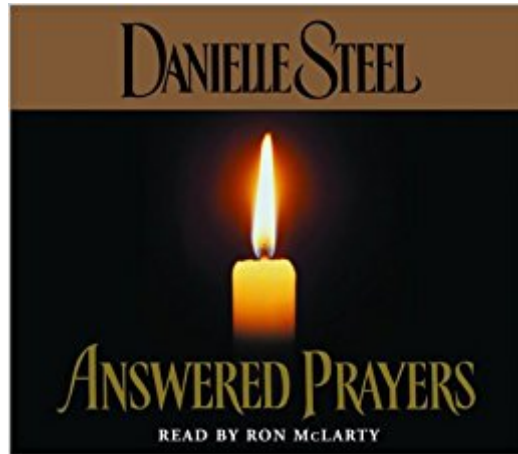


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# Answered Prayers (Danielle Steel)



## Synopsis

Danielle Steel's 56th bestselling novel is about family and friendship, about one woman's struggle to break free from the past and the man who helps her triumph. And most of all, it is about daring to believe in...Answered Prayers. On the outside, Faith Madison is the very picture of a sophisticated New Yorker. Slim, blond, stylish, Faith has a life many would envy. Overcoming a childhood marked by tragedy, married to a successful investment banker and having raised two grown daughters, Faith has enjoyed her role as mother and wife, and the good life that emanates from their bustling Manhattan town house. But every step of the way, Faith has carried within her a secret she could divulge to no one. And with it, she has kept an even more painful secret from herself. For Faith, it is the sudden death of her stepfather—a man who, like her husband, Alex, always remained just beyond her reach—that will touch off a journey of change and revelation. At the funeral, painful memories flood back—and an old friend reenters Faith's life. Faith is greeting mourners, when she hears a voice behind her and a single word that brings a quick smile to her face: "Fred." Only one person aside from her older brother, Jack, called her that. Brad Patterson was Jack's best friend, a long, lanky boy who teased, tormented, and protected Faith when they fancied themselves "The Three Musketeers" as kids. When Jack died years later, Faith and Brad came together again in their common, inconsolable grief, then lost touch once more amid the demands of families and busy lives a continent apart. Now a lawyer in California, Brad has reentered Faith's life just as she is making a decision that plunges her marriage into crisis. Determined to fulfill a long-held desire for a career of her own, Faith applies to law school against her husband's wishes, igniting a barrage of anger and recrimination. Faith's only solace is the correspondence she has begun with Brad, a man trapped in an empty marriage of his own, a friend she once lost and has found again. Soon e-mails are flying between them, bridging three thousand miles, sharing much-needed friendship, support, laughter. And as these two childhood friends rediscover each other, something extraordinary is beginning to happen. In the safety of their friendship, Brad will find the courage to make a decision he should have made years before. And Faith, too, is changing, beginning to believe in herself—and in her right to grab hold of her dreams. Gathering a strength she never knew she had, Faith is finally ready to face the most painful step of all: of sharing the secret that has long been haunting her, and truly opening up her heart for the first time in her life. With unerring insight into the hearts of husbands and wives, lovers and families, Danielle Steel tells a wise and moving story of the secrets that wound and the choices that heal—and of the second chances that come only once in a lifetime. From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

One thing remains unchanged in an ever-changing world, as evinced by Steel's 56th novel: the author's middle-aged principals never look their age or run to fat. After a childhood marred by unspeakable abuse, New Yorker Faith Madison has everything a woman could want: marriage to an investment banker, two nice daughters, a lovely home. Now that her daughters are grown, however, Faith is faced with empty-nest syndrome. Her answer? Go back to law school. Her boorish husband, Alex, tells her she can't; when she runs into childhood friend Brad Patterson at a funeral, he reassures her that she can. Brad is in a similarly stifling marriage on the West Coast, and the two begin firing off e-mails of friendly support. Neither is aware of the growing depth of romantic feeling between them. Both being churchgoers, once they do become aware, how will they reconcile what they want with the fact that they are each being married to someone else? Alex and Faith's retro attitudes about her return to school are a little too pre-1960s for 40-somethings living in the current year, and the e-mails exchanged between Faith and Brad are vapid in their painful mundanity ("...Otherwise, nothing new here... Send me another email when you have time"). Steel seems to assiduously court the currently lucrative CBA market. Brad gives Faith rosary beads rather than the usual diamonds and some readers may find her protagonists' relationship maddeningly chaste, but the smooth plotting and practiced heartstring tugging achieve the desired effect. Copyright 2002

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Faith has a secret, and when childhood friend Brad shows up at her stepfather's funeral, she finally

has someone in whom she can confide. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This book was slow and similar to Danielle Steel's book *Summer's End* where the women are just weak, letting their husbands show such disrespect and take it all without a word and in each book the husbands are having affairs with younger women. In this book Faith is a beautiful blond woman somewhat middle-aged if you call 47 middle age, with two beautiful daughters. Her husband Alex is so cold to her you wonder why she even stays with him. When she wants to pursue law school he puts his foot down as her job in within the home, who is to tend after him? Really, it's just them in their home as their daughters Eloise is London and Zoe is in college. She then goes on to prove to him that she can do both, go to school and make sure his needs are met. Faith is a highly educated women yet I wonder why she stays in such an unhappy marriage. And the condescending treatment she receives from the eldest daughter Eloise who sides with the father regardless of how it affects her mother. I wish she would have developed some backbone to counter Alex such as what the younger daughter Zoe exhibits. But yes Faith does find happiness in the end so at least there was light at the end of this long tunnel. I just found it frustrating to read this story which was much too long, many pages could have been eliminated from this storyline. Read another Danielle Steel book.

When this book first came out, I thought " what a boring book!" Then after marriage of 15 1/2 years and calibrating my life with my husband that cancer of my spinal cord and uterus along with early symptoms of it spreading to my brain, and alluded to the fact that my dreams and my hard high honor status in school along with being a member of the National Honor Society, left me with no vocation and some law classes between treatments. My husband was tepid in understanding in the tender needs I needed, missed my golden retriever( no pet townhouse) , my daddy( dead at 63-3 yrs ago) and needed affirmation about my life. I have read virtually every Steel novel, (note: when married to the late husband John Traina/ predeath of beloved son, Nick, her writing took on a different palpable feel as we know today).So, one day, I visited my local library and had alighted my eyes on this book. For some reason, I pulled it off the shelf and cursorily began reading it . Its funny how your brain lexicons events and older impressions. To say it was fantastic was an understatement! It's reason was basically the more you identify with the book as a whole, mirroring your life at that time, it's content holds another interpretation and new experience to reading it. Even rereads.In " Answered Prayers" , Steel pens a wife and husband who after many years fall into a recalcitrant dull routine. However, as the novel progresses, the main protagonist finds a renewal of life beyond being a haus-frau and ends up going back to school to become a lawyer. In her forties!!!

From a new found temerity, Liz finds the power to upend her predictable life and causes her once comfortable relationship to a unstable, tense home life without the support of her husband and further, endures resistance and hardship incurred by him making her decision to not live for him, but to reclaim her life she left at the altar. I practically inhaled this novel. I identified with Liz due to the identical situation and depression one finds doing ferris wheel chores and never ending housework most woman find themselves in daily, haunted by thoughts that say , " I want feel something more engaging in life than to wake up and clean"! Her desire to finding a purpose in life leads her to an old friend she had and throughout the support and strength, He provides the foundation Liz needs to redeem her once banal life.As far as the rest of the book, I leave that up to you to find out what happens to her marriage, school and goals. If you currently lack the ever needed pat on the back for doing thankless but efficient housework to help keep your home peaceful, and yet feel like Liz, this book is for you! If you struggle with feelings of wanting to matter and hope that your life at your mid-forties is over and will never take a trajectory, pick this novel up and have a good sit with it. Danielle really comforts and affirms the little thibgs as well as the drop of the ball or the feelings ennui of being just a house wife/mother. She will bring balm and hope to your heart as you enjoy this book called " Answered Prayers".

Danielle Steele has a way with drawing her readers into the lives of the characters. Once I started this book I could hardly put it aside. I felt several emotions as I read about Faith's life and torments she was going through. Her faith in God that helped her through the difficult times and the blessings she had.I would pray my faith would help me as it did in this story. If anyone needs a reason to continue to fight even though they are facing hard times, they should read this.Thank you Danielle for the beautiful stories you bring to your readers.

not what i expected very good book

Delivery of the product was as expected. Guess I expected "large print" to be much larger as I purchased for my 99 year old mother-in-law who is losing her sight and she still would not be able to read this print. Live and learn. She loves to read and can no longer.

Another great book written by Danielle Steel...

Great read.

Did not read this book, it was a gift.

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