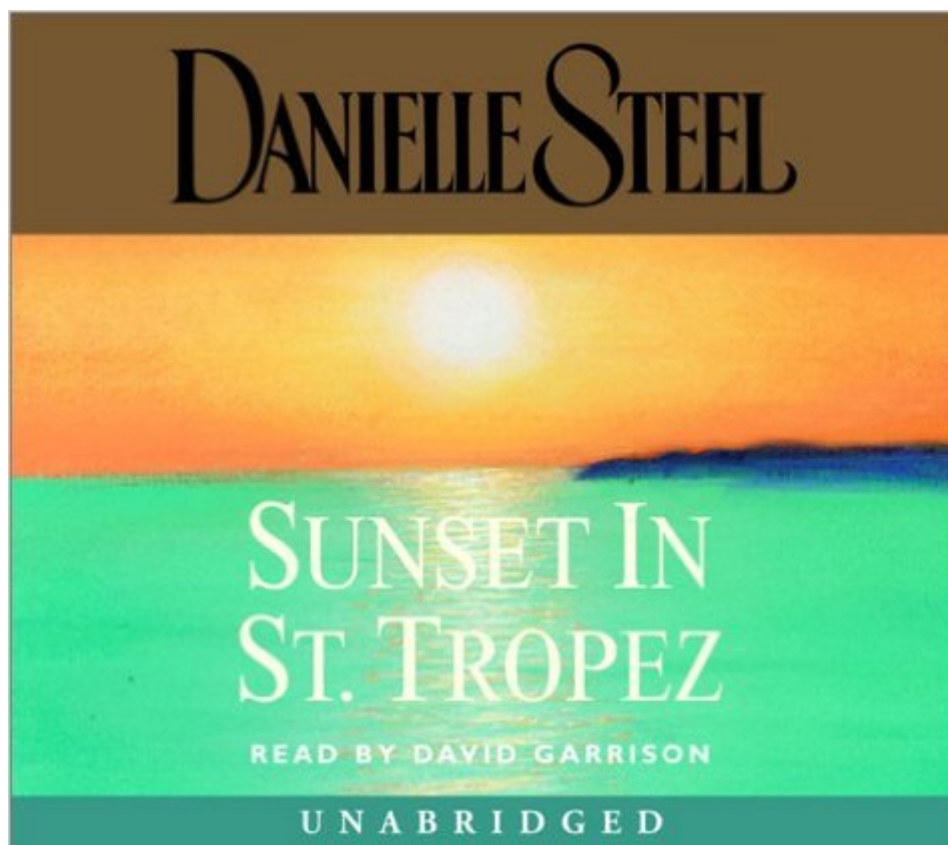


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Sunset In St. Tropez (Danielle Steel)



Synopsis

In her 55th bestselling novel, Danielle Steel explores the seasons of an extraordinary friendship, weaving the story of three couples, lifelong friends, for whom a month's holiday in St. Tropez becomes a summer of change, revelation, secrets, surprises, and new beginnings . . . As Diana Morrison laid the table for six at her elegant Central Park apartment, there was no warning of what was to come. Spending New Year's Eve together was a sacred tradition for Diana, her husband of thirty-two years, Eric, and their best friends, Pascale and John Donnally and Anne and Robert Smith. The future looked rosy as the long-time friends sipped champagne and talked of renting a villa together in the South of France the following summer. But life had other plans . . . Just two weeks after New Year's, tragedy strikes the heart of their close circle, as Robert Smith suffers a sudden, unexpected loss. Without hesitation, Diana and Eric, Pascale and John rally to his side, united in their support, love, and shared grief. Convinced that a change of scenery is just what Robert needs, they urge him to join them on the Riviera in August. But as they soon discover, the ramshackle old mansion they rented in St. Tropez--sight unseen--is far different from the exquisite villa and sun-drenched gardens touted in the brochure. Cobwebs hang from the ceiling. Beds collapse beneath them. All while a would-be housekeeper in a leopard-skin bikini and six-inch heels sashays through the house with a trio of yapping poodles at her heels. But the biggest surprise of all is the woman Robert invites to the villa as his guest--a lovely, much-younger film actress with mile-long legs and a million-dollar smile. Diana and Pascale hate her on sight. But the men are dazzled. And amid the crumbling furniture and the glorious sunsets, the strained relationships and the acts of forgiveness, more surprises are in store for the villa's occupants. With the last days of summer fast approaching, each couple finds themselves changing in unexpected ways, as old wounds are healed, new love discovered, and miracles unfold...all beneath the dazzling sun of St. Tropez. By turns wise and moving, heartbreaking and wickedly funny, Danielle Steel's new novel is about forgiving without forgetting, about the sorrow that shadows our lives and the hope that saves us. And it is about once-in-a-lifetime friendships . . . the kind that heal, sustain, and change us forever. From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

This book was a complete and utter waste of time. The storyline is totally predictable and very shallow. There is basically no character development and no plot. The editing was terrible as the writing was redundant in many places. It was just not enjoyable reading at all. I cannot believe this was even published. I haven't read Danielle Steele in quite a while and - after reading this - I'm not going to bother with her books in the future.

I have been reading Danielle Steel's books since her very first in 1979; I have all of them in hardcover. I received this book several days ago and I finished it in just a few days. I don't want to reveal the plot because I want you to read the book, but I found it to be easy reading, enjoyable and just as fun as the way she wrote in the beginning. It is a cannot-put-it-down book about three couples, all whom you would like immediately and wish you had them as friends. She has a wonderful way of getting you to like the people she writes about; always making most of them to be not only beautiful in body but in mind and soul. Ms. Steel must basically be a wonderful and heartwarming person herself. I always look forward to each and every book she writes. I am sure you won't be disappointed.

I've read all of Danielle Steele's books. However, this one was so predictable. I'm starting to find her books very boring. Put it this way I will never purchase any more of her books. My favorites were The Ring, Jewel and Heartbeat to name only a few. At one time I couldn't wait for her new book to come out. Before this book and the one before that she was one of my favorite authors ... now I really can't say.

The reason I bought this book was because I wanted to get a taste of what St. Tropez was really

like. I wanted to "go" there in my mind. What I got was a book about three late middle-aged couples and the various issues in their relationships. I suppose there is an audience out there who would appreciate this book, but I am 40 and was bored to death. I did catch the names a few places to visit in St. Tropez (if they are real), but I couldn't really tell you much of anything about the French Riviera other than it is on the Mediterranean Sea and rich people go there to vacation. Danielle Steel has done much better writing in her former days. I feel like she got lazy on this novel and threw something together to sell a book. The ending is so ridiculous (even for romance novels) that I hope somebody stops Ms. Steel, before she strikes (writes) again.

Sunset in St. Tropez is the story of six friends (three married couples) who have a long-lasting friendship. On New Year's Eve they decide to take a vacation to St. Tropez for a month in the summer. Then unexpectedly Anne, one of the six friends, dies and the rest of the group has to decide whether or not to go. Thanks to a non-refundable deposit they go ahead and go to make the best of their vacation and also to honor their friend's memory. Once they arrive at St. Tropez the book takes on a humorous quality. All in all this book was very good. It was entertaining while exploring the issue of death among a group of friends. The widower announces he is bringing a friend along with him and this creates a conflict among the other friends. They feel like they can't accept the friend because it would be a dishonor to their deceased friend. I thought this aspect of the book was well written. It explores the whole issue of how people move on after a death and how they honor and treasure the memory of the deceased. The housekeeper and her husband added a very humorous quality to the book. Sunset in St. Tropez is by no means a deep, thought provoking book but neither is it a comedy. It is a well-blended combination of seriousness with just enough humor to make it a great vacation or weekend read. I was able to read this book within one day, which seems to be a rarity with DS books anymore. If you haven't liked previous DS books please give this one a try. I think you'll enjoy it.

Yet another novel that Ms. Steele seems to have written in one evening. She just keeps pumpin' out, doesn't she? Her earlier work seemed a lot better to me, like she put some thought into them. Now it appears that she has a formula, perhaps a program in her computer. She changes people and locations but everything else is the same. The thing that always amazes me about Danielle Steele is that her books are such best sellers while they should have only been circulated amongst the "romance novel" set! Every time I read one of her books I tell myself that this is the last one I am going to read. But I continue to punish myself. Of course they are such fast reads that I really don't

invest any time in them, but still...This one is particularly grim. The characters are so one-dimensional that I got thirsty! They are so uninteresting as a group that they deserve each other. Are there really people like these out there in the world? I doubt it but, if there are, I certainly don't want to meet them. One minute the guy whose wife died is so grief stricken you think he just might kill himself, the next he's frolicking around with a woman young enough to be his daughter and is in love with her. One minute all the woman's friends snub the actress, the next they embrace her with open arms (of course she had to wow them with her movie star friends and save a life first). One minute a character is so devastated by her husband's infidelity that she is going to divorce him, the next she's forgiven him (after having considered the words of advise from the actress). All this in four weeks. Amazing. People will continue to buy and read Ms. Steele's books as long as she writes them. Maybe having a hard cover book makes the reader feel more intelligent than carrying around a paperback. But why bother? Might as well just give in and read the "romance" books. Same thing. But, as I said, I still read them, so what does that say about me?

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