



Special Delivery

By Danielle Steel

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At 59, Jack Watson owns one of the most successful boutiques in Beverly Hills, has two adult children who are the light of his life, and his choice of Hollywood's most beautiful women. After a failed marriage in the distant past, and a brief, tragic affair years afterward, Jack has become the perfect bachelor. And he loves it.

Amanda Robbins knew Jack Watson only as her daughter's father-in-law, an incurable playboy whom she dislikes intensely. Theirs had been a relationship based solely upon the marriage of her daughter to his son. And Amanda wants no other relationship with him. But when she becomes a widow unexpectedly, twenty-six years after she retired from Hollywood stardom to become a wife and mother, Amanda finds herself on unfamiliar ground, and is surprised to find herself both befriended by, and attracted to, Jack Watson. Worse yet, she likes him. There is a lot more to him than she previously suspected.

Amanda's shock at her attraction to Jack is equaled only by her children's. Then suddenly, a startling announcement stuns both families, as Jack and Amanda are faced with an unexpected gift that neither thought possible, and with a choice that provides them both considerable challenge. But at a time in their lives when they least expect to feel that way, they not only feel young again, but are blissfully happy, in spite of the confusion, opposition, and obstacles all around them. *Special Delivery* is about what two people do when life gives them everything they wanted, twenty years after they expected to find it. In her 40th bestselling novel, Danielle Steel makes us laugh and cry as she touches the heart with tenderness and accuracy.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Dashing Jack Watson is the playboy owner of Julie's, a chic Beverly Hills toggery. He's sworn off marriage after the love of his life perished in a car accident a decade ago. One day, his son's mother-in-law--the glamorous ex-starlet Amanda Robbins--is suddenly widowed after 36 years of wedded bliss. Throughout their children's marriage, Jack and Amanda have always maintained a cordial loathing for one another ... You can guess what happens next. Danielle Steel's *Special Delivery* is a bon-bon of a book only a mother could love. Well, not only, but especially--it's a paean to middle-aged romance, uxorial devotion, and maternal sacrifice. The characters are all about a micron thick (maybe less), but there are greater crimes than obviousness, to be sure. This heaping teaspoon of glitz--every car's a Ferrari, every drink "French champagne"--will cheer Steel's legions of readers. Mission accomplished.

From [Booklist](#)

Following her recent novels *Silent Honor* (1996) and *The Ranch*, Steel has written a shorter novel, similar in format to *Five Days in Paris* (1995). Amanda Robbins is a former actress who gave up her work when she married and had two children, settling into her role as wife and mother. Jack Watson is the father-in-law of Amanda's daughter, owns a trendy shop in Hollywood, and is an inveterate womanizer. Happily married, Amanda has no liking for Jack, until he provides emotional support following the sudden death of her husband. (See where this is going yet?) His support gradually changes her opinion, and as the two develop a deeper relationship, they are faced with family opposition and a surprising choice. Steel provides entertaining--but extremely light--reading. The characters are rather two-dimensional; the profound decisions reached by the two main characters come too easily to draw the reader into their lives; and the novel reads as though Steel rushed it to market. But it will be in demand by Steel fans, so purchase accordingly. *Melanie Duncan*

From Kirkus Reviews

No-frills Steel (*Five Days in Paris*, 1995, etc.) in this uncharacteristically brief tale of a parenting venture by a glittery L.A. couple skidding into their Golden Years. There are swatches of Steel glamour throughout--monied digs and cars, haute couture, Hollywood celebs--but all thriftily spaced and paced. Amanda, "long, lean and blonde," has been recently widowed. Husband banker Matthew had kept her close to home, away from Hollywood society and filmmaking (she'd won an Oscar in her 20's), and now she mourns the man who oversaw every tiny corner of her life. Meanwhile, Jack Watson is the owner and manager of an exclusive women's clothing store. Jack's son Paul is married to Amanda's daughter Jan. Amanda (50) doesn't like Jack (59), but a mild dislike eventually transforms into a roaring passion. Both Jack and Amanda come to love with baggage: Amanda feels lost without Matthew; Jack, divorced for 18 years, lost a someone near and dear in a car accident. But love blossoms as Amanda, the "Ice Queen," thaws; she even buys six bathing suits in Jack's store. At the same time, Paul and Jan, desperately wanting a baby and unable to conceive, and Jan's sister Louise are appalled by the affair; only Jack's daughter Julie is kind. The children, though, are in for another blow. When the matter of protection in lovemaking was discussed, said Amanda, "I guess it won't be a problem." Guess again. At the close, there'll be a wedding, a wild ride to a birthing in the Ferrari (mother-to-be at the wheel), and reconciliations as the baby's future is decided in a weepy instant. A spongy little romance with a glowing tribute to sexy seniors at play. Pared down, Steel's latest is more shapely and energetic than her larger recent others, though there's always room for dillies like: "she was wearing faded jeans wallpapered to her spectacular body." A candied fantasy for seniors for whom Modern Maturity just doesn't cut it. -- Copyright ©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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