



Gastien: From Dream To Destiny

Caddy Rowland

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"I am Gastien Beauchamp, artist and lover. Any Frenchman would tell you that a peasant could never own property in nineteenth century France. Yet here I am, in my very own studio. The personal cost was horrendous. I barely survived the choices I made, and my sanity was pushed to its limits.

Still, I finally now have security, peace, and freedom. For the rest of my life I can spend time "making love to the color", making love to beautiful women, and enjoying the wild nightlife of bohemian Montmartre. What more could a man need or want?

Then, one night, I see her. One look at Sophie, and my heart wants to betray me! I try to tell myself that I know better. Who needs love, anyway? I am already married-to my art!

No woman would ever understand and accept my lifestyle; nor am I about to give that lifestyle up. Not when I paid so dearly for it! Besides, I am too badly damaged to ever open up my heart...and if Sophie found out about my past she would not want to even know my name. I can't take that chance. I have had enough pain to last me a lifetime."

Gastien: From Dream To Destiny Details

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Author : Caddy Rowland

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Victoria says

It is a great book to read

Beccie says

I was asked to review “Gastien: From Dream to Destiny” when I was done reading it. If you haven’t read the first book in the series, I highly recommend doing so before tackling this one. I enjoyed this book much better than the first; it wasn’t as emotionally draining which made it easier to read. Though there is more romance than in the first book, it’s very different from the typical romance novel. This is a very sexually charged book which may put some readers off, but it’s well worth reading. I have love/hate emotions for Gastien. I had to remind myself that his views on subjects were that of a man from his time period and not a modern day guy. I can’t help but admire his honesty, originality, and strength but his behaviors are appalling. He’s a drug addicted alcoholic with monogamy issues. He’ll act irresponsible one moment then turn around and be tender and caring. His background makes some of his actions understandable as he needed to grow up sooner than he did. I enjoyed that Caddy wrote this story to span Gastien’s entire life once meeting Sophie. That may seem like a lot to fit in one book but she hits the highlights. I imagine the missing years would have been boring. Sophie is a one of a kind woman. Her love for Gastien is so immense that she’s able to accept all his flaws despite her family’s disapproval and hatred. I liked seeing Gastien fall in love; it was very comical in the beginning. I was surprised that their relationship lasted. I thought for sure Sophie would get tired of Gastien’s infidelity and immaturity. I enjoyed seeing Gastien as a father as well. I could feel the love he had for his son even if he wasn’t the best at showing it. He truly tried to be what he thought a father was but it was predictable that he would end up disappointing his son. As their son got older he became a very unlikable character. He was a snotty, selfish, brat who could never see past other people’s opinions and dislike for his father to see all the good in him. I thought after Gastien confided his past to his son that would make him more understanding towards his father, but he didn’t seem to care. The ending was unexpected and I cried for Gastien’s pain. Caddy was able to write a beautiful conclusion for Gastien’s story but left me wondering how she would continue this series. I was able to see how with the brief preview of the third book. I give “Gastien: From Dream to Destiny” 5/5 stars. Sophie and Gastien have entered the realm of epic romance couples. They prove that true love is unexpected, unconditional, passionate, and flawed.

Karen says

Riveting

Although at times seemed like a bad soap opera, it did grip me and held me all the way through this second book of the series. I couldn’t put it down most nights. It actually evolved into a powerful study of life of a nonconformist. It is a difficult life although from the outside it appears self serving and gleeful. So much sadness, but life is all about love.

Gladys Johnsen says

Everything is Color

This book was spellbinding. Gastien and Sophie we're lovers who would not be separated. Sophie understood her Bohemian husband's need for his lover, art. Color was everything to him and he had to paint for days and nights, regardless the consequences.

Intoxicated by Books says

absolutely loved Gastien Part 1 and never thought I that Caddy Rowland could write a second book as good as the first. I have loved Gastien's story from the very beginning. I have laughed with, cried with, and felt like punching the different characters in these books. I hate to see Gastien's story come to an end but I can't wait to experience the story of Tristan Michel. Caddy Rowland has done such an amazing job with these two books I know that I will ALWAYS make it a point to read EVERYTHING that she writes. Caddy is master of the roller coaster of emotions. I finished reading this book at about 2:30 AM and I honestly thought that I was going to wake my husband because I was literally bawling! The whole book isn't sad though. It's the same as the first, like I said, a roller coaster. It will have you crying one minute and laughing out loud the next.

Debbi says

Gastien's story continues; he is known by the married women of the gentry as a great lover, he parties hard with his artist friends, and most of all he paints as he was born to do. Because of a horrid event Gastien now has his own studio and has enough money to last him for many years if he's careful. Then he meets Sophie. Love at first sight.

The story went up and down. Would be really good for awhile and then it would get slow for awhile. This cycle kept repeating throughout the entire book hence the 3 stars.

Dayton Larson says

"Emotional roller coaster". We learned to live along side Gastien Beauchamp in Gastien. Now in the second book, its an emotional roller coaster. Heart throbbing page turner. Written remarkably well. Merci beaucoup Caddy Rowland

Liz at Fictional Candy says

This is book two in the Gastien Beauchamp series, taking place from 1855 – 1899. This book starts with a lot of review of the previous book. Of course, I recommend you read Part 1, The Cost of The Dream. But if you

don't, you will get the basics of it throughout this book. I must say, I enjoyed this book much more than the first. While both books are dark and portray a very honest look at Gastien's life, this one had a bit more lighthearted moments that made it better for me.

Ok, so trying to focus on this book, and not so much the both books together. Gastien is now an adult, living in his studio in Montemartre. He is pretty much the same as he was previously. My views of him as a person are not terrific. I think he is selfish and immature, and a bit of a whiner when he doesn't get his way. He fills his life with superficial women, and this always leaves him looking for something more – as he is constantly reaffirming he does not want to be in love. Sex, painting, drugs, and drinking...these are all things that Gastien is a happy and willing slave to. Frankly, it began to be a bit tiresome to constantly have to deal with his insecurities and troubles that his addictions caused him. Just as it is in the real world when you have to deal with a self centered addict.

See, this might seem like I am bashing the book. Oh no, I'm not at all. I found this an enjoyable read for the most part. On the down side, there was a lot of repetition that I could have done without. The thing is, this story is not sugarcoated. Gastien grew up relatively poor, left home with nothing, went to the "big city" and he knows what scraping bottom feels like. He was so low he had to scrape bottom just to look up. He got a few breaks here and there, made many sacrifices for his one true love (his art) and landed in a pretty good situation in Montemartre. You get to see his whole life, and not just the good parts.

He finds love, real true love, in a young girl named Sophie. This relationship is not without its troubles, but they have open and honest communication, and they make it work. I can't imagine how, but they do. When they first meet, he is flustered and makes slips like asking for a kisskey instead of a whiskey one night at the pub when she is a waitress. These little details really add to the story of their romance. It doesn't happen with a flash bang like in shorter novels, this romance is nurtured and grown until it becomes the rare flower that it is.

There is quite the cast of characters in this book, and you really get a chance to know them. One of my favorites is Gastien's best friend, Mic. Mic is... well, after being Gastien's friend for decades he should qualify for sainthood. In fact, there is a scene where Mic is reminiscing and you get a quick view of Gastien from his eyes, from the first moment he saw him on the street. This was so touching and beautiful, it really shows that family is indeed not just the people who you share blood with, but rather those who you share life with.

There were a few surprises in this book that I didn't see coming, and I'll leave those unspoiled. Lets just say that in this book you should be prepared for the parade of emotions you are going to feel with Gastien and his choices. There is definite happiness, a touch of romance, a splash and a rub of lust, and there is sorrow. Like I've said before, I am not necessarily sure this is a "feel good" book. If you are looking for the next power couple in the fiction world on a whirlwind romance of lust and love, you should look elsewhere. This is a gritty and raw look at the life of a young man who has convictions and sticks to them no matter the cost. It's a good story, and if you like historical fiction, I think you will enjoy it.

EDIT

Ok, so I'm thinking about this review and this book, and there is more that I want to say. Gastien is a very complex man... He got me so upset with his choices and his decisions, if he were in front of me I may have flown off the handle. BUT! Yes, there is a but - when good things happened for him, I found myself smiling and happy too. When disaster struck, and it did several times, my heart broke for him. He is a flawed man, but there is a raw honesty there that was appealing, even as he was doing the worst things that he could, and

stomping on the hearts of those who loved him. He came from being abused and under-loved, and he gained this circle of family around him that loved him unconditionally. I don't know, I guess its a love-hate relationship I have with Gastien.

Melissa ownsbey says

great book loved it better than the frist but i still love it the charters are good

Cindi Chase says

You will fall in love with Gastien and Sofie as I did. You can feel the joys, the pains, the anxiety and all things that they go thru in life. Like the first book, it draws you in and it is hard to put down, it is addicting. You become immersed in Gastien's life and live the entire emotional roller coaster with him. I highly recommend this book. I am looking forward to learning more in book 3. The book can definitely stand on its own and Gastien will stick with me for a very long time, much like Gone with the Wind.

Kathy says

Book 2 in the Gastien series and Caddy Rowland does not disappoint. Gastien's bohemian lifestyle continues in Montmartre during 19th century France. The life of a true artist is wild and free and very sexual. You definitely have to read The Cost of a Dream to truly appreciate what Gastien's life has been up to this point and the life he now leads. Rowland has you believing you know all these characters by their traits you love and hate them and want to know more about this way of life during this period in France, including Moulin Rouge, the opium dens and the French cliches. Looking forward to seeing how his family emerges.

Lady Raven RAVE! says

BRIEF SUMMARY

We were introduced to Gastien in book 1 'The Cost of the Dream' where we followed him to a certain point in his life. In book 2 'From Dream to Destiny', we get to follow Gastien between 1855 to 1899 as he comes into his own.

THOUGHTS

Although you can read book 2 and not really be lost I would still recommend to the reader to read book 1. I think this process of reading about someone's life since a toddler until now is new and interesting for me. The prologue sets the pace by briefing on certain things before continuing Gastien's story. Gastien's life seems very dark and interesting at times, but I think it's what kept my interest. It almost felt like I was reading about a rock star with a turbulent life.

The supporting characters are Mic aka Michael, Gastien's best friend and Sophie. Sophie was Gastien's love interest. Their relationship was very interesting and I liked their first encounter together. For me personally, this isn't my typical romance novel but the life Gastien lived made it hard to look away.

The story had its high and low moments for me but you truly would have to be gravitated to the story to truly enjoy it.

Length: 7642 kindle

Storyline: GOOD

Enjoyment: GOOD

More reviews for this author:

http://romancenoveljunkies.com/Caddy_...

LEESA GILMORE says

Excellent

A page Turner! I couldn't put it down. You get immersed in the characters life and laugh and cry with them. Plus it's very interesting to learn about the great artists and there way of life then. You feel you learn and you appreciate.

Trish says

Gastein part 2 was even more mesmerizing than the first in the series!

Caddy does not disappoint at all! Gastein and Mic have a very special bond of friendship that is stronger than some brothers have. It is like they have gone to War together and are inseparable! I love the closeness of the two and how Mic has no problem telling Gastein you are being an ass!

Within this book we see Gastein's flaws but we understand them. He does not always make the right choices but does that best he can. He finds the love of his life in Sophie and they have a very unconventional way of life which her family does not understand at all!

Because of past abuse he is in a lot of pain and takes a lot of drugs, at times a little too much! He has great friends in Mic and Cassie and Vic.

I could not let go of the characters they had become like family. Their were emotional highs and lows with this book. I could visualize myself in France with them. I could see myself having lunch with the girls and laughing about the men and their trysts. I would love to have someone in my life that I share that deep love with!

Caddy you have done what few authors have been able to do. And that is, have the characters become real and very much alive! I see all the layers of Gastein, Sophie, Mic, Cassie, Vic and Tristan Michael.

There is so much parallisms in the characters and families.

Thank you Caddy for another great book!

Lisa says

Another great book in this historical series. As with the first book, this one is a tear jerker as well, so get the kleenex ready.
