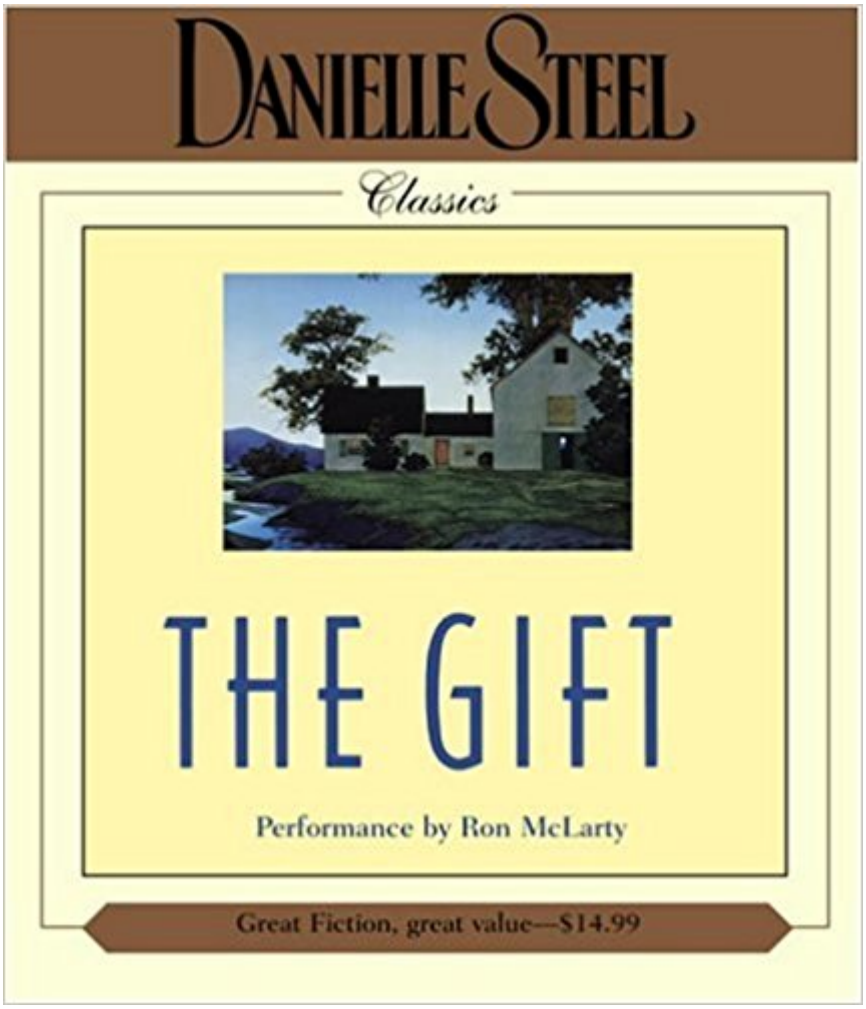
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The Gift (Danielle Steel)



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Synopsis

On a June day, a young woman in a summer dress steps off a Chicago-bound bus into a small midwestern town. She doesn't intend to stay. She is just passing through. Yet her stopping here has a reason and it is part of a story that you will never forget.The time is the 1950s, when life was simpler, people still believed in dreams, and family was, very nearly, everything. The place is a small midwestern town with a high school and a downtown, a skating pond and a movie house. And on a tree-lined street in the heartland of America, an extraordinary set of events begins to unfold. And gradually what seems serendipitous is tinged with purpose. A happy home is shattered by a child's senseless death. A loving marriage starts to unravel. And a stranger arrivesÃ¢â ¬â •a young woman who will touch many lives before she moves on. She and a young man will meet and fall in love. Their love, so innocent and full of hope, helps to restore a family's dreams. And all of their lives will be changed forever by the precious gift she leaves them.The Gift, Danielle Steel's thirty-third best-selling work, is a magical story told with stunning simplicity and power. It reveals a relationship so moving it will take your breath away. And it tells a haunting and beautiful truth about the unpredictabilityÃ¢â ¬â •and the wonderÃ¢â ¬â •of life.From the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Steel deviates sharply from her usual romance formula in this tender if sometimes sappy story about bad things happening to good people. It's 1952, and the Whittakers are the perfect happy family. But when five-year-old Annie dies of meningitis the day after Christmas, their lives fall apart.

Teenager Tommy begins frequenting a diner where he meets 16-year-old waitress Maribeth Robertson, who's pregnant and has been thrown out of her home. The two lonely adolescents slowly fall in love; Tommy offers to marry Maribeth, but she refuses, claiming that they are too young to be parents; she plans to give the child up for adoption. Meanwhile, Tommy's parents have drifted far apart, but the fear that their son may soon be a father temporarily reunites them. Eventually, the Whittakers, parents and son, help Maribeth to cope with her pregnancy and her family's rejection, while she helps them accept the death of their beloved Annie. Reading more like a novella than a full-fledged novel, the narrative has well-meaning characters, uplifting sentiments and a few moments that could make a stone weep. Nice as it is, however, her fans will no doubt crave for the day when Steel returns to her tried-and-true one-woman/two-great-loves potboilers. One million first printing; major ad/promo; Literary Guild and Doub le day Book Club main selections; simultaneous Spanish edition, El Regalo, available in trade paper (Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In reviewing the last few Steel novels, Booklist has tried to make the argument that the author and her readers deserve more respect than they get. Steel does not exploit the romance genre for its racy, dark, or semipornographic underpinnings; she has taken one element of the medieval love-tale, adapted its gentle, loving, and hopeful outlook to the modern world, and produced a satisfying set of variations on her theme. The Gift is Steel to perfection. A small work, it tells the tale of two 16-year-olds whose meeting restores life to both. The death of Tommy's little sister wrecks a family's happiness. The unwanted pregnancy of Maribeth threatens to ruin her attempt to lift herself out of an anti-intellectual and sexist environment. But when the two meet, love, support, sensitivity, and some much-needed wisdom redeem the bleak circumstances of their lives and bring the story to its satisfying conclusion. Clich{‚}ed, sentimental? Maybe, but Steel believes in the goodness of her characters and here, more than ever before, shows absolute faith in a simple tale of rewarded virtue. This is the author at her best: mature, to the point, refreshed by the tale of her young lovers. Not great art, perhaps, but in its own way almost perfect. Stuart Whitwell --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I have never read a book where my emotions were so raw. I loved Maribeth and her heart and selflessness. Having so much love that you completely give everything for the love of that person no matter how matter the that it brought you. This book truly has been a gift.

This was another one of the many great reads that Ms. Steele has given us. There is always a message for the readers to take to heart.

Gift

Purchased all the Danielle Steele books for my grandmother, this one included. She's been collecting them all in hardcover for years and also loves the children's books. She was delighted to receive this one in the mail, I had it shipped straight to her!

Maribeth, i6, daughter of a narrow minded father, finds herself pregnant after a chance meeting with a senior after the prom. She is forced to leave home and fend for herself. She meets Tommy at the restaurant where she works and they fall in love. Tommy has lost a young sister and he is grieving as well as his parents. What to do with the child? Give it up for adoption? The solution comes to them and everyone is happy. A good story.

in her shoes would have done that . wonderful.book

A great book.....a prize every time!

The gift was very spiritual and up lifting. It touches the heart and the ending although in tears leaves you wanting more. Maybe someday, Miss Steele will write about the young lovers again. Rating the highest quality of reading. Danielle just keeps getting better all the time.

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