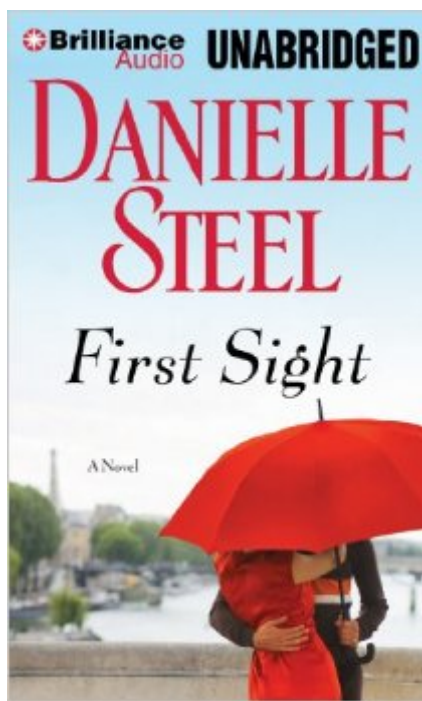


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First Sight: A Novel



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 portrait-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

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Customer Reviews

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.

At first sight, I loved the rich red dress and umbrella on the cover, along with the title, "First Sight." (I fell in love with my husband at first sight.) Eagerly I settled in for a fun read. At the end of the first page, I thought there must have been some mistake; this must be a rough draft that mistakenly

found its way to the publisher. Bad grammar, endless repetition, cliché's, did I mention repetition of the same phrase? Repeatedly? By the second chapter, the only description that fits the reader's experience is "mental stunned silence." This is the worst book ever written. It achieves this literary distinction because it has the framework of a story that deserved competent authorship, but is so hopelessly buried in excruciatingly painful delivery that the story is not worth finding. The female lead character meets a French physician who directs her post-surgical care for a week in a Paris hospital. She speaks with him several times a day. They enjoy each others company. She gives him a very expensive watch as a thank you gift. Months later she coordinates a second meeting with him in New York and describes their reunion as being "Love at First Sight." Wait, what? WHAT? Danielle honey, don't tell us that you have not only given up writing, but have also abandoned MATH? The very unflattering photograph of Ms. Steel on the back of the book jacket was another indication of the bad advice Ms. Steel is getting from her publisher, or the good advice that she is ignoring. I can only hope that her editor died some years back and the team forgot to tell Ms. Steel that the position was never refilled.

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