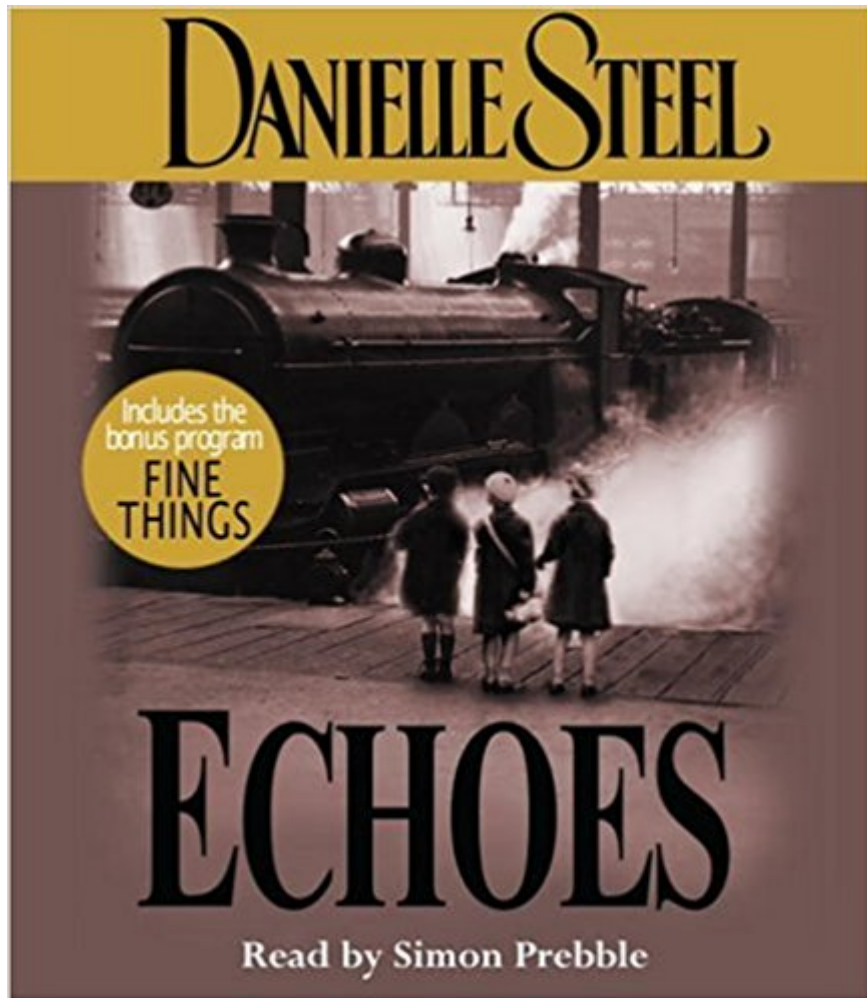




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## Echoes (Danielle Steel)



## Synopsis

Against a vivid backdrop of history, Danielle Steel tells a compelling story of love and war, acts of faith and acts of betrayal—and of three generations of women as they journey through years of loss and survival, linked by an indomitable devotion that echoes across time. For the Wittgenstein family, the summer of 1915 was a time of both prosperity and unease, as the guns of war sound in the distance. But for eldest daughter Beata, it was also a summer of awakening. By the glimmering waters of Lake Geneva, the quiet Jewish beauty met a young French officer and fell in love. Knowing that her parents would never accept her marriage to a Catholic, Beata followed her heart anyway. And as the two built a new life together, Beata's past would stay with her in ways she could never have predicted. For as the years pass, and Europe is once again engulfed in war, Beata must watch in horror as Hitler's terror threatens her life and family—even her eighteen-year-old daughter Amadea, who has taken on the vows of a Carmelite nun. For Amadea, the convent is no refuge. As family and friends are swept away without a trace, Amadea is forced into hiding. Thus begins a harrowing journey of survival, as she escapes into the heart of the French Resistance. Here Amadea will find a renewed sense of purpose, taking on the most daring missions behind enemy lines. And it is here, in the darkest moments of fear, that Amadea will feel her mother's loving strength—and that of her mother's mother before her—as the voices of lost loved ones echo powerfully in her heart. And here, amid the fires of war, Amadea will meet an extraordinary man, British secret agent Rupert Montgomery. In Colonel Montgomery, Amadea finds a man who will help her discover her place in an unbreakable chain between generations—and between her lost family and her dreams for the future—a future she is only just beginning to imagine: a future of hope rooted in the rich soil of the past. With the grace of a master storyteller, Danielle Steel breathes life into history, creating a bold, sweeping tale filled with unforgettable characters and breathtaking images—from the elegant rituals of Europe's prewar aristocracy to the brutal desperation of Germany's death camps. Drawing us into a vanished world, *Echoes* weaves an intricate tapestry of a mother's love, a daughter's courage—and the unwavering faith that sustained them—even in history's darkest hour. From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

Series: Danielle Steel

Audio CD

Publisher: Random House Audio; Abridged edition (October 26, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 055375713X

ISBN-13: 978-0553757132

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 1.2 x 6.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 275 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,737,839 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #34 in [Books > Books on CD](#)  
> Authors, A-Z > ( S ) > Steel, Danielle #1138 in [Books > Books on CD > Romance](#) #2701  
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## Customer Reviews

Europe in the throes of WWI and II serves as backdrop for this latest dose of melodrama from megabestseller Steel. Bookish, raven-haired beauty Beata Wittgenstein meets dashing French nobleman Antoine de Vallerand while on vacation in Switzerland and falls passionately in love. An affluent German Jew whose strict Orthodox parents forbid marriage outside the faith, Beata knows that a union with a Catholic from war-rival France is out of the question. But love trumps all, and shortly after returning to Germany, Beata defies her family, arranging to meet Antoine in Switzerland, where they marry. When WWI ends, the de Vallerands return to Germany and live happily with their young daughters, Amadea and Daphne. Antoine manages the stables at an old friend's castle, the perfect job for him, but just as all seems well, he's thrown from a headstrong horse. Meanwhile, Hitler's anti-Semitic sentiments spread across Europe, and Beata fears that even her half-Jewish daughters are no longer safe. Devout Catholic Amadea plans to become a Carmelite nun, but as the Third Reich's campaign of cruelty escalates, she finds a greater sense of purpose outside the convent walls. There's enough romance to keep readers going, but fans who prefer the glitz and glamour of Steel's contemporary settings may be nonplussed, and the abrupt disappearance of several major characters leaves giant holes in the narrative. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Steel presents a compelling tale of love and loss, set during World Wars I and II. At novel's beginning, it is 1915, and Beata Wittgenstein, daughter of a German banker, falls in love with Antoine de Vallerand, a French aristocrat. Because Antoine is Catholic, Beata's enraged father expels her from the family, proclaiming her dead. Beata moves to Switzerland, marries Antoine,

converts to Catholicism, and has two daughters. The two live happily, despite missing their families (Antoine has been cast out of his family for marrying a Jew). When they move back to Germany, Beata establishes contact with her mother, who relates her fears for the increasing persecution of the Jews under the Nazi regime. Beata, who has lived as a Catholic for nearly 20 years, feels she is safe--in fact, her daughter, Amadea, has taken vows as a Carmelite nun-- but she watches in horror as her family members are shipped off to concentration camps. Readers will enjoy the multigenerational love stories and the historical plot. Librarians should stock up. Kathleen HughesCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

The most spellbinding story, I've read in a long time. Sadness, happiness, and a lot of history. It helped me do a lot of releasing, LOL ! I went through a lot of Kleenex !! I highly recommend this book to all. Danielle Steel has done it again! Thank you!

I share with my sister and sister-in-laws

Read her books for years but 3 quarters of the way through I knew what would happen and was left feeling like I didn't get closure. Too many loose ends that could have been explained. Like an 1940 MGM musical that states "all's well that ends well". I was disappointed and will not buy again.

This as all of Daniel Steel's books was exciting and riveting story of a Jewish family during WW2. It was a romance and historical book that made you want to see the end of the story and at the same time, not as love the story. I have read. Most of her. Books and my favorite author.

Excellent book

The condition of this book was a little rough. The pages were all yellow and the previous owner doodled on the front and back cover with ballpoint pen. One of Danielle Steel's best books.

The book was very good, except towards the end it just rushed and it was done. Some things not completely believable. Not with the subject matter, the way the characters developed, you would spend a lot of time in one way and then rush through another. But overall, a good book.

This is one of my favorite Danielle Steel's books, since it incorporates some history along with romance, personal problems and race issues. It starts at the beginning of WW1 and continues to the end of WW2, so it covers some 30 plus years of life in Europe during both wars. It was the kind of novel that one hopes will not end, and after the conclusion, I still felt that way. Great read!

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