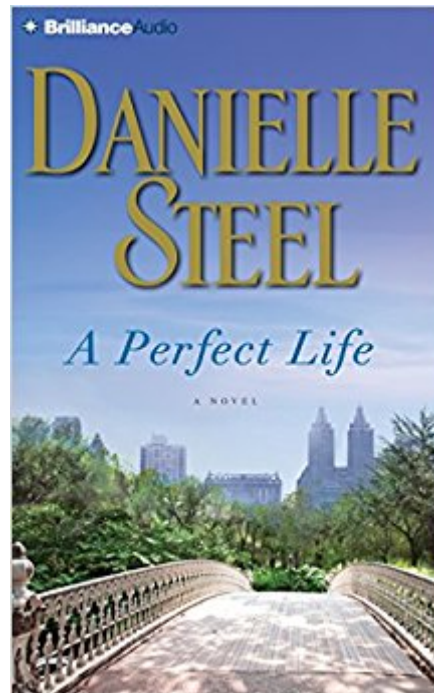




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A Perfect Life: A Novel



Synopsis

From #1 New York Times bestselling author Danielle Steel comes a heartwarming and inspirational novel about a mother and daughter who face challenges, cope with celebrity, and overcome tragedy while maintaining the outward appearance of a perfect life. The epitome of intelligence, high-powered energy, and grace, Blaise McCarthy is an icon in the world of television news, asking the tough questions and taking on the emotionally charged issues of world affairs and politics with courage and insight. A single mother, she manages her well-ordered career meticulously, always prepared on the air or interviewing world-renowned figures and heads of state. To her audience, Blaise seems to have it all. But privately, and off the set, there is another untold story she has kept hidden for years. Blaise's teenage daughter, Salima, was blinded by Type 1 diabetes in childhood, and her needs have kept her away in a year-round boarding school with full-time medical care and assistance ever since. When Salima's school closes after a tragedy, Salima returns to her mother's New York City apartment, and suddenly they face challenges they've never had to deal with before, and that Blaise feels ill-equipped to handle. A new caretaker provided by Salima's school creates as many problems as he solves. Handsome, accomplished, thirty-two-year-old Simon Ward, with strong opinions on every topic, questions how mother and daughter view themselves and each other. Simon opens new doors for both of them and refuses to accept Salima's physical limitations. He turns their world upside down, and the three become friends. Then everything starts to unravel and Blaise can't keep her two worlds separate anymore. A beautiful young anchorwoman is hired at the network; it is no secret that she is being groomed to take Blaise's place. Her career as she has known it is threatened, and her previously well-ordered life feels totally out of control. For the first time, Blaise's life is not perfect, but real. In this unforgettable tale, the incomparable Danielle Steel has written a novel that pulsates with emotion and honesty as three people face the truth about themselves. *A Perfect Life* is about what we do when facades fall away and we can no longer run from the truth. As old ideas fail, everything changes, and life is suddenly brand-new.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

New Yorker Blaise McCarthy is a successful television journalist in her midforties, but her professional accomplishments come at the expense of her personal life. Her last relationship was with a married man, and her 19-year-old daughter, Salima, has lived at a boarding school for the blind for most of her life. When Salima's caretaker dies, she moves home. Her new caretaker, a charismatic young man named Simon, isn't what Blaise or Salima expected, but he wins them over, encouraging Salima to become more independent and befriending Blaise. Love blossoms, and they have to decide whether their 15-year age difference and their difference in social status are insurmountable. Blaise's vulnerabilities make her likable her confidence is shaken by an attractive young woman who may be her replacement, and her love for Simon forces her to examine her past. However, Salima steals the show as she blossoms from a coddled teen to an independent young woman chasing her dreams in the big city. Another sudsy glitz-and-glamour love story from the inimitable Steel; her fans will love it. --Nanette Donohue --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"A classic Steel story, with a mother and daughter keeping up appearances as they overcome tragedy and learn a thing or two about themselves." --Library Journal
"It's the lessons learned by the mother-daughter duo about love, loyalty and family that bring them closer together than ever before in Steel's latest heartwarming page-turner." --Closer Weekly --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Most of time when I write a review I just say wheather it is good or not,I dont think I will purchase any more danielle steel books these booksare so predictable and boring.I have read all her books with no exceptionand they are all the same.While I do like happy endings in books I wouldalso like some unexpected surprises to keep me interested,I heard oncethat she writes 4 or 5 books at once maybe this is the problem

I have read better Danielle Steel books and I have read worse. It is interesting how someone can be in a routine with their life and then things change and its how you cope with the changes that makes life interesting. When Blaise and Salima are comforted with change they resist it at first and then they start to enjoy the change. Then change happens again, this time it is not good because the teacher wants to try and work things out with a former girlfriend. There are a few chapters in the middle of the book, I just wanted to skip. In fact I read the end of the book to see how it would work out and then I went back to the middle of the book to see how the story would unfold. I am in the process of taking graduate classes so I look at this as a lite read, a form of escape for a little while,.

I really enjoyed 'A Perfect life". Even if the characters are all a little too perfect, this book is Danielle Steele doing what she does best and giving the reader an escape from reality. The main character Blaise is a famous news broadcaster who suddenly finds herself dealing with her blind, diabetic daughter and her daughter's new good looking caregiver....so you can guess the plot already. While everything about this book is 'too perfect' and not believable, it is a fun read for the beach or backyard pool.

I typically enjoy reading novels by Danielle Steele but this one was a disappointment. I found the main character, Blaise to be selfish, self centered, and just generally unlikeable no matter how noble the writer tried to make her. She has put her career above everything and everyone in her life including her handicapped daughter. What's worse is the author trying to convince us that the daughter is okay with all this. That being sent to a fancy private school and having personal care givers waiting on her hand and foot somehow makes up for her mothers lack of involvement in her life. The character of Susie Q was never really fleshed out and readers are just expected to believe that she is just unworthy of unseating Blaise. There was never any real interaction between the two characters, it seems like this plot line was just tossed in but never really explored before Susie's inevitable humiliation. Finally, the whole book feels like a warmed over plot line we have seen before, totally predictable. Danielle Steele has done this before and done it far better!

I have been a huge fan and read every book the day they come out. however, this is the first time that I regret the purchase! Although the character of the blind daughter was great, the story line was dull at best. Definitely her worst book. Very disappointed as this is not her style of writing. An average read at best

This book showed how cut throat some businesses can be. As most of her books are this one was very interesting and one all of her fans would enjoy.

The writing was so poor, both technically and realistically, that I was unable to get past the 2nd chapter. I can only imagine that there are a clutch of people sitting somewhere cranking out these books who have very little knowledge of grammar. Only the rare sentence should begin with the article AND. In this book it is the rule rather than the exception. If every sentence that began with and was removed along with all the redundant thoughts of the characters, the book would be about a quarter of its present length. The characters are totally unbelievable. Instead of a Perfect Life I would title this a Perfect Hot Mess.

Loved where there gifts took them. As always another Danielle Steel winner. I would recommend this easy read book to all.

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