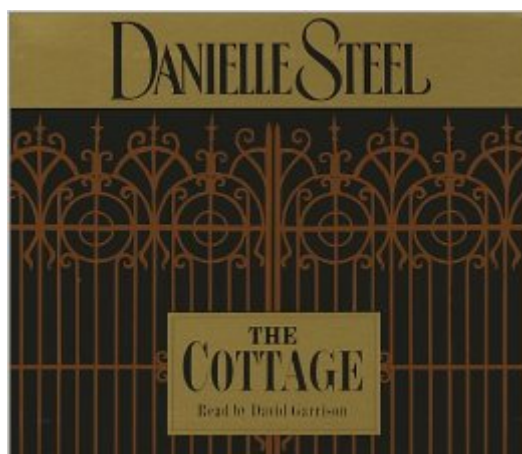


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The Cottage (Danielle Steel)



Synopsis

In her fifty-fourth bestselling novel, DANIELLE STEEL weaves a compelling story of fame and friendship, charmed lives and private struggles...and of three very different men whose lives converge and collide at The Cottage. On a sunny day in Hollywood, a gleaming Rolls-Royce convertible pulls through the gates of the magnificent estate known as The Cottage. Modeled after the cottages of Newport, Rhode Island, the spacious, elegant property, sitting on fourteen acres of lush Bel Air, fits its owner to a T. For the man behind the wheel of the Rolls is Hollywood's ageless wonder, Cooper Winslow. A star of the silver screen for decades, a man whose allure to women is the stuff of legend, Coop exudes grace, charm, and old-fashioned style. But today Coop Winslow is in for a major surprise. He's broke. And with no major roles coming his way, Coop is faced with the heartbreaking prospect of selling his beloved home of forty years, or at least renting out the gatehouse and part of the main house. A huge blow to Coop, whose debonair attitude allows him to escape reality much of the time. His new tenants, Mark Friedman and Jimmy O'Connor, are busy coping with problems of their own. Mark's wife of sixteen years just walked out, and Jimmy recently lost his own wife to a devastating illness. But everything changes when Mark's teenage son and daughter move in. Suddenly, The Cottage is transformed, with music blasting from every corner, teenagers on skateboards crashing into vintage cars, and a never-ending parade of young starlets streaming in and out to visit Coop. But amid all the noise and the chaos, something unexpected is happening. Three men who never would have met are becoming friends...and each man finds himself changing in surprising ways, Coop most of all. Because beneath the dazzle and flash, the impeccably tailored suits and the sheer bravado, is a man trying to keep control of his carefully ordered world "a world that is becoming more and more unpredictable with each passing day. First, a tabloid scandal erupts, threatening Coop's budding romance with a wealthy debutante....A stranger approaches Coop with stunning news....A devastating accident almost claims the life of one of the housemates....And in the midst of it all, The Cottage welcomes a new houseguest with a secret of her own, who will change Coop's life in unexpected ways. Because among the people who share his cottage and his life, Coop Winslow "loner, bachelor, movie star" may find the rarest of all opportunities: a chance to build a happiness he could never have dreamed of on his own, and to become the kind of human being he has never been. Against a glittering backdrop of celebrity and glamour, DANIELLE STEEL digs deeper to tell a story of friendship and love, tragedy and second chances...of the choices and unexpected turns of fate that can shape characters and lives. From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

I am a devoted reader of Danielle Steel that is why when I finished this book I was truly disappointed. She chose to have Coop as the main character, a character that I found extremely selfish and way to old (70 to be precise) to be able to change so drastically. She then hooks him up with a 29 year old doctor, Alex. Okay Ms. Steel I can understand 10-15 years difference but 40 that is just [not right]! The book did not hold that much substance and this is why she is constantly repeating the same scenarios and doubts. I was expecting a lot more from such a great author. Hopefully her next one will be better.

I had not read Danielle Steel in several years. I found *The Cottage* to be shallow, implausible, and completely predictable. I was very disappointed with this work.

Cooper Winslow is a movie star that is as big as life. At the age of 70 it has been years since he has been able to get a part that will sustain his wild spending sprees, and grandiose lifestyle. His accountant is about to come up with a solution, and Coop isn't too happy with the lengths he will have to go to save *The Cottage*, a magnificent mansion that he has called home since his earlier years. As Coop is forced to take in borders the lives of three men become entwined in what will be an interesting as well as productive outcome. Like all of Steel's books we have a romance or two in the making, and the reader enjoys the emotional impact this imparts. Coop thinks he finds love, and then questions his motive, something new for him after a lifetime of playful young starlets. Jimmy

has to find his life again after a tragedy that will never leave him the same, and Mark is dealing with the break up of his family, and the confusion that has become his children's life. The characters are likable, and I found myself rooting for them from time to time. This was a predictable book like most of this author's books yet enjoyable none-the-less. The pleasure was in the journey, and not the expected ending. It was a fun read to end my summer. Kelsana 8/30/02

We all read Steele to escape from reality but this storyline is too far out there. We're expected to believe that a neonatal doctor would support abortion of her lover's child, that a woman might find happiness with the lover of her future daughter-in-law, and that a long lost daughter would instantly bond with a self-centered father that never knew she existed. I don't think so. This is the last Steele I'll read for sometime to come.

This is the first DS book that I have read in about 20 years & it made me realize why did I try again??????? Can I really find a book centered around a 70 year old male stud-muffin real? I wonder to myself if anyone has ever portrayed a 70 year old female stud muffin? I would hope as we age we would like to be portrayed with a bit more substance. Coop only dates 20 something's. He has a 20 something porn star black-mailing him that she is pregnant with his child. This doesn't bother his new girlfriend, an (early 30's) resident Pediatrician, who works in ICU with preemies at all, who tells him to "have her get an abortion". A bit too blasphemous for me. Coop is supposed to be unbelievable beautiful & sexy. I had a hard time getting into this premise. The way DS totally changes his character toward the end is unbelievable. Everyone falls in love all of the sudden with the other characters. Every character is, of course, extremely wealthy (even though several are hiding it). Most characters are extremely beautiful & look many years younger than they are. I realize we read to escape but this was a bit too much even for DS.

I enjoyed reading about three men whose lives are torn apart and how they come together to build new lives. Having three different stories meld into one gave the book a great deal of variety, and made it more interesting than stories with just one person's struggle to regain a place in society. And a mix of young people with older main characters adds added interest. All in all, it was an excellent account of broken lives being repaired.

I've been a fan of Danielle Steel for many years and have always enjoyed her stories. Of course, some more than others. I found this one to be lacking in depth and predictable but still an enjoyable

read.

I go back and forth with Danielle Steele's books. Some I love, others are ho-hum, and some have such implausible plots that I don't even bother to finish reading them. "The Cottage" is one of the better books Ms. Steele has written in a while. The characters are well-developed and, for the most part, likable; the dialog is fun; and the story keeps you interested with its various twists and turns. I did have problems in a few chapters, and found myself asking questions like these: How can a man who just lost the wife, whom he professed to be the love of his life, fall deeply in love with another woman not even six months after his wife's death? How can a father and his child bond so swiftly and completely when they knew nothing of each other's existence for 39 years? How can a well-educated, independent woman put up with the egocentricities and obnoxious behavior of a man old enough to be her grandfather? I have to be in the right frame of mind for a Steele book: A hard day at the office, and a need to chill out with some light reading set me on to this book. Although I did say, "Oh c'mon," in several spots, I enjoyed it.

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