



Good Things Reader's Guide



SUMMARY

Lifestyle diva Deidre McIntosh is 40, single, and host of Seattle's premier cooking-and-lifestyle TV show, *Live Simple and Simply Live*. But when her show is abruptly cancelled, her seemingly perfect life ends along with it.

It's a godsend when Kevin Johnson offers her a place to stay, even if her new living arrangement is literally a shack in the woods. As she slowly begins to practice what she once preached, Deidre takes the first step toward a new kind of success, and maybe even love.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Do you feel that Deidre lived for a long time with William in order to afford a nice place and for companionship, or to avoid a romantic relationship?
2. Does Caroline, Deidre's cousin and financial advisor, care for Deidre? Does your idea of Caroline change later in the novel? What do you believe is her motivation in being so biting and sarcastic when they meet at the restaurant?
3. Does Deidre believe in fate? For example, Kevin helps her out with the bill when she can't pay at the restaurant and then runs into her a few days later in her apartment building. Deidre's car won't start once she arrives in Jacob's Point (and then she decides to go back to Seattle), which forces her to stay. Or does Deidre feel these are simply coincidences?
4. Why did Kevin offer to let Deidre stay at his cabin so quickly when he first got to know her? Was he hoping for some connection with her even early on? Or is he simply a very compassionate person?
5. When Deidre goes to Jacob's Point, she meets Lindsey, who runs The Wishbone. What do you feel that Deidre thinks of Lindsey at first? How does their friendship change? In what ways do they complement each other?



6. Why doesn't Kevin tell Deidre that Marla is his sister? Did he really have no opportunity to tell her? Or does he feel that it simply isn't that important?
7. For the majority of the book, Kevin and Deidre are not actually a couple, yet there is clearly a connection between them throughout the book. What do they see in each other that is part of the attraction? What do they not like so well about each other?
8. Deidre seems to think best when she is baking. Are there things you do to help you relax your mind and let the ideas flow?
9. Do you think it was a "good thing" that Deidre happens to use Uncle Harry's cabin by mistake when she first stays at Jacob's Point? What does she gain from that experience?
10. Why does Deidre want Lindsey to take off with all the ideas she supplies to Lindsey (such as starting a catering business, etc.)? Why does she press so hard? What do you think of Lindsey's response to Deidre?
11. Is it an odd coincidence how Marla conceived her show, *At Home with Marla Banks*, and how Deidre the idea for *Seattle Revealed*?
12. Was it a surprise that Uncle Harry (and Deidre's former landlord) became her benefactor? What was it about Deidre's idea or about her character as a person that made Uncle Harry want to back her idea? Do you believe Kevin's concept that "people invest because of who you are?"
13. In what ways does Kevin demonstrate that he really wants to work out sharing a life with Deidre?
14. In the end, Deidre returns to Seattle with a new perspective on life, work, friendship, and herself. Would she have come to these conclusions if she had stayed in the city? How significant was the change of environment for Deidre?

ABOUT MIA KING

Mia King lives with her family on the Big Island of Hawaii and is currently at work on her fourth novel. Her debut novel, *Good Things*, was a Writer's Digest Notable Debut and a national bestseller. Visit her website at www.miaking.com for hostess ideas, recipes, book excerpts and more.

