

'Star' doesn't shine for romance novelist

By William Rudolph
Staff Reporter

Star
Danielle Steel
Delacorte Press (\$19.95)

With more than 100 million copies of her novels in print, "Star," the title of hearts and flowers fiction novelist Danielle Steel's 24th and latest work, might describe herself.

BOOK REVIEW

Unfortunately, "Star" demonstrates that quantity does not always bring quality, not when combined with unbelievable characters and a plot that borders on the furthest reaches of reality.

"Star" tells the story of a man and woman, destined to love and to reach the highest heights of fame, while kept apart by cruel fate, not to mention assorted significant others.

The novel centers on the sweet, innocent and unearthly beautiful Crystal Wyatt, an impossibly good maiden with a voice that can bring

audiences to tears. Crystal has devastating platinum blond hair and multi-colored eyes. We know this because Steel continually reminds us of what a knock-out Crystal is.

Crystal is kind to animals, small children and everyone around her. Unfortunately, not everyone in her small California valley reacts the same way. Her entire family hates Crystal because of her looks and voice. In fact, soon after her father's death, Crystal's evil brother-in-law attacks her, driving her towards Hollywood and a future there.

Into this comes Spencer Hill, World War II Air Force hero, conscientious lawyer and an all-around clean-cut guy. Spencer takes one look at Crystal and the two fall head over heels in love... never mind the fact that he's nearly 30 years old and she's all of 14 and still thinks boys have germs.

From this rather sick and actually pretty disturbing premise, Steel sets into motion a ton of contrived events to keep the happy couple apart for the next 18 years.

Just when Spencer realizes he loves the post-pubescent Crystal, he

gets trapped into marriage with the status-hungry daughter of a Supreme Court justice.

Just when Crystal and Spencer think they can find a way to be together, the Korean War intervenes.

Other annoying plot devices to heighten the alleged romantic tension include Crystal being accused of murdering her slimy agent, Ernie Salvatore, and Spencer's rising importance in the Kennedy administration.

And of course, Steel eventually tires of her frustrated but always earnest lovers and throws them together after nearly 500 pages into a silly solution that tries to tie in with the far-reaching, psychological effects of John F. Kennedy's assassination.

The idea behind "Star" isn't all bad. After all, there is nothing wrong with tales of star-crossed lovers. Some of literature's most popular works deal with that theme.

"Star," however, completely massacres itself. Maybe it has something to do with the fact that Crystal becomes a star overnight, with absolutely no difficulty. Never mind the fact that Hollywood typically eats up

naive little girls like herself.

"Star" reaches breaking point when Crystal confesses to a murder she didn't commit, based on circumstantial evidence, while Spencer, a corporate lawyer, defends her and gets her off with the defense that she's a nice, sweet, unearthly beautiful girl with an outstanding voice. And this isn't even the halfway point in the novel.

Or maybe it's just Spencer and Crystal's original attraction with its sordid pedophilic overtones that lingers in the pages of "Star" like a bad smell.

But all this in itself is not a tragic condition. A better writer could pull it all off.

Unfortunately, Steel's writing style is the final death blow. Her chapters consist of endless run-on sentences that are strung together with commas like Christmas lights. The novel reads like what it is -- a rough draft.

It hurts the eye to simply perform the mechanics of reading "Star."

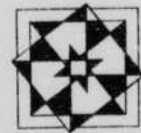
No one is faulting Steel her success. It takes hard work to turn out two best sellers a year plus deal with

personal and family responsibilities. But charging \$20 for a sloppy story filled with unreal characters, contrived situations and mechanics so rusty they squeak is committing a capital crime against readers.

If "Star" is any indication of her future efforts, Danielle Steel may not twinkle brightly very much longer.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS
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NAMA MEETING
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PEACE CORPS
Video and Information Session
Tuesday, April 7 7PM
East Campus Union

PI MU EPSILON
MATHEMATICS HONORARY
Important meeting Tuesday at 5:30 in Room 203, Oldfather. Officer elections will be held, all members please attend. New members should bring dues and pick up certificates and T-shirts.

SEA MEETING
Tuesday, April 11, 5:30pm in the Reunion meeting room. Dr. Ron Joekel will speak on "Professionalism."

Sigma Nu Little Sisters ELECTIONS on Tuesday April 11th 10:00 PM

Student invited to meeting of Undergraduate English Organization, Monday, April 10, 3:30 pm, Andrews 228. Will plan structure and activities for next year. Refreshments served.

The Campus Activities and Programs Office would like to congratulate Kim Beavers, Holly Jo Effeid and Stephanie Herdahl for winning the GM Spirit Award. Dr. Sturgeon received the Student Organization Adviser of the Year Award. The winner of the Treasurer of the Year Award went to Michael Roeber. Congratulations to all!

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GREEK AFFAIRS
ATO LITTLE SISTERS
Important meeting Wednesday 9:30.

Come enjoy the thrill of the Hypnotic Trance at the AXD-ATO Spring Break Tan Off, Tuesday at 7:30 in the Centennial Ballroom. \$2 a ticket for free pop and hypnotist.

Coming soon A-Phi Open!

Congratulations Shelia W. (KD) on getting accepted into Medical School! We wish you the best of luck! Love, Your Sisters in Kappa Delta

Congratulations Chi O's, Jill R., Keri H. and Ann D. on being selected for Mortar Board. You're wonderful! -Jane

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APRIL 15

Stacy Jo,
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TC love, your sisters

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April 7, 7-8pm, East Union
April 10, 7-8pm, City Union (rooms posted, dress is casual)

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The following committees have vacancies:
Appointments Board
Government Liaison Comm Chair
Government Liaison Comm Registered Lobbyist
Deadline, 4:00 pm, Friday, April 14, 1989

- Parking Appeals
- Parking Advisory Comm
- Government Liaison Comm
- Intercollegiate Athletics Calendar & Examinations
- Convocations Comm
- Student Employee Rights
- Commencement Comm
- Central Planning Comm
- Univ Health Center Board
- Comm for Fees Allocation (CFA)
- Recreation Advisory Council
- Scholarship & Financial Aid
- Teaching Council
- University Judiciary & Appeals
- Electoral Commission
- Curriculum
- Grading
- Publications Board
- UN-L Police Comm
- University Libraries
- Scholarship of Academic Comm
- Honors Convocation

DEADLINE, 4:00 PM, TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 1989

Applications for all positions are available in the ASUN office - 115 Nebraska Union.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE in your student government!!

Appointments Board positions opening. Help interview and select members for campus wide committees, advisory boards and senate.

Pick up applications at the ASUN Office, 115 City Union. Deadline is Tuesday, April 11.

PERSONALS

Two girls at CYT on 4/4, Maybe. Home Ec girls-right? Interested

DAVEY POO.
Gottchal!! really is April 10th, and you weren't born in the 70's. Nice try, though. HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Hope you got lots of BIG presents. The Magic Marker Fairy

Robyn K. (AZD).
Congrats on your acceptance to PT School in Omaha Love, Shana and Sharon

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Live Coverage on Cablevision Channel 5 at 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY DOWNTOWN INITIATIVE

Co-sponsored by the City of Lincoln and Star Venture