



The Long Road Home

By Danielle Steel

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Bestselling novelist Danielle Steel takes us on a harrowing journey into the heart of America's hidden shame in a novel that explores the power of forgiveness, the dark side of childhood, and one woman's unbreakable spirit.

From her secret perch at the top of the stairs, Gabriella Harrison watches the guests arrive at her parents' lavish Manhattan townhouse. At seven, she knows she is an intruder in her parents' party, in her parents' life. But she can't resist the magic. Later, she waits for the click, click of her mother's high heels, the angry words, and the pain that will follow. Gabriella already knows to hide her bruises, certain she is to blame for her mother's rage--and her father's failure to protect her. Her world is a confusing blend of terror, betrayal, and pain. Her parents' aristocratic world is no safeguard against the abuse that knows no boundaries, respects no person, no economic lines. Gabriella knows that, try as she might, there is no safe place for her to hide.

Even as a child, her only escape is through the stories she writes. Only writing can dull the pain of her lonely world. And when her parents' marriage collapses, Gabriella is given her first reprieve, as her father disappears, and then her mother abandons her to a convent. There, Gabriella's battered body and soul begin to mend. Amid the quiet safety and hushed rituals of the nuns, Gabriella grows into womanhood in a safe, peaceful world. Then a young priest comes into her life.

Father Joe Connors never questioned his vocation until Gabriella entered the confessional and shared her soul. Confession leads to friendship. And friendship grows dangerously into love. Like Gabriella, Joe is haunted by the pain of his childhood, consumed by guilt over a family tragedy, for which he blames himself. With Gabriella, Joe takes the first steps toward healing. But their relationship leads to tragedy as Joe must choose between the priesthood and Gabriella, and life in the real world where he fears he does not belong, and cannot cope.

Exiled and disgraced, and nearly destroyed, Gabriella struggles to survive on her own in New York. There she seeks healing and escape through her writing again, this time as an adult, and her life as a writer begins. But just when she thinks she is beyond hurt, Gabriella is once again betrayed by someone she trusts. Brought to the edge of despair, physically attacked beyond recognition and belief, haunted by abuse in her present and her past, she nonetheless manages to find hope again, and the courage to face the past. On a pilgrimage destined to

bring her face-to-face with those who sought to destroy her in her early life, she finds forgiveness, freedom from guilt, and healing from abuse. When Gabriella faces what was done to her, and why, she herself is free at last.

With profound insight, Danielle Steel has created a vivid portrait of an abused child's broken world, and the courage necessary to face it and free herself from the past. A work of daring and compassion, a tale of healing that will shock and touch and move you to your very soul, it exposes the terror of child abuse, and opens the doors on a subject that affects us all. *The Long Road Home* is more than riveting fiction. It is an inspiration to us all. A work of courage, hope, and love.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

At age 6, our heroine, lovely Gabriella Harrison, a rich kid on Manhattan's Upper East Side, "looked startled much of the time, like an angel who had fallen to earth, and had not known what to expect here." What Gabriella gets is a mother like Lucifer and a father who slips out to sleep with Italian prostitutes while Mrs. Harrison is busy breaking Gabriella's spirit--and sometimes her bones. Gabby's tormentor makes the real-life moms in *Mommie Dearest* and *Mommy Dressing* look sweet.

Gabriella gets a better break when her parents divorce and dump her in a convent. She meets a sensitive, older man with a deep, dark secret, and pretty soon they've got some steamy erotic secrets in common.

Unfortunately, he's a priest, and troubles erupt that are too much for any confessional to contain. Soon Gabriella is living on the East Side again, only this time in Mrs. Boslicki's boarding house, where the richness in people's hearts makes up for their relative material poverty. A kindly, retired Harvard English professor resembling Einstein nags her into trying her hand and purging her demons as a writer. "When I say you have talent, young lady, I mean it," says Professor Thomas. "They didn't hire me at Harvard to grow bananas." Will Gabriella have the courage to confront her talent? Can she face her past at last, conquer the future, and land a man to share it? Hey, is this a Danielle Steel novel or not? --*Tim Appelo*

From Publishers Weekly

Scandal, betrayal and treachery do little to animate this dreary saga from the prolific Steel (*The Ghost*). By the time she's six, Gabriella Harrison has known nothing but torture at the hands of her battering mother, Eloise, a socialite who hates children?especially her own. Gabbie's alcoholic father is incapable of dealing with the madness that rules the mansion and soon escapes with another woman. Then Eloise decides she's tired of mothering and abandons 10-year-old Gabbie at St. Matthew's convent. Gabbie blossoms at the nunnery, where she finds unconditional love from the sisters, a talent for writing and, later, illicit passion in the arms of a priest. When discovered, the affair leads to the priest's suicide and Gabbie's eviction from the convent. Always one to make lemonade of life's lemons, however, Gabbie assuages her grief with new friends, a new lover and her burgeoning talent as a writer. Still, tragedy tails her like a lost puppy, and her monstrous mother casts a long shadow over her triumphs. Steel's latest attempt at a redemption story falls flat because of repetitious prose and two-dimensional characters. The inevitable happy ending, when it finally arrives, can't make up for a plodding narrative lacking in any real suspense.

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From [Booklist](#)

Steel has twisted and tweaked her usual formulaic plot for this latest offering. It's the story of Gabriella Harrison, a beautiful child born to abusive, neglectful, but wealthy parents. Gabriella leads a tortured life, suffering near-fatal beatings from her psychotic mother and drunken indifference from her spineless father. Eventually the parents divorce, abandoning young Gabriella to a convent, where she spends the rest of her formative years. Terrified of leaving the convent, Gabriella vows to become a nun; that vow is cut short, however, when the beautiful, gentle, good, and kind novice Gabriella catches the eye of a dashing young priest. Soon there's all sorts of mayhem: secret make-out sessions in the confessionals, illicit meetings when the nuns are away, and breathy, whispered phone calls. Eventually, Gabriella finds herself pregnant, the dashing young priest kills himself, and she loses the baby; she also gets expelled from the nunnery for this behavior. Like any true Steel heroine, however, Gabriella pulls herself out of these apparently insurmountable troubles to find both true love and a satisfying writing career. Contemporary romance fans will enjoy. *Kathleen Hughes*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Dorothy Whisler:

Inside other case, little men and women like to read book The Long Road Home. You can choose the best book if you love reading a book. Provided that we know about how is important the book The Long Road Home. You can add information and of course you can around the world by the book. Absolutely right, because from book you can learn everything! From your country until eventually foreign or abroad you will find yourself known. About simple point until wonderful thing you could know that. In this era, we can easily open a book or searching by internet gadget. It is called e-book. You can utilize it when you feel uninterested to go to the library. Let's go through.

Randy Anderson:

What do you think about book? It is just for students since they are still students or that for all people in the world, what the best subject for that? Just you can be answered for that concern above. Every person has different personality and hobby per other. Don't to be obligated someone or something that they don't wish do that. You must know how great along with important the book The Long Road Home. All type of book could you see on many sources. You can look for the internet resources or other social media.

Arthur Reaves:

Book is to be different for each grade. Book for children until eventually adult are different content. As it is known to us that book is very important for all of us. The book The Long Road Home seemed to be making you to know about other knowledge and of course you can take more information. It is rather advantages for you. The book The Long Road Home is not only giving you more new information but also to get your friend when you sense bored. You can spend your spend time to read your book. Try to make relationship together with the book The Long Road Home. You never sense lose out for everything if you read some books.

Ettie Hardcastle:

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