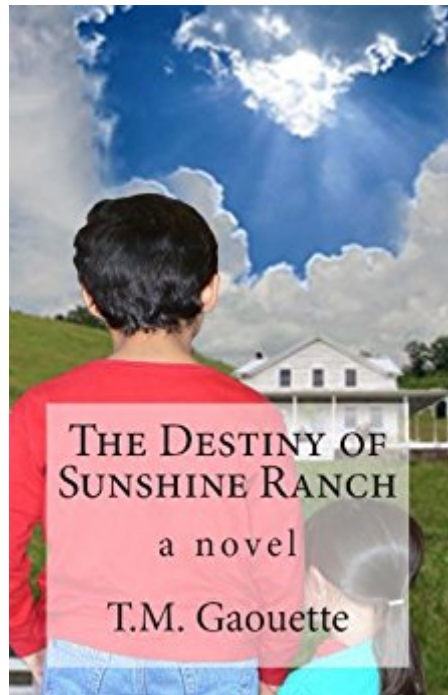




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The Destiny Of Sunshine Ranch



Synopsis

10 year old Benedict has been moved from one foster home to another, and he's hated every one. When he arrives at Sunshine Ranch, he doesn't bother unpacking. What's the point? But his new foster parents and siblings are very different from what he's become used to. David and Martha Credence strive to instill love and Christian values in their family and it inspires hope in each child. Benedict is not into "religion," but Sunshine Ranch is the home he's secretly been yearning for. Still, he fears it's all just a little too good to be true, and his sentiments are validated when he learns that they may lose Sunshine Ranch. Can the Credence children help save the Ranch? Will faith keep them together? Or will Benedict's dream be shattered? The Destiny of Sunshine Ranch is a story about a family devoted to God. It relays the personal journeys of all the Credence foster children and their struggles to overcome past and present pain and adversity. In this novel, the confidence of the devoted is challenged, but an even deeper understanding of God and His love are revealed.

â œl know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.â • Philippians 4:12-13

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Customer Reviews

At age ten, Benedict carries massive chips on both shoulders. Having passed from bad foster homes to worse, he dreads the uncertainty of new surroundings and new rules. When he arrives at The Sunshine Ranch, he doubts the sincerity of his new foster parents, David and Martha Credence and withholds his affections lest he is ripped again from friends and security. Benedict sees the other foster children as rivals and doubts that his good fortune will last. Over the next four years, he remains aloof, not daring to trust that he has found a home and family. When foreclosure threatens The Sunshine Ranch, Benedict's doubts seem to be confirmed. Although David and Martha ask Benedict and their other foster kids to have faith that God will provide, Benedict refuses to believe. But Micah, Benedict's roommate, and chief rival keeps the faith. Eventually, Benedict realizes that The Sunshine Ranch gives him the only happiness that he has ever known, and that his constant worry and fear prevent him from enjoying it. David and Martha Credence and their many foster children embody generosity and unquestioning faith. Theirs is an impossible task – they welcome hard-case kids like Benedict and scrape together the resources to meet their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. Benedict, on the other hand, provides a counterpoint to everything the Credence family attempts to share. Too wounded by his early life experiences to accept the healing they offer, he's likely to reject them and run away into the night. Micah, the optimist, has suffered as much as Benedict, but he always sees the bright side and attempts to wear down Benedict's rough edges. The *Destiny of Sunshine Ranch* appealed to every emotion: there are joy and sadness, richness and loss. T.M. Gaouette delivers a powerful story with an emotional wallop, filling her pages with surprises and suspense, mystery and romance, pain and growth. Unquestionably, this novel is a page turner. I would recommend this book for family reading. Biological progeny and foster children, biological and foster parents can see themselves somewhere in the pages of this book. It will especially benefit students preparing for careers in social services. I enjoyed reading this story because its characters deeply touched me. I pray that many couples will follow the example of David and Martha Credence and provide a loving home for foster children.

The minute I started reading this story, I knew I was going to need a kleenex box nearby. I was right. From page one I was pulled into this moving novel about a young boy in the foster care system, unwanted and hurting, and how God draws him to Himself by incredible and quite surprising

events. Benedict and sweet little Melanie stole my heart from the beginning, and the other characters were well done. The author's description is marvelous, and the story transported me, from the school principal's office in chapter one, to Miss Ratchet's dingy and abusive apartment, and of course to Sunshine Ranch, where adventures awaited our young hero and his companions. Some of the twists and turns caught me totally by surprise. This book is very different in flavor from Gaouette's Tanner Rose series. This one is for a younger audience, but in all of her books, the author gets straight into the hearts of her kids. I look forward to more of Gaouette's stories! I hope she considers a sequel to this one!

Troubled children can gain a lot from reading this story regarding persevering, learning to have faith in God, and reaching out to others in need in spite of being needy themselves. As an adult, this is a story that moved me rather than entertained me. My heart ached for the children, for "each held a great burden within them that was shrouded by fear of the unknown, prompted by the fear of their pasts," as the story states. I believe I felt Ms. Gaouette's heart within this story. She seemed to have intimate knowledge of these types of children's situations and those of the Sunshine Ranch adults. After the emotional ride of reading this story, I was grateful for the satisfactory ending. I can recommend this novel for adults and young people.

I am finding it difficult to put into words my thoughts about this book, because the story speaks directly to the heart, and there are no words sufficient for how my heart was touched by this book. From the first page to the last, I found myself drawn compellingly into the love, suffering and grace of a large family of foster children drawn together from diverse circumstances and cultures. Once I started reading this book I could not put it down! This is the best read I have had in a very long time!

Gaouette takes you into the heart of the world of foster children. She lets you into the loving homes and the feared homes and shows what love can do to heal brokenness and teach a soul to love and trust again. You fall in love with each child character and want to sweep them up in your arms and hold them while they cry or scream with frustration or smile with joy. The ending surprised me and it was a wonderful moment for me as a reader. If you love children and the redeeming work of the Lord Jesus Christ then this is the book for you. MLH, Christian Home School Mom

10 year old Benedict had some bad experiences in foster care so when he was placed at Sunshine Ranch, a loving Christian home, he couldn't believe it was real. He wasn't used to loving foster

parents and siblings and his behavior was always guarded. His is an emotional and spiritual journey with some surprising developments along the way. The Destiny of Sunshine Ranch is an uplifting story for any age.

This novel peeks into the world of children in foster care, kids who have experienced things no child ever should. Sunshine Ranch is the home of a vulnerable child's dreams, with loving, faithful couple Martha and David caring for and educating 10 children who are in the foster-care system. Life at the ranch is not without its challenges, especially for 10-year-old Benedict who has had things particularly rough. This heartwarming tale has an unexpected ending.

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