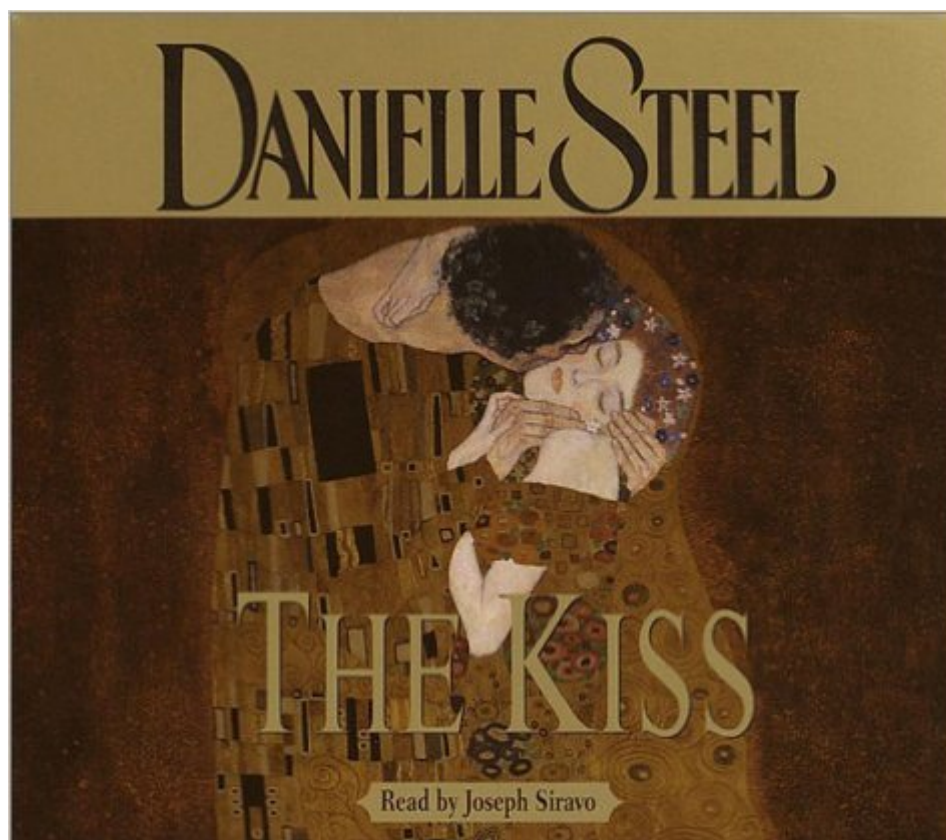


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The Kiss (Danielle Steel)



Synopsis

On a warm June evening, a red double-decker bus, full of passengers, speeds down a London street. A few blocks away, a man and a woman climb into a limousine, reveling in a magical evening of dancing and champagne. As their driver pulls into an intersection, the couple shares their first, searching kiss. For a moment, etched in time, all stands still-until, in a flash of metal and glass, their limousine is struck at full speed, crushed under the bus' tremendous weight. And a long journey begins-toward healing, toward hope, toward dreams of an infinite future... Isabelle Forrester is the exquisite wife of a prominent Parisian banker who has long since shut her out of his heart. For lonely years, Isabelle has lived a life of isolation, pouring her passions into caring for her desperately ill son, Teddy, and into making their Paris home as happy as possible for her teenage daughter, Sophie. Isabelle allows herself one secret pleasure: a long-distance friendship by telephone with an American man, a Washington power broker who travels in the highest circles of politics and who, like Isabelle, is trapped in an empty marriage. To Bill Robinson, Isabelle is a godsend, a woman of extraordinary beauty and intellectual curiosity-a kindred spirit who touches him across the miles with her warmth and gentle empathy. Their relationship is a gift, a lifeline that sustains them both through the heartache of marriages they cannot leave and will not betray. Agreeing to meet for a few precious, innocent days in London, Isabelle and Bill find their friendship changing. Then, amid the sudden crash of steel against steel, they are thrust onto a new path, a path fraught with pain but also with possibility. Now, inside the cool, sterile wards of a London hospital, Isabelle and Bill cling to life, their bodies shattered beyond repair. In the days and weeks that follow, they slowly, painfully traverse a road to recovery littered with challenges of body, spirit, and heart. Together, they must find the strength not only to embrace life again but to face what they have left behind. For Isabelle, a loveless marriage turns into a brutal power struggle. For Bill, a time of healing exposes wounds that cut deeper than steel and realities that will test him to the core. For both, a tangle of changing relationships and the tragedy of another loss conspire to separate them once again. And this time they could lose each other forever. In a novel that is as compelling as it is passionate, Danielle Steel weaves a story of courage in the face of unimaginable loss. With the grace of a master storyteller, she explores the strength it takes to conquer our greatest fears, showing us how the toughest choices can yield the most unexpected rewards...and how the longest, most winding journeys can begin with a single kiss.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I started reading this book the minute I got it. I so look forward to reading her novels. This one kept me so intrigued it was hard to put it down and tend to my families' needs. I felt like I was right there with the characters with all the happenings. The first kiss was so magical and holds them on after the tragedy. I still cannot believe that Isabelle's husband could be so cold and heartless. Isabelle was so good to her family and her wifely duties that sometimes, I got so frustrated with her husband being a real "jerk" and having no heart when it came to his own son. The Love affair was written very true to reality, yet was not "smutty" at all, true to a Danielle Steel novel. Bill and Isabelle were in love and Bill's reactions to his body afterwards is so very true to reality. I see it all the time as I am a RN. I loved it having a happy ending and that all the characters got what they deserved. I recommend this novel to all Danielle Steel fans and romance readers.

Isabelle Forrester and Bill Robinson live in different continents but carry on a friendship via the telephone and a few visits here and there for four years. Isabelle stays at home with her sick child Teddy and her hateful husband. Bill is in a loveless marriage and doesn't want to get divorced because he's afraid it will hurt his career. Isabelle and Bill decide to meet in London for a few days to spend some time together. While in London they share a passionate kiss while at practically the same moment their limousine is hit by a double-decker bus. Their lives are forever changed. The Kiss is an OK read. The characters are well developed and the storyline for the most part is good. However, there are some parts that are a little far-fetched, such as Bill's hospital bed being wheeled into Isabelle's room everyday. The story seems to get stuck at times and the same details are

repeated, which seems to be becoming a habit for Ms. Steel. But, once you get past the repetitive parts the story picks up and is interesting and easy to read. The reader is anxious to get to the end to see how the story ends. This is not one of Ms. Steel's best books but is OK to pass the time reading. A nice change of pace and escape in today's world.

I used to read DS all the time, but have slowly weaned myself off when it occurred to me that her books all followed the same basic plotline, and as a result are painfully predictable. The female character goes through pure hell before emerging victorious with the man of her dreams. Nothing wrong with books addressing women overcoming adversity, but with her the woman is always perfect, nice, loving, she does no wrong to anyone--it's just that life has handed her a bad hand. And usually it's an awful (sometimes unbelievable) hand. Hence this pattern continues with "The Kiss" except, this was worst than most. Many people in these reviews point to Steele's repetitiveness, and I can't not agree more. Does she think we didn't catch it the first 30 times she mentioned that Timmy was sick, her husband [is horrible], and she loves Bill? I skimmed through some parts that just repeated things... I have a feeling Ms. Steele made use of the "Copy and Paste" feature on her word file (ha!) The predictable (and boring) ending was such a disappointment... all of a sudden after being so stubborn he turns around and decides he wants her. Not a lot of fluidity. Hope Steele sees this...

Like many others, I found the constant repetition VERY tiresome. I skimmed a lot in this book, and read it much more quickly than I normally would a book of this length. I figure she probably could have cut about 150 pages with all the repetition! And to make Bill such a jerk after they're out of the hospital is just dumb. He seemed *much* more intelligent than that. I realize people react after such a horrible thing happens to them, but it seemed out of character. Danielle Steel still tells a good story, but her stories are getting bogged down in her words. We don't need to be told over and over and over that Isabelle's son is sick and that's why she would never leave the idiot of a husband she has. We don't need to be told over and over and over again how they feel about each other, or any of the other things she repeats ad nauseum throughout the book. I hope Danielle Steel reads reviews on sites such as these. The repetition has been an ongoing problem in her last several books.

I have been a fan of Danielle Steel for many years... I have read all her books, and I wait patiently for each new book to come out so I can run out to buy it. The past few books I have been disappointed, feeling like it is not her normal quality great story. In fact, after I would read her book, I would tell

myself that the next book I would get at the library or wait until it went to paperback (but of course, I always end up running to the bookstore to buy it when it is released). So I wasn't sure what to expect from *The Kiss*. I was very pleased. While showing how horrible both Isabelle and Bill's marriage are, making us hate their spouses, you feel the love and the bond that Isabelle and Bill have for each other. You fall in love with their love, and stand behind them while they fight for their lives, and for their love. I finished this book even more excited for her next book to be released. Thank you Danielle, for showing us why we fell in love with your writing!

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