



44 Charles Street

Danielle Steel

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A magical transformation takes place in Danielle Steel's luminous novel: Strangers become roommates, roommates become friends, and friends become a family in a turn-of-the-century house in Manhattan's West Village.

The plumbing was prone to leaks, the furniture rescued from garage sales. And every square inch was being devotedly restored to its original splendor—even as a relationship fell to pieces. Now Francesca Thayer, newly separated from her boyfriend, is suddenly the sole mortgage payer on her Greenwich Village townhouse. The struggling art gallery owner does the math and then the unimaginable. She puts out an advertisement for boarders, and soon her home becomes a whole new world.

First comes Eileen, a fresh, pretty L.A. transplant, now a New York City schoolteacher. Then there's Chris, a young father fighting for custody of his seven-year-old son. The final tenant is Marya, a celebrated cookbook author hoping to start a new chapter in life after the death of her husband. Over the course of one amazing, unforgettable, ultimately life-changing year, Francesca discovers that her accidental tenants have become the most important people in her life. The house at 44 Charles Street fills with laughter, heartbreak, and hope—and in the hands of master storyteller Danielle Steel, it's a place those who visit will never want to leave.

44 Charles Street Details

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Author : Danielle Steel

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From Reader Review 44 Charles Street for online ebook

Patty says

I can't believe this book was written by Danielle Steel. It was poorly written, redundant, repetitive, head hopped all the way through it and it didn't hold my interest. I had to struggle to finish it. The story had a good plot line, but the immature writing took away from the story.

Piyumi says

I've never been a fan of Steel, and what possessed me to read this, I hardly can recall. Maybe I was ill and saw it in the book shelf and thought it would help to pass the time. Big mistake. This is because it turned out to be exactly like the few other of her work I had read so far. Badly written, ridiculously plot and weak character development. How is this author still able to write is truly beyond me

Kay says

Let me begin by saying I have been reading Danielle Steel for 30+ years and have read all her books. Why you ask? Hell if I know, but I am the type that always finishes what I start!! Her plots are certainly not thick and her characters are interchangeable from one book to the other. She repeats herself so much that I do believe if I read every fourth page I wouldn't miss a thing. And I still keep reading them! [what does that say about me?] But they are so quick to get through and once in awhile she gets a winner [such as Legacy] that appeals to me.

Everything is going as normal in this book until I get to page 238 and read these sentences:
You're related to two presidents, for chrissake. And I don't mean Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson. I mean recent ones.

Oh dear, does Steel think Benjamin Franklin was a president???? And her proofreader and her editor????
And where did chrissake come from? Is that Steel talk?

And here I thought Stuart Woods cornered the market on mistakes in a book!!! Yeah, I'll probably give in and read Happy Birthday next.

Jennifer Didik says

Here is a small sampling of things I learned while reading this novel:

- When young women meet men via online dating websites, they have tattoos, piercings, and drive motorcycles. They also rape, strangle and kill young women
- The above scenario is the woman's fault. Women experience "Internet insanity" and when they are trapped in abusive relationships, the only way out is death

- People look for rooms to rent in the newspaper
- People refer to brownstones in the West Village as "houses"
- 65 year olds have wonderful sex
- Some conflicts in a novel don't actually need resolution, you can just forget about them and not acknowledge them in the "happily ever after" ending

Two stars is generous.

Chris says

I've read quite a few Danielle Steel books through the years, mostly on audio CD's, and this was no exception. She is great to take when driving on vacation, because she is easy to follow. This book, is not one of her best. She seems like a preacher, in that she tells you many, many times, which of her characters you should like, and which you shouldn't. She tells you at least a hundred times, that internet dating is dangerous. This book would be a guilty pleasure, beach read. The book follows her same formula, where something tragic happens in the first 20 pages, and how the heroine overcomes the obstacles, only now she has changed the venue to New York City, instead of her usual California background. One of her characters was sort of a Julia Child/Martha Stewart type. Another was a loosely based on a grandchild of a Kennedy. Hard to believe that these type people would want to rent a room in a NYC apartment. Anyway, I did enjoy the book, but I didn't like being "preached" at about her system of values.

John says

My mother in law said I should read this book because of "our family situation." So I kept reading trying to imagine how our family situation resembled the people on 44 Charles Street. I couldn't figure it out, until it finally struck me: Oh, yes, of course (smacks forehead): It's about the trials and tribulations of the couple having to put up with the two world famous gourmet chefs renting their spare room and continually trying out their fabulous recipes for their new cookbook on us (oh, the aching stomachs), while the two chefs are also begging to be allowed to babysit our adorable, polite, quiet, well behaved, 8 year old boy, making him super delicious kid-food, entertaining him with magic tricks, and teaching him how to make gourmet cookies while urging us to borrow their secluded, romantic Vermont farmhouse for a weekend of non-stop love making, or join them in Provence when they move to France. It's about a woman advertising for room mates for her huge four-story New York house, and finding (a) the the gourmet chef looking for a pied-a-terre, and (b) the black sheep scion of an old money Boston family, descended from two Presidents. (the "black sheep" was because he refused the family tradition of going to Harvard and insisted on going to Stanford instead: What a rebel). Maybe it was sweet and innocent girl who rented the top floor who was addicted to rough sex? Or when she needs to raise half the value of the house to pay off her ex-boyfriend co-owner and needed only sell off a few paintings by her famous artist father to raise more cash than she needed. Yep, our family is exactly like that. Or, not so much. Nope, never figured out the connection to our family. I'm thinking maybe she had a different book in mind.

Danielle Steele undeniably spins some great romantic fairy tales that are great fun for a quick read. She also has a knack for hitting a lot of Oprah-like "what would you do" kind of situations, often related to current issues or trends. The book was thoroughly engaging and enjoyable.

I did think the concept of the guy leaving the gal because his biological clock was ticking and he really wanted to get married and raise babies before he got too old, while she just wanted to shack up, stay single, run her business and renovate an old house seemed a bit too much of a gender bender for me to buy into. That and her insisting she didn't really need a man, but crying for his help like a damsel in distress every time she had a home maintenance problem or an emotional upheaval. I just couldn't quite make the characters feel believable.

And in a novel, when a single woman brings an unknown stranger single guy into her house, one of two things can be predicted: He's either a psychopath who will rape and strangle her, or a wounded refugee from a past relationship who she will heal, fall in love with and marry. This book gives you both.

What I did figure out is that Steele's stories are no more closely related to reality than are James Bond, Twilight, Harry Potter, or Lord of the Rings. Great, fun, fantasy. There's never too much suspense: Just enough turmoil to keep it interesting, but the romantic happy endings are predictable. For the genre, they are well done. You know what you're going to get, and she delivered yet again with this book. I like her as a guilty pleasure. If you like Danielle Steele, you'll like this book, too.

Brenda says

Francesca Thayer lived at 44 Charles Street with her lawyer boyfriend Todd. They had been together for some time, but the relationship was falling apart. Francesca ran an art gallery, and Todd was sick of the lifestyle and wanted to return to the world of lawyers. Francesca's father was an artist who, after a struggling start, was now famous, and his second wife Avery was a great support to him, as well as a wonderful woman. Francesca's mother was a different story. Thalia was a society snob, currently searching for her sixth husband. She was only interested in herself and put Francesca down whenever she could.

When Todd moved out of their beautiful, but old home, Francesca knew she couldn't make the mortgage payments on her own, so decided to divide the house and take lodgers. She thought three more people would fit well, with four of them the payments would not be a struggle. It worked out to be very difficult to find the right house-mates, and when she finally decided on her first one, she was happy. Eileen was a young woman of twenty-three, a primary school teacher who had just moved from Los Angeles, and she checked out well. Then there came Chris, newly divorced, quiet and sad, with a seven year old son, Ian, who visited every second weekend. And finally, famous chef Marya, who was trying to rebuild her life after the death of her husband of over thirty years.

The story of their lives in the year following Francesca's break-up with Todd, the relationships, the happiness, sadness, laughter and tragedy all intermingle to make a light, easily read novel.

I have read Danielle Steel for a lot of years, but I'm afraid I find now that they are all pretty much the same, not a great deal of substance, and very repetitive.

Denise Ballentine says

I really hate giving a book one star, but by the end of this I disliked it...strongly. I read this on someone else's

recommendation. Now I remember why I don't read Danielle Steele books. First, I really don't usually like pop-romance stories. And this book reminded me why. One dimensional characters, all pretty much stereotypes, simplistic, and predictable. The writer just tells you all about each person. Then they act accordingly. There is no discovery, no surprises, no depth. This is a creative writing teacher's worst nightmare. (No, I'm not one, but I did take a course in it.) Listen, I enjoy some flings with popular fiction here and there, and it's nice to take a break from heavier, literary stuff and deeply emotional, searching reads. But this is NOT a good read. The morals here stink..."it's ok to sleep with someone outside of marriage as long as you make a good choice...or if you are still in the process of getting a divorce." Ugh. The message: if you are a single woman, you need a man. Some nonsense about every pot having a lid that fits. Really. When one of the characters sums up things by saying, "I'm loving it!" I thought yes, this book is like the McDonalds of literature. Yuk.

Kari says

The story was pleasant enough but nothing exciting. I liked the theme of second chances, learning to let go of the past and moving ahead with your life. The characters were pretty well written, however, they were a bit frustrating. I felt that Francesca was incredibly naive for a 35 YO who owns her own art studio. With parents like hers, I would have thought she would be a little more worldly. I was disturbed by the way the roommates handled the situation of domestic abuse of one of their own. They claim to care about Eileen, yet don't really do anything to help her. I couldn't see how they were really shocked at the outcome of her situation. I felt that part of the book was unnecessary and didn't really add anything to the story. Also, I kept waiting for something to happen. Nothing ever really does.

It think the idea for the book was good, but the writing just didn't hold up for me. I think this story would have worked better in an anthology. It just didn't have enough to sustain a full novel. I was surprised at all of the repetition in the writing. The same ideas were repeated over and over. For example, how many times do I need to be told that Francesca doesn't like Internet dating or think it is a good idea? Cut out a lot of the repetition and you have a nice novella.

This is my first Danielle Steele novel. I'm not sure if this is her usual way of writing. If it is, I'm not sure I would read another by her.

Bluetiful Hadeel says

So this is Danielle Steel?

I have heard so much about her and that her novels are page turners. That wasn't the case for this novel. I took a WHOLE week to finish this one. Sometimes, it takes me longer if I was busy or something. But this time I really couldn't go through the pages. So boring. Repetitive. Even the emotional parts are not emotional at all.

I don't recommend reading it at all.

One star for the cover.

One star for Marya & Charles-Edouard.

Liz Green says

This book was recommended to me by a friend she thought that I would be able to relate to it. She was right ... At 38 with my 15.5 year marriage ending I find myself house sharing for the first time. For me it seemed quite a traumatic thing at times. My first house share with 5 others in Brighton being a bit of an eye opener. My second house share a much more peaceful affair. I read the book from cover to cover and my heart was comforted life does indeed go on. People find love again when they least expect it. I found Eileen's character affected me deeply I could relate to her pain and was horrified at her murder. I nearly stopped reading at this point but my heart was already tied to the other characters and I so wanted to see that they came through this tragic time. Addiction was a theme that ran through the story Eileen's addiction to manipulative and bullying behaviour, Chris's ex wife and Ian's mum to drugs and Francesco's mum to being married. I found this very thought provoking and challenging how much do we value ourselves and fight against the things that potentially could destroy us. Little Ian my heart went out to a child wise before his time, yet so together and wise. I fell in love with all the characters that lived in 44 Charles street my heart was warmed and felt hope for a better tomorrow. Weirdly this is the first Danielle steel book I have ever read. Where has she been all my life. I'm hooked I can't wait for my next fix :0)

Stephanie Weitzman says

So far....this is the most poorly written book I have EVER read! I would love to edit with a red pen as I have already found so many errors. I love the stories DS creates but how she has sustained through the years is beyond me! Why am I reading it? Who knows! It is almost a compulsion. I started reading DS as a teenager and cannot stop. I guess it is a fascination to me to see how my critical reading skills have increased. The good news, the story is interesting. So far I am about half way through the story. The 150+ pages I have read could have been told in less than 50 pages as the repeating contents has gone on excessively! Will I finish? Sure.

Suzanne says

I really do like a good dose of DS when I'm on holidays. *44 Charles Street* is typical of this author, lots and lots of repetition and a bit of contradiction with characters' thoughts, but what I enjoy is the simpleness of the plot and ease of reading. It never fails to serve their purpose for me. The story was not serious and I liked all of the characters. I love to read about New York, and as Danielle Steel is French (isn't she? I probably should look it up), she has a nice way of weaving that country into her story lines, too.

Francesca is a sensible 35-year-old woman who owns a lovely 4 story house in New York, but is unable to maintain her payments and also maintain her burgeoning art gallery business that she loves, due to her relationship break up. She takes in an eclectic set of roommates, all with a story of their own. They were a great bunch of people to read about and the group came together nicely in a family way all of their own. The

cooking theme was a nice way to bring them all together in the kitchen to create nice homely scenes. I think fans of the author will like this one, just like I did. A little bit of indulgence? Yep.

Sandra Koziol says

I tried. I made it almost halfway through this one before I decided that my available reading time was too precious to waste it on this novel. Perhaps a part of me hopes and wishes that Danielle Steel would write good romances again, but starting with *Wanderlust*, I haven't really enjoyed anything "new." As others have commented, there is far too much repetition in this novel. Yeah yeah, I get it. No need to remind me again and again. I also find that the novels cruise through time with inane details that don't really contribute to the plot. But what really caused me to stop reading was the repeated theme of one character being "addicted to abuse." As a survivor of domestic abuse, I have trouble with the concept of it being an addiction that the victim of abuse needs to "overcome," as if being a subjected to abuse was somehow her fault. It is only when victims understand that it is NOT their fault, and that abuse is more rooted to the abuser's need for power and control, that the cycle will stop. After the fifth or sixth time DS reiterated that the character was "addicted to abuse," I'd had enough.

If you are someone who has never read Danielle Steel and want to get a sense of what she can write, read one of her earlier books, like *Palomino* or *Remembrance*. I wouldn't recommend this one, for sure.

Revere says

I enjoyed some of Danielle Steele's novels a few decades ago. I stopped reading them when they started to be too predictable. I read somewhere that she had written a few good books lately, so I decided to give her another try. I found this story to be horribly written. My guess is that Ms. Steele was committed to churn out a certain number of words by a deadline. There was so much repetition from page to page, even sentence to sentence, that it was ridiculous. Buried under the poor writing / editing was a decent story. I finished it, but it will be the last Danielle Steele I read.

I hate to toot my own horn, but if you are considering reading this novel, try *On a Dime: Senseless in Lewes* by Revere Reed, instead. I can almost guarantee you will like it. If not, at least you will have supported a new, unknown author instead of an famous, rich one. Check out my novel on Amazon. if you don't like the sound of it, please try some other independent author... or some other famous one, but do yourself a favor and avoid this one.

I am embarrassed to admit that I read it:-(
