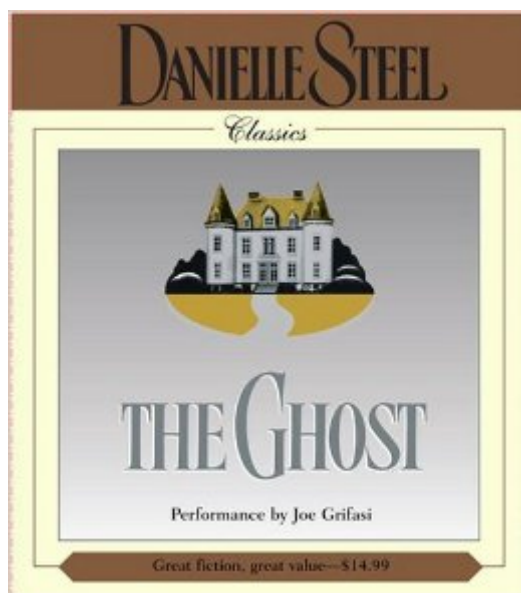


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The Ghost (Danielle Steel)



Synopsis

With a wife he loves and an exciting London-based career, architect Charles Waterston's life seems in perfect balance. Nothing in his comfortable existence prepares him for the sudden end to his ten-year marriage or his unwanted transfer to his firm's New York office. With nothing left to lose, Charlie takes a leave of absence from his job to drive through New England, hoping to make peace with himself. Christmas is approaching when Charlie leaves New York, heading to Vermont to ski. But a sudden, blinding snowstorm strands him in a small Massachusetts town. There, as if by chance, Charlie meets an elderly widow who offers to rent him her most precious possession: a remote, exquisite lakeside chateau. Hidden deep in the woods, it once belonged to a woman who lived and died there two centuries before. Her name was Sarah Ferguson. And from the moment Charlie sets foot inside the chateau's graceful depths, he feels her presence, and longs to know more about the life she led. It is Christmas Eve when Charlie first glimpses her, a beautiful young woman with jet black hair. He thinks it is a neighbor playing a joke on him, until he finds her diaries hidden away in an old trunk. As he begins to turn the brittle, dusty pages, Sarah Ferguson comes alive. Intrigued and unafraid, Charlie immerses himself in the diaries, eager to learn more about the woman for whom the house was built. Sarah's first entry is dated 1789, the year she arrived in America. Without self-pity or sentiment, she writes of her harrowing journey from her native England, having fled the brutality of her aristocratic husband. Settling in Massachusetts, Sarah finds an unfamiliar land seething with the turbulence of the Indian wars. Determined to start a new life in the vast new world, Sarah finds freedom and danger as she builds her home in the wilderness and meets a man who will transform her life. His name is François de Pellerin, a French nobleman adopted by Indians and drawn into the battle for the growing nation. Their fateful union is a testament to a love so powerful it reaches across the centuries. And for Charlie Waterston, caught between Sarah's world and his own, their story is a gift one that gives him the courage to let go of his past, and the freedom to grasp a future that is right before his eyes. From the Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

Did you ever want to live in a haunted house and discover that person's journals from the 1800's? Read the novel *The Ghost* by author Danielle Steel. The novel is about an American named Charles Waterston who lived in England until he got divorced from his wife. He decided to go back to the States and start a new life in New York. He doesn't like New York, so he decides to go skiing in Vermont. On his way there, a snowstorm makes him stop. He meets an old widowed lady, who lets him stay at her Bed & Breakfast. As the days go by, the elderly lady lets him rent out her other home in Deerfield. She tells him that Sarah Ferguson use to live there in the 1800's. When he moves in he sees Sarah's ghost, but he thinks it's his mind playing tricks on him. So the next day, he goes see Gladys and she knows that he had seen the ghost and he told her he did. She told him that when she was younger she had seen her ghost too, but has never seen it again. When Gladys son and his wife moved in, her daughter-in-law had seen Sarah's ghost too and decided to move out. This novel also tells the story about how Sarah had come to the states after she left her abusive husband in England. She takes the trip over on a boat that takes two months. Then in time, she meets her next husband Francois de Pelerrin, who is an Englishman, who is adopted by the Indians. This novel is amazing. Danielle Steel did a wonderful job combining two different stories from two different time periods; but in a way, the two stories do have some similarities between each other. I would recommend that whoever likes ghost stories to read this novel. It's a mix between romance and mystery.

"The Ghost" was a twist in the average Steele stories. I enjoyed the storyline because this time the shoe was on the other foot. Charles was the jilted husband, who so very much wanted his marriage to work. However, his wife had other ideas. She left him for her business partner, an older man. I felt sorry for Charles, who was really heartbroken. However, I was glad when Charles moved from London and went back to the states. After taking a leave of absence from work, Charles rented a house from an elderly widow and set out to enjoy his free time. The house had quite a history and

something from the past -- the ghost of the lovely Sarah. Charles takes a look at Sarah's journals and learns all about Sarah's past life. During, Charles' stay in the Massachusetts town, while doing research on Sarah at the library, Charles meets Francesa, the librarian, and eventually makes friends with Francesa's daughter. A relationship develops between Charles and Francesa. "The Ghost" was a touching and heartwarming story. Through Charles' readings of Sarah's journals, we learn the story of Sarah and the abuse she suffered at the hands of her abusive first husband. Also, we learn of the love Sarah found when she fled to America. Ms. Steele has written another winner with "The Ghost."

Danielle Steel touched upon many of our fears and hesitations in real life within the pages of "The Ghost". "The Ghost" is a story of a man [Charlie] who is trying to get over the pain and loneliness of his in-process divorce from his wife [Carol]. Charlie, still hurt by his wife who had an affair and left him for an older man, finds himself wounded and filled with more questions than answers. Even Charlie's job talks him into working in N.Y. City, which he hates, and finds that his professional life in N.Y. no longer provides any comfort or happiness for him. Taking some time off, Charlie finds himself in the small town of Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts. Here he rents a house believed to be haunted. Within these "haunted" walls Charlie will learn of a love story so powerful that it touches him even after the story has ended two hundred years ago. Can the old love story of Sarah Ferguson and François de Pellerin, set in the early conflicts of the Native American Indians and the United States, show Charlie how to love again? Can the lessons of Sarah Ferguson (a woman who's been beaten and battered, yet remains courageous and strong) teach Charlie how to breach the seemingly impenetrable walls around the heart of Francesca Vironnet, another woman who has given up on love... given up on Hope... just like Charlie? Can a ghost from the past still teach us all how to love again... how to keep the Faith and have Hope? I simply loved this book. One of her best! Both Danielle Steel and Sarah Ferguson teach us all, by example, that we should never let our hearts turn cold... never let the cruelty and pain of past loves destroy our futures... always have Faith... never lose Hope... and above all they teach us... That love ends... and begins again.

Excellent book! Couldn't put it down. Some books she repeats things over and over again about a character or situation, like we didn't get it the first time. Case in point, Prodigal Son. How many times does she have to say how much the parent thought of one son and how much the brothers hated each other? Anyway, this was an excellent book, right to the point.

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