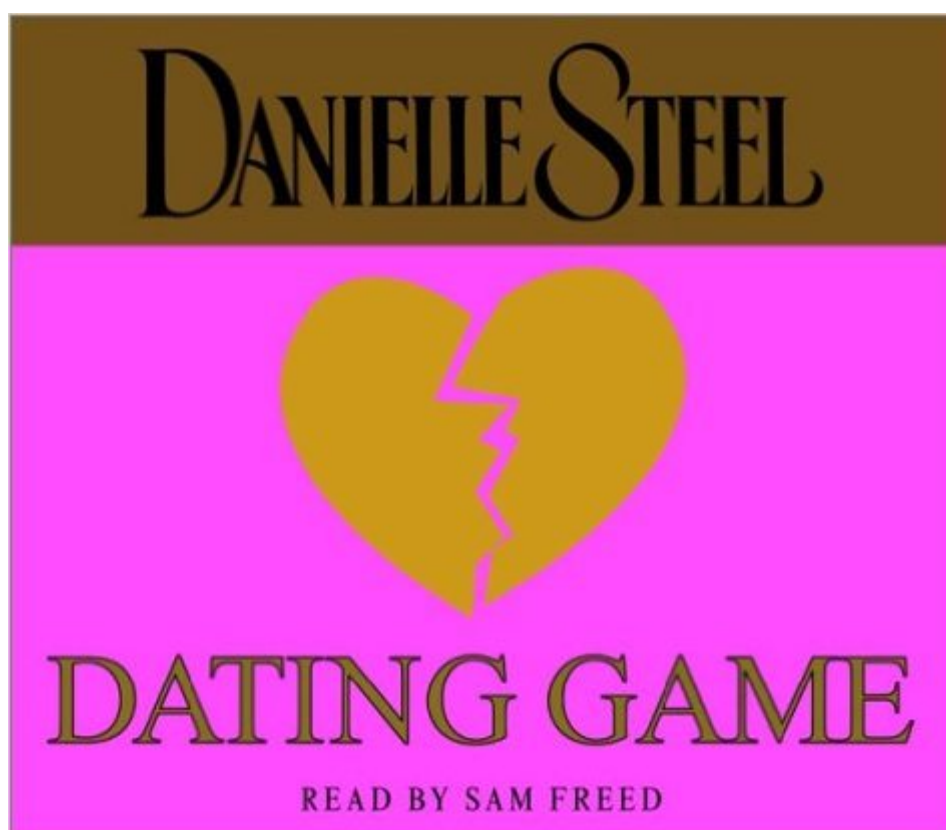


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Dating Game (Danielle Steel)



Synopsis

In her 57th bestselling novel, Danielle Steel brilliantly chronicles the roller-coaster ride of dating the second time around and tells a captivating story of the surprises one woman encounters when she's thrust into the terrifying, exhilarating world of the Dating Game. Paris Armstrong never saw it coming. With two grown children and a lovely home in Connecticut, Paris was happy with her marriage, her family, her life. So when her husband of twenty-four years said they needed to talk, Paris couldn't imagine what he was about to say. "I want a divorce," Peter tells her. Just like that, the husband she adored had dumped her for a younger woman. And just like that, Peter and his thirty-one-year-old lover had made their plans for their future, leaving Paris to pick up the pieces of a shattered life. Within days, Peter was gone. And Paris was left to figure out how she intended to get through the next day, let alone the rest of her life. The task could not have been more painful. First came the tears. Then the excruciating attempts by well-meaning friends to "fix her up" with men who paled in comparison to Peter. Worse yet, she still loved him. Finally, Paris realized she was in a fight for her very survival. Drastic measures were called for. Even her shrink agreed. It was time to move "as far away as possible, just after Peter remarried. Paris had never felt, or been, more alone. Saying good-bye to the world she knew and loved, Paris heads west, to San Francisco, and discovers being single in a world full of men who were too young, too old, too married, or too good to be true. For Paris, the list seemed endless...the charming commitment-phobe...the drunken Neanderthal...the young Frenchman "so adorably sexy she almost forgot about his age, and did, for a while. With her dating track record veering between disappointing and disastrous, and her daughter now engaged to a man Paris's age, Paris finally comes to the conclusion that romance is not in her future. That's when her small circle of offbeat, loving friends becomes more important than ever before. And a decision Paris makes only for herself changes her life once more. The secret, she discovers finally, is in finding the gifts in life's unexpected twists and turns, and turning despair into freedom and loss into joy. In a poignant, wickedly funny novel about getting dumped and getting over it, about tackling life with both courage and laughter, Danielle Steel explores what it means to start over, whether you wanted to or not, and finding something better than you had before. From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

Paris Armstrong is the perfect wife and mother of two grown children. She lives in a beautiful house in Greenwich, Connecticut. Her perfect world is shattered when her husband of twenty-four years, Peter, announces after a dinner party that he is leaving her for another woman. One who is barely older than their daughter. Paris is distraught to say the least and tries to pick up the pieces and move on with her life. Part of this process includes her moving to the West Coast and finding a job. There she meets Bixby Mason, party planner extraordinaire! She becomes friends with Bixby and through his encouragement decides to get back into the "dating game". This book was an OK read. I felt sorry for Paris at first when Peter dumped her and thought he was a jerk. It was good to know that Danielle Steel could still write about people and pull the proper emotion out of me. I quickly became bored though when she moved to California and started dating. Her dates were funny but they all seemed the same. The storyline seemed to me to get stuck halfway through the book. It was like Danielle Steel got Paris to California and then didn't know what to do with her. The direction of the book appeared to be going nowhere fast. I am getting a little tired of reading about women who are treated badly by their husbands and that is what the last few Steel novels have been. It also seems to me as if she's bringing in the same quirky characters but with different names, example: Bixby Mason. I loved this character, he definitely added entertainment to the story, but wasn't he in a previous novel but with a different name? Ms. Steel's characters all seem to be the same anymore. I am beginning to wonder if Ms. Steel hasn't run out of ideas. After 50+ books maybe she is.

After all, I am the Danielle Steel expert. I've read pretty much everything she's done. And, I'm hardly shy when it comes to admitting she's got some pretty bad stuff out there. "Dating Game" is not one

of them. The sense of movement, action, and adventure is very prevalent here, as divorcee, Paris Armstrong, endures being dumped by her long-time husband, moving cross-country, forging a new life, enduring several typical flaky "California" type men as dates (very realistic), and through it all, keeping her sense of humor. This has got to be the funniest Danielle Steel I have read in a long time. What else is new here? A gay subplot. Yes, you heard correctly. I can't remember a Danielle Steel novel ever featuring gay characters. All right, there was a little blurb, right at the end of "The Wedding" about lesbianism---but not the somewhat in-depth treatment gays and AIDS gets here in "Dating Game." Danielle Steel hasn't had San Francisco as a setting for one of her novels in a while. Well, at least not since 1999's awful "Irresistible Forces." Danielle Steel actually lives in the town, so if there's anyone who knows San Francisco, and can write with authority on the town and its wacky eligible bachelors, it's Danielle Steel. "Dating Game" is quite a page-turner and quite a happy novel as you follow along with Paris and her San Francisco dating adventures. It's fun to try to guess which parts of this novel are autobiographical, as Danielle Steel has talked about her own return into the San Francisco dating world, and how she based this book on her own personal adventures. It's incredible that after all these years Steel can still turn out fresh and invigorating ideas when she wants to.

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