



## Southern Lights

*Danielle Steel*

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## **Southern Lights** Danielle Steel

*Danielle Steel sweeps us from a Manhattan courtroom to the Deep South in her powerful new novel—at once a behind-closed-doors look into the heart of a family and a tale of crime and punishment.*

Eleven years have passed since Alexa Hamilton left the South behind, fleeing the pain of her ex-husband's betrayal and the cruelty of his prominent Charleston family. Now an assistant D.A. in Manhattan, Alexa has finally put her demons to rest, making a name for herself as a top prosecutor, handling the city's toughest cases while juggling her role as devoted single mom to a teenage daughter.

But everything changes when Alexa is handed her latest case: the trial of accused serial killer Luke Quentin. Sifting through mountains of forensic evidence, Alexa prepares for a high-stakes trial...until threatening letters throw her private life into turmoil. The letters are addressed to her beautiful seventeen-year-old daughter, Savannah, whom Alexa has been raising alone since her divorce. Alexa is certain that Quentin is behind the letters—and that they are too dangerous to ignore. Suddenly she must make the toughest choice of all—and send her daughter back to the very place she swore she would never return to: the place where her marriage ended in heartbreak...her ex-husband's world of southern tradition, memories of betrayal, and the antebellum charm of Charleston.

Now, while Alexa's trial builds to a climax in New York, her daughter is settling into southern life, discovering a part of her family history and a father she barely knows—from the ice-cold stepmother who stole him away to a fascinating ancestry and a half-sister and half-brothers she comes to love. As secrets are exposed and old wounds are healed, Alexa and Savannah, after a season in different worlds, will come together again—strengthened by the challenges they have faced, changed by the mysteries they have unraveled, and with Savannah now at home in the southern world her mother fled.

In this masterfully told tale, Danielle Steel creates a stunning array of contrasts: from the gritty chaos of Manhattan's criminal court system to the seductive gentility of the South, from the rage of a hardened criminal to the tender bond between a mother and daughter—and a loving father who has welcomed Savannah home at last. A novel that will catch you off guard at every turn, **Southern Lights** is Danielle Steel at her electrifying best.

## **Southern Lights** Details

Date : Published October 20th 2009 by Delacorte Press (first published 2009)

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Author : Danielle Steel

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## From Reader Review Southern Lights for online ebook

### Mwanja says

I read this book out of loyalty to Danielle Steel. During my early years as a reader I read so many of her books because they were much easier to come by due to her popularity. And I really enjoyed them. But as I discovered other genres and got access to more authors through ebooks I lost interest in her books. So I was excited to get to read this one but was terribly disappointed. The main character Alexa is someone I could identify with coz I carry anger with me for a long time too. She's intelligent and sexy and is best friends with her daughter which I really liked. But the story doesn't do justice to this character. I wanted to put this book away so many times and the only thing that kept me going was the hope that something spectacular or dramatic will eventually happen; like maybe the villain was indeed framed for the murders and the true story unravels with shocking revelations and scandals; or the villain gets to Savannah in Charleston; or Luisa does something scandalous again leaving Tom miserable and alone. But I waited in vain and nothing happened. The story just rolls out as though on a desert with nothing but sand and not much of a difference between the beginning and the end. There are no surprises and the story is not predictable simply because there would be nothing to predict. I wouldn't recommend this book to anyone

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### Manvi says

My first Danielle Steel book was *The Gift* and it was a 5 star. Steel writes books about family bonds that deal with themes that touch many pressing issues of life which make her book universal. I personally love such books. It fascinates me to read how people handle big life decisions and conquer their fears and come out stronger and brighter than before!

About the book:

39 year old Alexa Hamilton is a tough lady prosecutor and a single mom of a 17 year old , Savannah. Tom Beaumont from Charleston, South Carolina has been once married to Alexa. But when his first wife returns to him he leaves Alexa and Savannah. Heartbroken Alexa moves to New York along her daughter with a resolution to never look back at South again. The story opens when Alexa gets a case of a serial killer who is charged of raping and first degree murder of young women. Savannah receives some threatening letters which are hard to ignore. Alexa links these letters to the case she's working on and gets alert. When these letters don't stop, to protect her daughter, she has no choice left but to send Savannah to South to her father, Tom and his wife who hates Savannah. Savannah reluctantly goes to Charleston with her dad. But her visit to Charleston for four months marks a turning point in Alexa's and Savannah's life.

My views:

The story started out strongly and the initial plot was interesting. Alexa is intelligent and turns out to be a strong character. However, I feel the writing is repetitive at some parts. I kept waiting for the sociopath serial killer to do something but nothing spectacular happens. Everything is easy breezy. Everyone loves everyone except for Tom's wife whose heart is made of rock. Still there are a few happy family moments in this book which you'll want to steal for your own life. But this book lacks the one element which the reader expects after reading the initial plot: SUSPENSE.

I was expecting a lot more from Steel after reading 'The Gift' (it is one of my favorite) but this book did not meet my expectation. And I'm disappointed!

### **ratherread says**

3.5 Stars!

I have been traveling a lot, so I listened to the audio of this book. I really enjoyed it.

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### **Katrisha Stuler says**

Loved it! Wanted the story to just keep going!

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### **Suzanne says**

Masterfully told? That sounds quite strong. It's a funny exercise looking back on this author's books that I have read but not reviewed or rated.

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### **Olivia McMullan says**

Omg this book was amazing and not like an book I have read before!!! :D Amazing!

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### **Carol Storm says**

I love Danielle Steel, but this book really left me feeling ripped off and bummed out. And I can't explain that without doing a spoiler that covers the entire book. Stand by. Spoiler. Stand by.

At first it looks like it's going to be something totally new for this author, like a very deadly suspense novel. Alexa is a tough lady prosecutor and they have a murderer named Luke who's a real bad ass -- a cross between Hannibal Lecter in THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS and the original "Luke" in COOL HAND LUKE. There's an almost palpable sexual tension when this murderer and rapist makes eyes at Alexa and you just know at some point he's going to escape and begin stalking her!

So you can guess the spoiler. Nothing happens! Luke goes on trial, he gets found guilty, and he goes to jail for the rest of his life. I read the whole book waiting for Luke to bust loose, and in the end I felt just like Dragline, sobbing, when he sees Luke's fatally wounded body being driven away in an ambulance. . "You take care, Luke! You take care and we'll see you again! They's . . . going to be . . . some . . . WORLD . . . . SHAKING . . . Luke!"

The book that Danielle Steel actually wrote is unbelievably dull in comparison. Because of Luke, Alexa sends her daughter Savannah to stay with her father in Charleston. Alexa and Tom were once in love but now they hate each other. And Alexa hates the South. And that's the whole conflict! You could have had dozens, and dozens of situations Savannah got into in a southern high school, I mean like, mean girls, vicious

cliques, racism, Bible thumping prudes . . . but all Danielle Steel has to say is that Savannah's step mother is a bitch. And it's really cute when little old ladies brag about being the daughters of Confederate generals. I mean, it's offensive, but at the same time you feel more sorry for Danielle Steel than anything else. Because this book is such a snoozer!

Did I just imagine the sexual tension between Alexa and Luke? Because that sure looked like where the book was going!

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### **KimeyDiann says**

I think this was the first Danielle Steel book I have ever read. And probably the last. I wasn't impressed at all. I was expecting suspense and maybe even a twist or turn, but there was none of that. Except for maybe in the first chapter or so when the serial killer gets caught. The writing was good and kept me engaged during a long drive so I'm giving the book two stars.

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### **Linda says**

The initial plot was good and I thought the story was interesting as it started out. As it progressed, it seemed like the author (was it really DS writing it?) became anxious to just finish it up. Rather than describing the action, it was more like a listing of events without embellishment. It was filled with angst and became repetitive which soon grew tiresome. I kept on reading but felt the last pages were just a quick way to end the book.

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### **Dion Ribeiro says**

Gosto muito dos livros de Danielle Steel, e este não foi exceção. Penso que na verdade foi uma das autoras que me cativou quando comecei a ler romances, há muitos anos atrás.

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### **Narcisse says**

I always love Danielle Steele:) this book was a bit of a change in her normal writing. It was a book that was one I didn't put down until I finished it. She has her main character as a woman who fled the South eleven years ago when she felt her ex husband had betrayed her and his family and friends were mean to her once she was no longer associated with a southern family. She runs to Manhattan and becomes an assistant D. A. where she lives with her daughter and is assigned to a criminal case where her daughter receives threatening letters. In order to continue with the case and get this criminal behind bars where he belongs she must ship her daughter to her ex husband to Charleston to live with him and his ex wife who hates her and her daughter. Life is not easy for any of them, but things do change their lives and I am not going to say any more as I don't want to spoil it;)Zzzziipp I liked where she went with the story and how she wrapped it up.I enjoyed it thoroughly:) hope you all enjoy as much as I did ;)



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