



The Gift

By Danielle Steel

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The Gift By Danielle Steel

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 arrives—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 unpredictability—and the wonder—of life.

From the Paperback edition.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Set in the 1950s, Steel's account of a family coming to terms with a child's death spent 12 weeks on PW's bestseller list.

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From [Booklist](#)

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. Cliché, 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*

From Kirkus Reviews

A sugared concentrate of Steel's soothing-syrup craft (Accident, p. 16, etc.), in which a family tragedy, the plight of a unwed teen mother-to-be, and the drift of a grieving teenage boy conclude in a happy ending that, like a technicolor sunset, can be sighted from some distance. The Whittaker family--John ("a warm, caring man"), teacher Liz, 15-year-old Tom (sterling athlete and student), and 5-year-old Annie (quite adorable)--are in the midst of a cozy Illinois Christmas (hot chocolate, skating, the works) when suddenly little Annie is dead of meningitis. By the following summer (1952) the family has shattered. Switch to Iowa and pretty, gifted Maribeth, oppressed by a hidebound father who forces her to go to the high school prom in a navy blue dress with long sleeves. But rotten BMOC Paul, undeterred by navy blue, seduces the innocent Maribeth. Sure enough, Paul returns to his regular girl, and Maribeth is preggers. Dad roars her off to a convent for unwed mothers, but she leaves and de-buses at a friendly-looking town where she's hired as a waitress. Guess who's eating at the diner? It's Tom. Love simmers, eventually Maribeth tells Tom everything, and he tells his parents. Will Maribeth find a home for her baby? Will she realize her dream of college? Will the Whittakers bond again? Just you guess. And the "gift"? Maribeth says of Annie, "some people just come through our lives to bring us...a gift, a blessing." Later, as Tom and Maribeth stand before Annie's grave (not one possible tear is left unjerked), they know a peace "strong and clean and honest" and whether or not they will marry some day. They have "hope and promise and dreams." With a pretty dust jacket and handsome gold lettering, an eye-catching, toasty, heartwarming gift item that should fairly pop off the shelves. (First printing 1,000,000; Literary Guild main selection) -- *Copyright ©1994, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Earnestine Marcus:

Book will be written, printed, or created for everything. You can understand everything you want by a reserve. Book has a different type. As it is known to us that book is important factor to bring us around the world. Alongside that you can your reading ability was fluently. A reserve The Gift will make you to be smarter. You can feel much more confidence if you can know about almost everything. But some of you think in which open or reading the book make you bored. It is not necessarily make you fun. Why they can be thought like that? Have you in search of best book or acceptable book with you?

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Elliott Preciado:

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Jose Roberts:

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