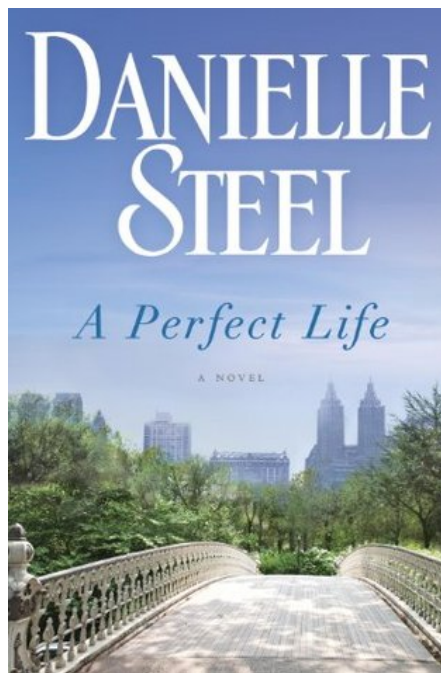




A Perfect Life

Danielle Steel

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From #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Danielle Steel comes a heartwarming and inspirational novel about a mother and daughter who face challenges, cope with celebrity, and overcome tragedy while maintaining the outward appearance of *A Perfect Life*.

The epitome of intelligence, high-powered energy, beauty, and grace, Blaise McCarthy is an icon in the world of television news, asking the tough questions and taking on the emotionally charged issues of world news and politics with courage and insight. A single mother, she manages her well-ordered career meticulously, always prepared on the news or interviewing world-renowned figures and heads of state. To her audience, Blaise seems to have it all. But privately, and off the set, there is another untold story she has kept hidden for years.

Blaise's teenage daughter, Salima, was blinded by Type 1 diabetes in childhood, and her needs have kept her away in a year-round boarding school with full-time medical care and assistance ever since. When Salima's school closes after a tragedy, Salima returns to her mother's New York City apartment, and suddenly they face challenges they've never had to deal with before, and that Blaise feels ill-equipped to handle. A new caretaker provided by Salima's school creates as many problems as he solves. Handsome, accomplished, thirty-two-year-old Simon Ward, with strong opinions on every topic, questions how mother and daughter view themselves and each other. Simon opens new doors for both of them and refuses to accept Salima's physical limitations. He turns their world upside down, and the three become friends.

Then everything starts to unravel and Blaise can't keep her two worlds separate anymore. A beautiful young anchorwoman is hired at the network; it is no secret that she is being groomed to take Blaise's place. Her career as she has known it is threatened, and her previously well-ordered life feels totally out of control. For the first time, Blaise's life is not perfect, but real.

In this unforgettable tale, the incomparable Danielle Steel has written a novel that pulsates with emotion and honesty as three people face the truth about themselves. *A Perfect Life* is about what we do when facades fall away and we can no longer run from the truth. As old ideas fail, everything changes, and life is suddenly brand new.

A Perfect Life Details

Date : Published July 15th 2014 by Delacorte Press (first published January 1st 2014)

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Author : Danielle Steel

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Genre : Romance, Fiction

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From Reader Review A Perfect Life for online ebook

Leigh says

I wonder if I am getting too old for these books. They don't seem to hold my interest as they once did. A part of me was worried about this book when the daughter was described as a type one diabetic. My mother is also a type one diabetic and has been since she was a young girl, so I wondered how Danielle Steel would explain the disease. I'll get to that later. Let's begin with the main character. I can only describe Blaise as a red headed Barbara Walters. World famous, known for her TV specials, interviewing world leaders, celebrities, the best of the best, top of her profession. Much like Barbara Walters, Blaise also has a string of husbands and lovers in her past and a darling daughter. Unlike Ms. Walters Blaise has shipped her daughter off to a school somewhere else. The daughter and diabetic, Salima is also blind and basically lives like an invalid, not even able to put her own toothpaste on her toothbrush. Her mother basically wants her to be helpless, because everyone who is blind or has diabetes can't live a normal independent life. Salima has all the makings of a spoiled brat. I can't blame her though, I mean if my father was ashamed of me for having an incurable disease and my mother was too busy with her career to worry much about me I would act out too. Salima is forced to move back home when her caretaker dies suddenly. There is a new caretaker around who seems to have a brain in his head and decides that Salima can live an independent life and begins to make both women see that. The inevitable romance occurs between Blaise and the new caretaker with the predictable ending, an ending I frankly am tired of seeing when I read Danielle Steel books, but that's just me. One of these days I will quit these books for good, but old habits continue to die hard.

Alyssa says

I can't even believe how poorly this book was written. I have a broken arm and my concentration level isn't where it normally is, so I wanted something really light and I figured I'd give Danielle Steel a shot. I may have read something by her years ago, but I can't remember. I figured she'd written so many popular books that she must be a great storyteller. I couldn't have been more wrong. The writing was completely abysmal. Perspective changed multiple time on the page, to the point you couldn't even tell who is talking. Who even thinks like that? Minor details were repeated over and over for no apparent reason. And despite the drama of the characters, they were boring and fairly unremarkable and boring people. Never again.

Kookie9200 says

I've been reading Danielle Steel books since I was a teenager, and I've loved them. She has some truly great reads. This is not one of them. The story is tired and predictable. Strong, overachieving female character has the perfect, cosmopolitan life and doesn't need a man. That is, until she meets one. I have to say, I DESPISED Blaise. I'm supposed to admire a woman that has put her career over every facet in her life, including her child? No, thanks. For me, she wasn't admirable, and my ire for her only rose as I realized how she'd made sure to completely rendered her daughter helpless on top of sending her away to a special school so she wouldn't have to deal with the realities of her illness. That may not be how Ms. Steel intended Blaise to be seen, but it is how she came across to me. As much as I love her books, I feel like the last few have been really reaching. The plots are mundane and predictable and I don't feel the fire and passion that I once did when I read her books. I hope she snaps out of this streak, because I do enjoy her writing.

Desiree Watson says

Blaise McCarthy is a world renowned journalist. When her daughter Selima, (who is blind), has to come home from private school because of the death of her caretaker, she is devastated. They have no one else to send home with Delima e crept for a man. (Simon). Blaise and Selima are both adamant about not having a man in the home, but since there is no one else to send besides Simon, they have to accept him.

In time, Blaise and Selima come to love and accept Simon. Blaise and Simon secretly begin an affair and fall in love. They come to a rough patch, work through it and Blaise gets pregnant and gives birth to a healthy baby. Selima is not dependent on Simon as much as she was in the beginning and goes on to Juilliard School of Music. Read: July 2015

Debbie says

Typical DS writing of late. Is she phoning these in now? I had figured out the (flimsy) plot about 10 pages into the book. Of course Blaise, the main character, was beautiful, successful, blah, blah, blah. Of course she's been unlucky in love before. And of course she's wealthy enough to afford not only a decent size apartment in NYC, but can keep her blind, diabetic daughter at a high class private school. Don't waste your time reading this crap.

That said, I used to love DS's books many years back when they had interesting plots and well-developed characters. Several were set around WWII, and those were good stories. Her recent books don't come close.

Jessica says

-maybe spoilers?-

This will be my first and last Danielle Steel book I read. I didn't think it was well written and it was extremely predictable. While I don't need characters to suffer to enjoy a book some conflict would have been nice. I feel like Blaise led a too perfect life and got pretty much everything she wanted which makes for a really boring read. Also, if Blaise or anyone mentioned the age difference ONE MORE TIME I was going to pull my hair out. It was too overused and not as taboo as anyone would think nowadays. Blaise started out a strong character but soon unraveled into a woman who just couldn't seem to function without a man and those characters always, without fail, rub me the wrong way.

Tyna says

Danielle Steel are incredibilul talent de a ?ese pove?ti de via?? complexe, cu bune ?i cu rele, toate con?inând un mesaj important. Personajele ei sunt departe de a fi perfecte, toate au mici defecte, dar ?i multe calit??i, care le confer? unicitate ?i le fac cu atât mai veridice.

O via?? perfect? m-a încântat prin mesajul transmis, anume c? nu conteaz? aparen?ele ci fiecare trebuie s? se descopere pe sine însu?i ?i s? aleag? ceea ce i se potrive?te, indiferent de prejudec??i sau de p?rerile celorlal?i. Povestea de dragoste este ?i ea una deosebit?, dintre un cuplu cu totul atipic, ea fiind mai în vârst?

cu cincisprezece ani decât el.

O carte caldă și sensibilă, ce îți demonstrează că viața poate produce mici miracole tocmai când te aștepti mai puțin, pe care o recomand cu mult drag tuturor iubitorilor de romance!

Recenzia mea:

<https://www.delicateseliterare.ro/o-v...>

Minty McBunny says

While this is certainly not the worst Danielle Steel book I have read, it is definitely the most poorly edited. I don't know who was asleep at the switch, but there are sentences in here where the syntax doesn't match, where she clearly went back and changed the context in one part of the paragraph but not the other and no one caught it. It was quite a distraction, but not the author's fault.

Other than that, it was pretty much what I expect from Steel, no surprises but decently readable unlike some of her recent novels. To me her books are like mental potato chips, something to put in me when I'm bored and just snacking to occupy my time as opposed to sitting down to a literary meal that will actually nourish my brain and/or heart.

Kathy Saunders says

Lately the same formula for all of her books the last few years—a high powered successful woman who is older than the man she becomes involved with, an unexpected pregnancy. This is a summer read and I'll continue to read her books but wish she would get back to her history oriented books centering in Europe or elsewhere.

Blaise McCarthy a single mother who managed her well-ordered career meticulously, always prepared on the air or interviewing world-renowned figures and heads of state. To her audience, Blaise seems to have it all. But privately, there is another untold story she has kept hidden for years.

Blaise's teenage daughter, Salima, was blinded by Type 1 diabetes in childhood, and her needs have kept her in a year-round boarding school with full-time medical care and assistance. When Salima's school closes after a tragedy, Salima returns to her mother's NYC apartment, and suddenly they face challenges they've never had to deal with before. A new caretaker, Simon Ward, creates as many problems as he solves—Handsome, accomplished, thirty-two with strong opinions on every topic. He questions how mother and daughter view themselves and each other, turns their world upside down, but the three become friends. Then everything starts to unravel and Blaise can't keep her two worlds separate anymore. Her career as she has known it is threatened, and her previously well-ordered life feels totally out of control. For the first time, Blaise's life is not perfect, but real.

Smita Beohar says

a typical Danielle steel novel with a famous protagonist and her perfect life. same old description of her perfect life same old repetitions. same old formula of suddenly her world changing and later correcting itself. what makes this book a little different is that it isn't as bad coz there are some actual dialogue there and not a

passive writing. what doesn't work is that the book has no high point. it works on a linear frame and ends therein. no drama etc. possibly after having read so many books from the author I don't really find anything very new in her books.

all said and done a decent read by Danielle steel standards.

Kathy Miller says

Typical D.S.

Merrill Medansky says

Danielle Steel is a good story teller, but after having read several of her books, I realized that they are all basically the same... and actually not very well written. Little dialogue, lots of description and background that's repeated through the book.

This one was as quick a read as her others, set in the typical upper class of New York City. People meet, fall in love, have a conflict, and come back together... very formulaic.

A good diversion and summer read.

Mitchell Seier says

For some reason, I have tried to read multiple books by this author because of her flowing writing style. But this is the first and only one I finished, and I thought it was lovely. The romantic couple in the story isn't exactly conventional due to how different the two of them are, but I was satisfied with the book after I finished!

Helen Wilson says

another excellent book by Danielle Steel, I absolutely love her books, always have, there have been a few but this one was great, how people find each other and despite age they separate but find their way back to each other and manage despite all things in their life make it work and end up happy in the end, so to me age makes no difference at all if you are in love, age is only a number and love wins in the end, I recommend this book to anyone who likes this type of story

lacy [a ravenclaw library] says

This was such a perfect fluff story after the disappointment that I had with the last book I read. Yes, it covers some serious topics but Danielle Steel's writing makes it easy to read and she navigates those tricky subjects with ease. Whenever I am feeling down, I just pick up a Danielle Steel book and get whisked away in the wonderful worlds that she creates.

The story follows Blaise McCarthy. She is an extremely successful reporter, who clawed her way to the top. She has daughter, Salima, who lost her sight to Type 1 Diabetes. Salima is at a school for the blind when unforeseen circumstances forces Blaise to bring Salima to her home.

I loved the realness in this. Blaise willing admits she is not the best mom. She has no idea how to care of Salima. The school Salima is at sends a teacher with, named Simon, to help Salima and Blaise. I loved that Simon strove for Salima to have independence. That sends a good message to the disability community. You can do whatever you set your mind too. You have independence and no one can take that away from you.

The book also touched on the male ego. Simon was completely overwhelmed by Blaise with her success at times. He made it seem like Blaise being so successful meant he was a failure as a man, which isn't the case. Women can be successful in work when in a relationship, just like men. It doesn't mean that they are any less of a man. I'm glad Steel brought it up and kind of showed how dumb it was to even feel that way.

Overall, I can't complain. It was a solid book. Yes, it had the instalove but it also touched on important topics. Steel is a professional in her craft. I highly recommend this book simply because of how heartfelt it is.
