



Fall from Grace

Danielle Steel

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From #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Danielle Steel comes the gripping story of a woman who loses everything—her husband, her home, her sense of self and safety, and her freedom.

Sydney Wells's perfect life with her wealthy, devoted husband vanishes when he dies suddenly in an accident. Widowed at forty-nine, she discovers he has failed to include her in his will. With Andrew's vicious daughters in control of his estate, and no home or money, Sydney finds a job in fashion, despite her own designer daughters' warnings. Naïve, out of her element, and alone in a world of shady international deals and dishonest people, she is set up by her boss and finds herself faced with criminal prosecution.

What happens when you lose everything? Husband, safety, protection, money, and reputation gone, faced with prison, she must rebuild her own life from the bottom to the top again, with honor, resourcefulness, and dignity. Sydney finds herself, as well as courage and resilience. Taking life by the horns, she revives her own career as a talented designer, from New York to Hong Kong, risking all in an exotic, unfamiliar world. She is determined to forge a new life she can be proud of.

Fall from Grace Details

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Author : Danielle Steel

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From Reader Review Fall from Grace for online ebook

Eve says

49-year-old Sydney Wells's secure life with her wealthy, devoted husband Andrew (56) vanishes when he dies suddenly in an accident. As her dead husband didn't update his will, then Sydney was left with nothing. She had never gotten along with Andrew's daughters from his first marriage, so her stepdaughters want her out of her house within 30 days.

What to do when you suddenly find yourself without the man you love but also homeless and penniless, with no recent job experience and no hope in sight?

I don't think there are too many books with the heroines who are in their late 40s/early 50s, so it was great to read about more mature heroine.

I liked the idea of this story and I wanted to see how Sydney can struggle through her ordeals and from her Fall from Grace but somehow it didn't quite capture me emotionally. The writing style was kind of...dry and emotionless. It felt like the writer just casually report the facts of a story, which is not the most interesting thing to read!

I was also annoyed by all those constant repetitions, about how Andrew left her with nothing, how her stepdaughters hated her, about 'knock-off' fashion, etc. Sometimes it felt like author didn't know where to go with this storyline, so she just filled the pages with lots of repetitions and double-talk. I also found it strange why a man would draw up a will when he's in his 30s but neglects to update once he has new wife and he's older. Also why Sydney did not continue with her designing career after she got married to Andrew? Its too early to retire in your early 30s, especially when your children are no longer toddlers. But I guess this story was a good reminder that things in life can change in a blink of an eye and its better to be prepared because things may change tomorrow.

BTW: If you are looking for books with the heroines who are in despair and has to rebuild their lives, then I suggest Susan Elizabeth Phillips, like Dream a Little Dream, Kiss an Angel, Call Me Irresistible, Ain't She Sweet, Natural Born Charmer. I think you will enjoy emotional roller coaster ride those stories give.

Sherri Thacker says

I predicted a lot of what was going to happen in this book before it happened. But that's ok. It was a quick read and I always love DS books!! Been reading her since the 80's.

Laura Rash says

As with every DS book, it's like comfort food to me. Always showing women with strength & courage. And maybe sometimes almost too perfect endings but I gobble them up like candy!

Kay Cardona says

Danielle Steel is my secret delight. I love her stories. Her characters face challenges and they are tough, they crumble and then overcome. Right always wins over wrong and good over bad..... maybe that's slightly

unrealistic, but it's as it should be. I enjoyed the book, I liked the characterization, there was the right amount of suspense.... a very enjoyable read.

Sam Still Reading says

Danielle Steel, without fail, always writes a cracking story. I never fail to be amazed or gasp out loud at the trials and tribulations she puts her characters through. While there is almost always a happy ending, the road to get there is full of hairpin bends and danger. Say what you want about her books, but I know I can continually rely on Danielle Steel to entertain me and take me to places I've never been.

Poor Sydney Wells, the heroine of Fall From Grace, is not exempted from the torment of Steel's characters. Things start off badly for her when her husband dies unexpectedly. The problem is, he never changed his will to include Sydney and her stepdaughters want her out – now. She's cast from a life of luxury to having very little in an instant. (If you're thinking, oh this is like The Duchess – it isn't. Completely different). Sydney is practical – she needs to liquidate what assets she has and re-join the workforce at 49. Fortunately, she happens to be sitting next to the owner of a cheap, 'knock-off' fashion house on a plane when it runs into trouble. Sydney spills the beans on her troubles and Paul Zeller offers her a job as a fashion designer. Her daughters are aghast at this and warn her not to, but it's the only job Sydney can get. She's not comfortable with copying designers' work so closely, but she makes a good friend working at Lady Louise. Sydney's life seems to be on the up, but everything comes crashing down again for her. This time she's portrayed as a criminal. Can she fight her way out again?

I thought the writing style was really strong in this book. Sometimes I've found Danielle Steel's books to be a bit halting in their sentences with occasionally big jumps in the narrative, but this was the best yet for me. It flowed really well and captured all the highs and lows of Sydney's life. The emotion was very well done as Sydney negotiates unfamiliar territory. I liked how even when she hit rock bottom, there was always an element of resolve in her character – how could she work through it? Sydney also wasn't your typical heroine – she's older, divorced and widowed. At a time when society sees women in their fifties as being past their use by date, Sydney bucks that trend in a combination of necessity and determination. You could argue that she should have ensured her husband changed his will after their marriage but if she did, we wouldn't have a story. (But in real life, make sure your affairs are up to date!)

Another great thing about Danielle Steel is the variety of topics and settings in her books. In Fall From Grace, we get a look inside the fashion world. It's good and bad with the glimpses into Fashion Week but also makes you consider the ethics around 'inspired by' fashion at cheap prices. Is it right to nearly copy designer pieces and sell them for lower prices? What about intellectual copyright? What about those who can't afford haute couture?

As always, this was a comfort read that doesn't disappoint.

Thank you to Pan Macmillan for the copy of this book. My review is honest.

<http://samstillreading.wordpress.com>

Amanda - Mrs B's Book Reviews says

*<https://mrsbbookreviews.wordpress.com>

International bestselling author Danielle Steel needs no introduction. Steel has over 100 plus published titles under her belt. She has sold billions of copies of her books across the globe. Steel's first release of 2018 is contemporary fiction novel titled, *Fall From Grace*. This new novel from Danielle Steel charts the rise, fall and resurrection of her lead protagonist, Sydney Wells.

Andrew and Sydney live an idyllic life together. They are surrounded by family, fortune, good friends and a wonderful home to match. All that changes in an instant when Andrew, a motorcycle enthusiast, crashes and is tragically killed in a traffic accident. Soon after Andrew has been laid to rest, Sydney learns she is being evicted from the home she shared with Andrew. Due to Andrew's failure to include Sydney in his will, all his assets immediately go to his two grown up daughters. Andrew's two daughters and Sydney have never seen eye to eye, so they quickly issue Sydney with an order to vacate their father's home in just thirty days. With nothing in Andrew's estate left to Sydney, she must now earn her own income. This leads Sydney to reconnect with her past career as a fashion designer, a job she has put on hold for the last sixteen years while she has shared her life with Andrew. It is daunting at first, returning to a career that has witnessed many changes, but Sydney takes it in her stride and life begins to look up. However, tragedy strikes again for Sydney when she becomes the innocent pawn in her employer's dodgy business dealings. Sydney is hit with criminal charges, along with a loss of income, a hefty lawyer's bill and damage to her personal reputation. Life couldn't get much worse for Sydney but she is determined to not let it get the better of her.

I grew up with Danielle Steel books in my childhood home. My mother was and still is a fan of Danielle Steel. It is a nice experience to continue the memories from my reading past and enjoy the new releases Danielle Steel has to offer. *Fall From Grace* is classic Danielle Steel. It is a story that involves one brave female protagonist and pits her against the odds, to see if she will sink or swim. I thoroughly enjoyed watching the lead of this novel, Sydney Wells rise above her difficult circumstances.

Danielle Steel's latest novel revolves around the life of primary protagonist Sydney Wells. Sydney is a well observed character. I felt like I knew her inside and out by the time I reached the close of this book. Sydney is a completely agreeable character and I found myself hoping that she would summon the personal strength to rise above the tragic set of circumstances that stood in her way. Sydney is supported by a cast of secondary characters who contribute well to the main narrative. I particularly liked Sydney's colleague and business partner Ed. I also grew fond of Sydney's two daughters and her love interest. Steel makes sure we get to know some unlikable or rogue characters in this book. Sydney's boss Paul earned my ire, along with Sydney's friend Veronica. I just wanted to slap this smug woman, who did nothing but tattletale!

True to form, the main complication of this narrative is Sydney's fall from grace, due to the loss of her husband, Andrew. The predicament Sydney finds herself in, the financial blow and the loss of her home, reminds us that we shouldn't take life for granted. It also gave me a gentle nudge in the right direction in regards to wills and making arrangements to ensure your property, as well as assets, go to the right people. Steel serves up plenty of hardships and difficult binds for her chief protagonist to muddle through.

Steel chooses to zone her latest novel in on the fashion world, through her main protagonist's career in fashion design. I found these elements of the narrative enlightening. Steel also debunks a few myths I had about the glitz and glamour of the fashion world. Instead, she strips it right back and reveals the uglier side to this world. It also provides her with the opportunity to set her characters off on a spot of international travel, as our lead chases fashion business opportunities in China and Hong Kong. Paris even gets a small mention, as our lead has an apartment there. However, the bulk of the action is set in the US.

Readers will find that *Fall From Grace* flows well. The dialogue has an authentic feel and the plot is agreeable. Any of Danielle Steel's books, including this one, will provide you with the perfect form of daytime, night time, weekend or holiday escape time. They also come with a nice resolution and this one is no exception to the norm. *Fall From Grace* is a light and entertaining read that I can safely say I enjoyed.

*I wish to thank Pan Macmillan for providing me with a free copy of this book for review purposes.

Melissa says

I usually read Danielle Steel books because they are quick, they don't require a lot of thought, and it's a nice palate cleanse before the next book, because it's so mindless. I mean, it's the same formula over and over again.

There are a few of her books that I have enjoyed immensely. This was not one of them.

It got real old, real quick. The writing is poor and simple. And repetitive. So repetitive. And there was clearly no research done. House arrest does not mean that you are locked in your house 24/7! You are allowed to leave for work and you are given so many hours a week for personal errands, eg. grocery shopping. That is just unrealistic and unbelievable and a quick google search would have given the facts to correct this.

And the oldest daughter, who has lost not only her real father but her stepfather, wants her mother to walk her down the aisle when she gets married, but the gay business partner doesn't think it'll look good to have 2 woman walk down the aisle together. So a guy who's been "dating" the mom for like 4 months offers to walk her down the aisle and everyone is ok with this? What the fuck. There is nothing wrong with your mother walking you down the aisle, but there's definitely something wrong with letting a stranger walk you down.

Ugh. This will be my last Danielle Steel book. They just keep getting worse.

Aditi says

"There is scarcely any passion without struggle."

----Albert Camus

Danielle Steel, the #1 bestselling author, is back with her new adult fiction book called, *Fall from Grace* that revolves around a mid-aged woman whose perfect life shatters when her husband dies but the worst part is that, after his death, she finds herself homeless and jobless. With little luck, she gets in the fashion industry, only to be falsely incriminated in a legal case by a trustworthy friend, despite her daughters' several warnings about her friend, but can she pick up the pieces of her life and rebuild it? Steele's new book will leave the readers heartbroken, as the protagonist's life is struck by one bad luck after another.

Synopsis:

From #1 New York Times bestselling author Danielle Steel comes the gripping story of a woman who loses everything—her husband, her home, her sense of self and safety, and her freedom.

Sydney Wells's perfect life with her wealthy, devoted husband vanishes when he dies suddenly in an accident. Widowed at forty-nine, she discovers he has failed to include her in his will. With Andrew's vicious daughters in control of his estate, and no home or money, Sydney finds a job in fashion, despite her own designer daughters' warnings. Naïve, out of her element, and alone in a world of shady international deals

and dishonest people, she is set up by her boss and finds herself faced with criminal prosecution.

What happens when you lose everything? Husband, safety, protection, money, and reputation gone, faced with prison, she must rebuild her own life from the bottom to the top again, with honor, resourcefulness, and dignity. Sydney finds herself, as well as courage and resilience. Taking life by the horns, she revives her own career as a talented designer, from New York to Hong Kong, risking all in an exotic, unfamiliar world. She is determined to forge a new life she can be proud of.

Sydney Well has a perfect life with an amazing husband, with two beautiful daughters of her own as well as two equally mean step daughters. Sadly, her perfect life comes crashing to the ground when her husband dies in an accident, leaving her penniless and homeless as his husband forgot to include her in his will. So Sydney finds herself looking for apartments as well as job in the fashion industry. But who is going to hire her, as Sydney has lost touch from this world a long time ago? And with little luck, she finds a job in the fashion industry through her new friend whom she met on a plane, who happens to be one of the notorious fashion mogul. Despite of her daughters' warnings, Sydney joins his fashion firm and within few months of working there, Sydney finds herself in more trouble, as she gets arrested for her boss's dirty work in the fashion line. So will Sydney be able to repair her fractured life or will she face more trouble? Grab a copy of the book now to find out more.

We often take our life for granted, especially, if we have money, car, house and security. But little did we think about the fact that life is unpredictable and it is actually short. As a result, we often forget to make sure our loved ones are secured for life long after we are gone. This message is strongly depicted by the author in this book, which will provoke the readers to take the right step not only for themselves but also for their loved ones. The protagonist here becomes the outcome of her husband's mistake to take life for granted and to delay the changes he needed to make in his will. And it is no doubt, heartbreaking, to see such a darling and courageous protagonist to be constantly thrown back against the hard wall, but it is also extremely empowering enough to see how her courage never once shakes.

The author's writing style is brilliant and is laced with deep, heartfelt emotions that will move its readers to their very core. The prose is eloquent and the plot line will only provoke the thoughts of its readers. Not only that, the story is very inspiring, as the author genuinely and sensitively portrays the odds in the life of the protagonist. The dialogues are free flowing and quite articulate and are easily comprehensible by the readers. The pacing is smooth and fast, as there are quite a few unpredictable turns that will keep the readers glued to the pages of this book till the very end. There are a handful of cliched moments while unfolding the love story in the background, that could have been easily avoided.

The characters in this book are extremely well developed with enough realism and flaws in their demeanor to make them look relatable in the eyes of the readers. The main character, Sydney, is painted with honesty and she can be an epitome for all the women facing similar odds in their lives. Even the supporting characters are so tastefully and convincingly penned with layers, flaws and all, that they will leave an impression in the minds of the readers.

In a nutshell, this is a very captivating, inspiring and heart touching contemporary tale depicting every day lives and how we should not take life for granted, only for the sake of our loved ones.

Verdict: *Family drama at its best!*

Max "Mr Divabetic" Szadek says

'Fall from Grace' is the literary equivalent to 'cool whip'. Light, fluffy and not very nutritionally healthy for your brain. The main reason I picked it up was to find out why Danielle Steele's legion of loyal fans are so enthusiastic about her novels. No one can deny that Danielle Steel has sold 650 million copies of her books internationally, and every one of her books is a bestseller. She is published in 69 countries and 43 languages but why? After reading this book I concluded people want quick, easy reads with happy endings. Like an episode of 'Housewives' without the fighting, cursing, backstabbing, etc but with still filled with pages of plenty of eyeliner. I did enjoy details about how Hong Kong has emerged as a fashion capital and just how much work it takes to work in fashion. But when the heroine wears head to toe off-white cashmere while preparing Thanksgiving dinner in two room apartment in NYC you can pretty much guarantee that she'll always land on her feet. No surprise.

Suzanne says

Danielle Steel can weave a story of any kind. They might not be the most in depth stories but they are a great way to spend an evening/afternoon. In this one, she steps away from the whole evil stepmother takes everything after a death, and instead paints a picture of two unsavory step-daughters inheriting everything after the untimely death of their father (who never thought to get around to updating his will). The stepdaughters do play a large part in the plot but luckily we don't have to read their interactions much. Sydney is a great character and though one of her daughters does test readers' likability, overall both daughters will be loved by readers. This is an inspiring book that follows a woman gain her dignity, career, and life back after tragedy; with some aim at the injustice of the justice system.

My quick and simple overall: strong female character whose story and trials are uplifting.

Jamie (Books and Ladders) says

See this review and more on Books and Ladders!

Actual Rating: 2.5*

This started out okay but as it progressed made me kinda angry. I don't like reading about Perfect People who have "Bad" Things happen to them but there are zero consequences. And they also only ever have things happen TO them, they never do anything wrong. As I said in one of my status updates, this isn't a fall from grace, this was knowingly jumping out of a plane with a parachute.

Tim says

Whoa is me. Incredibly depressing with a weak ending. 1 of 10 stars

Debbie says

This is about a woman who had a happy marriage when her husband suddenly dies and never updated his will. We share her trial and tribulations as she joins the workforce and has a real scum as a boss. Her strength and character pull her through!

Jean Cable says

Interesting read with a couple of good twists.

Denise says

Danielle Steel has crafted an entertaining read with real characters. There are a few surprise twists and a conclusion that shouts sequel. 4 stars for this summer, beach, travel read.
