



The ball at Versailles

By *Danielle Steel*

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Genre and Subject

Château de Versailles, France Fiction
Man-woman relationships Fiction
Americans France Fiction

Debutante balls France Fiction
Paris (France) 20th century Fiction
Domestic Fiction

Synopsis

1958. The Palace of Versailles is hosting an event that will go down in history. It is a glamorous dusk-to-dawn ball, where a select group of debutantes will be presented to international society and royalty. And for four young women, all with something to prove, it is an event they will never forget.

Amelia Alexander is the daughter of a hard-working, single mother who sacrifices everything to ensure that Amelia can take every opportunity for a better life.

Caroline Taylor is pursuing a passionate affair with an up-and-coming movie star ten years her senior. But does he love her, or is his interest because of her famous father?

Nuclear physics student, Felicity Smith, is uninterested in fashion and socializing, but she attends the ball to please her parents and to step out of the shadow of her sister.

And Samantha Walker is the beloved, over-protected daughter of a wealthy businessman, her excitement about the invitation overshadowed by a past tragedy that still haunts her.

An exclusive invitation, a trip to Paris, and one spectacular, show stopping night will change these young women's lives forever . . .

Author Biography

Danielle Steel has been hailed as one of the world's most popular authors, with nearly a billion copies of her novels sold. Her international bestsellers include *The Whittiers*, *The High Notes* and *The Challenge*. She is also the author of *His Bright Light*, the story of her son Nick Traina's life and death; *A Gift of Hope*, a memoir of her work with the homeless; and the children's books *Pretty Minnie in Paris* and *Pretty Minnie in Hollywood*. Danielle divides her time between Paris and her home in northern California.

Discussion Starters

Setting

1. How did the setting of Versailles and the ball itself contribute to the story's atmosphere and themes?
2. Did you find the descriptions of the palace and the ball to be vivid and engaging?
3. How did the setting of Versailles influence the story?
4. How did the historical context of the story influence the plot and characters?

Characters

6. What did you think of the characters and their relationships?
7. Which characters did you find most compelling and why?
8. How did the author portray the different social classes and their interactions?
9. Did any of the characters surprise you with their actions or decisions?

Plot and Themes

10. What were the main themes explored in the book (e.g., love, ambition, social status)?
11. How did the author build suspense or create emotional impact?
12. What did you think of the ending? Did it leave you satisfied or with lingering questions?

Personal Reflections

13. What were your favourite and least favourite parts?
14. Would you recommend this book to others? Why or why not?
15. If you could ask the author one question, what would it be?

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