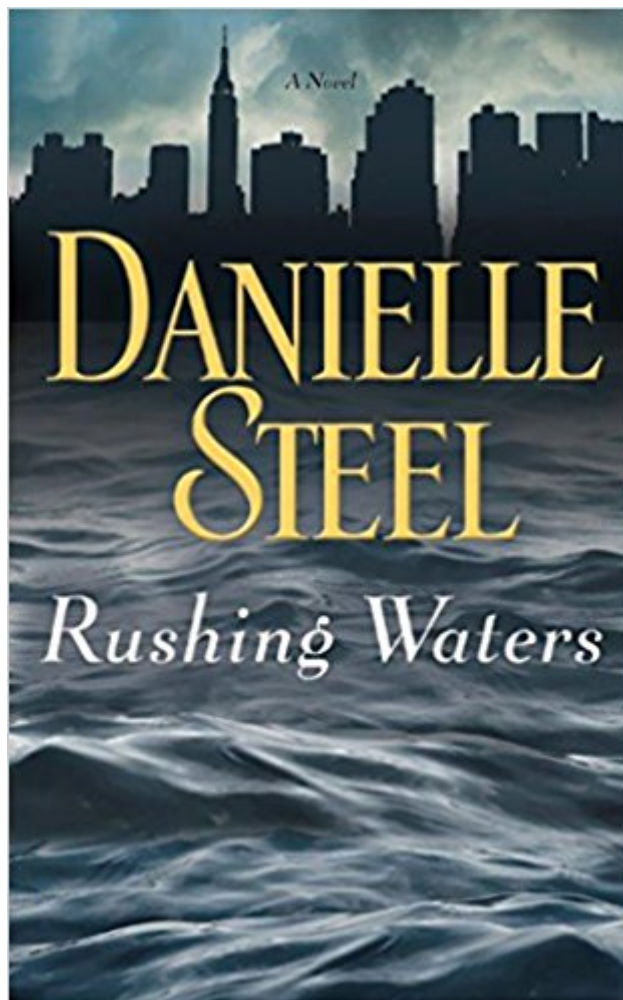




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# Rushing Waters



## Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER — Danielle Steel fearlessly tackles a catastrophe and its aftermath with characters who are joined together by accident, then share their vulnerabilities, regrets, losses, and hopes. Hurricane Ophelia is bearing down on New York City. And in a matter of hours, six people, along with their families, friends, and millions of other New Yorkers living around them, will be caught up in the horrific flooding it unleashes. Ellen Wharton has flown into New York from London, regardless of the weather and her husband's worry. The successful interior designer is intent on seeing her lively architect mother and has an important personal appointment to keep. But despite Ellen's urging, when the storm hits, seventy-four-year-old Grace Madison refuses to leave her Tribeca apartment in the midst of the evacuation zone, and they must eventually wade through chest-high water to the police boats outside. British investment banker Charles Williams is traveling on business but is also eager to see his young daughters, who live with his beautiful, estranged ex-wife in SoHo. Desperate to find them, he checks the shelters where thousands have taken refuge and runs into Ellen and her mother. Juliette Dubois, a dedicated ER doctor, fights to save lives when the generators at her hospital fail. NYU students Peter Holbrook and Ben Weiss, living in a shabby downtown walkup, are excited by the adventure of the approaching hurricane, refuse to evacuate, and settle in with junk food and beer until their building threatens to collapse. Should they swim for it or not? A day of chaos takes its toll. Lives, belongings, and loved ones are swept away. Heroes are revealed as the city and New Yorkers struggle to face a natural disaster of epic proportions. And then the real challenge begins, as the survivors face their futures, with damage to repair and scars to heal. Keenly observed and brilliantly told, this is an unforgettable story that proves that while life can change in an instant, even the darkest storm can bring forth courage, resilience, unexpected joy, and new life. And it reminds us all that nature, at its fiercest, is a powerful force nothing and no one can resist.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Danielle Steel has been hailed as one of the world's most popular authors, with over 650 million copies of her novels sold. Her many international bestsellers include *Blue*, *Precious Gifts*, *Undercover*, *Country*, *Prodigal Son*, *Pegasus*, *A Perfect Life*, *Power Play*, *Winners*, *First Sight*, and other highly acclaimed novels. 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; *Pure Joy*, about the dogs she and her family have loved; and the children's book *Pretty Minnie in Paris*.

Chapter 1 Ellen Wharton was pensive as she studied the clothes she had hung on a rolling rack, and the folded items she had laid out on the bed for her trip to New York. Organized, impeccable, meticulous, she was a woman who planned everything and left nothing to chance—her business, her menus, her wardrobe, her social life. She was consummately careful and precise about everything she did. It made for a smooth, orderly life, with few surprises, but also very little opportunity for things to go awry. She had been planning this trip to New York since June, as she did every year, to see her mother. She also went on Thanksgiving every other year, and she usually went once in spring. She intended to do some shopping for two of her clients, and she had an additional purpose to her trip this time. Ellen ran a successful interior design business, with three assistants, a color specialist, and clients in several cities in Europe who loved her work. She created beautiful environments for them, which they couldn't have put together themselves, with the best fabrics, handsome furniture that suited their lifestyles and needs, and unusual and inviting color schemes. She wasn't shy about her fees, but she didn't need to be—she was well known in the business, had won several awards for her work, and had been published in the most important decorating magazines. She had learned at the feet of the master, she liked to say. Her mother was a greatly respected architect in New York, who had studied at Yale, begun her career working for I. M. Pei, and gone out on her own years before, designing houses mostly in New York, Connecticut, Palm Beach, Houston, Dallas, and anywhere her clients wanted to build a remarkable home. At thirty-eight, Ellen still loved spending time

with her mother and gave her credit for most of what she knew about interior design. She learned something from her mother every time she saw her, and occasionally her mother sent her a client— in Europe or, like the current one whose home Ellen was working on, in Palm Beach. She had decorated the client's yacht the year before. Her jobs always came in right on budget and on time, which was remarkable in her field and had helped to make her as successful as she was. She had a good solid business and had done well. Ellen and her mother were very different but respected each other, and Ellen liked working on jobs with her. She loved her mother's open, airy, clean lines and style of architecture. It was a pleasure doing the interiors of a house her mother had designed, and she often sought her advice about other clients too. They had solved more than one knotty problem together, and at seventy-four, her mother was still full of great and innovative ideas. Grace Madison frequently said that the right answer was always the simplest one. She didn't like complicated things or cluttering up the houses she designed with gimmicky tricks, a concept Ellen espoused too. Ellen tried to foresee potential problems and ran a tight ship. Her mother was more spontaneous and open to new ideas, to the point of being thought eccentric at times, but Ellen loved that about her too. Grace was a talented, strong woman, who had survived breast cancer ten years before and hardly missed a day of work while undergoing chemo and radiation. She had been cancer-free ever since, but Ellen worried about her anyway. Her mother didn't look or act her age, but nonetheless she was gathering years, despite her seemingly limitless energy and youthful looks. Ellen was sorry they didn't live in the same city, but she had lived in London for nearly eleven years, ten of them since she had married George Wharton, a barrister, and British to his core in every possible way. He had gone to Oxford, and Eton before that. His family was in Burke's Peerage and typically British in all their history, habits, and traditions. She had made every effort to fit into his life, and learn his very English ways, although she was American, and originally had her own ideas about how to do things. But she respected his, although it wasn't easy at first. Ellen ran their home precisely the way George liked it and expected her to. She had enjoyed learning about British customs from him and had adopted many of them herself. But she missed the ease of New York at times, and the familiar ways she had grown up with. She had given up her world for his, and had been young enough to want to do so to please him when they married. And in the ten years since, his preferences had become comfortable for her too. Her parents had seemed to get along but startled her by getting divorced as soon as she left for college, which her mother said they had been planning quietly for several years. They didn't hate each other, they just had nothing in common anymore. Her mother described it by saying they had "run out of gas."

Her father had worked for a Wall Street investment banking firm and had been ten years older than her mother and died shortly after Ellen married George. Neither of her parents had ever remarried, and they had stayed close and on good terms, but they both seemed satisfied with the divorce, said they had no regrets, and seemed happier on their own. Ellen was grateful that, whatever their differences, they had remained married while she was growing up. They were the kind of people who did things nicely, never spoke ill of each other, and kept their disagreements to themselves, which was what had made the divorce such a surprise. But the fallout from it for Ellen had been minimal, and they had both been happy for her when she married George, although her mother had asked Ellen pointedly before the wedding if she found him a little rigid and set in his ways. He was so emphatically English, but Ellen said she found it charming, and in some ways he reminded her of her father. George was a quiet, competent, responsible man, all virtues she felt sure would make him a good husband even if not an exciting one. George was the kind of man you could count on. He was solid, which Ellen found reassuring. She wanted a well-ordered life without surprises. The only disappointment in their marriage, one that Ellen hadn't expected or been able to control, had been Ellen's inability to have a baby, despite considerable efforts to make it happen, with full cooperation from George. He had undergone all the necessary tests to determine the problem, and they had discovered very quickly that it wasn't due to him. Ellen had a battery of exams as well, and they had attempted in vitro fertilization ten times in four years, with heartbreaking results. They had changed specialists four times, each time they heard of a new and supposedly better one. She had been pregnant six times, but each time it ended rapidly in miscarriage, no matter how careful she was in the weeks after IVF, during the first trimester. Their current doctor's conclusion was that her eggs were prematurely old. They had started the process when she was thirty-four. She had been too busy building her business before that, and they thought they had time, but apparently they didn't. Neither of them wanted to consider adoption. George was adamant about it, and they agreed on that. Ellen didn't want to use a donor egg instead of her own, and they liked the idea of surrogacy even less, since they would have no control over how responsible a surrogate might be about carrying their baby, and what unhealthy behaviors she might indulge in and conceal from them. They were determined to have their own baby or none at all, which was looking more and more likely with every passing month. Ellen couldn't imagine what their future would be like with no children to surround them in their old age, and they were determined to try again. And between IVF attempts and the hormone shots George had to give her, Ellen had put them on an ardent schedule of "natural attempts," which required George rushing home from his office at a

moment—his notice, and Ellen leaving hers, when her home kit told her she was ovulating. She had gotten pregnant a few times that way, and lost the baby just as quickly as she did with IVF. They had taken a break for the past few months—it had become too stressful, and something of an obsession for her. Some of the romance had gone out of their marriage with their scheduled attempts to get pregnant, but Ellen was sure their efforts would bear fruit in the end and be worth four years of stress. She had an appointment in New York with a fertility expert she'd heard of, and wanted to get another opinion about new procedures they might try. She wasn't ready to accept defeat yet, although her hormone levels hadn't been good for the past year, which supported their London doctor's theory that it wasn't going to work. Ellen couldn't accept that, and George had been a good sport about going along with their dogged efforts to try again, no matter how depressing the results were. It wasn't fun, but if they got a baby, Ellen thought it would be worth it, and George agreed with her. He didn't want to break her heart by giving up, although he wasn't optimistic about their chances for success anymore. He was trying to accept it with grace, and hoped she would do the same in time. Their determined efforts and repeated defeats were so hard on her, and not easy for him either, although he never complained. Despite more than ten years in England, Ellen still looked totally American—tall, thin, with well-cut blond shoulder-length hair, and something about her had the look of an all-American girl. She was casually well dressed in cashmere sweaters, slim skirts, and high heels, and jeans on the weekend, when they visited friends' country houses, or went to shooting weekends, which were an important part of George's traditions. They hadn't bought a country home of their own yet. They had promised themselves they would when they had children, and that hadn't happened. From the Hardcover edition. --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

Once again, Steel has created a plot around a situation that is all too common in our world today. A gifted interior designer, the daughter of an equally gifted designer marries a sophisticated and well-to-do man, this one from London, and leaves her homeland for life amid his family and their heritage. Successful on a foreign shore, her life should be ideal; however, there looms a problem which seems to have no solution. She cannot give her titled husband the heir he seeks. Despite all kinds of testing and treatment there seems to be no way out of this dilemma. On a trip to the US to visit her mother and attend to some business, this gifted young woman finds herself inundated by a hurricane that almost claims not only her life, but the life of her mother as well. Finding shelter with a

wealthy philanthropist friend of her neighbor, the two women try to find their way out of the catastrophe that has claimed the home of the mother and the possessions of the daughter all of the while wrestling with the fact that her husband has not made an effort to contact her. When she does reach him, he is distracted and finally gives her the news no woman wants to hear. The soul-searching that goes on with both the mother and the daughter make for a reading that draws the reader into the plot and wanting to assist in a solution. This work is highly readable as well as entertaining. Steel has done it again.

An interesting way to look at many of the tremendously difficult things go thru. I wonder how much of the story did come from Hurricane Sandy. I am certain that a lot of the things that happened during Sandy has never been told.

love Daniele Steele's Books, Will add Rushing Waters to hard back collections !

Out the Soul of people. Some find a new road in their life through lose, grief and love. While others turn out showing themselves as selfish all for themselves people. Enjoy a good read..

Not up to her usual standards. It took forever to get into the plot. I really did not care about the people at all. When the story finished I had even forgot about one plot.

Rating . This is the kind of blended stories I have been hoping would be your next book ... I'm interested in what comes next. You might think of going back to some characters that were ended with a happy ending and take us back into their lives again , as you know nobody's life is perfect forever or just a fairy tale existence. Things keep happening. Good and bad so why not continue until the end of life. It could be a story told by lover's friends business partners , family plus remembered part told by the deceased . You know beginning a middle and old age even a love lost for long time then rekindled with grandchildren and great grandchildren too.

This is a rather typical Danielle Steel novel her fans will enjoy. It is also a story about how different individuals face a natural disaster, that life can change in an instant. Each of the characters faces the decision to leave or stay before the hurricane. Considering all the recent natural disasters and climate change the world has been facing, I'm sure we all question how strong we would be when fate changes our circumstances overnight. The novel deals with issues of material loss, relocating,

divorce, infertility, PTSD and survival guilt. It is an easy read, but one which will make the reader reflect on their own concerns about how they would deal with so much loss and change due to a hurricane, flood, or other natural disaster.

I really liked this book and the story Danielle Steel had to tell but I felt it ended too abruptly and with the idea that there should be a 2nd book or a series about the main character and I have never known Ms Steel to write any sequel on any of her books. I thought her characters were good but there were too many for how short the book turned out to be. I felt . . . well, bereft I guess.

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