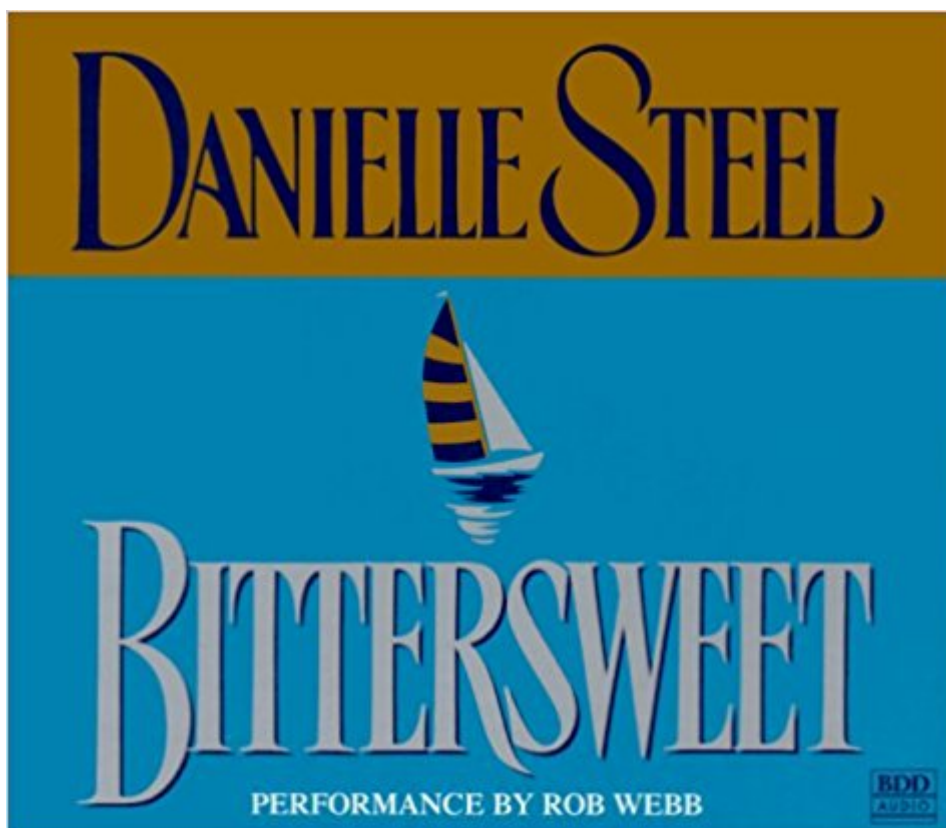




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## Bittersweet (Danielle Steel)



## Synopsis

In BITTERSWEET, Danielle Steel has written a novel for our times, a story of choices and new beginnings. India Taylor lived in a world of manicured lawns and neatly maintained calendars: a merry-go-round of Little League, piano lessons, and Cape Cod summer vacations. With four wonderful children India believed in Doug, the man she married seventeen years before. For India, this was the promise she made, the life she had chosen-not the award-winning career as a photojournalist she once had. It was a choice she had never truly regretted. Until she begins to regret it with all her heart. India couldn't pinpoint the exact moment. Perhaps it was the last time her agent called, begging her to take an assignment Doug insisted she turn down. Or perhaps it was when Doug told her he thought of her as a companion and someone to take care of their kids, and not much more. At that moment, the price of the sacrifices she'd made began to seem high. And then, she met Paul Ward. A Wall Street tycoon married to a bestselling author, Paul lived life on his own terms, traveling the world on his own yacht. India hadn't planned to become Paul's friend. Anything more was unthinkable. Yet talking to Paul was so easy. India could share her dreams with him, and offer comfort when Paul suffers a heartbreak of his own. And while Paul urges India to reclaim her career, Doug is adamantly against it, determined to keep her tied to the home. But with Paul's encouragement, India slowly, painfully, begins to break free, and find herself again. Rediscovering her creativity and her courage, India uses Paul like a beacon on the horizon, sharing intimate phone conversations with a man half a world away, a man who never stops reminding her of all that is possible for her. India is changing, and nothing in her life will ever be the same again. Not her marriage. Not her friendship with Paul. And when India is presented with an irresistible opportunity, she makes a heart-wrenching decision, leaving a safe, familiar place-and the people she loves there-to move into the terror of the unknown. BITTERSWEET is her story, a story of freedom, of having dreams and making choices to find them. With unerring insight, Danielle Steel has created a moving portrait of a woman who dares to embark on a new adventure and the man who helps her get there. Her painful, exhilarating journey inspires us all.

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## Customer Reviews

Like the rest of her novels, Steel's 46th testifies to the insatiable appetite for unrequited love and the success of TV's *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*. Meet India Taylor, the coulda-woulda-shoulda been a Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist if it wasn't for her meddling husband. Although they met in the Peace Corps 20 years prior, Doug insisted she put down the camera, pick up a broom, and raise four kids in the comfy Connecticut burbs. However, after 17 years of carpooling, Little League, and Doug's revelation that he's happy with a platonic marriage, India moves on to greener pastures. She finds her cash cow in the form of Paul Ward, a.k.a. "Lion of Wall Street," who has a yacht called the *Sea Star* and likes to coo such things as "I think I'm a little crazy, but I love you." Although he may be senile and she is still married, the duo seem destined for each other as Paul slowly helps India reclaim her past and follow her passion. What's not to love about Danielle Steel? She starts so many sentences with the word *and* that you start to do it yourself. And there's a run-on quality to the narrator's consciousness. But she drips glamour, drops famous names better than Robin Leach, and makes those pages fly so fast they cool your face on the hottest beach. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Many a stay-at-home mom's worst nightmare is realized in Steel's latest novel when India Taylor's husband, Doug, threatens to end their 17-year marriage if she dares to pursue her long-abandoned photojournalism career. Doug repetitively intones that marriage is by necessity an unromantic contract in which the wife's sole purpose is to care for the home, kids and husband, and if she reneges on her end of the deal with a pipe dream of independence, that is the ultimate "deal breaker." But in tried-and-true Steel (*Mirror Image*, etc.) fashion, India has a handsome Wall Street billionaire, Paul Ward, in the wings. His glamorous wifeAan internationally bestselling authorAdies in a plane crash several months after he and India have struck up a close friendship. But then Paul

turns guilty and skittish about the budding romance, leaving India alone to face the harsh realities of being a single mom of four. Predictably, India's desolation is brief, punctuated by travel, adventure, a thrilling new career and a near-tragedy to put everything into perspective. As usual, Steel takes a theme of interest or concern to many. In this case, a woman striking out on her own and turns it into a compulsively readable tale. With its swiftly moving story line and tidy love-conquers-all ending, Steel's latest should gratify her millions of fans. Major ad/promo. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The story line was great. I was so sure, and so sad, that India and Paul would not end up together. I kept hoping and was thrilled with the ending. I need to say that this is not the first book of D.S.'s books I've read that have typos. This one has many, many typos and they are disrupting and frankly make me angry. There should be no excuse for this.

As always Danielle Steel excels in writing about human inter-relationships. She is one of my favourite authors, though it's a light read she puts in perspective dilemmas in every day life. It is well written with a good insight. Somehow it is sad that there are men still out there that think that women are meant to be as maids, to care for children and their husbands only, as in case of India. I really sympathize with these women. Marriage is equal partnership in everything, nobody is the boss and women should pursue their careers if they want to not impeded by their husbands. Marriage means full responsibility of both husband and wife, and a husband should help his wife and vice versa if a marriage is to succeed.

Bittersweet was a great read. It was a lot true to life with a husband who was cold with old, cruel methods with a good wife. I enjoyed it.

Excellent!

Love Danielle Steel books

The plot is what makes Steel so special...but then to find the lead character a former Peace Corps Volunteer in Costa Rica, wow! As a former Volunteer it got my attention, had to tell my friends. Your plot was just right for India (love that name!), she found her place and talent, like her father. Because her husband never appreciated or was not interested in her talents...she moves on. I

recommend Bittersweet and know you will re-read it many times over.

Having read all your novels I am loading them on my Kindle to read again. Enough said. Thank you for wonderful reading. JEC

This book was a good book and full of life. I enjoyed the way it showed the world of pure imagination. It showed that the world of perfect marriage doesn't exist when deals are made. People still need to be able to be their own person and have their own unique style.

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