



The Mistress

Danielle Steel

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#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • Incomparable storyteller Danielle Steel illuminates rarely glimpsed precincts of unimaginable wealth and power, where love and freedom are the most dangerous desires of all.

Natasha Leonova's beauty saved her life. Discovered starving on a freezing Moscow street by a Russian billionaire, she has lived for seven years under his protection, immersed in rarefied luxury, while he pursues his activities in a dark world that she guesses at but never sees. Her home is the world, often on one of Vladimir Stanislas's spectacular yachts manned by scores of heavily armed crew members. Natasha's job is to keep Vladimir happy, ask no questions, and be discreet. She knows her place, and the rules. She feels fortunate to be spoiled and protected, and is careful not to dwell on Vladimir's ruthlessness or the deadly circles he moves in. She experiences only his kindness and generosity and believes he will always keep her safe. She is unfailingly loyal to him in exchange.

Theo Luca is the son of a brilliant, world famous, and difficult artist, Lorenzo Luca, who left his wife and son with a fortune in artwork they refuse to sell. Lorenzo's widow, Maylis, has transformed their home in St. Paul de Vence into a celebrated restaurant decorated with her late husband's paintings, and treats it as a museum. There, on a warm June evening, Theo first encounters Natasha, the most exquisite woman he has ever seen. And there, Vladimir lays eyes on Luca's artwork. Two dangerous obsessions begin.

Theo, a gifted artist in his own right, finds himself feverishly painting Natasha's image for weeks after their first meeting. Vladimir, enraged that Lorenzo's works are not for sale, is determined to secure a painting at any price. And Natasha, who knows that she cannot afford to make even one false move, nevertheless begins to think of a world of freedom she can never experience as Vladimir's mistress. She cannot risk her safety for another man, or even a conversation with him, as Theo longs for a woman he can never have.

From Moscow to the Riviera, London, and Paris, *The Mistress* is a riveting tale of vast fortune, cruelty, creative genius, and daring courage, as uncompromising individuals chart a course for collision.

The Mistress Details

Date : Published January 3rd 2017 by Delacorte Press

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Author : Danielle Steel

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Hillary says

I loved this book so much because it shows no matter what happens in your life . you can over come by learning to trust yourself and do not let anyone control your life or who you are . Danielle steel is a great author who i love to read for years now . i have almost read all of her books because that is how much i love her as author. this book made me do a lot of thinking about my own life and how i need to trust myself when it comes to making changes in my life . i am trying to make a lot of changes in my own life and this books gives the courage to do it and believe in myself again after many years of having other people believe in things and i would believe in to make them happy . but i am going to be my own person now . so thanks Danielle steel for making believe in myself .

Dawn says

Oh my! My mother taught me that if I have nothing good to say, don't say anything at all! So I am going to listen to that advice and just say it was a quick read!

Susan Becraft says

A hodge-podge of paragraphs.

I occasionally pick up a Danielle Steele book when I'm traveling. Despite wading through run-on sentences and mind-numbing repetition, I can pass the time by reading an uncomplicated, often formulaic, tale while surrounded by typical airport hubbub.

The Mistress is a new low for Ms. Steele. I found myself re-reading complete paragraphs previously encountered earlier in the book. Even more peculiar were incidents described in minute detail before they had even occurred in the chronology.

My only conclusion is that Danielle Steele overused the copy/cut and paste feature of her word processor. I envisioned her using a collection of paragraphs much like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. Her problem was that the pieces did not quite fit together.

At the hefty price tag for this book, she and her publisher are insulting her readers. The story itself is mundane and uninteresting. She could have told it in a novella. After slogging through chapter after chapter, I finally reached the unsatisfactory conclusion.

Assigning a book only one star is rare for me. If The Mistress had been written by a first-time author, I might be more forgiving. Danielle Steele, on the other hand, knows exactly what she is doing.

Lane says

She just needs
To stop writing
Really bad

Krista says

So I ended up getting a free copy of a Danielle Steel book. Fine, I thought, it'll just be a fluff book.

But people. This isn't fluff; this is terribly, terribly, terribly written torture.

The book involves very little plot: A mostly characterless beautiful woman is the sugarbaby of a rich Russian crime lord. (He's Russian with a Greek last name. Oops.) They meet an artist, who instantly becomes in love with her. There's a side plot about the artist's parents, but that's about it.

If you read fluff, you read to enjoy the moment--the humor, the romance, the characters, etc. But this book has none of that. The only character I can picture is the sugarbaby, because we're told often she's blond. None of them have a specific characterization. And the instant-love is so ridiculous that I couldn't even roll my eyes. Finally, the writing is desperately in need of improvement. In a matter of a couple pages, a police woman is said to have "flashed her leg" three different times--that exact same phrasing, again and again, as if nobody had bothered to edit the book.

All in all, I'm glad I got this book for free, because it really isn't worth any great expenditure. What I'll remember from it is only that the Danielle Steel book factory needs to take a break and either hire better ghost writers or get Danielle herself a serious editor.

Beth Nelson says

I have read every Danielle Steel book and used to love them. However her latest books have numerous run-on sentences and mind-numbing repetition. Some of her paragraphs are one page long. After reading similar reviews and disappointments on the ending, I decided to stop reading it and move on to something else. The quality of this book is why I get Danielle Steel books from the library vs buying them. It is very unusual for me to not complete a book but there are too many books and too little time to read something I am just not enjoying.

Betul says

3.5 stars

This is my first Danielle Steel book. The blurb sounded really interesting so I decided to pick it up. I really

enjoyed the first half of the book, I was intrigued by the characters and loved their story. However my biggest dislike was the development in the relationship of the two main characters. It was a bit of a letdown because they didn't see a lot of each other. They were apart most of the story. For me the story wasn't finished, I was really looking forward to seeing their relationship grow. Maybe the author does this in all her books but for me it wasn't satisfactory. But the writing was really good and I loved the personality of the characters. This book could've been so much better.

Kim Dempsey says

Always good to come back to a Danielle Steel book after not reading one in awhile. Yes, they're always predictable, but the story was refreshing and very easy to keep reading. I would of like to see Natasha run into Vladimir one last time, and I would've like to know what the sale of the paintings actually were, but oh well....that is what my imagination is for.

Loraine Oliver says

This is my first Danielle Steele novel in years and I quite liked it! I do not want to get into too much detail, however the book is a story about a Russian Billionaire, Vladimir Stanislas, and his mistress of 7 years, Natasha Leonova, which he found dying on the streets of Moscow at 18 years old. At first her pride demanded she make it on her own, but after getting pneumonia and almost dying, Vladimir took matters in his own hands and took her off the streets and nursed her back to health himself. Vladimir is 49 years old and thinks Natasha is the most beautiful young woman he has ever seen and lavishes her in things only billionaires can afford to do.

In return, Natasha learns her place as his mistress, seen but not be heard, and never pay attention to his business. For 7 years she does this, and remains innocent of everything, then fate throws a wrench into their lives, in the form of a young artist, his stubborn mother who owns a restaurant more like a shrine to her late husband, and fuels Vladimir's rage, when the mother won't sell the paintings; then her son paints from memory a painting of Natasha!

Read this book to find out what happens! This book is full of angst, secrets, unfulfilled love and new beginnings! It takes place all over the world, and on the seas.

I gave this book 5*****stars and loved it~!

Kathryn says

This novel is the typical Danielle Steel of years past when the heroine is extremely wealthy. Those are my least favorite. The book was an easy read, so I finished. I loved the last 50 pages when she lost all of her money and learned how to live with less and found out who she really was.

Tim says

Typical Ms. Steel, only a bit more interesting than many. 5 of 10 stars

Anne OK says

Normally I would not choose to read Danielle Steel's formulaic novels. This was a gift, however, and that is hard to turn your back on. So onward I proceeded. It wasn't much of a surprise when I found an uncomplicated, often redundant wording and phrasing in a so-so story. Readers tend to expect more from a seasoned author.

I was hopeful that the Russian Mafia mistress of a strong and jealous kingpin, fighting for a forbidden love and a way to escape her situation plotline would interest me. It was intriguing at times, and because of the influx of Russian news these days, I thought maybe there might be a bit more depth and original material contained within. It was not too complicated, at times a bit boring, and the ending was rushed and nothing unexpected.

I think I'm spoiled by newer authors who are releasing well-written books containing edgy, thought-provoking and extremely emotional scenarios with characters who are well defined -- and far less expensive.

Julie says

The Mistress by Danielle Steel is a 2017 Delacorte Press publication.

Wow, it's been decades since I read a Danielle Steel novel. Back in the 80's I read them regularly. But, as I am wont to do, I did a segue into other genres, and am always introducing myself to new authors. I lost touch with DS over time, but it wasn't intentional. However, as I was browsing through the overdrive library books, I noticed quite a few DS novels were available, and was suddenly struck by the urge to reacquaint myself with her work.

This story is centered around Natasha, a young woman 'rescued' by a very wealthy older man from the cold streets of Moscow. She has spent her life as his mistress, wanting for nothing, allowing herself to be used as a trophy, but never really living life to her fullest potential.

When her path crosses with Theo, the son of a famous artist, Theo, a talented artist in his own right is so taken with her, he paints her portrait from memory. As time passes the two will encounter one another, time and again, but Natasha is owned by her powerful Russian billionaire, so Theo can only worship her from a distance.

While this book still employs the same style of writing and storytelling I recall from this author, this story lacks some of the sparkle I remember. While it is mildly interesting, and is a fast, easy read, it doesn't seem to have much depth. It's okay, but is a little dull and flat, and more than a little predictable.

I saw a video clip of Danielle Steel recently after she appeared on one of the morning news shows. She says she writes, on average, six books a year, and has a new book coming out soon that is a political thriller. So, the author has a wealth of material I can catch up on and of course new books to anticipate, so while this one didn't dazzle me, it still whetted my appetite for more DS novels. If anyone has a suggestion or would like to share what their favorite DS novel is, I'll be sure to check it out.

This one gets 3 stars

lacy [a ravenclaw library] says

I'm hovering between 3 and 4 stars for this particular book. It wasn't that there was anything wrong with it, per se. I think I was just expecting more than what I was given. The blurb is kind of misleading, in a sense.

We follow the life of Natasha Leonova. She is a mistress to a super wealthy Russian named Vladimir Stanislas. She doesn't know exactly what Vladimir does. All she knows that he saved her from almost certain death in Russia. In exchange for her unfailing loyalty and access to her whenever he wants, Natasha leads a golden life. She is taken care of in ways that would make anyone jealous.

We also follow the life of Theo Luca, an artist and the son of a famous artist. He lives as a struggling artist, even though he is far from it. He becomes pretty obsessed with Natasha, knowing full well that he cannot have her.

The blurb made it sound like Natasha was going to have to choose between Vladimir and Theo and that choosing wrong was dangerous. That really wasn't the case at all. It was really just anticlimactic.

The book itself was kind of slow. During Natasha's view, we were basically told about how she shops everyday, doesn't question Vladimir and are constantly reminded about how lucky she was that Vladimir saved her. During Theo's, we were regaled with tales of his obsession with Natasha, how often he paints and how his mother is a pain in the butt.

I was really excited for this book but in the end it just kind of fell flat for me. Oh well. There is always another book. I won't give up on Danielle Steel yet!

Jeanne says

Like other readers, I'm thinking it might be time to take a break from Danielle Steel (though I know I won't). I guess I just like the ease of the read, and am a sucker for a sappy romance. When the main characters who have so much money that they order a second yacht, more luxurious than a cruise ship and the current one is perfectly, it gets a bit much for me and is hard to fathom. I did like that the main female character was really down to earth when all was said and done. Just OK for me -- 3 out of 10.
