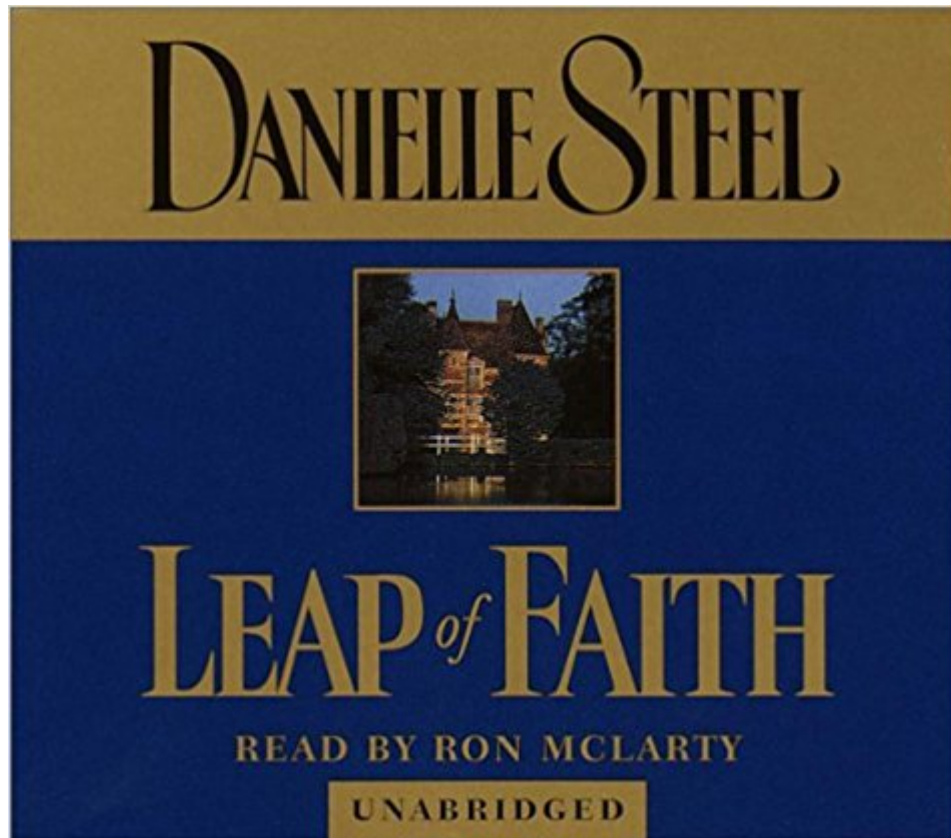




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Leap Of Faith (Danielle Steel)



Synopsis

Five CDs, 6 hrs. Performance by Ron McLarty Marie-Ange Hawkins has the kind of childhood that most people dream of. Freedom, love, and security in a beautiful old French chateau. But when Marie-Ange is just 11, a tragic accident marks the end of her idyllic life. Orphaned and alone, she is sent to America, to live with her great aunt, on a farm in Iowa. Bitterly resented by the old woman, cut off from everything she has known and loved, Marie-Ange is forced to work tirelessly on the farm, dreaming only of the day she can return to her beloved Chateau Marmouton. In Marie-Ange's isolated existence, only the friendship of a local boy, Billy Parker, offers comfort and hope. But her only wish is to gain an education and escape. Then, just after her twenty-first birthday, an unexpected visitor brings startling news and an extraordinary gift: the freedom to return to France, to Chateau Marmouton. When she arrives in France, Marie-Ange learns that the chateau's new owner is Comte Bernard de Beauchamp, a dashing young widower who invites her into his home, then into his heart. But their magical life together, that soon includes marriage, children, and lavish homes, slowly takes an ominous turn. A mysterious woman tells Marie-Ange a shocking story, a story so chilling she doesn't want to believe it. Not even her dear friend Billy can help her now. He is thousands of miles away. And as the darkness gathers around her, Marie-Ange must find the faith and courage to take one, last, desperate step to save her loved ones...and herself.

Book Information

Series: Danielle Steel

Audio CD

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Customer Reviews

Steel's usual verve is all but absent from her 52nd novel, a hasty Cinderella story that begins when heroine Marie-Ange Hawkins goes from an idyllic French childhood to a loveless upbringing in Iowa after her parents and brother are killed in a terrible accident. Only 11, she's sent off to be raised by her sole relative, cold and callous great-aunt Carole. The only bright spot in her life is her intimate friendship with Billy Parker, a solid American farmboy who loves and respects her from the time they are children; she loves him, too, but thinks of him as a brother. When Marie-Ange turns 18 and wins a scholarship to go to college, her aunt does not help, but Billy buys her a car and she is able to attend. Then a stranger turns up and informs her that she is in fact a very rich woman; her aunt sells the farm, and Marie-Ange decides to return to France. There she meets the current owner of her old home, 40-year-old widower Comte de Beauchamp charming, handsome and so very polite. They fall for one another quickly (though she knows nothing about him, as Billy points out), marry within months of their first meeting and have two children. But cracks start to show in the comte's smooth, convincing exterior: it turns out that her prince charming who never pays his bills, but doesn't mind spending her money excessively may be a murderer. She refuses to believe this, but when she finally must face the truth, can she save herself and her children? Disappointingly slight, the book rushes toward its pat ending and may frustrate even Steel's devoted fans. (On-sale: June 5) Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Adult/High School-Entertaining fluff, perfect when the book report is due tomorrow. At age 11, Marie-Ange's idyllic, rich, sheltered life in rural France is shattered when her adoring parents are killed in a car accident. She's sent off to gruff great-aunt Carol to live on an Iowa farm, and Marie becomes Carol's "slave" and wears clothes from the Goodwill store. Her only moments of happiness are with her friend Billy at school. When Marie comes of age, she learns that she is wealthy; her aunt did not use any of her large trust fund. On a return trip to the family chateau in France she meets and falls in love with Bernard, a widower. But what are his motives? Who should Marie trust? This heart-wrenching, soap-opera romance will grab the attention of teens who want a fast read. Steel quickly and efficiently develops the characters as the action unfolds. Much of the plot would be considered predictable, but there are a few surprises. Claudia Moore, W. T. Woodson High School, Fairfax, VA Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

We all have been deceived in life. Sometimes by our own naive disposition. This was an extreme

case of putting trust and Faith in someone who doesn't have the least bit of good intentions or love reciprocated in any way. It was an excellent lesson learned and ended happily. I also liked how Marie always had someone and was never completely without. We just have to try to take notice as to who our true friends really are. That's the boat we want to be on. Thank you for yet another great read.

I thoroughly enjoyed the beginning of the book and most of it. I thought from the meeting of the husband, especially after learning about the 1st. wife's story, it was absolutely foolish for anyone to not see her fate ! No one could be that naïf about the money she kept extending to him. It became boring to me after that. I wanted it to be over soon. I was very disappointed. I always love Danielle Steele books. Not one of her best!

Show that there is hope in faith if we let it happen

I share with my sister and sister-in-laws

Normally, I only care to write about Ms Steel's books with much appreciation for the pleasure I get from them. I don't wish to spoil anything for new readers of this particular Book, but, I hate incomplete endings. These stories are, in my humble opinion, are strictly for enjoyment. Leaving us hanging is not an enjoyment. Disappointed.

Ended abruptly, not a complete ending for me.

Great book!!!

Although I am a fan of Mrs. Steel's novels, I found this one to be too much like Matters of the Heart. It had basically the same theme where there's a lonely woman who falls head over heels over a charming man who turns out to be either a sociopath or a "gold-digger". Added to that there was a lot of spelling errors through out the book. Normally I give 5 stars but because of these things, I changed to a 4 star.

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