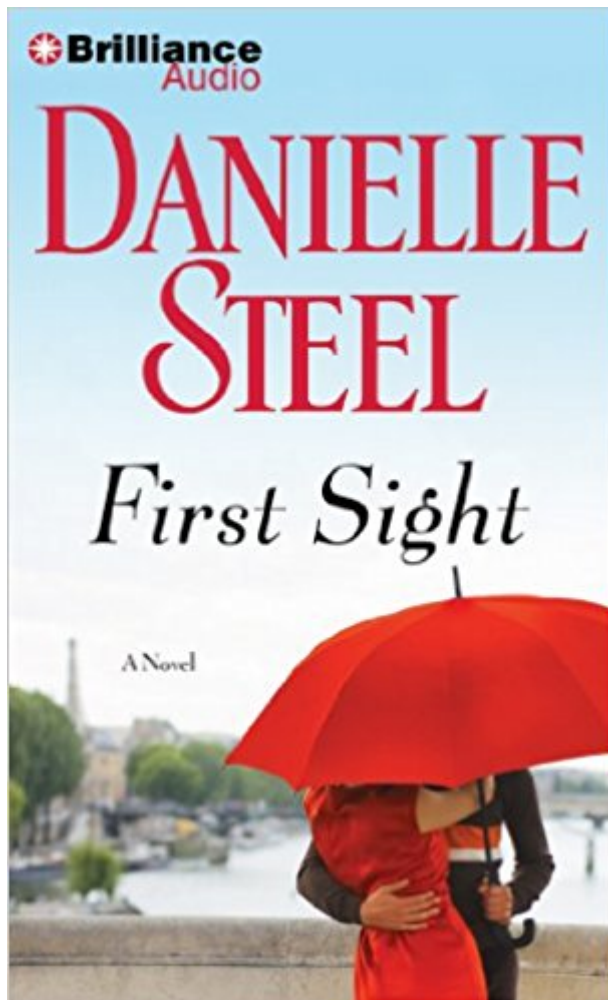


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First Sight: A Novel



Synopsis

Paris, L.A., and the world of ready to wear fashion provide rich backdrops for Danielle Steel's deeply involving story of a gifted designer whose talent and drive have brought her everything except the ability to erase her past and trust relationships. New York. London. Milan. Paris. Fashion Week in all four cities. A month of endless interviews, parties, and unflagging work and attention to detail at the semiannual ready to wear fashion shows the famous pratt-porter. At the center of the storm and avalanche of work is American Timmie O'Neill, whose renowned line, Timmie O, is the embodiment of casual chic, in fashion and for the home. She has created a business that inspires, fills, and consumes her life. With an unerring instinct for what the next trend will be, an innate genius for business, tireless labor, and sheer fearlessness, starting from nothing, over two decades Timmie has built an international empire that has brought her enormous satisfaction and success. In a world where humility and compassion are all too rare, her humor, kindness, integrity, and creativity are inspirational. Yet as blessed as she feels by her success, Timmie harbors the private wounds of a devastating childhood and past tragedy. She is too smart, too experienced, and too hurt to want much in her personal life beyond a succession of convenient, very limited relationships. Always willing to take risks in business, she never risks her heart. But despite her well-ordered and highly controlled world, it turns out that Timmie O'Neill is not immune to magic when it strikes. And it strikes in Paris during Paris Fashion Week, when an intriguing Frenchman comes into her life when she gets sick. At first, Timmie and Jean-Charles Vernier are only patient and physician. They become confidants and friends, corresponding at a safe distance between Paris and Los Angeles once she goes home. There is every reason why they must remain apart. But neither can deny their growing friendship and the electricity that sparks whenever they meet. First Sight is as complex and compelling as modern life itself: careers, families, histories, losses, duty, obligation, and fear of losing control and getting hurt. It is a tale of daring to take risks, and losing control just enough to have a life, when the opportunity presents itself. When two very different worlds and strong-willed people collide, everything changes in an instant, as they confront the age-old question of whether to lay oneself bare and risk intimacy or not. Are they brave enough to face what comes next? And will they do it together or apart?

Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Brilliance Audio; Abridged edition (July 16, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1423320565

ISBN-13: 978-1423320562

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.8 x 5.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 959 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,672,245 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #62 in Books > Books on CD >

Authors, A-Z > (S) > Steel, Danielle #2251 in Books > Books on CD > Romance #10231

in Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > General

Customer Reviews

Fashion designer Timmie O'Neill runs a thriving empire, but she is all alone. After being orphaned as a girl, then losing her child to illness and her husband to divorce, she's terrified of being abandoned until an emergency appendectomy during her Paris ready-to-wear shows brings French doctor Jean-Charles Vernier into her life. The two fall for each other immediately, sharing desires they've never shared with anyone else, but Jean-Charles is trapped in a floundering marriage. When he's finally ready to divorce, his estranged wife is diagnosed with cancer, and Timmie is left alone again, this time with the secret that she's carrying his child. Timmie is an intriguing heroine because her private anxieties and public success are at odds, and she doesn't find peace until her late forties. Steel is one of the world's most popular authors, and this poignant romance is sure to thrill her many loyal fans and reach many new readers, too.

--Aleksandra Walker --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

Praise for *First Sight* — "A novel about love, in all its heartbreaking and splendid forms." —Kirkus Reviews — "Steel is one of the world's most popular authors, and this poignant romance is sure to thrill her many loyal fans and reach many new readers, too." —Booklist — "Steel deftly stages heartstring-tugging moments." —Publishers Weekly --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

Very early on, in my reading of this book, I asked myself why, why am I bothering to read another Danielle Steel book. My answer is I guess I keep hoping, hoping that she will write like she did in books like "Message from Nam", "Zoya" and "Thurston House". Or perhaps my taste in books has evolved and grown up. I found this book tedious, especially in the beginning. It took approximately the first 67 pages, to lay down the foundation, background, thoughts and motivation before we saw

some forward motion toward a story about the protagonist, Timmie O'Neill. And then, once there was a bit of forward motion to something akin to a storyline, it was back to not much action shortly after that until about page 100 or so. The main character, Timmie O'Neill, has risen from the ashes of a hard luck life, to be a most successful clothing/fashion designer and CEO of her own international company. Timmie works so hard and furious that she will make the average career woman feel like a sloth. I cannot imagine, how this fast paced woman will make the average stay-at-home mom or homemaker feel. After losing her husband, 11 years prior, Timmie has had relationships with "pretty boys", who apparently keep her entertained and use her, until she has had enough of the arm candy, they provide. But, she really does not need arm candy, as she rarely lives the fast and glamorous life. While in Paris for fashion show week, Timmie is in need of a doctor and calls upon a recommendation given her by a friend. In walks the charming and handsome Dr. Jean-Charles Vernier. At some point, a long distance romance begins to develop between the two. But, that gets derailed when Jean-Charles cannot disengage himself from his dead marriage, due to a number of tragedies. All this delay, sounds like the truth Timmie's assistant, Jade, was preaching about the promises made by married men to leave their wives. There is a thread of a story line in this book. However, it is bogged down by the long monologues, the thoughts and the constant repetition of the thoughts, background and history. And, the main character, Timmie O'Neill is just so much larger than life, from her ashes to success story, to her incredible, driving work ethic, that she is simply not believable. When there actually is a story line present, it is enjoyable. But, otherwise, the book is tedious. If you are a Danielle Steel fan, I suspect you will read this book, hoping that she will write, like she used to in her earlier works. Now, it simply feels as if she has a formula for churning out new books on a rather rapid basis. All that changes are character names, places and a bit of the story line. But, otherwise it is a formula readers have seen before. Or, perhaps, I just have a fond memory of her earlier works, and my taste in literature has evolved beyond what Danielle Steel provides. If you can get past the repetition and the long monologues and thought descriptions, I guess, what you will find is a modern day fairytale.

I have read every one of DS books. I preorder them when I know they are coming out and I have noticed that the last several books have been down right disappointing and just plain ole' bad. The constant repetitiveness of her story is ridiculous. While I understand that she has a contract with her publishers and has to produce "X" amount of books a year.... slow it down and write how you are capable of writing. For newbies just starting out reading DS, try reading *Jewels* or *Long Road Home* to get an idea of the capabilities this writer has. These last few books are annoyingly repetitive and

quite frankly, pretty predictable.

It is boring and not well written, it is like she keeps repeating the same description of events to fill the pages. I have read many of her books and have enjoyed most of them, this one is not a favorite!!!

When I had gotten almost to the half way point of this book, I was ready to throw in the towel. Over and over again, she talks about what an overachiever Timmie is, blah, blah. Then just as I'm about to give up, things start to change. The first part was meeting the French doctor. That happened in the beginning, seemed to be forgotten about and it wasn't until much later in the book where there were many twists, turns, and bumps in the roads. It was a good book, I just wish Ms. Steel didn't take so long getting there. It really could have been much shorter. I was so tired of hearing about how it wasn't going to work with Zack. We knew that in the beginning, why did it take so long for them to break up? But then towards the end when things started speeding up, and the most shocking thing of all happened, I couldn't put it down. I won't say what happened so I don't ruin the book for others that have not read it yet. But it was pretty amazing. And I loved the ending! I too, like many others on here, like the Danielle Steel of old. The best book I think she ever wrote was 'The Ring'. That was so real. Taking us with her on these wonderful places is great, but it gets old. Still, as I said toward the end of 'First Sight', I couldn't put it down.

This is a well established writer doing a terrific job of telling a story and keeping the reader's interest. I personally enjoyed the characters and their lives. Thank you for another book. I believe in love at first sight too, it happened to me. Our second marriages were found by a double blind date. We were crazy about each other immediately the other couple not so much.

I have been reading Danielle Steel since I was a teenager. The last really good book she wrote in my opinion was A Good Woman. This book was really hard to get through. Badly written and horribly repetitious. Saying the same thing over and over again (and over) took up probably half the book. The story itself was good but the book could have been soooo much better. I'm not sure I'm going to spend my money on anymore of her books and it is sad, because she has been my favorite author for as long as I can remember. I wish she would slow down and write a really good book again!

Not what you would expect from a Steel novel. Dull and the story line dragged. Didn't finish reading.

Very interesting book to read, talks about different walks of life . Every book that Danielle Steel writes, has a story. This one is about believing in love at first sight. Very well written, main characters are doing a wonderful job. Got emotional regarding her home for children that is run by the sisters. Good insight regarding the main character's life and very happy that she in the end finally found happiness herself.

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