



BOOK REVIEW OF *NOW AND FOREVER*

WRITTEN BY DANIELLE STEEL

A FINAL PROJECT

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Submitted by:

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PRONOUNCEMENT

The writer states truthfully that this project is compiled by himself without taking the results from other research in any university, in S-1, S-2, and S-3 degree and in diploma. In addition, the writer ascertains that he does not take the material from other publications or someone's work except for the references mentioned.

Semarang, 20 July 2017

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MOTTO AND DEDICATION

Don't forget to smile in any situation. As long as you are alive, there will be better things later, and there will be many.

(EiichiroOda)

One dies only if he's not anymore in the hearts and minds of those who know him.

(Monkey D. Luffy)

Miracles only happen to those who never give up.

(IvankovEmporio)

Inherited will. Destiny of the age. The dreams of the people. These are things that will not be stopped. As long as people continue to pursue the meaning of freedom. These things will never cease to be.

(Gol D. Roger)

This final project is dedicated to my beloved big family

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The writer realizes that this final project is still far from being perfect. He would be glad to receive any constructive criticisms and suggestions to help him do a better writing in the future. Still, he hopes that this final project would be useful for the readers and human lives.

Semarang, 20 July 2017

Mochamad Memorial Angga Eka Sampurna

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1. Introduction

Literature can express human feeling in several ways of action in life, and some of them are reflected by literary works, such a poetry, drama, prose and others. Novel is one of literary works in literature. *Now and Forever* is a novel written by Danielle Steel that tellsthe unusual love story. A love story in the boundaries of marriage. Steel tries to explain that love is not always fun, sometimes love needs asacrifice for the happiness. This novel show about the reality of a love story who needs a great sacrifice to last long.

Now and Forever tells the story of a couple who has been married, but their relationship is colored with an affair. Jessica Clarke, a woman career who has a famous boutique in San Francisco married to Ian Clarke a writer who never sell many books. This novel consists of thirty-six chapters. Each chapter contains the stories of Jessica and Ian struggle. A wide range of problems is sometimes unpredictable, even appears from themselves. Here, loyalty, honesty, and their responsibility as a married couple are more highlighted.

The writer is interested in reviewing the novel *Now and Forever* because the background of the story affirms on the sacrificing as the important points. *Now and Forever* asthe International Bestselling Novel must have some important point that attracts the readers to read it. The writer loves *Now and Forever* because this novel has a lot of good things that could be taken. Although the story makes the readers annoyed, it also gives the readers a look at the affection,

patience, and kindness. The writer hopes that the novel could be something interesting to discuss in this paper.

1.1. Biography of Danielle Steel

Danielle Steel has sold 650 million copies of her books internationally, and every one of her books is a bestseller. She is published in 69 countries and 43 languages. Steel's latest novel is *The Duchess*. Other recent bestsellers include *Against All Odds*, *The Mistress*, *Dangerous Games*, *Rushing Waters*, *Magic*, *The Apartment*, *Blue*, *Precious Gifts*, *Undercover*, *Country*, *Prodigal Son*, *Pegasus*, *A Perfect Life*, *Power Play*, *Winners*, *First Sight*, *Until the End of Time*, *The Sins of the Mother*, *Friends Forever*, *Hotel Vendome*, *Happy Birthday*, *44 Charles Street*, and *Legacy and Family Ties*. All of which have leapt to the top of the Best Seller list, the Wall Street Journal list, and comparable best seller lists around the world.

Steel has written more than a hundred novels; 18 children's books, including *Pretty Minnie in Hollywood* and *Pretty Minnie in Paris* about her white long-hair teacup Chihuahua; four works of nonfiction – such as *His Bright Light: The Story of Nick Traina*, *A Gift of Hope: Helping the Homeless*, and *Pure Joy: The Dogs We Love*; and a book of poetry. She also founded and runs two foundations, one named in honor of her late son, The Nick Traina Foundation, which finances organizations involved in mental illness and child abuse, and the second established to assist the homeless. (<http://daniellesteel.com/about-danielle/> accessed: 20 July 2017)

2. Summary of the Novel

The beginning of the novel is when Ian Clarke a writer who was not so successful, had lunch in Enrico's restaurant before he picks up his wife, Jessica Clarke, from the airport. He met a woman wearing a straw hat named Maggie and he offered to drive her home, she agreed. When they arrived at the hotel where she stayed, he was offered to drink wine and they both had sex afterwards. Jessica arrived from New York in the evening after bought some fall fashion collection for Lady J, her boutique.

Next day when Jessica was working in the Lady J, police inspector from San Francisco police department told her that Ian Clarke was arrested for the rape and forced tier 3. Jessica was surprised about this news and immediately called her lawyer, Martin Schwartz. After an hour Martin met Ian in the jail to ask about the incident. Ian told Martin everything about that incident, he admitted that he had sex with Maggie but he refused that he raped Maggie because she gave consent to do it. Martin proposed to suspend detention on bail, but Ian refused it because he did not want to give Jessica problem. Although Ian was the head household, because he was only a writer whose his earning could not support the daily needs, Jessica was the one who paid it including Ian's allowances. Jessica never protest about Ian's condition. She only wanted him to be at her side forever, she did not want Ian to leave. Jessica already lost her parents and brother, she needs Ian for everything. Even she did not want to have a child from Ian, she wanted to have Ian

completely for herself. Next day Jessica went to bailbond office to pay Ian suspend detention. She was willing the house, boutique and her mother's jewelry to be guaranteed for Ian. Ian was released in the evening, and waited for trial next few weeks.

After a few weeks, the trial finally began. Maggie who attended tell the judge that Ian raped and even sodomized with force. Ian disagreed with her statement and said that Maggie agreed to have sex with him. After two trials, the judge punished Ian with two years in jail. Jessica lost half of her soul and became crazy and mad to Maggie who entrapped another man like what she did to Ian after Martin's investigation, only to revenge and her satisfaction.

Jessica already visited Ian in the jail a few times. In her visit lately, she felt mad to Ian because she thought Ian never missed her. Ian was too busy with a novel manuscript that he wrote in the jail. They both fight, Jessica, think that she was ignored while Ian wanted to payback what he owed from Jessica because of this case. Jessica was mad and went back to home. After two weeks, Jessica decided to divorce Ian. She felt that Ian was not same before that case, she also wanted to prove that she could live without him and wanted to get rid Ian's shadows.

Jessica who wanted to forget Ian started to date many men. One day she met a man named Geoffrey. Geoffrey already fell in love with her at the first sight. Jessica was uncertain about her feeling. She still loved Ian, but now she thought Geoffrey could make her forget Ian although her feeling to Geoffrey was

still far to be called love. One day Geoffrey invited Jessica to the party, he bought expensive dress and jewelry for Jessica so she could wear them to the party. Many important people in the world attended the party. She felt out of the place, Geoffrey introduced her to some important person like a kid showing his stuff to other. Jessica felt uncomfortable in this party, she was like a pet for rich people, she got a beautiful and expensive dress just to make her beautiful to be exhibited.

Jessica and Geoffrey went to Jessica's house after party. Geoffrey saw Ian picture and threw it in the garbage. Jessica was surprised but before she spoke, Geoffrey kissed her. Jessica shouted and flipped from his arms. Geoffrey was out from Jessica's house. Jessica was shocked and fainted till the morning. Jessica remembered Ian, all the happiness who only Ian could provide it. She immediately visited Ian in the jail. Jessica felt ashamed with her behavior to Ian and apologized to him. Ian forgave it and kissed her. Jessica told him that she wanted to remarry him again. Ian agreed with it and wanted Jessica to be patient until he was free from prison. A few months later Ian got out from jail.

3. Review of *Now and Forever* by Danielle Steel

There are a lot of reasons why *Now and Forever* can be a recommended novel for the reader. This novel as a literary work has some interesting points to attract the reader to read. This review describes those points of the novel by classifying them into two parts: the strengths and the weaknesses of the novel.

3.1. The strengths of *Now and Forever*

There are three points that the writer discovers as the strengths of this novel including analysis of theme, main characters, and point of view. Theme, characterization, and point of view are very important things for the story to be the strengths.

3.1.1. Theme

The first strength is the theme of the story. According to Kennedy (1991: 144). "Theme is whatever general idea or insight the entire story reveals". The theme of *Now and Forever* is Love and Loneliness. According to Erich Fromm (2006:2), "Love is not a noun or object, but a verb or practice. How you practice love with those around you depends on your approach and understanding of the existential problems of your life and, at the same time, determines the wholeness you will experience as a human being". In this novel, love theme plays an important role in the part of the story. Love is not always going to be happy. Sometimes love needs a sacrifice. Like what Jessica does to save Ian. Jessica always loves Ian. She will do anything for the sake of her love to Ian. Jessica wants to pay warrants to suspend Ian's detention. Jessica is willing to guarantee her house, boutique, and jewelry that keep a lot of memories of her mother for the sake of Ian. It can be seen in the following line when Jessica is in the bail bond office: "Now you scare up fifteen hundred bucks to pay to a bail bondsman, and give him something worth fifteen thousand in collateral." (Steel, 1978:90)

It is clear that Jessica is sacrificing her property for Ian to release him from prison. Jessica is still doing this although she already knows that Ian has already

betrayed her. Jessica does it because of fear of losing Ian, Ian is everything for Jessica. Jessica who has lost her parents and her younger brother a few years ago cannot live without the existence of Ian in her side. When Ian is imprisoned, Jessica feels lonely, her mind is messy, and she cries out loud.

The second theme is loneliness. The writer found that loneliness can be the theme for this novel. Loneliness is an important part of the novel. Loneliness typically includes anxious feelings about a lack of connection or communication with other beings, both in the present and extending into the future. The causes of loneliness are varied including social, mental, emotional, or even physical factors. Jessica feels lonely when Ian is imprisoned. She is scared, she does not have anyone else who understands her except Ian. When she feels lonely Jessica always hears her parents and her young brother voices who have been dead. This indicates that Jessica becomes insane because she is afraid of being lonely. It can be seen in the following line when Jessica alone in the house while Ian in the jail:

She tried to pretend that the house wasn't quiet. She sang little songs and talked to herself. He couldn't leave her alone ...no! ...she sometimes heard her mother's voice late in the night... and Jake's ... and Daddy's. (Steel, 1978:59)

3.1.2. Main characters

The second strength is characters and characterization. According to Kennedy (1991: 47), "A character is presumably an imagined person who inhabits the story." The main characters in this novel are Jessica Clarke. She is a tough woman. She gets through many hard obstacles in her life. Her parents are dead

now, they had not been young when she was born. Her mother was in her late thirties, her father just past forty-five. And Jessica was four when Jake, her brother was born and he died when he was serving in the Vietnam war. She is lonely. She does not have women friends. She had Ian. He is her best friend, her lover, even her brother, now that Jake was dead. Ian is everything for Jessica.

but they were all gone now. It had already been three years. Almost exactly. Her parents had died within a month of each other. Jake had died a year before that, in Vietnam, at the crest of his twenties. Gone. Jessica was the only one left. But she had Ian. Thank God there was Ian. (Steel, 1978:27)

The quotation above shows that Jessica does not have anyone else besides Ian. She has never fully recovered from her brother death, but after her parents, Jessica feels more terrors, the hysteria, the nightmares. She feels so alone and so frightened. However, those are all over because Ian agrees to resign from his job and fully stays in the Jessica side.

Jessica is always repaying other people kindness. When Jessica is saved by Ian from her suffering from the death of the parents and brother, she supports Ian to resign from his job in advertisement company to become the full-time writer.

“I know you will make it, Ian. That is all. I just know you will.”
“But how do you know dammit? how can you possibly know I will make it? It is adream, Jessie. A fantasy. The great American novel do you know how many absolute zeroes are out mere writing crap, thinking ‘this is it’?”
“who gives a damn? That is not you. (Steel, 1978:14)”

The quotation above shows how Jessica believes Ian will succeed with his writing, although Ian does not believe with his writing ability. Jessica is also a possessive wife. She always wants to know what is Ian doing for the day. Jessica does not want to share Ian’s love to other person like a child. There is an

interesting fact that a child for the other couple is usually a bliss but for Jessica, a child means a disaster. Jessica thinks that Ian will share his love to the child. What Jessica wants is all of Ian's love without a doubt. We can see how possessive Jessica is to Ian in a conversation between them about having a baby:

“it scares me”

“a baby? It scares you physically?”

“no. it... I would have to share you, Ian, and I... I can't.”

“I really can't share you, Ian. I can't, not ever. You are all I have. You are...” (Steel, 1978:177)

The second main character is Ian Clarke. Ian is the Jessica husband. He is sexy and attractive, handsome, elegant. He is a man with romantic gesture who always supports Jessica. He always works hard to repay what Jessica does to him.

It's not like playing games. I'm serious, Jessie. I've turned myself into a fucking gigolo in the last six years. I'm a failure as a writer, and I just balled some two-bit tramp and got falsely accused of rape. I'm trying to figure out what means something in my life and what doesn't, and what needs changing. And maybe part of what needs changing is us. Not even maybe. I know it does. Now are you going to listen, and talk to me, or aren't you? (Steel, 1978:175)

The words above show how Ian does not want to depend on Jessica financially and he wants to change. Ian does not want to be a gigolo who is supported by his wife. He wants his role as a head of household can be restored. When Ian had been able to sell his book written when he was imprisoned, he buys a new car for Jessica for replacement of the car that Jessica sells for his guarantee.

3.1.3. Point of view

The last strength is point of view. According to Hicks and Bill Hutchings (1989:113), "Point of view is the position in which the narrator stands in relation to the story; the standpoint from which events are narrated." The narrator in this novel is the author Danielle Steel, a woman. Steel is perfect to describe Jessica who is the main character of this story. The writer believes that a female author is able to write accurately about female character if she writes from the female point of view. They have experienced life as woman that will help them to describe the heroine perfectly.

3.2. The Weaknesses of *Now and Forever*

The novel also has weaknesses behind its strength. The writer will write down the weaknesses about *Now and Forever* by Danielle Steel. The first weakness is that the author gives too many supporting characters in this novel. The reader will be difficult to remember their name or their contribution in the story. There are some supporting characters that appear in the story but they never develop. There is almost no contribution to this story in some minor character, for example, is Martin Schwartz. He is Ian's lawyer, the helper of Ian's case. He appears at the beginning of the story when Ian get a problem with Maggie, but he is gone in the middle. His last dialogue is when he takes Jessica home, "Jessica, I'm... I'm terribly sorry," (Steel, 1978: 293)

The second weakness is the ending of the story. The writer thinks that the ending feels so bland without exposing the fraud of the main villain. Margaret

should be imprisoned for her crime, but she disappeared after the trial. We can see in the following paragraph that Margaret disappeared:

when they emerged from the court room with Martin behind them, Margaret was nowhere to be seen. She had been escorted out through the judge's chamber, and Martin guessed that she would be taken out some more discreet exit to avoid another encounter like the one that morning. (Steel, 1978: 245)

The readers maybe disappointed with the ending because this story is very good in the beginning but in the end, many problems that should be explained but the author leaving it unsolved. The writer thinks that she will be appeared by author in her another novel.

4. Conclusion

Now and Forever is one of the greatest of Danielle Steel novels. *Now and Forever* is a novel that tells the love story of a married couple to maintain their relationship. Jessica and Ian face many obstacles in their relationship.

Now and Forever has some strengths that make it a good reading. The writer uses intrinsic elements in analyzing the strengths namely theme, main character, and point of view. While the weaknesses of this novel namely supporting characters and the ending.

Although the novel has weaknesses, this novel is highly recommended to read. Especially to those who love reading a love story. *Now and Forever* can be useful for the readers because this novel teaches us that love needs sacrifice, and love will never be beaten, no matter what happened along the way. The ups and

downs and the hardship are those, among the things, that the book teaches the readers to appreciate their loves.

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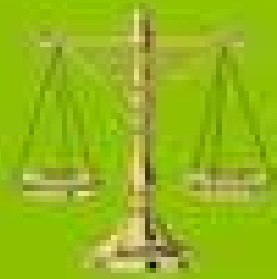
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APPENDIX

AMERICA'S #1 BESTSELLER

DANIELLE STEEL

AUTHOR OF *DATING GAME* AND
ANSWERED PRAYERS



NOW AND FOREVER

Now and Forever is a novel written by Danielle Steel that tells the unusual love story. A love story in the boundaries of marriage. Steel tries to explain that love is not always fun, sometimes love needs a sacrifice for the happiness. This novel show about the reality of a love story who needs a great sacrifice to last long. View original from ejournal-s1.undip.ac.id.