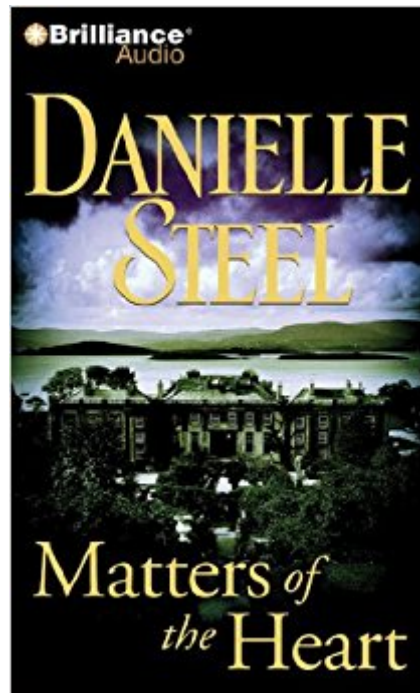




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# Matters Of The Heart



## Synopsis

Hope Dunne has carved out a name for herself as a top photographer, known the joys of marriage and motherhood and the heartbreak of loss. In her chic SoHo loft, Hope is content with her life, finding serenity and beauty through the lens of her camera. She isn't looking for a man or excitement. But these things find her when she accepts a last-minute assignment to fly to London at Christmas and photograph one of the world's most celebrated writers – an Irish-American author known for novels of thrilling literary darkness. To Hope's surprise, Finn O'Neill exudes warmth and a boyish charm. Enormously successful, he is a perfect counterpoint to Hope's quiet, steady grace and he's taken instantly by her. He courts her as no one ever has before, whisking her away to his palatial, isolated Irish estate. Hope finds it all, and him, irresistible. But soon cracks begin to appear in his stories: gaps in his history, lies and bouts of jealousy unnerve her. Suddenly Hope is both in love and suspicious, caring and deeply in doubt, and ultimately frightened of the man she loves. Alone, thousands of miles from home, her mind is reeling. Is it possible that this adoring, attentive man is like the characters in his novels – is he hiding something even worse? The spell cast by a brilliant sociopath has her trapped in his web, too confused and dazzled to escape, as he continues to tighten his grip on her.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Hope Dunne is one of the best photographers in the world, so naturally a National Book Award winner Finn O'Neill wants her to do the portrait for his next book cover. Hope goes

to London, expecting a photo shoot that lasts a couple of days, tops, but soon succumbs to Finn's devilish good looks and endless charm. The trip to love is short, and Finn soon talks Hope into staying at his Irish family's ancestral home. But Ireland isn't the paradise Hope imagined. Discovering that Finn has told her one untruth after another, Hope has to accept that he is a sociopathic liar. To make things worse, Finn's thoughtful attentions turn to obsession, and he flies into jealous rages with little or no provocation. Hope knows things could be dangerous in Finn's country mansion, that she should break free, but he has snared her with good times and great sex. Hope and Finn each have the sort of emotionally packed backstory Steel's readers expect, while the isolated-woman-in-danger theme gives the novel a modern gothic feel. Steel's fans will be delighted by this story of a woman seduced by a man who is too good to be true. --Shelley Mosley --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Danielle Steel has been hailed as one of the world's most popular authors, with over 590 million copies of her novels sold. Her many international bestsellers include *Happy Birthday*, *44 Charles Street*, *Legacy*, *Family Ties*, *Big Girl*, *Southern Lights*, and other highly acclaimed novels. She is also the author of the story of her son Nick Traina's life and death.

This book is a book full of real characters that you love to live and live to hate. It's a must read. A pager turner you hate to put down. There are surprises after surprises which get better and better as the book gets deeper and deeper. This is by far the most intense Danielle Steel book I've read yet, chock full of the most real characters I've encountered, and the most lovable heroine yet!! I will remember this book for a long time and think of it's story often.

Book was slow moving and could have had better suspense. Sorry, I usually enjoy her books but this one was not one of my favorites.

Great set of characters. The book was really a great read. I couldn't put it down.

I found this book to be very disturbing and depressing...definitely not why I read. I usually find DS books to be light reading so this was a horrible surprise. Awful story and depressing. Don't bother reading....waste of time! :-)

Her analysis of a Sociopath was fascinating.

Great book!! Could not put it down!!

Beyond the criticism the novel got. I think it was remarkable and very much heart warming. Just like Hope had we sometimes get trapped in the webs that other people create to destroy us sometimes. There's many people like Hope who give themselves up completely without pretext to others and yet there's evil souls that take advantage in the most foul ways. Thankfully Hope realized with help what was wrong and made a run for her life, but we also know that not everyone are that lucky or have the courage to do what she did. Danielle Steel continues to be my favorite artist.

Is very sad at times, but still a very good book from Danielle Steel. It sad how a woman can get caught up in an abusive relationship.

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