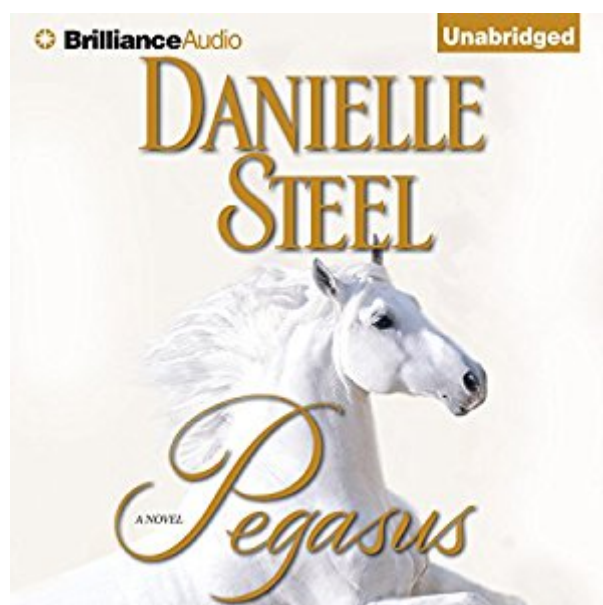


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Pegasus: A Novel



Synopsis

#1 New York Times best-selling author Danielle Steel delivers one of her strongest books to date with this trans-generational narrative that draws inspiration from her own family history. Opening on the cusp of World War II and following an aristocratic German family who seeks refuge in America-with their magnificent Lipizzaner horses-this rich historical novel speaks to the transformative power of love and family. Late 1930's Germany: Best friends Alex von Hemmerle and Nicolas von Bingen, titled childhood friends with neighboring estates, are witnessing the rise of Nazism when Nick's father reveals the long-buried secret of his son's partial Jewish ancestry. Warned by highly placed friends to flee, the only treasures Nick and his sons can take are two dazzling Lipizzaner horses, gifts from Alex. These powerful and majestic creatures become their ticket to a new life waiting across the ocean-one in which a job has been promised to Nick with the famous Ringling Brothers Circus. While Alex and his daughter face escalating danger in war torn Europe, Nick struggles to adjust to life in the circus...until a graceful young high wire walker manages to steal his heart. Spanning multiple generations and continents, this is a rich, involving story of transformation, perseverance, fate, love, and loss, tied together by two families who were never meant to stay apart and the magnificent stallion that will link them forever.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 10 hours and 38 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Brilliance Audio

Audible.com Release Date: October 28, 2014

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00O19483G

Best Sellers Rank: #447 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Romance > Historical #1072

in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Historical Fiction #2834 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Family Saga

Customer Reviews

Just finished this book and I loved it! Out of her recent works , one of her best. I loved the plot and how she weaves the two families together. Once again, Ms. Steel, by writing about a family and the

passage of time, makes me think about How profound our own actions are and how they will affect future generations. Well done and a great read!

This has got to be one of her better novels in recent years. I could not put the book down this weekend. If you love the Lipizzaner horses, you will enjoy the novel. However, it is so much more than that. It is based on World War II when Hitler was persecuting the Jewish people. When Nick and his family find their lives in jeopardy (his mother had been half Jewish, though he had never known her or been told this) , they must flee to America. From an aristocratic upbringing to working in the circus with the horses,it is a heart wrenching story of finding a new way of life. One will never be able to return to one's homeland again. The story spans many generations of these 2 aristocratic families- Nick in America and his friend Alex who owned the Lipizzaner horses in Austria. One also gets an inside look at the variety of people and circus life. If you enjoy romance, historical fiction, you will gain a better understanding of the courage and resilience of those who stayed, and those who fled from Europe during this time.

This is a book that begins like all of Danielle Steele's books, never has the male been wealthier or more handsome and the female has impeccable breeding with exquisite hair, face, and body, although the educational level of the characters are never mentioned. This is formula writing at its most successful and it seldom varies as the author introduces the family, the problem, Jewish background with Hitler looming, but the ability to escape and survive with an improbable solution, but a fairy tale ending. All of D.S.'s books fit her formula but they entertain and provide escape for a few hours. I am always disappointed in myself when I give in and read them, but, it was a few hours of sheer entertainment. If you've read one, you've read them all. Okie Reading Specialist

I've read every single one of Danielle Steel's books and I just feel that this wasn't one of her best books. It felt rushed--like she had to hurry up and finish it and get it into the stores by a certain time or something. Towards the end she was really rushing things and it hurt the plot line--in my opinion. I think she should have given this book more of her time and not rushed through it. As much as I look forward to getting the newest Danielle Steel book, I'd rather she take her time and do it right so that I have another great book to read from her.

I loved the book that's why I gave it 5 stars, however I have to point out that the names Gallina, Sergei, Katja who are supposedly from Prague, Czechoslovakia are not really Czech names, rather

they are Russian names. We didn't have these names in Czechoslovakia at that time and don't have them there now. I was born and raised in Prague, Czech Republic and know all the Czech/Czechoslovakian names by heart. I was disappointed that D.S. didn't do more research on this and choose proper Czech names such as Jana, Eva, Kveta, Alena, Helena, for a woman to name a few, and Pavel, Petr, Tomas, Karel for a man's name. Also towards the end of the book, she mentioned that John Ringling North was not working for the circus when the big fire happened that he left it a year earlier, but then later she said that Nick handed in his notice and John Ringling North came in to see him to try to dissuade him (but he was not working for the circus anymore so why would he care)...kind of conflicting information... written by Romana Volny

I was so looking forward to reading this as the plot sounded like it was written especially for me. However, I was a little disappointed with the story. I didn't think it delved deep enough into the characters or the war and the end just seemed to come too quickly. I felt like the final pages were just 40 or so years squashed into a chapter. It was still an enjoyable read but not Steel's finest work.

This book was one of her best ones ever! I cannot wait until they make it into a movie. The characters were all so good, Alex, Nick, Marianne, Christianna, Toby and Lucas. To name just a few. I pictured a young Roger Moore as being Alex and a young William Shatner as Nick. Maybe Brad Pitt could be Alex, not sure who could be Nick. But the story was so good and I loved how it ended. Danielle Steel is my favorite author; sometimes I get mad when she kills off a character, but she always pulls the story line together. One of her bests! Loved it..

I am a big fan of the Lipizzaner horses. The description of their movements and appearance was genuine. The circus was interesting but the story was not up to Danielle's usual. One thing really in her favor is that the reader is not offended by her writing. Many books these days are so offensive I don't wish to read them due to content or language. It was still worth reading. It would appeal to young or old readers and fans of Ms Steel.

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