



Wings

By Danielle Steel



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Wings By Danielle Steel

From a house on the edge of her family's dusty farmland airstrip near Chicago, the child Cassie O'Malley would sneak into the night to look at the planes sitting shimmering in the moonlight. Her World War I veteran father, Pat, wanted his son to be a pilot, not his reckless, red-haired daughter. But it was Cassie who had the gift. Ever since she could remember, Cassie felt the pull of getting in a cockpit and taking to the skies. Observing all the while was her father's junior partner, Nick "Stick" Galvin, a fellow war ace and airborne daredevil. Nick would become her confidant and best friend, willing to break all the rules to teach her to fly, knowing that the greatest gift he could give her was the freedom of flying.

When California entrepreneur Desmon Williams sees Cassie in a local airshow, he invites her to California where she breaks new ground as a test pilot. Soon Cassie's record-breaking flights make her a media darling. Drawn by Desmond's plans for her to break Amelia Earhardt's records, but determined to avoid her mistakes, Cassie trains for the remarkable journey around the world. From public appearances to press conferences, easily used by both her husband and the press, Cassie realizes that there is more to life than making headlines. Risking her life, pushing herself to her limits, she decides to chart her own course and pursue her own destiny, whatever it costs her.

Wings is set in a time of constant change, when the world was on the brink of war and the skies were filled with adventurers, a time when courage and daring forever changed modern-day aviation.



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Romantic triangles are Steel's forte, and this narrative, set mostly at the brink of WWII, finds her in familiar territory. Although Cassie O'Malley, 17, knows more about planes than her father, Pat, who runs a small private airport outside Chicago, he refuses to let her fly. So Nick Gavin, Pat's WWI protege and new employee, teaches Cassie in secret, and soon she can pilot like an ace. After Pat grudgingly gives Cassie a job at the airport, she takes several medals at a local air show and captures the attention of Desmond Williams, a young tycoon who offers her the chance to test planes and set world records. Nick encourages Cassie to take the offer, despite his heartbreak; though 18 years her senior and with little to offer, he secretly loves his young apprentice. Flying for Desmond, Cassie becomes the darling of the press even as war breaks out in Europe. When Nick joins the RAF, he and Cassie confess their feelings for one another, but he refuses to tie her down in marriage. In time, Cassie marries Desmond, but she manages to spend one magical night with Nick before setting off on a world tour that ends with her crashing onto a Pacific island where she suffers a horrific ordeal of cold and starvation before she's saved by the Navy and taken to Pearl Harbor—just in time for the Japanese attack. After a slow start that's bogged down by excess background information, the narrative takes off, with a mix of colorful characters bringing the heady early days of aviation to life. Though the ending is predictable, Steel's fans wouldn't have it any other way; she knows how to make her writing fly to the top of the bestseller lists. 1,000,000 first printing; Literary Guild and Doubleday Book Club dual main selection; major ad/promo. Large print edition available (ISBN 0-385-31295-4, \$28.95). Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

Steel has cranked out another predictable melodrama. Cassie O'Malley's dad is a pilot and owner of the airfield where Cassie develops her love of flying and flying machines. Dad doesn't believe women are meant to be pilots and at first refuses to let Cassie fly. When she proves what a truly gifted pilot she is, she is allowed to work for her father. She enters an air show and is spotted by the wealthy millionaire and airplane manufacturer Desmond Williams. Cassie is lured to Los Angeles to promote and test Desmond's planes. Soon, Desmond marries her in order to ensure her loyalty and control her life. Cassie's true love, Nick, feels he is too old and poor for her and runs away to England to join the Royal Air Force. The rest is fairly predictable, but libraries should expect huge demand for this. [Literary Guild and Doubleday Book Club main selections; previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 9/1/94.]-Dawn L. Anderson, North Richland Hills P.L., Tex. --Dawn L. Anderson, North Richland Hills P.L., Tex.

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From [Booklist](#)

Romance takes second place in this story about a young woman whose real love is for airplanes and flying. Steel fans won't need to be told that she is, of course, a natural or that flying is going to be the cause of much of the novel's sadness, but the author does a good job of capturing the intense pleasure flying brings to (mostly) men and (some) women; the technical stuff—dry stick landings, how to recover from an engine stall, and so on—is quite convincing to a nonflier. But there are three engines to this narrative: the danger of flying, the danger and seduction of glamour, and the struggle of a woman to find and assert herself in a man's world. These last two themes are, routinely, part of the Steel formula, but the last is noticeably prominent here. Because the novel is set in the years leading up to the bombing of Pearl Harbor, heroine Cassie has to struggle against a lot of unthinking male prejudice, initially from her father, and then from her cold and manipulative husband. But, of course, Cassie prevails, finds the authentically kind and generous man, and even survives a crash that leaves her alone and delirious on a desert island in the Pacific. Less emotional and

more adventurous than recent Steel novels, this is yet a page-turner from beginning to end. *Stuart Whitwell*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Angie Dean:

Here thing why this Wings are different and trusted to be yours. First of all reading a book is good but it really depends in the content of the usb ports which is the content is as tasty as food or not. Wings giving you information deeper and in different ways, you can find any reserve out there but there is no publication that similar with Wings. It gives you thrill examining journey, its open up your personal eyes about the thing this happened in the world which is maybe can be happened around you. You can actually bring everywhere like in park, café, or even in your technique home by train. If you are having difficulties in bringing the branded book maybe the form of Wings in e-book can be your option.

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