me reading--and cheering Maggie on--right through to the end. Ms. Sletten's easy way with words made this one of my favorite Deanna Sletten books. She took her time in revealing the depth of the chasm between Maggie and her husband, and that made her situation, and her actions, very understandable. The author's knowledge of historical places (and touristy places) also added to my delight. I love the way she incorporates the landscape right into the story. It really makes me feel as if I am there. I also took great pleasure in the way Maggie's daughter, Kaia, was portrayed. She was both rebellious and fearful, the ultimate teenage mix. All in all, this was a terrific women's novel. Please, may I have another?

Diana Hockley says

I would warrant that most women feel as Maggie does, at some time during their marriage. We in western society, have set the bar so high in terms of the cost of living - mortgages, vehicles, schooling and our

children's expectations - that millions of women have to go to work, frequently in low-paid, physically hard jobs. This does not mean, however, that these women have help at home from their husbands and children - oh no, like Maggie, they are expected to do it all.

As one of these women many years ago, I emphasised with Maggie and cheered her on. I could relate to how she just kept going one morning and couldn't seem to stop. For her own sanity, this had to come to pass, and she was lucky she could afford to do so.

Her husband, Andrew, was an arrogant idiot, typical of many men in his socio-economic bracket and ambitions. I have seen this happen many times over the years, and sadly, the wives just put up with it to their detriment.

Maggie's journey is peopled by delightful and realistic characters in this well-written novel. I enjoyed the historic and geographical imagery shown through Maggie's photography and how the heroine got stronger as she gained self respect and confidence. I also liked that the fact that her emotional and physical exhaustion was gently revealed, rather than the reader hit with a sledge hammer.

Many books with this theme show the heroine as a complete, over weight wreck and subject to extreme makeovers, but Deanna Sletten has introduced the reader to an ordinary weary, travel-worn woman who becomes determined to save herself and does so without high drama. Naming each of the characters which impact upon Maggie's life along the journey different versions of the same name is a masterstroke which gives continuity to the whole, backed up Maggie's favourite singer. No spoilers :)

A terrific read! And I shall be reading more by this clever author.

Lori says

I really need to stop reading books just because they are free with Kindle Unlimited.

Wendy Janes says

Maggie's family have been taking her for granted. One day she chooses to simply drive away. She needs to distance herself from her self-absorbed husband and their two teenage children in order to rediscover who she is and to decide whether her floundering marriage can be saved. Will her rash decision split them apart or bring them back together?

Although I initially struggled to believe that Maggie, of all people, would have left Andrew and their children in the way she does, as the story progressed this became much less of a problem for me. The locations she travels to provide a stunning backdrop to her journey of self-discovery. Each new experience helps her both reflect on the past and consider the future. The three significant people who she meets – “Wild Bill”, Bobbi and Rob – each take her a step further in her quest. They are also interesting characters in their own right, and as she bids each one goodbye it feels as though she has touched their lives as much as they have touched hers.

Maggie's story is inter-cut with scenes from home, where Andrew and the children adapt to her absence with varying degrees of success. I think all women will smile in recognition as Andrew (far more acutely than the children) realises how much Maggie does for them all. His learning curve is in fact much steeper than Maggie's. However, the circumstances in which he learns some of his lessons feel a little too convenient, and I think the author is more imaginative, and therefore much more successful when it comes to portraying Maggie's life lessons.

The choice of Bob Seger's music as a recurring theme brings with it a sense of freedom, and enhances the message that sometimes you have to distance yourself from a situation in order to try and solve it.

I'd like to thank the author for sending me an advance review copy of this book.

Joan says

I think most every wife or mother feels like Maggie at times - like they just want to run away and escape their everyday life. Probably every husband and father feels that way at times too. Unfortunately most of us don't have the financial resources to do what Maggie did in this novel. The story was sort of enjoyable when read as a total fantasy, but much of it was so unrealistic it was hard to believe in it. She not only walked away from her family but from her job, apparently without any notice or contact, but yet everyone there still loves her and thinks she is great. She leaves her clueless husband to deal with the house and kids while everyone in town thinks she is the most marvelous person who has ever lived. I'm sorry, but she did seem pretty selfish to me. The fact that her husband was also selfish and disconnected from the family doesn't give her permission to just run away from her responsibilities and act out all her fantasies. Miraculously while she was gone not only did he reform and learn to love and appreciate her, but the kids transformed from grumpy, sullen teenagers into kids who want nothing more than to help with the housework and spend their weekends hanging out with their parents. All this change and transformation, but no mention of possibly going to some counseling or getting other help to recover from the problems in the marriage. Parts of the book were entertaining and made me wish I could just escape my responsibilities and live the carefree independent life, but I felt a lot of it was just not grounded in reality.

Lynne Spreen says

Maggie's Turn is a missed opportunity. There's no particular narrative voice, not much emotion, and the main character doesn't face any real challenge while she's on her journey. In fact, this book could have been written in the POV of the husband, who gets hit with many character-forming challenges while Maggie kind of sails along. I think the writer has promise, but this story feels too careful, as if she were afraid to cut loose and just write.

sue says

Well the topic of this story has been done before, but this is much better than ones I have previously read that

are similar.

Maggie and her husband works, but they have two children, as is per usual in most households the wife takes the brunt of all the housework, shopping, cooking, seeing to the kids, attending school meetings and fêtes etc etc and umpteen etcs

But dad was also doing an important job he was working full time to feed and clothe his family until.....

yep, he betrayed Maggie.

Maggie had enough and one day she just drove away from it all.

Leaving dad to cope and manage without her.

The outcome to this was predictable but I did feel the story was told superbly by this authors as she writes so well.

Three stars doesn't mean it was awful, it means that its predictable and been written about so many times before, but, its an alright book that I would gladly recommend.

Thank you to Lake Union Publishing via Net galley for my copy

Sadega says

This was not a good read. I ended up speed reading it 3/4 of the way through it. The actual writing style is good and easy to follow. It's the plot that did not always make sense. Reactions to words and events were not realistic. The characters were not well developed at the beginning so the author makes use of revealing secrets slowly and painfully. Reactions to new information were so disjointed. Not a read I would recommend.

Diana says

I have read this story before in many other novels, and it was written considerably better. The writing was OK, although very trite & silly in many spots. The biggest problem was the character of Maggie. What a whining idiot. I could not stand her. And the other characters were very one-dimensional. And really how convenient to inherit \$400K and your super frugal spouse claims he did not know...even after you told him. Ridiculous!

I have read two other books from this author & they were so far superior to this book.

Jennifer says

I need to stop reading free books from Amazon. UGH! Not good!

I found it completely unrealistic that Maggie wouldn't call home to tell her family that she was ok. What

mom doesn't check in on their kids after being so involved. Maggie turned into a selfish woman who "couldn't help her feelings" even though she knew she was being selfish. Yeah. Whatever.

I also find it unbelievable that Andrew wouldn't know ANYTHING about his wife and kids lives. And he's so helpless. Does not know how to feed the dog, make food or go grocery shopping without his daughter helping him and giving him advice.

The straw on the camel's back was that Maggie kept running into people with the name of Bob. Or some form of it. Really?! What a huge coincidence.

I'm not yet finished with the book, but I only have 5 chapters left. If my opinion changes by the time it's over, then I will update my review.

Debra Jackson says

I really enjoyed this book. Watching Maggie take her trip on a road to discover who she is and what she wants. Feeling the effects of the problems in her marriage she takes to the open road and she discovers things about herself through meeting different people along the way and they help her find herself again. Love the way the author jumps back and forth with each chapter where Maggie is and what she is doing and what her husband Andrew is dealing with at home. I found this to be a very enjoyable book and at times had a hard time tearing myself away. Look forward to reading more by this author.

Amanda says

A great family story of love, hurt and loss then finding yourself and happiness again. Full review to come

Gloria Antypowich says

I eagerly anticipated Maggie's Turn and it did not disappoint me. I became a Deanna Lynn Sletten fan months ago when I read Widow, Virgin, Whore; it was book based on a difficult subject, with a story line that has stayed in my mind as one of the most memorable books I have read. Sletten writes thought provoking stories, with characters so real that her readers relate to them and feel their emotions as they deal with difficult situations.

The underlying theme in Maggie's Turn touches on the reality of many marriages. For generations men have felt that their main role is to provide a good home and the necessities of life. The bigger the pay check and the higher their position in the community, the more successful they feel. They justify their actions with the premise that all the hard work and long hours they spend gives their family the material things they want. Even when the wife works, she is often still responsible for the "women's work." These women become the glue that holds the family together, but in the process they sacrifice their individuality and end up feeling unappreciated.

Maggie and Andrew Harrison were happy and very in love when they'd married twenty three years earlier,

but their relationship had changed greatly as the years passed. Their worlds had slipped apart.

Andrew became consumed by his job and his public image. He didn't communicate with his two teenage children and he had no idea or interest in what Maggie's everyday world entailed. In his mind it was insignificant in the big scheme of things. As a husband and a father he was a dropout.

Maggie became the one who handled all the demands of keeping their household running smoothly with little or no appreciation expressed by her family. She didn't complain a lot; in fact she didn't consciously intend to change things but one day after she had taken her daughter to school, instead of going home, she spontaneously drove through the intersection and headed out of town.

She wasn't planning to leave, she just wanted to indulge a few hours for herself. The miles sped by and the hours passed. Suddenly she realised that she had driven too far to return home, so she got a room intending to return the next day. But the next day she continued on, enjoying the freedom she'd missed for so long. She started on a journey of self-discovery.

It was Maggie's Turn. After years of catering to everyone else's needs, Maggie took time for herself; time to reassess her life and discover what she wanted.

At first Andrew was more angered by the fact that she wasn't there to keep the household running smoothly, than the fact that she was gone, because he simply didn't believe that she would leave. Why would she?

When forced to deal with them as a parent, he finds that Kaia, their teenage daughter and Kyle, their nineteen year old son are virtually strangers who have little respect for him. He wants to blame Maggie, but gradually he has to face up to the things he has done and realise that those choices have created his families problems.

As Maggie continues on her journey she has opportunity to reflect on the emptiness of the marriage and regain her sense of self. She meets people who see her for the beautiful person she is. Does she actually want to go back to her old life?

Andrew is forced to look at what his self centred arrogance and the neglect of his family have cost him. Can he repair the damage or does he offer too little too late?

Both Maggie and Andrew have to re-evaluate their relationship. Can it be restored? Are they both willing to try? Or have they drifted too far apart?

Don't miss this great read. For me this was a journey that both of them took and at times it was very painful and soul searching. It has depth and there are life lessons to learn in it. Deanna Lynn Sletten has done it again!

Rebecca Einstein says

[Received an ARC from www.Netgalley.com in exchange for an honest review.]

Is there any mother who hasn't had the thought of getting into the car and just driving away?

That's what the protagonist does. Without letting her family even know that she's ok until she'd been gone for two days. And much to her surprise, they were really freaked out.

This callousness made it hard for me to connect with the main character. I get that she was having a bit of an identity crisis. That her boorish husband had cheated on her without ever really apologizing. That her entire family took her for granted.

But to not call??

Instead, she drove across the country and met a few folks who helped her rediscover her former carefree side. And she bought a red sports car along the way.

By the time all of this happened, though, I was kind of over her crisis. Yes, her absence made her kids appreciate her more. Yes, it helped show her husband what a heartless idiot he'd been.

I just didn't enjoy the entire premise.
