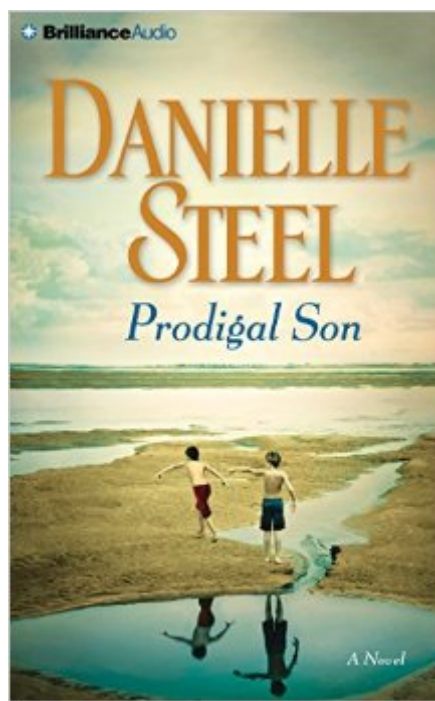


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# Prodigal Son: A Novel



## Synopsis

Twin boys grow up in the same family, in the same town. Dramatically different, they become bitter enemies, even as children: one good, one bad. One leaves his peaceful hometown, but when all else fails, the prodigal son returns, twenty years later. The reunion of brothers, sweet and healing at first, exposes shattering revelations of good and evil. #1 New York Times bestselling author Danielle Steel tells a brilliant, suspenseful story of suspicion, betrayal, and a life-and-death struggle for survival. Which twin is good and which is evil, as the tables turn again and again?

**PRODIGAL SON**

In a matter of days, Peter McDowell loses everything he has worked so hard for—his wealth, his property, his livelihood as a star investment banker. And then it gets worse. The stock market crash not only plunges Peter into joblessness, it causes a rift in his marriage that he cannot repair. Stripped of everything, he has only one place to retreat: a lakeside cottage he inherited from his parents, who left most of their modest estate to Peter's twin. With no other choice, the prodigal son goes home. A beloved small-town doctor, a devoted family man, and a pillar of his community, Michael McDowell serves others without regard to personal gain. Only Peter knows how Michael manipulated their parents when the boys were young, ultimately driving Peter away. At first, he dreads seeing Michael again. But, to his surprise, their reunion is tender and real. Only later, as Peter mulls over his late mother's journals, does the truth begin to emerge, as realization and panic set in. Who is his twin? Is the façade real, or does something terrifying lie beneath? Imagination or a reality too terrifying to believe?

In a race for time, Peter throws caution to the winds to find the truth. What he discovers will change their lives, the lives of their children, and an entire town forever. Powerful, poignant, and filled with complex and layered characters, *Prodigal Son* is a riveting novel of secrets, salvation, and redemption from master storyteller Danielle Steel.

## Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Brilliance Audio; Abridged edition (February 24, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1455833568

ISBN-13: 978-1455833566

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.8 x 5.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars — See all reviews — (1,691 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,040,572 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 in Books > Books on CD >

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inÂ Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > General

## Customer Reviews

Prodigal Son is the story about two brothers who are at odds with each other and have been for their entire lives. When they were growing up Peter was always the "bad" son... constantly causing trouble and bringing heartache to their parents. Michael was the "good" twin... kind, well behaved and an excellent student. Anxious to escape the constant criticism and continued comparison to his perfect brother, Peter leaves his family to build a successful life for himself in New York and he never looks back. Michael stays behind, joins his father's medical practice and becomes the town's much beloved doctor who dedicates himself to his patients, his two children and his frail, bed ridden wife. But when Peter loses everything in the stock market crash he decides to return home and in doing so sets off a chain of events that will bring him, his brother, Michael's family and even the citizens of this small town to its knees. Steel has written an engaging tale about the dynamics that exist between siblings when one is favored over the other as well as how easy it is for a person with sociopathic tendencies to manipulate the people around them. As Peter gets to know his brother and sister-in-law Maggie again after all these years, he is thrilled that things seem to be better between him and Michael. But after Peter meets his nephew Bill, things start to unravel and suddenly it's hard to tell what's real and what isn't... and before long Peter is questioning everything he thought he knew about the past and his relationship with his brother. I enjoyed this story and found Peter's character to be very appealing in the way he handles all the changes in his life, especially after he reconnects with his brother.

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