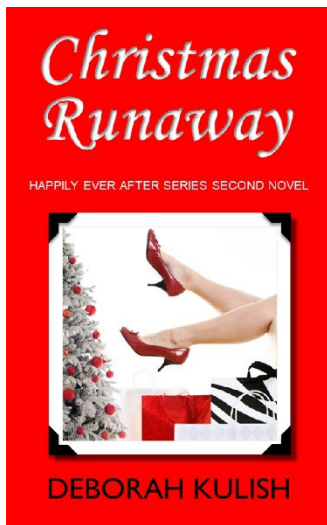


Christmas Runaway

by Deborah Kulish



About the Book

For Christmas, all Jan Nichols wished for was a celebration with her husband they'd never forget on her grandparents' farm. But, after a clever escape from his family on Christmas day, will he find her stranded on the side of the road before it's too late?

Growing up, Jan Nichols always spent a traditional Christmas with family on her Grandparents' farm. So, when the newlywed lost a bet to her husband, she expected to endure the worst—holidays with his family.

As the season approached, dealing with her husband's demands, her friends' accusations, and her challenging career, was about all she could stand. And, when a strange woman shows up in their lives, Jan has to decide what is most important for her marriage and make her stand.

On Christmas day, still determined to have her own way, she needs to be creative and find her escape from his family's cottage. But when she is driving in whiteout conditions, she fears the worst. All Jan can do is hope that her husband realizes she's missing and comes to her rescue—before it's too late.

The Happily Ever After series is one woman's journey in love, business, marriage, motherhood, and gracefully aging. And, just like everyone else, she can't go back and rewrite her story. Follow her life's story with the entire series of books; *Life Changing*, *Moonlighting Bride*, *Christmas Runaway*, *Maternal Instincts*, and *Age Related*.

Discussion Guide

1. Jan expresses to her husband how important family holiday traditions are to her. Were you able to relate to her feelings? Are any of your family traditions similar to Jan's, e.g., family farm, large multigenerational family, other traditions?
2. Can you think of a better way for Jan to get Rob to share Christmas between their two families other than making a bet? How would you write the story differently?
3. Should Jan have known better than to stick to her "fair weather fan" attitude? Is that a worthy ideal for her or anyone to have?
4. Why do you think Monica wants to win over Denise's favor? She was described in *Moonlighting Bride* as being a woman who was "aggressive with men." Do you think she'll stay with Pete or drop him to go back to playing the field?
5. Rob expresses disdain for his brother, Pete, repeatedly throughout the story. He claims it's because Pete is incompetent. Yet, Pete has proven himself to be very capable. Why is Rob so hard on his brother, Pete? Why does he favor his youngest brother, Brian?
6. Throughout the story, a black sedan continues to show up wherever they are. If it's not Mr. Daniels, then who could it possibly be? Did it bother you that there wasn't closure about who's in the sedan? Will you read the next book, *Maternal Instincts*, to find out?
7. Rob's former girlfriend, Marissa, returned. Why do you think he wasn't honest about her with Jan in the first place? Should Jan feel like she can still trust him?
8. Beth, Jan's mother, was very upset that her daughter wouldn't be with her family on Christmas day. Do you think she had a right to feel that way? Should she have respected the decision Jan and Rob made and kept her nose out of it? If it was your daughter, what would you have done?

9. Is the story of married couples arguing over where to spend the holidays a common theme? Have you read similar books on the subject? Did this author do a good job of writing the story depicting the two extreme views of the wife and the husband?
10. What feelings did the book bring out in you, e.g., sadness, happiness, frustration, holiday spirit, others? Did the story measure up to your expectations given the description? Why or why not?
11. Would you recommend *Christmas Runaway* as some good holiday reading? Would you read it again next holiday season? Would you give it to someone else as a Christmas gift?
12. What is the main plot of the story? What are the subplots? Did the author do a good job of intertwining the plots throughout to the end of the story?
13. Did the main character, Jan Nichols, demonstrate any growth or change throughout the story? Did her husband or any of the other characters change?
14. Did Jan react appropriately when she learned that her former boss, whom she disliked, was returning and her current boss, whom she adored, was told to leave? Did her former boss change, and does Jan give her a chance to demonstrate this?

Author Bio

Deborah Kulish is the author of the acclaimed series Happily Ever After, including LIFE CHANGING, MOONLIGHTING BRIDE, CHRISTMAS RUNAWAY, MATERNAL INSTINCTS, and AGE RELATED. She holds several degrees and has a wide range of experience writing for businesses and media. She lives in Metro Detroit, enjoying her life as a full-time indie author and managing her entrepreneurial activities.

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