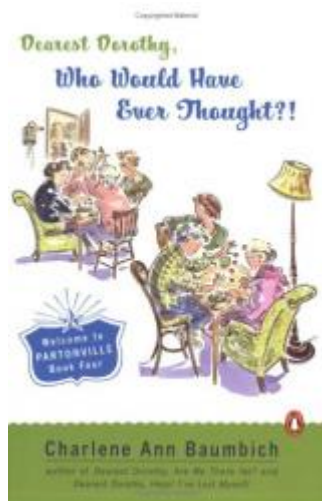


Dearest Dorothy, Who Would Have Ever Thought?!: Welcome to Partonville, Book 4

by Charlene Ann Baumbich



About the Book

Charlene Ann Baumbich has won a loyal following of readers with the first three books in the Dearest Dorothy series, featuring the amusing and touching adventures of the townspeople of Partonville. Now Charlene Baumbich uses her wonderful gift of storytelling to celebrate the simple pleasures of life in this heartwarming and hilarious story. The fourth book in the series finds the residents of Partonville preparing for a festive Thanksgiving dinner at the local church. Amid assigning duties and preparing recipes, everyone tries to ignore bossy acting mayor Gladys McKern. Meanwhile, Jessica Joy struggles with an unexpected turn of events, Katie Durbin considers another real estate project, and Dearest Dorothy doles out advice and love in equal amounts to everyone.

Discussion Guide

1. Josh has mixed feelings about spending Thanksgiving with his father. He makes the very grown-up observation that life is "complicated for everybody." Do you have experience with children rotating holidays between divorced parents? How do you feel about the way people handle it in Partonville?
2. A startup publication called *BackRoads Illinois* gives Partonville the change to get itself on the off-the-beaten-path map, so to speak. Straying from the interstate and heading off the beaten path often leads to memorable vacation moments. What interesting sights and situations might you have missed if you had stuck to the obvious route? Have you ever happened upon a town reminiscent of Partonville during your journeys? If so, what did you think about it?
3. Holidays can be a difficult time for anyone feeling lonely. What special holiday memories do you have of opening your heart or home to those less fortunate? Do you think offering people uncomfortable with "charity" a chance to participate in the festivities (like Lester) is a good way to lift their spirits? How do you feel when offered something you might consider to be charity?
4. Jessie and Arthur go through a bit of a bad patch. Do you think it's important for people to take "breaks" from one another? How do you think Vera and Herman egged on the situation? What could have been done differently that might have minimized the embarrassment everyone felt?
5. Dorothy is thrilled that Nellie Ruth has found a good-hearted man who thinks she hung the moon. Her relationship with ES is still in the early, somewhat secretive stages. Do you recall a courtship you kept secret for a little while? What romantic tactics did you employ to keep your relationship out of the spotlight? Do you wish you could have kept that "what if we get caught" spark alive? Or, better yet, do you have a secret for

doing so?

6. Katie now has something in common with scores of Americans: a Turkey Disaster (but at least she remembered to remove the giblets). Do you have one of your own? Have you attended a holiday dinner where the turkey --- or what was left of it --- was the main topic of conversation? Did the cook handle her- or himself gracefully? Would you be able to laugh off your own kitchen catastrophe?

Author Bio

Charlene Ann Baumbich is the author of the *Dearest Dorothy* series, STRAY AFFECTIONS and DIVINE APPOINTMENTS, as well as several nonfiction books of humor and inspiration. She is also a popular speaker, an award-winning journalist, and lives with her husband in Glen Ellyn, Illinois.

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Publication Date: August 30, 2005
Genres: Christian
Paperback: 368 pages
Publisher: Penguin (Non-Classics)
ISBN-10: 014303619X
ISBN-13: 9780143036197