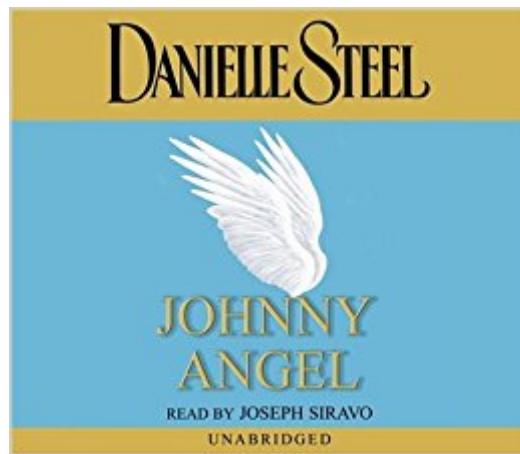


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# Johnny Angel (Danielle Steel)



## Synopsis

In her fifty-eighth bestselling novel, Danielle Steel tells the breathtaking story of a mother's love and a son's gift, of the tragedy that nearly destroyed a family...and the miracle that saved them. *Johnny Angel* With a word or a smile, seventeen-year-old Johnny Peterson could light up a room, fill his mother's heart with pride, and inspire the best in those around him. A star athlete and class valedictorian, tall, lanky Johnny had a future filled with promise--until he stepped into a car on prom night, dazzling in his rented tux, and in an instant, it was all taken away. In the months that follow, Johnny's family and high school sweetheart, Becky, struggle to put together the pieces of their shattered lives. No one is more devastated than Johnny's mother, Alice, whose oldest son owned her heart from the day he was born. But amid the heartache, something miraculous is about to happen to the Peterson family, something that will alter the course of each of their lives. When a sudden illness sends Alice to the hospital, a glorious vision comes to her in her dreams. There, standing before her, is Johnny himself, with that familiar twinkle in his eye, gently urging his bewildered mother to be strong for her splintered family. For Alice, seeing her marvelous lost boy is a miracle she can't quite believe but is more than willing to embrace. In the weeks to come, Johnny will appear in the most unlikely places, visible only to the two people who need him most: his nine-year-old brother, locked in a silent world, whose special needs Johnny always seemed to understand—and his mother, who has always nurtured her family, but who now needs a guardian angel of her own. Through a season of hope and healing, Johnny will walk by his mother's side, leaving miracles in his wake, leading his parents, his girlfriend, his sister, and his brother out of their grief. But as Alice is about to discover, Johnny has returned not just to help those he loves, but to uncover a purpose even he cannot comprehend—one that will change them all forever. An unforgettable story of loving and letting go, of mixed blessings and second chances, *Johnny Angel* is a celebration of life, hope, and forgiveness. It will make you laugh and cry—and hold your loved ones just a little bit closer. From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In the 1962 rock ballad, Johnny Angel isn't an angel, but an angelic young dreamboat. In Steel's book, the titular hero is both-as well as class valedictorian, a football/track star, a faithful boyfriend and a college scholarship winner who holds down two jobs to help out his family; on top of it all, he has "great teeth." Killed in a car crash after his senior prom, 17-year-old Johnny Peterson is sent back to earth as an angel. His mission: to fix certain troubles left unresolved at the time of his death involving his girlfriend, Becky, her impoverished mother and his dysfunctional family. The plot may strike TV viewers as little more than a warmed-over *Touched by an Angel* rerun, but the theme-the healing power of love-is classic Steel. Unfortunately, the story is flawed by clunky characterizations. The sticking point isn't that Steel reveals her characters' problems through authorial proclamation rather than action and dialogue-that bluntness is simply her style-but that she explains those problems repeatedly. The first time readers learn that Johnny's dad drinks himself into a stupor every night from guilt over causing the accident that traumatized Johnny's brother, Bobby, into muteness, it is necessary information. The second repeat can be justified as emphasis. But multiple further repetitions are downright tedious. Still, Steele's heartfelt depiction of the central relationship between Johnny and his mother is touching, and few readers will get through the revelation of Johnny's final gift with dry eyes. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

With this brief foray into the world of a family devastated by the death of their teenage son, Steel moves away from the contemporary romance stories she is famous for, although her fans likely won't complain. Handsome, tall, polite, college-bound, hardworking, and the backbone of his fragile family, Johnny Peterson also is a star athlete and class valedictorian. All in all, his future is looking pretty bright when a terrible accident on prom night kills him and shatters the already tenuous relationships of his parents and siblings. Of course, Johnny, being the great guy that he is, returns

as a vision/ghost/angel and begins to repair the damaged lives of his family and friends. Before we know it, his mute and semi-autistic brother is speaking, his father has laid off the booze, his girlfriend gets a scholarship to attend college, and his heartbroken mother gains the fortitude to let go of her grief and embrace life once more. Despite its sad story line, Steel ties it all together with a neat and somewhat happy ending. Librarians should stock up; this one will be hot this summer.

Kathleen HughesCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This book was so far fetched that listening to the audio version, I couldn't get past the first part of the second CD of a 5 CD book. Just couldn't take any more of the dead son interacting with his family in such a realistic way. I was truly surprised that Ms. Steel concocted such a weird plot. May I extend condolences to anyone coping with the loss of a loved one. I didn't check the publication date with the date of the death of Ms. Steel's son, Nick.

I share with my sister and sister-in-laws

Really Danielle is that the best you can do! The worst book of hers that I have read since the Klone. I have read all her books and have noticed lately that she is repeating herself a lot- should have been sent for more editing and left on the computer without publishing.

If you believe in angels or not, you'll love this book. I couldn't put it down. I laughed, cried, and was drawn into the story.

Another enjoyable read of Danielle Steele. She has the skill of drawing the reader into one of the characters. Typically I look forward to selecting another of novels. Keep on writing, Danielle!

I put off reading this book for a bit and recently finally did. It wasn't what I expected it to be. I loved the story and enjoyed the book. But then again I am a passionate Danielle Steel fan.

This book was great and inspirational. This story provided a sense of relief knowing that are loved ones never really leave us and that if you open your eyes and your heart you will discover subtle clues that they are with you throughout the day. God provides us time to grieve and time to heal. He provides us with little gifts to move on and small needed miracles to survive the lost of our loved

ones.

A very sad story but very heartwarming with the role of the mother & son relationship. Also a strong spiritual relationship between them.

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