



Echoes

Danielle Steel

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Against a vivid backdrop of history, Danielle Steel tells a compelling story of love and war, acts of faith and acts of betrayal...and of three generations of women as they journey through years of loss and survival, linked by an indomitable devotion that echoes across time.

For the Wittgenstein family, the summer of 1915 was a time of both prosperity and unease, as the guns of war sound in the distance. But for eldest daughter Beata, it was also a summer of awakening. By the glimmering waters of Lake Geneva, the quiet Jewish beauty met a young French officer and fell in love. Knowing that her parents would never accept her marriage to a Catholic, Beata followed her heart anyway. And as the two built a new life together, Beata's past would stay with her in ways she could never have predicted. For as the years pass, and Europe is once again engulfed in war, Beata must watch in horror as Hitler's terror threatens her life and family—even her eighteen-year-old daughter Amadea, who has taken on the vows of a Carmelite nun.

For Amadea, the convent is no refuge. As family and friends are swept away without a trace, Amadea is forced into hiding. Thus begins a harrowing journey of survival, as she escapes into the heart of the French Resistance. Here Amadea will find a renewed sense of purpose, taking on the most daring missions behind enemy lines. And it is here, in the darkest moments of fear, that Amadea will feel her mother's loving strength—and that of her mother's mother before her—as the voices of lost loved ones echo powerfully in her heart. And here, amid the fires of war, Amadea will meet an extraordinary man, British secret agent Rupert Montgomery. In Colonel Montgomery, Amadea finds a man who will help her discover her place in an unbreakable chain between generations...and between her lost family and her dreams for the future—a future she is only just beginning to imagine: a future of hope rooted in the rich soil of the past.

With the grace of a master storyteller, Danielle Steel breathes life into history, creating a bold, sweeping tale filled with unforgettable characters and breathtaking images—from the elegant rituals of Europe's prewar aristocracy to the brutal desperation of Germany's death camps. Drawing us into a vanished world, *Echoes* weaves an intricate tapestry of a mother's love, a daughter's courage...and the unwavering faith that sustained them—even in history's darkest hour.

From the Hardcover edition.

Echoes Details

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Author : Danielle Steel

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Sara says

Boy! I was so glad when this book was over. No wonder I have not read any Danielle Steel's book in 20 years. She just repeats every sentence five times to make sure it is all engraved in your skull. I think she have a contract to write books for people with Dementia or Alzheimer. I am happy to say that this was the last DS book I read :0)

Diane says

Good read! interesting,intriguing,a love story filled with lots of emotions,personal issues,family drama during World War II ..well written (paperback!)

Lauren Stoolfire says

Echoes by Danielle Steel focuses on the effects of WWI and WWII on Beata and her daughter Amadea, with a helping of romance on the side. Beata was born a German Jew and during WWI she falls in love with a French Catholic nobleman. Long story short but both of their families hate each other and pretty much disown them; both Beata and her new husband, Antoine, were literally dead to them. Years go by and they have a couple of kids, and they're doing pretty well, but then Europe starts feeling the effects of Hitler's regime and Antoine dies in a freak horse riding accident. Amadea, the oldest daughter, decides she wants to become a nun after being inspired by Edith Stein's actions. Her family doesn't approve, but they let her go to follow her vocation (besides she has years before she takes her final vows). As the clock starts ticking closer to WWII, Amadea's heritage comes to light and she is deported to a concentration camp, but manages to escape, go into hiding, and become a member of the French Resistance. Guess what, she also meets a handsome British secret agent. She works with him multiple time on missions and surprise, surprise (view spoiler).

Before *Echoes*, I had never read a single Danielle Steel book and never really planned to either, but then, a friend of mine recommended this book to me. This friend had never read a single Danielle Steel book before either for the exact same reasons as me, so I borrowed it and gave it a shot. My bar wasn't set very high, but I liked *Echoes* more than I expected.

One of the things I most liked was the fact that the romance isn't exactly the main plot, but is woven into the story. I also liked the level of detail going into the scenes, but it wasn't so heavy that the reader gets bogged down; the story flowed well from point to point. And, finally, I really enjoyed the cover - who doesn't like a good steam engine?!

After reading, I really wished this could have been a story primarily focusing on Amadea's activity as a member of the French Resistance. I mean, I liked the background we got from the story but Steel packs so much into the book that each event becomes almost fleeting in the telling of the tale. Personally, I would have liked to have seen a story focusing heavily on a half-Jewish Carmelite nun working as an agent for the French Resistance during WWII.

usually go into Steel's work blind, not having read the synopsis on the back or even knowing the protagonist's names. I love the way she builds out her characters. She spends the first several chapters fleshing them out and giving them extensive backstories- so when life-changing events begin to happen, you completely understand how they react and handle things. Beata, the main character for the first half of this book, is no different. She is headstrong and smart, and does what she wants. When she falls in love, she goes for it and doesn't look back. I loved her story- all of her ups, and her eventual downs. Beata and Antoine's story was beautiful and tragic, and my heart was full, and yet broken for them.

I was not prepared for the second half of this book, which quickly delved into convent life, concentration camps and resistance fighting. We simply stopped following Beata, and the attention swapped to Amadea. It felt awfully disjointed- almost as though they were two short stories just stitched together. We were never told what happened to Beata and Daphne. We can surely guess, but there is no closure there at all, and it's frustrating.

It was good, but just not enough for me. The story should have been longer.

sofi silvero says

4 sofis.

primer libro de danielle steel que leo y tengo que admitir que no me decepcionó; me encariñé muchísimo con los personajes (todavía no puedo creer las muertes) y la historia me mantenía enganchada en todo momento. lo único que no me gustó fue la forma en la que se maneja ese final ??¿? pareció un toque forzado y me enojo muchísimo que no haya sido contado como fue el destino de beata y daphne ? aparte de eso, me llevé una grata sorpresa con este libro. muy linda lectura.

Prince Rokaya says

It portrayed the life under Nazi's rule,hard life,concentration camp and social beliefs.It was a roller coaster ride at one point i get too excited and other point it was like nothing.It show the bitter truth....life under the Nazi regime which makes me hate hitler even more.This book is worth reading.

Kari Coleman says

This was the first Danielle Steel book that I have read in quite some time. It was recommended to me by a friend, and I have to admit, I loved it! I didn't want to put it down. It's a story about a German Jewish girl who falls madly in love with a Catholic French man during World War II. Both of their families banish them when they want to get married. As their lives progress and they have children, they do not tell the children that they are 1/2 Jewish, considering the times and that all their lives they have been Catholic. As the Germans start deporting the Jews, the main character reaches out to her family only to be denied access to them by her father, who said she is dead to them.

It is a very touching and heartbreaking story of trying to make it in a time where your religious denomination meant life or death. I have been on quite a war kick lately and this just happened to fit right in.

There is also a hint of a love story for those of you who enjoy love stories. I myself love a good love story,

but it's not a genre I could read every day.

I highly recommend this book to anyone who is interested!

Ashley Miller says

I have never read a Danielle Steel book before and was not sure what to expect besides a love story. This book went above and beyond my expectations. Being someone who enjoys reading about love and that time era, this was right up my alley. This book had me enthralled in it from the beginning (hard to do for most books that usually have to build into it). This book sure did pull at my heart strings and sent me on an intense emotional roller coaster. There were moments when it was so happy, moments where I cried, and moments where I was beyond angry. I would have to say that my only disappointment with this book was the untied ending to some of the main characters. I like to have closure with stories and this did not give me that and left me frustrated. I am glad though that there was a happy ending, something that looked dim throughout so much tragedy. I would highly recommend this book, but make sure that you are willing to devote time to reading it, once you start, it is hard to stop!

Heather says

I liked the story at first almost lost interest in the middle to the point of not reading it anymore, then picked back up and liked it again. first half of the book i enjoyed the story, then in the middle like she lost her train of thought of what she was writing and just stated history facts till she could get back on track on what she wanted the story to be.... wasn't my altime favorite book but it was good

Vickie says

Danielle Steel has never been an author who interested me. However, I was at a gathering and this book had been passed around among the women there and they raved about it. They asked if I had read it and I replied that I hadn't, so it ended up in my hands. I thought, ok, this one is about the Holocaust and that's always intriguing, so why not?

Echoes was torture for me to read. It is SO poorly written! Steel needs a competent editor! The plot is fine, and could have been done well in the hands of a talented author, but Steel's writing style distracts from the story line. She kept repeating information ad infinitum. She acts as if the reader is stupid, driving home the same points again and again.

I wanted to throw the book across the room at points, but still, I was determined to find out what how the story ended and I wanted to have read it when I gave it back, so I persevered. Pure agony. Especially because the main character, Beata, was poorly developed and her actions far-fetched.

Do not waste your time with this drivel. If you want to read an excellent Holocaust book, there are hundreds, including *The Book Thief* by Zusak and *Night* by Wiesel.

