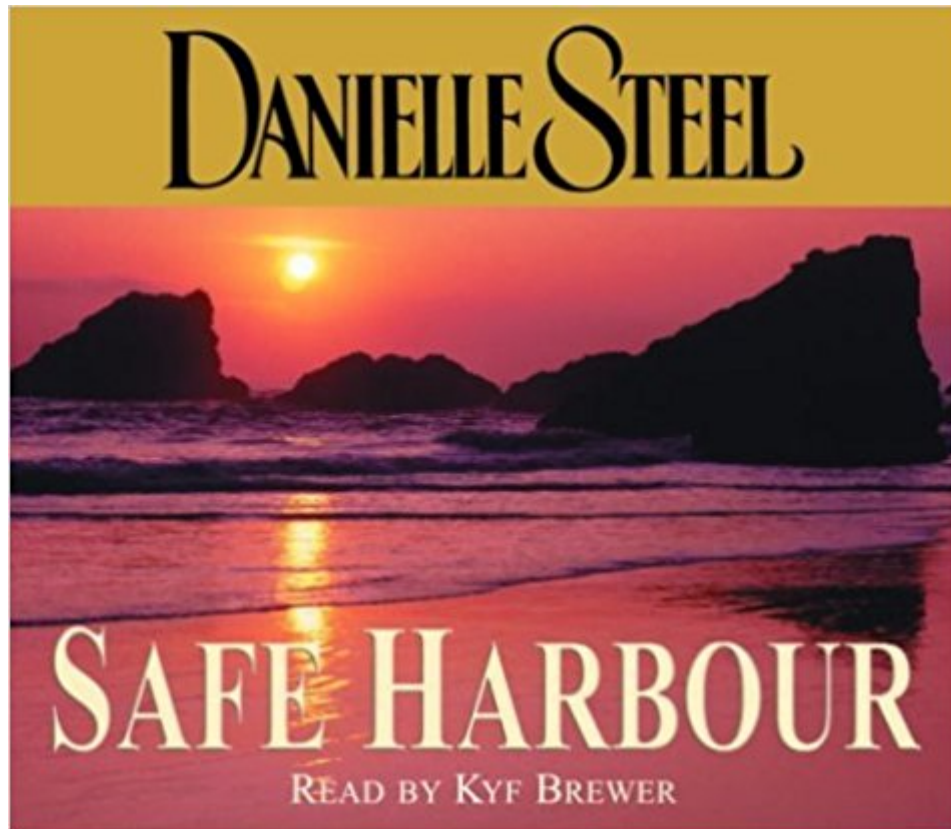




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Safe Harbour (Danielle Steel)



Synopsis

In her fifty-ninth bestselling novel, Danielle Steel tells an unforgettable story of survival...of how two people who lost everything find hope...and of the extraordinary acts of faith and courage that bring families together...On a windswept summer day, as the fog rolls across the San Francisco coastline, a solitary figure walks down the beach, a dog at her side. At eleven, Pip Mackenzie's young life has already been touched by tragedy; nine months before, a terrible accident plunged her mother into inconsolable grief. But on this chilly July afternoon, Pip meets someone who fills her sad gray world with color and light. And in her innocence and in his kindness, a spark will be kindled, lives will be changed, and a journey of hope will begin. From the moment the curly-haired girl walks up to his easel on the sand, Matt Bowles senses something magical about her. Pip reminds him of his own daughter at that age, before a bitter divorce tore his family apart and swept his children halfway across the world. With her own mother, Ophélie, retreating deeper into her grief, Pip spends her summer at the shore the way lonely children do: watching the glittering waters and rushing clouds, daydreaming and remembering how things used to be. That is, until she meets artist Matt Bowles, who offers to teach the girl to draw and can't help but notice her beautiful, lonely mother. At first, Ophélie is thrown off balance by her daughter's new companion until she realizes how much joy he is bringing into their lives, despite the sadness she sees in his eyes. As their newfound friend works his subtle magic, mother and daughter slowly begin to heal, to laugh again, to rediscover what they have lost. When summer ends, and Ophélie and Pip must leave the beach for the city, the season of healing continues. Gathering her newfound strength, Ophélie begins a volunteer job at a city outreach program, where she works with the homeless, and can no longer ignore the blessings in her own life. But as soul-sharing phone calls and autumn beach getaways deepen Ophélie and Matt's friendship, fate strikes another blow. Out of the blue, Matt must confront unfinished business from his past. Days later, Ophélie is struck by a stunning betrayal by someone she trusts. And as these events reverberate in two already wounded hearts, something extraordinary happens. Out of the darkness that has shadowed them both comes an unexpected gift of hope. With grace and compassion, Danielle Steel explores the fragile bonds between mothers and daughters, husbands and wives, family members and lifelong friends. Her haunting, impassioned novel takes us across the complex landscape of loss to the blessings that arise from even the darkest tragedies. At once a story of triumph and a moving elegy to those who suffer and survive, *Safe Harbour* is perhaps her most powerful and life-affirming novel to date. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

Series: Danielle Steel

Audio CD

Publisher: Random House Audio; Abridged edition (November 4, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0553757032

ISBN-13: 978-0553757033

Product Dimensions: 5.7 x 1 x 4.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 100 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #211,546 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in [Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > \(S \) > Steel, Danielle](#) #51 in [Books > Books on CD > Romance](#) #215 in [Books > Books on CD > General](#)

Customer Reviews

An 11-year-old girl strikes up a friendship with an artist and introduces him to her mother, a grieving widow, in Steel's 59th bestseller-to-be, a sweet but slow-moving romance. The girl, Phillippa (Pip) Mackenzie, is walking her dog along a deserted Northern California beach when she encounters a painter at his easel and stops to watch. She likes to draw; Matt Bowles, the artist, offers to help her; and a friendship is born. Pip's world was shattered nine months before when her father and her tormented, bipolar brother died in a plane crash. A distinctive magical quality in young Pip reminds Matt of his own daughter, whom he's not seen for six years. Pip's mother, Ophelie, initially uneasy about her daughter's friend, comes to see that the sad-eyed artist is the opposite of dangerous-a sensitive, kindly, decent man. The rather idealized Pip (her "haunting cognac-colored eyes" get frequent mention) is wise beyond her years; Ophelie, suffering a severe case of post-traumatic stress, is initially passive and limp but her devotion to a volunteer job helping the homeless elicits sympathy. Matt, a successful ad executive in his former life, is rescued from his own sorrows by fostering Pip's budding talent and by his growing romantic interest in her mother. Ophelie's discovery of a love letter her husband received a week before his death and Matt's confrontation with his treacherous ex-wife provide a modicum of suspense, but some readers may find themselves nodding off before they reach the novel's unexpectedly dramatic climax. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Audible Audio Edition edition.

Steel, who lost her own son to suicide a few years ago, here tells the story of a lonely woman

reeling from the untimely deaths of her son and husband who have both recently perished in a small-plane accident. The months pass, but Ophelie just can't get past the loss, and she spends most of her time sleeping, crying, or attending support-group meetings for the bereaved. In addition, she has ceased eating almost completely and barely takes notice of her 11-year-old daughter, Pip. The young girl is also reeling from her loss and finds herself alone much of the time and wandering on the beach near their home. It is during these unchaperoned jaunts that the child befriends a grown man who shows up every morning to paint seascapes. Mattie begins showing Pip how to draw, and by his companionship brings some light into her dark life. Pip keeps her friend secret from her mother for a while, but Ophelie soon finds out and, suspicious of the man's motives, forbids further contact. Ultimately though, Mattie is revealed to be a gentle and kindhearted man who also is mourning a personal loss and--more importantly--is single and eligible. Needless to say, things end happily. Kathleen Hughes Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Audible Audio Edition edition.

Love to read a book that makes me not want to put it down, and this one was one of those, will probably go back and read it again, finding that helps to enlighten others as to the enjoyment of the book!

I am a true "Danielle Steel" fan and I am attempting to read as many of her novel as possible. They touch on all emotions, but give you a feeling of calm as you read each one. Her novels take you all over the world and bring you to places in history, not found in history books.

Another great book by Danielle Steel. I always get very involved in her books. They really take me away to a quiet and peaceful place.

Good

Exciting. Up and down. Around an around. Love an always loving Love makes life worth living an hope makes love possible

I adore her stories. Reading this book let me escape from stress And just be free. Just when you think your finished, something happens & your off on another adventure.

This book was beautifully written, and I thoroughly enjoyed reading it. I especially enjoyed a couple of twists the author threw in that made the book even more interesting!

It was a great book that I couldn't wait to see how it would end. Definitely had some surprises in it! I highly recommend this book

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