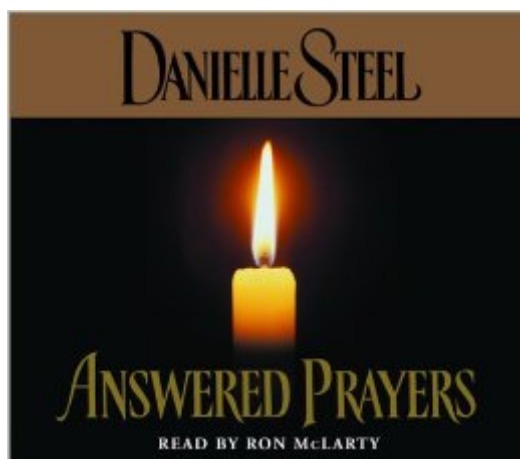


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# Answered Prayers (Danielle Steel)



## Synopsis

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. From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Answered Prayers is the story of Faith Madison, the stylish, perfect housewife and mother to her husband Alex and daughters Eloise and Zoe. She runs into an old childhood friend, Brad, at her stepfathers funeral. Soon the two are emailing each other multiple times a day and calling each other whenever they aren't emailing. Faith decides to go back to school and maybe become a lawyer. This causes major tension between her and Alex and their two daughters. When Faith returns to school the tension builds and thus the story builds too. This book was extremely bland. This was almost like reading The Kiss. Except in this book there is no car crash that land Faith and Brad in the hospital. It seems like Ms. Steel uses the same story line in all of her books lately. Faith had absolutely no backbone and Alex was just a complete jerk (like the husband in The Journey). Eloise was nothing short of a witch. Zoe was a spot of sunshine in this book. The character of Brad was a bit too perfect. Always at the phone or computer whenever Faith needed him. This aspect I found extremely odd. Brad is a busy lawyer yet has time to email Faith more than once a day and he's always at his computer or phone whenever she writes or calls. Ms. Steels latest books have lacked the spark of her earlier works. She tends to repeat herself constantly. The book would be half the size if she wouldn't repeat herself so much. In this book she concentrates on Jack, Faith's deceased brother, way too much. He is brought up in the book as if he's still alive. The whole church aspect of the storyline was off too. Faith, the dedicated churchgoer, only went to church it seemed to light candles. Again, this whole part of the storyline just didn't seem to fit into the story right. To sum it up....

When this book first came out, I thought " what a boring book!" Then after marriage of 15 1/2 years and calibrating my life with my husband that cancer of my spinal cord and uterus along with early symptoms of it spreading to my brain, and alluded to the fact that my dreams and my hard high honor status in school along with being a member of the National Honor Society, left me with no vocation and some law classes between treatments. My husband was tepid in understanding in the tender needs I needed, missed my golden retriever( no pet townhouse) , my daddy( dead at 63-3 yrs ago) and needed affirmation about my life. I have read virtually every Steel novel, (note: when married to the late husband John Traina/ predeath of beloved son, Nick, her writing took on a different palpable feel as we know today).So, one day, I visited my local library and had alighted my eyes on this book. For some reason, I pulled it off the shelf and cursorily began reading it . Its funny how your brain lexicons events and older impressions. To say it was fantastic was an understatement! It's reason was basically the more you identify with the book as a whole, mirroring your life at that time, it's content holds another interpretation and new experience to reading it. Even rereads.In " Answered Prayers" , Steel pens a wife and husband who after many years fall into a recalcitrant dull routine. However, as the novel progresses, the main protagonist finds a renewal of life beyond being a haus-frau and ends up going back to school to become a lawyer. In her forties!!!

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