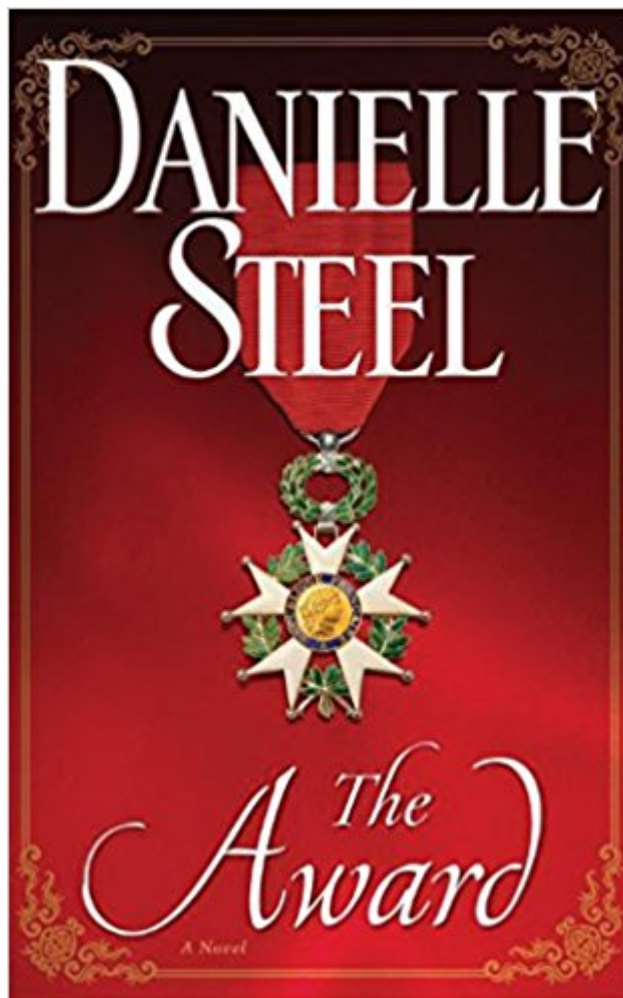


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The Award



Synopsis

Capturing historical events, terrifying moments of danger, tragedy, the price of war, and the invincible spirit of a woman of honor, *The Award* is a monumental tale from one of our most gifted storytellers—Danielle Steel's finest, most emotionally resonant novel yet. Gaëlle de Barbet is sixteen years old in 1940 when the German army occupies France and frightening changes begin. She is shocked and powerless when French gendarmes take away her closest friend, Rebekah Feldmann, and her family, and send them to a detention camp for deportation to an unknown, ominous fate. The local German military commandant makes Gaëlle's family estate outside Lyon into his headquarters. Her father and brother are killed by the Germans; her mother fades away into madness and ill health. Trusted friends and employees become traitors. And by accident, Gaëlle begins a perilous journey with the French Resistance, hoping to save lives to make up for the beloved friend she could do nothing to help. Taking terrifying risks, Gaëlle becomes a valuable member of the Resistance, fearlessly delivering Jewish children to safety underneath the eyes of the Gestapo and their French collaborators. Then she is suddenly approached by the German commandant with an astonishing and dangerous plan to save part of France's artistic heritage as the Germans withdraw. And once again, her life is on the line. Conducted in secret, flawlessly carried out, her missions for the Resistance change her life and mark her for years. She is falsely accused of collaboration at the end of the war, and flees Lyon in disgrace, orphaned and alone. She goes to Paris to put the war behind her and begin a new life, with the ghosts of the past always close at hand. Gaëlle's life will take her from Paris to New York, from a career as a Dior model to marriage and motherhood, unbearable loss, and mature, lasting love. She returns to Paris to run a small museum, honoring victims of the Holocaust. She has never sought recognition for her courage during the war years she can never forget. Her label as a collaborator remains, until her granddaughter, a respected political journalist, is determined that past wrongs finally be made right, and her grandmother's brave acts be recognized. Now a grateful nation will finally acknowledge this remarkable woman. At last, she is absolved and honored as the war hero she was.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Danielle Steel has been hailed as one of the world's most popular authors, with over 590 million copies of her novels sold. Her many international bestsellers include Happy Birthday, 44 Charles Street, Legacy, Family Ties, Big Girl, Southern Lights, and other highly acclaimed novels. She is also the author of the story of her son Nick Traina's life and death.

Love all books written by Danielle Steele

Prfect

The story of Gaelle gives us a look into ear torn France and the German occupation. We see both the horrors of war and the bravery of some. It portrays the extraordinary life of a young French woman and her family. It is a story that holds you captive until the end. I highly recommend it.

This was a heart-warming book about a woman who just wanted to "keep family" and love them. Like many of us, she is challenged in the pursuit of that goal, and saddened many times. In the end, her family holds her up and give her the only thing that she values, which is love.

I was profoundly moved by Gaelle's story. The horrors of the Nazi occupation were vividly retold and served as a reminder of the evil that happened to so many before and during the second world war. It is also a testament to the courage of many people in France who refused to bow to their occupiers and risked their lives to save others. Sometimes, people forget inspiring acts of bravery and I am glad that Danielle Steele has made us remember them.

I did not want this book to end, the characters were beautifully developed. This is the Danielle Steel we know and look forward to reading. She uncovered a fascinating plot in a terrible time of history.

The main character was wonderful.

This book is written in true Danielle Steel style, it kept me interested from the beginning to the end. As a matter of fact towards the end I did not want it to end. It is a great read.

Danielle Steele does a phenomenal job of relaying 1940s French war times, the holocaust and personal struggles. All while intermingling the bravery, courage, loves lost and loves gained into a multi-generational story of faith, family and forgiveness. The only reason I didn't give 5 stars was I just kept thinking as I was reading this novel, was that I'd already read this book. I realize I hadn't read the book, but the characters are just a mixed up version of one of her earlier novels. Still a great read!

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