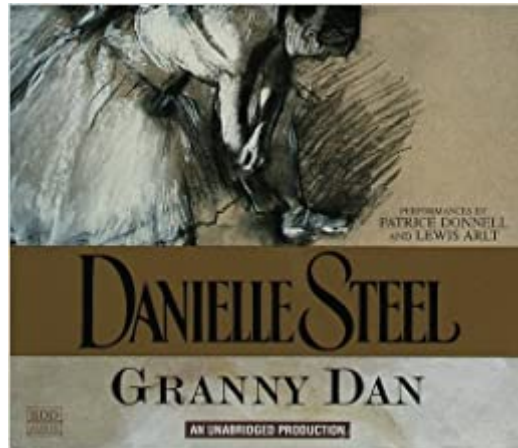


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Granny Dan (Danielle Steel)



Synopsis

In my eyes she had always been old, always been mine, always been Granny Dan. But in another time, another place, there had been dancing, people, laughter, love. . . . She had had another life before she came to us, long before she came to me. . . . She was the cherished grandmother who sang songs in Russian, loved to roller-skate, and spoke little of her past. But when Granny Dan died, all that remained was a box wrapped in brown paper, tied with string. Inside, an old pair of satin toe shoes, a gold locket, and a stack of letters tied with ribbon. It was her legacy, her secret past, waiting to be discovered by the granddaughter who loved her but never really knew her. It was a story waiting to be told. . . . The year was 1902. A new century was dawning as a motherless young girl arrived at a ballet school in St. Petersburg, Russia, at the age of seven. By age seventeen, Danina Petroskova had become a great ballerina, a favorite of the Czar and Czarina, who welcomed her into the heart of the Imperial family. But events both near and far away shook the ground upon which she danced. A war, an extraordinary man, and a devastating illness altered the course of her life. And when revolution shattered Russia, Danina Petroskova was forced to make a heartbreaking choice--as the world around her was about to change forever. Granny Dan is about the magic of history. In it, Danielle Steel reminds us how little we know of those who came before us--and how, if we could only glimpse into their early lives, and see who they once were, there is so much we would understand and learn. For in this extraordinary novel, a simple box, filled with mementos from a grandmother, offers the greatest legacy of all: an unexpected gift of a life transformed, a long-forgotten history of youth and beauty, love and dreams.

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Customer Reviews

For over a decade, young Danina Petroskova has known no life but that of the ballet and her mentor Madame Markova. When a deathly illness steals her from the stage, the young dancer is inconsolable, and, desperate to speed her recovery, Madame Markova agrees to hand Danina over to the talented Dr. Nikolai Obrajensky for treatment. Convalescing with the Romanovs at the Tsarskoe Selo palace, Danina learns to live in and love the world beyond the ballet. And while grateful for Nikolai's companionship, she is startled by the intense emotions growing inside her for the married doctor. Drawn to Danina, Nikolai cannot ignore the passion between them either, and the strength of their love quickly overpowers their resistance. Soon Madame Markova and Nikolai's wife remind them of their previous obligations, and as the Revolution hovers on the horizon, the two must make a decision that will change their lives forever. As if a romance set in the twilight years of czarist Russia doesn't have enough intrinsic pathos, Danielle Steel takes great care to give her hero and heroine the bittersweet combination of incomparable virtue and external duties. When the young prima ballerina and the married doctor meet, they are drawn to the corresponding sense of integrity and duty in each other. However, when love and duty conflict, the struggle is never easy. Maestro Steel knows where the heartstrings are, and she plays them with her reliable talents. While students of history may cringe at the simplified approach to the historical period, readers just looking for a good time have found it. With the tough-but-loving mother figure, the ill-but-lovable Prince Alexander, the borrowed ball gowns, and the emotional grand jetÃ fÃ Â©, this book has everything a TV movie needs except a small, cuddly pet. Put your feet up, set aside your spoilsport logic, and enjoy this novel for what it is: a classic romance. --Nancy R.E. O'Brien --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In a fable compact enough to be swallowed in a single gulp, the prolific Steel (Bittersweet) offers a granddaughter's tribute to Danina Petroskova, "Granny Dan," a Russian immigrant who left the glamorous world of the St. Petersburg Ballet and lived thereafter as a Vermont housewife. The unnamed narrator always loved her grandmother, with her elegant braided hair, roller skates and soft Russian accent. Granny Dan rarely speaks of her life in Russia before the revolution, but when she dies, at almost 90, the narrator inherits a pair of ballet shoes and a packet of love letters that tell the dramatic story of her former existence. Committed at age seven to the ballet, in her teens Danina becomes a prima ballerina who enchants the czar and czarina, becoming the royal

children's boon companion. Stricken by influenza at 19, Danina's life is saved by Czarevitch Alexei's physician, Nikolai Obrajensky, with whom she falls passionately in love. This fairy tale is fully outfitted with dreamy details such as ermine-trimmed gowns, covered sleighs and royal balls in glittering palaces. The historical technicalities are glossed over: in this book the Russian czar is a nice man who let the revolution go too far because he wanted his people to express their feelings. The love story is pure melodrama, with Nikolai a princely man married to a "dreadful Englishwoman," and the couple tormented by their unquenchable passions, lofty joys and ultimate tragedy. Steel doesn't unfold the plot so much as restate the same point: that Granny Dan led an extraordinary life of romance and heartbreak; this slim confection holds few surprises in telling the Cinderella story in reverse. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I loved it, the story and the characters. I've read most of her stories as a young adult and thought that's who her books were written for, your adults. But reading them again now, as an adult, a seasoned adult at that I realize that I was wrong. Her books were written for all, young and well seasoned. It takes a special author, such as Danielle Steel, to write stories that have special meaning to whatever part of life you're going through. I look forward to reading and rereading all her books I can get my hands on. Thank you Ms Steel. Next...

Why? I was looking for a light summer book, sometimes I do like her books for that reason. I don't think she's a good writer, but they are fun at times. This was terrible! I really don't know why I kept going. Besides the depressing death issues, we never actually got in the heads of any of the main characters (or any characters). It was like reading a time line--first this happened, then this happened, and then this happened. Why does she start so many sentences with the word "and"? I also took offense to the character of Izzie becoming a teacher, and being continually reminded that it was "beneath" her. She herself said she only fell into it. I guess being a teacher, it just pissed me off. Especially when her day ended at 2:30 and she was "free to enjoy the afternoon." She also kept alluding to the fact that the current generation of young people are all dying at an early age. Are there any facts to back this up? I know a lot of young people and they are not all dying. By the end of the book, I was actually hoping that the other two main characters would also die.

Danielle Steel is one of my favorite authors. I have been a fan of hers and read many of her novels over the last 20 years. Suffice it to say, I am hooked. Many of my favorite books are written by her. I

recently finished her book, Friends Forever. Unfortunately, much of this current book did not engage me. The story was about five friends who met in kindergarten and become immediate friends through their childhood, teen and college years. They dubbed themselves the Big 5, and became inseparable. The cast of characters included them, their parents, stepparents, and siblings. What I did not enjoy about this book was the pacing. The book moved too fast, rapidly changing from scene to scene. It was quickly flipping back and forth through the characters through time as they advanced from kindergarten to college. Much of the first half of the book was about the parents of the Big 5. This, in my opinion, made it very hard to get any true character development with many of the characters until the last 1/3 of the book. By this time, the story had quickly trimmed the cast down by moving rapidly through drug overdoses, suicide, and an accidental death, and funerals. The overall message was about the risky life choices of this particular generation. The events in the story did affect the lives of the characters. Unfortunately, due to its fast pace, the reader did not have time to feel it. This book could've been so much more. And has a great story line |Who didn't have the "Best Friends" in school. I enjoyed the last third of the book when we finally were left with one main character and her struggles. The book slowed down enough to look inside a couple of the character's motives, feelings, and decisions that they faced. As typically Danielle Steel novels go, it was an easy read. It had an ending that left you feeling good. Unfortunately, it did not capture my heart as some of her previous novels did.

Nice easy going book to read.. I enjoy all of her books. They are easy fat reading books that I download now on my iPad when I go some where . I would recommend this book for readers. They books will take about 7 to 8 hrs to read. Enjoy reading them. !!

Loved this book!!!! This is one of Steele's best and I have read a lot of her books. DS did what great authors do; they draw you into the story and you can't wait to see what happens next. I usually watch TV in the evenings but not while I was reading this book. I could not put it down. Another great sign of a good book is when it's over you want more. I literally screamed when I finished the book because I wanted more. And that is my only flaw with the book; I hated the ending*****Spoiler Alert***** once Paxton found Tony DS should have given us a few more chapters. How did Tony recover from his ordeal? How did they adjust together outside of Vietnam Nam ? And I would have loved to be a part of Tony's reunion with his son. I felt cheated because DS did not give us that. But overall one of her best novels. The Ring & The Promise are also 2 of her great novels.

Good reading again the history of the Russian Imperial Family. Russian ballet has always amazed me. This book describes what great sacrifice people make although sad that the younger generation oft time forget about their grandparents.

all three of the defendants got the death penalty, but later on the exiting governor of illinois got rid of the death penalty, so all sentences were commuted to life without the possibility of parole. all of them deserved the death penalty.debra evans was 9 months pregnant when her ex-boyfriend, her friend, and her friend's boyfriend - all losers - killed her and cut out her baby, who lived. they spared the ex-boyfriend's 17-month-old son, but killed her 10-year-old daughter and 7-year-old son. the boy's murder was especially heinous. her ex-boyfriend was just an angry, violent thug and her friend wanted the baby to please her drug dealer boyfriend.

This is one of my all-time favorite books. I don't read much war-time subject matter, but this story & the writing is absolutely fabulous! I can't count how many times I have re-read this. My paperback copy is falling apart. That's why I purchased this Kindle copy. I got out of my Danielle Steel faze when I was in my 20's, Except for this book. I re-read it every couple of years. I can't rave about it enough.

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