



## **The Award**

*Danielle Steel*

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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 to occur. She is shocked and powerless when French gendarmes take away her closest friend, Rebekah Feldmann, and her family 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. Trusted friends and employees become traitors. And 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 under the eyes of the Gestapo and their French collaborators. Then she is suddenly approached by the German commandant with an astonishing, dangerous plan to save part of France's artistic heritage. Conducted in secret, flawlessly carried out, her missions will mark her for years, when she is falsely accused of collaboration at the end of the war. Orphaned and alone, she begins a new life in Paris, 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. But her label as a collaborator remains, until her granddaughter, a respected political journalist, ensures that her grandmother's brave acts are recognized. Now a grateful nation will finally absolve this remarkable woman and honor her as the war hero she was.

## **The Award Details**

Date : Published November 1st 2016 by Delacorte Press

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Author : Danielle Steel

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## **From Reader Review The Award for online ebook**

### **Ali Bookworm says**

A typical Danielle Steel story full of adventure and romance spanning the decades. As always it was sad in parts but the heroine was very strong and overcame all her troubles. I enjoyed it and read in 48 hours. Would recommend.

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### **Joyce says**

This was one of Danielle Steel's better books. A beautifully told story With heart, depth for humanity, love of family and others and humility in Caring and serving. Gaelle de Barbet was sixteen when this story began And ends when she is ninety-five and receiving a hero's reward for what She did during the war in saving children, hiding valuable painting, and Giving of herself to save others. The story goes back and forth between Paris and New York and captures the tragedy during war and and events that made this woman so remarkable. Enjoy!!

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### **Sandra Heinzman says**

This is my favorite of Ms. Steel's last few books! I couldn't put it down and read it in two sittings. It's a novel set during World War II, where the main character is a French resistance patriot when Germans occupy France. The story is different than the many holocaust period novels I have read and I really really liked it!

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### **Jeanne says**

More of the same from Danielle Steel - lifestyles of the very rich; however, this one did have meager beginnings. A bit of WWII history thrown in adds a different twist from Ms Steel's norm. Interesting, but just an OK read for me -- 4 out of 10.

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### **Kathryn says**

I thoroughly enjoyed this story. Although the beginning is focused on World War II France, the story goes far beyond that and how what occurred during that time affected the main character. The ending was well done, not making everything perfectly perfect.

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## **Louisa Donovan says**

I wrote earlier that I was finished with Danielle Steel, but when I saw this I convinced myself to read just one more book, much like agreeing to have lunch with an old friend with whom I no longer have much in common. The book started out promisingly as Gaelle suffered through World War II and became an unsung hero. Not that suffering is a positive, but readers can clearly see that this protagonist had developed integrity and followed her conscience rather than the trend. We know from the beginning that her heroism went unrecognized for most of a century, but are not to find out why or what catalyzed recognition of Gaelle's war efforts. Then in the middle, Steel turned back into that boring friend - Gaelle's postwar modeling job turns her into an international star, she becomes half of "the Golden Couple" with homes in New York, Southampton, and Palm Beach, she has lifelong conflict with her daughter, she meets someone who taught at "a well-known music school in Boston for a year, the Berklee School of Music", drinks Cristal and Chateau Margaux, wears Hermes boots - and we are back in the lives of the rich and not-quite famous that have become Steel's signature. I don't know if I am becoming cynical or just tired of hearing about the 1%, but I was disappointed that Steel took this familiar turn. Wealth is not the norm for most of us, and I'm weary of the implication that success always brings wealth. In Steel's defense, her heroines and the men they end up with always use their wealth for good and profess the belief that kindness and love are more important than money. Still, I really need to end my relationship with Danielle Steel. She doesn't meet my needs as a reader anymore, and I am the one in control of what I read. Even though her plot formula has grown trite, I'm going to miss the laughter and tears we had together. This time, I really mean it. It's sad, but I need to move on. adieu:(

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## **Tonya Lucas says**

What a beautiful and extraordinary book by Danielle Steele. The Award is one of her best books ever by Ms. Steele. Gaelle was a young girl in France during the Germany invasion. She was a special little girl who lost her best friend to the Germans, because Rebecca was Jewish, she would never ever forget her. Gaelle was a courageous girl who helped the occupation transport Jewish children to safety and hopefully give them a chance for a full life. She also was the sole contributor to saving the priceless artwork of the French and delivering it after the war to the correct people, so that all the beautiful works of art could be given back to the rightful owners or at least giving to museums to be preserved for all to visit. Ms. Steele went on to tell about her life all the way up till Gaelle was 95 years old, what an extraordinary, courageous, loving, and forgiving woman she was throughout her life. This is one beautiful book that everyone should read absolutely heartfelt and inspirational.

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## **lacy [a ravenclaw library] says**

Another very good and well polished book by Danielle Steel. We follow the life of Gaelle, a French girl, living in Lyon when the Germans invaded. We follow her as she joins the Resistance, gets branded as a collaborator, becomes a model, falls in love, the journey through motherhood and so much more.

I love it when Steel writes books during the World War II era. It's my favorite time period to learn about. The fact that one man had enough power to kill 6 million Jews plus countless "inferior" humans is astounding. The fact that a lot of people just LET HIM DO IT is beyond my level of comprehension. But, I am starting to see history repeat itself here in America. But I won't get into that now.

The book was beautiful written. You felt the pain that Gaella went through losing all her loved ones. She was an incredibly strong human being. How she managed to remain so loving to everybody and give her all everyday, despite what she went through, is amazing. I could just gush about how strong she is. Sometimes, Steel writes her female characters a bit wishy washy. But not Gaella. She was amazing in every way. This book was amazing too.

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### **Jennifer N says**

I thought I was done with Danielle Steel but I got sucked in with the premise of historical fiction. In the past I have thought that she did a good job with her books set in the past. The novel started off very well and I was immediately intrigued by Gaielle's life in France during WWII and how she was helping save Jewish children. Unfortunately this story was only about 1/4 of the book. She then meets a rich American who she marries and had a horrible daughter who remains horrible through the novel - I literally wanted to reach out and slap her. The rest of the book centers on her life as a wife, mother, widow, wife, mother. It follows the same formula as the rest of her contemporary books and I found myself skimming through the last half of the book. I wanted to finish because the beginning was so good but I easily could have put it down.

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### **Marti Graham says**

Ug! Well, storyline absolutely wonderful. Writing, not so much. Very frustrated by end of the book. I was wondering why her editors didn't do better and say to her, "This has to go, and this, and this,( just like all the AND's she put in the book) and - well, she's popular, and it's easy to gloss over it, after all, she is Danielle Steel. I'm not sure I want to read another one though.

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### **Jason says**

Actually 1.5 Stars - I rounded up out of the goodness of my heart. Here's how I feel about my first Danielle Steel experience...

This novel is proof that a potentially great plot can be destroyed by poor writing. Sorry to all the Steel fans out there who've bought 750 million of these things, but my eyes were almost permanently stuck in the back of my head from all the eye rolling during this novel. I don't want to insult people who enjoy Steel, because she obviously has a massive following, and everyone has their own taste, but I'm really struggling to find the magic here.

I couldn't help but feel that the speed with which she writes novels affects how well they are written. I also wonder if her books are combed through well enough with an editor or if the editors sort of cover their eyes given how well her books tend to sell anyway. She's written six novels this year alone (and there's still a month left for *chrissakes!*). Someone has to say, "No, Danielle, enough for this year!"

One credit to Steel: I like her dialogue, she writes it well; you can actually picture the characters saying the words. Something I think she did particularly well was children's dialogue in this novel. BUT, she doesn't use dialogue enough to show/tell us the story. Rather, she uses waaaaay too much exposition and fluff, which had the effect of disengaging me from the tale. I want to be part of the story, not separate from it. Which

leads me to...

Her major flaw: Exposition and the use of 'and' as both a conjunction and starter to a sentence/paragraph. (By use, I mean overuse.) If you read a Danielle Steel novel you'd assume that the most common word in the English language is no longer 'the,' but 'and.' After a while it sounded a bit like this: "and then, and then, and then, and then, and then....and so on." Example, in the second paragraph on page 25, 3 of the 7 sentences begin with *And*. Two of those sentences also use 'and' as a conjunction. The writing is novice at best, hardly what I expected from such a seasoned and successful author.

Steel also hashes over the details with so many redundancies and clichés it made my brain hurt. At some points I was literally laughing at the words on the page, not out of humour, but out of frustration and annoyance. To properly have told this story you would need another 300 or 400 pages to get the nuances needed to actually make the reader *feel* something. This is the kind of story I imagine someone like Margaret Atwood writing well.

All that said, I'll likely pick up another Steel novel because I want to give her the benefit of the doubt. I'm hoping this one was just a very, very bad seed. Only time will tell.

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### **Julie Barrett says**

The award by Danielle Steel

Enjoy the author's works and know I will enjoy this one.

Starts out Giella and she's about to get the award. Chapters go back to when she was 16.

Rebecca came from Germany, Giella's best friend. The Jews are being forced from their homes.

One day she sees them take Rebecca's family and throw them into a truck and they disappeared. She tracks them down and visits and is able to talk to Rebecca and even gives her a coat with promises to come the next day.

She visits through Christmas and for many months later always bringing foods and clothes for the family.

Story tells what she had to do to survive and she ends up in the fashion industry.

Love hearing of the model world, travel, the art world and the places she visits. Tragedies and there are happy times also from both sides of the ocean.

Really enjoyed this book and glad she went on with her life but went back to her past endeavors... Didn't like that the author didn't spend as much time devoted to all of her children...

I received this book from National Library Service for my BARD (Braille Audio Reading Device).

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### **Lois R says**

Another disappointment! The book is the story of Gaelle, a 17 year old girl who is Catholic and watches her Jewish friend and family get taken by the Nazis. She is completely unable to help her friend. She ends up helping rescue hundreds of Jewish children (for the OSE) and then keeps 49 masters to return to the Louvre after the war has ended. - for which she is labeled a collaborator.

This is a good idea for a story, and different from the tales written by other authors about this period of history. The problem is that this only took 100 pages (of a 400 page large print book). Ms Steel seems to be

more interested in the story of getting Gaelle an award for the work she did. To this end we go back to the Steel formula writing about models, rich boyfriends, etc. if the first 100 pages had been fleshed out, I would have enjoyed this book. As it is, it is just another disaster.

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### **Nieca says**

I liked the description of this book, and decided to give Danielle Steel another try. I had read a publisher review, and the story sounded interesting... but there was too much Danielle Steel in there to truly enjoy the book. This could have been great, but she turned a potentially great historical fiction into a soap opera.

In another author's hands, this may have really been something, because I really liked the premise of the World War II part of the story.

If you're like me, and enjoy historical fiction, don't be tempted by this. You'll just come away disappointed.

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### **Katelyn Reeves says**

how many times can one use the word "and" in a book? not impressed.

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