

Answered Prayers

By Danielle Steel

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Danielle Steel's 56th bestselling novel is about family and friendship, about one woman's struggle to break free from the past—and the man who helps her triumph. And most of all, it is about daring to believe in...Answered Prayers.


On the outside, Faith Madison is the very picture of a sophisticated New Yorker. Slim, blond, stylish, Faith has a life many would envy. Overcoming a childhood marked by tragedy, married to a successful investment banker and having raised two grown daughters, Faith has enjoyed her role as mother and wife, and the good life that emanates from their bustling Manhattan town house. But every step of the way, Faith has carried within her a secret she could divulge to no one. And with it, she has kept an even more painful secret from herself.


For Faith, it is the sudden death of her stepfather—a man who, like her husband, Alex, always remained just beyond her reach—that will touch off a journey of change and revelation. At the funeral, painful memories flood back—and an old friend reenters Faith's life. Faith is greeting mourners, when she hears a voice behind her and a single word that brings a quick smile to her face: "Fred." Only one person aside from her older brother, Jack, called her that. Brad Patterson was Jack's best friend, a long, lanky boy who teased, tormented, and protected Faith when they fancied themselves "The Three Musketeers" as kids. When Jack died years later, Faith and Brad came together again in their common, inconsolable grief, then lost touch once more amid the demands of families and busy lives a continent apart.

Now a lawyer in California, Brad has reentered Faith's life just as she is making a decision that plunges her marriage into crisis. Determined to fulfill a long-held desire for a career of her own, Faith applies to law school against her husband's wishes, igniting a barrage of anger and recrimination. Faith's only solace is the correspondence she has begun with Brad, a man trapped in an empty marriage of his own, a friend she once lost and has found again. Soon e-mails are flying between them, bridging three thousand miles, sharing much-needed friendship, support, laughter. And as these two childhood friends rediscover each other, something extraordinary is beginning to happen. In the safety of their friendship, Brad will find the courage to make a decision he should have made years before. And Faith, too, is changing, beginning to believe in herself—and in her right to grab hold of her dreams. Gathering a strength she never knew she had, Faith is

finally ready to face the most painful step of all: of sharing the secret that has long been haunting her, and truly opening up her heart for the first time in her life.

With unerring insight into the hearts of husbands and wives, lovers and families, Danielle Steel tells a wise and moving story of the secrets that wound and the choices that heal—and of the second chances that come only once in a lifetime.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

One thing remains unchanged in an ever-changing world, as evinced by Steel's 56th novel: the author's middle-aged principals never look their age or run to fat. After a childhood marred by unspeakable abuse, New Yorker Faith Madison has everything a woman could want: marriage to an investment banker, two nice daughters, a lovely home. Now that her daughters are grown, however, Faith is faced with empty-nest syndrome. Her answer? Go back to law school. Her boorish husband, Alex, tells her she can't; when she runs into childhood friend Brad Patterson at a funeral, he reassures her that she can. Brad is in a similarly stifling marriage on the West Coast, and the two begin firing off e-mails of friendly support. Neither is aware of the growing depth of romantic feeling between them. Both being churchgoers, once they do become aware, how will they reconcile what they want with the fact that they are each being married to someone else? Alex and Faith's retro attitudes about her return to school are a little too pre-1960s for 40-somethings living in the current year, and the e-mails exchanged between Faith and Brad are vapid in their painful mundanity ("...Otherwise, nothing new here... Send me another email when you have time"). Steel seems to assiduously court the currently lucrative CBA market. Brad gives Faith rosary beads rather than the usual diamonds and some readers may find her protagonists' relationship maddeningly chaste, but the smooth plotting and practiced heartstring tugging achieve the desired effect.

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From Library Journal

Faith has a secret, and when childhood friend Brad shows up at her stepfather's funeral, she finally has someone in whom she can confide.

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From [Booklist](#)

Steel's latest novel doesn't veer from her tried-and-true formula, so her loyal fans can happily anticipate enjoying this one without any surprises. Faith Madison, a beautiful, wealthy Manhattan housewife, has begun to question her life. Her two daughters are more or less raised; her husband, while cold and standoffish, remains a dependable partner; and their family is comfortably wealthy and fairly happy. Faith's nagging need for change is stimulated further when her stepfather dies. At the funeral, as painful memories from her sad past resurface, she runs into an old friend, Brad Patterson. Brad, who shares a close bond with Faith (due to some shared grief from the past), is also trapped in an unhappy marriage. As Faith's marriage deteriorates, she begins a long-distance correspondence with Brad, and although the two assure themselves that their relationship is purely platonic, things steadily heat up between them. In the meantime, spouses, children, and other events conspire to keep them apart. But as Faith slowly begins to believe in herself and her dreams, both she and Brad find the courage to overcome these obstacles. Steel's fans will be waiting for this one--librarians should stock up. *Kathleen Hughes*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Enrique Flora:

The actual book Answered Prayers will bring someone to the new experience of reading any book. The

author style to elucidate the idea is very unique. When you try to find new book to read, this book very suitable to you. The book Answered Prayers is much recommended to you you just read. You can also get the e-book through the official web site, so you can quickly to read the book.

Stewart Ramirez:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray anyone, why because this Answered Prayers reserve written by well-known writer who really knows well how to make book which might be understand by anyone who read the book. Written with good manner for you, dripping every ideas and publishing skill only for eliminate your personal hunger then you still doubt Answered Prayers as good book but not only by the cover but also from the content. This is one guide that can break don't evaluate book by its cover, so do you still needing yet another sixth sense to pick this particular!? Oh come on your reading through sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to yet another sixth sense.

Alberto Benson:

This Answered Prayers is great book for you because the content and that is full of information for you who else always deal with world and also have to make decision every minute. That book reveal it data accurately using great coordinate word or we can declare no rambling sentences within it. So if you are read it hurriedly you can have whole information in it. Doesn't mean it only will give you straight forward sentences but tricky core information with lovely delivering sentences. Having Answered Prayers in your hand like finding the world in your arm, details in it is not ridiculous a single. We can say that no book that offer you world inside ten or fifteen minute right but this guide already do that. So , this is good reading book. Hi Mr. and Mrs. hectic do you still doubt this?

Judi Orta:

Is it an individual who having spare time subsequently spend it whole day by means of watching television programs or just laying on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This Answered Prayers can be the answer, oh how comes? A book you know. You are consequently out of date, spending your spare time by reading in this fresh era is common not a nerd activity. So what these books have than the others?

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