



## **The Legacy (The Restoration Series Book #4): A Novel: Volume 4**

*Dan Walsh , Gary Smalley*

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Readers who have been on this emotional and romantic journey with the Anderson family will fall in love with this satisfying conclusion to the popular series.

## **The Legacy (The Restoration Series Book #4): A Novel: Volume 4 Details**

Date : Published March 31st 2015 by Revell

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Author : Dan Walsh , Gary Smalley

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Dan Walsh , Gary Smalley

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## **From Reader Review The Legacy (The Restoration Series Book #4): A Novel: Volume 4 for online ebook**

### **Becky says**

When I read *The Desire* last fall, one of the more intriguing aspects of the plot was the friendship-and-potentially-more between Christina and Doug. So when I realized that *The Legacy* would tell Doug's story, I couldn't wait to dive in.

I definitely enjoyed Christina's part of the story the most; even though her background is about as far from mine as you could possibly get, I related to some of her relationship struggles and appreciated her journey to finding love.

The Doug story did strike me as a bit convenient—what I mean by that is he very quickly turned his life around following a pivotal event, and the resolution with Christina came about almost too easily and neatly. So much time was spent setting up Doug's downward spiral that his redemption came at the very end of the novel—I would have preferred to spend more time with "new" Doug, and I really would have liked to see more of the romance with Christina. Still, though, I did enjoy his story.

I also have to mention that the spiritual lessons in this novel seem much less forced than they did in *The Desire*. Conversations about faith flow naturally and seem like they belong in the plot, rather than being forced in. This is a major improvement over the last novel.

*The Legacy* provides a satisfying conclusion to Doug and Christina's story, and it also wraps up Allan and Michele's story, which was the focus of *The Desire*. Overall, I really enjoyed this look in on the Anderson family and felt it was a fitting conclusion to the series. 4 stars.

Note: While this is book four in the Restoration Series, it could be read as a stand alone.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Revell through the Revell Reads program. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own.

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### **Mark says**

Dan Walsh has become one of my favorite authors, and I would put him at the top of my non-suspense author list, although he did write one suspense novel and it was a great read. I always look forward to a new book coming out from him, and I have been waiting for this one for several months, the fourth and final book in *The Restoration Series*.

Book one centered on the parents in the Anderson family, and each book following has centered around one of their three children. This final one is about the youngest of the three, Doug, who is away in college.

Although this book was not suspense, it was a fast read for me. Part of that was because I had been looking forward to reading it so much. The other reason I got into it so much is because I really enjoy prodigal stories, and this is one. I don't believe the authors call it a modern retelling of the prodigal son story from the Bible, but it very well could be. Son of a fairly affluent couple goes off to college and leaves his faith behind,

falling into immorality and the wrong crowd. I knew Doug was going to hit bottom, and it was a bit painful to experience through the pages of the book, yet it was encouraging. The book had the message that even though we wonder from God, we can come back. He still loves us and will forgive.

This is probably my favorite book of the series. They all resonated with me, as these are not light and fluff fiction, but books that carry a great message and has some great advice all through the pages for married couples and parents..... but I really needed the message of this book. That the same God who loves us and saves us is waiting to welcome us back and forgive us if we stray. I cannot say enough good about this book and the whole series. Dan outdid himself on these four books, and Gary Smalley's expertise on family relationships is also seen in the plots of the books.

These do go in order, and it is advisable to read them in the order that they were written: The Dance, The Promise, The Desire, and The Legacy.

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## **Kim says**

The Legacy

by Dan Walsh & Gary Smalley

Rating: 3/5

Book 4 of the Restoration Series

Revell - Contemporary Fiction

Doug Anderson has been living a double life. While at home, he portrays a good son who goes to church and doesn't drink or do drugs. While at college, Doug has a gorgeous girlfriend that sleeps over and friends that party hard. Doug's father feels he is to blame for the rift between father and son. Doug feels like he can never live up to his parents' expectations and all their religious rules. Christina, a family friend, can't ignore what she's been seeing on social media about Doug and who he's hanging out with. When Doug's double life is discovered, everything starts to spiral out of control. Can Doug find his way back as the Prodigal Son did? Can his father make the right decisions regarding Doug's life choices? Can Christina find a way to bring him back to his faith?

While I've never read anything by Dan Walsh, I have read some books by Gary Smalley and love his writing and insight. I was disappointed by this story though but that could be because this is the fourth book in a series that I'm unfamiliar with. They jump into the story and characters with very little introduction. I had a hard time connecting with Christina and Doug as characters. Doug's father's choices also grated on me as I yelled at him through the pages. Obviously, I have a different perspective of how the tense situations should have been handled, but he made me so frustrated. I finally did enjoy the last third of the story enough to grant it 3 stars but unfortunately, the story really felt like it was missing something and didn't really hook me in the beginning. The book gets 3 stars because despite its faults, it is still a story that needs to be told and I loved the ending.

I received this book for free from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Pam Burke says**

Dan Walsh & Gary Smalley complete their Restoration Series with The Legacy, continuing the story of the

Anderson family by focusing on the youngest son, Doug. Many aspects of Doug's life fall closely in line with the Biblical story of the prodigal son, with his parents praying that he finds his way back home.

This book, as well as the entire series, uses the lives of a fictional family to share valuable Biblical principles relating to family relationships. The family has been through a few years of difficulties and has learned important lessons that can likely prove very helpful to many who read the stories. As the series has progressed, however, it seems the story lines have not been highly engaging and have fallen a little flat. It does have its interesting characters and moments that are more engaging, and I would consider *The Legacy* worth the time to complete the series.

Thanks to Revell for providing a copy of *The Legacy* in exchange for my honest review.

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## **Meagan Myhren-bennett says**

*The Legacy*  
The Restoration series 4  
By Dan Walsh  
and Gary Smalley

*The Legacy* is the concluding book in the Restoration series. This is one family's journey to rediscovering the lives that they should be living as not only a family but as believers. *The Legacy* focuses on the youngest Anderson son Doug who is now on his own at college.

But Doug is living two lives - one that his family thinks he's living and the one he's living at college. But living in two worlds isn't possible for long and Doug is about to discover this all too suddenly when an incident brings his two worlds into contact. Will this be the catalyst that finally drives a wedge into the family that can't be breached? Or will this be the dose of reality that will help Doug find his way home?

*The Legacy* is a powerful lesson in the pain in loving a child who is determined to do it their own way, no matter the cost. As Jim and Marilyn struggle with dealing with Doug's situation they find themselves reaching out again for advice from Uncle Henry and Aunt Myra.

Still dealing from Jim's years of inattentive parenting, Doug seems to be the last unresolved situation and learning to deal with it in a way that doesn't drive him further away offers hope to other families going through a similar situation. All too often we try to force those we care about to change - to become who we know they should be, but in the process we actually hinder them by further driving them away. The prodigal son is an interesting theme that runs throughout this story in a couple of unique ways.

This is a powerful conclusion to a moving and thoughtfully written series. Though I'm sure each could be read individually to get the full impact and powerful message the series should be read in order.

I was provided a copy of this book by Revell through their Revell Reads blogger program in exchange for my honest review.

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## **Charity Andrews says**

Doug, the Liam Hemsworth doppelganger, is a college student that's struggling with the same things most people struggle with at that age: drugs, alcohol, God, etc... He finds himself going down a darker and darker path until he realizes what is true and right. It's a typical coming of age romance.

However, I have to be honest, this book really confused me. It's two older men writing a love story/finding yourself/finding God story. It just felt very odd. There were a couple of things that I felt were off. First of all, it seemed like the tone was that of a YA book. Very simplistic. Secondly, it was very slow moving!! There were a lot of seemingly unnecessary scenes.

That being said, I know that people differ in style and taste. So, I am keeping that in mind. For me, it just didn't work. I didn't really love the characters because they seemed out of touch. The way they talked and acted certainly didn't seem to be from today's generation. Honestly, I really don't think that everyone would feel that way about it though. The message is clear and hopeful. It may suit some.

Thank you, Revell, for this read. As always, this is my honest opinion. Here's to many more!

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## **Lisa Johnson says**

Title: The Legacy (Book #4 in the Restoration Series)

Author: Dan Walsh & Gary Smalley

Website: <http://www.danwalshbooks.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/gtsmalley>

Pages: 336

Year: 2015

Publisher: Revell

My Rating: 5 out of 5 stars

The story centers mostly on the youngest adult child of Jim and Marilyn, who live in Florida as do their other family members. One character is named Christina who became a believer and after her son was born selflessly put him up for adoption. For a while there it seemed as if Doug and Christina would have a romantic relationship, but Doug wasn't in a good solid place in his life.

In seeking counsel as to how best to help Doug when he chose a different way of life other than the one he was raised in, the story of the Prodigal Son sheds some light of wisdom on the way to live while waiting to see if Doug would repent and return to the Lord. I found that particular aspect very insightful, especially when different points about the story Jesus told were shared through one of the supporting characters.

I won't share too much, but I can tell you I was encouraged when a point was made that neither son of the father in Jesus' story took after their father. Neither the son who left nor the one who stayed reacted as the father had to both sons. The point being that as parents we can raise our children up in the way they should go, walking with the Lord, but if they make other choices it is a reflection on them. The only caveat is if as a parent we actually did wrong bringing about the child.

Though I hadn't read the previous novels in the series, I couldn't stop reading The Legacy as it really touched my heart. As a parent now to two grown sons one of whom has left the nest, I too see that as a parent we never stop loving, praying for or reaching out to our adult children. The father in the story had a real hard time when there was silence on the phone or when Doug wouldn't call, text or email him back. While his heart was broken, he was learning how to trust God completely with his son and learning to communicate

with his wife.

I hope you make time to read this inspiring novel along with the Biblical account found in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. We can be encouraged and have our hearts buoyed as we wait for our loved ones, friends or others who have lost their way to come back home to the Lord.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received one or more of the products or services mentioned above for free in the hope that I would mention it on my blog. Regardless, I only recommend products or services I use personally and believe will be good for my readers. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255. "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

Other reviews can be read at <http://seekingwithallyurheart.blogspot...> . Also follow me on Twitter @lcjohnson1988, FaceBook at <https://www.facebook.com/lisa.johnson...>

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### **Christian Fiction Addiction says**

"The Legacy" offers up a moving, emotionally satisfying conclusion to "The Restoration Series". I enjoyed how the authors have, in a way, modernized the story of the prodigal son, as Doug makes a series of choices that lead him away from the faith of his youth to embrace what the world has to offer. As with earlier books in the series, the characters continue to be written with a real depth to them, and I liked the fact that the authors aren't afraid to portray people with very human problems, even those who have grown over the course of the series. For example, despite his best intentions, Doug's father Jim reacts to Doug's choices in a way that only serves to drive a wedge between them. Although Jim has come a long way from the days of the first book in the series (the Dance), he still has things to learn, something any of us can relate to. Parents will also be able to relate to the struggles that the Andersons have in knowing how to parent Doug through his challenges, knowing when to step in and when to let go.

But what I most love about this series is the way it portrays the gift that a healthy family is, whether in times of blessings or hard times. So often we can turn on the news or look in the neighbourhood around us and feel like all we are seeing is marriages falling apart, child-parent conflict resulting in estrangement, and the breakdown of the family. This book and the whole series offer us a hope that things can be different. And though the authors definitely want you to learn something through the reading of this book, you don't need to be afraid that you'll be bored. There is plenty of drama to keep you glued to the pages. I know I was!

Walsh and Smalley have not only offered up a solidly entertaining book with "The Legacy", but have penned an entire series that will please fans and inspire them readers to make changes in their own lives. I give this book a solid rating of 4 out of 5 stars.

Book has been provided courtesy of Baker Publishing Group and Graf-Martin Communications, Inc. Available at your favourite bookseller from Revell, a division of Baker Publishing Group.

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### **Victor Gentile says**

Dan Walsh and Gary Smalley in their new book, "The Legacy" Book Four in The Restoration Series published by Revell takes us into the life of Doug Anderson.

From the Back Cover: One young man is about to discover the true cost of independence

For years, Doug Anderson has been drifting slowly but steadily away from both his family and his faith. His parents have been trying to reach him before he falls too far. His friend Christina hopes what she is seeing online isn't true. But sometimes you have to hit bottom before you're ready to grow up.

Just as things begin to settle down a bit, Doug's life takes a turn that requires every bit of faith and patience for both his family and Christina—whose growing feelings for Doug, a man who writes her off as not worth his time, keep her off balance. Will Doug's crisis finally clear his vision and help him focus on what he has right in front of him?

Without any doubt Dan Walsh is one of the best writers out there. He consistently writes books that go right to the heart, have wonderful characters that deal with issues that affect all of us. "The Legacy" is no exception. "The Legacy" is all about a family. This time the focus is on Doug, the youngest, who is away at college. He is drifting away from his parents and from Christina, one of his best friends. The story of Doug is definitely a story of The Prodigal Son. Doug is going to have to experience tragedy if he is ever going to not only come back home but come back to God. The team of Walsh and Smalley takes these issues, put them in a fictional setting and get their point across without being preachy. They clearly show us that even though we wander from God we can come back. He still loves us and will forgive. This is a wonderful book that shows the power of God to heal and restore.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Revell Publishers. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

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## **Carole Jarvis says**

Reviewed at The Power of Words: <http://tinyurl.com/l6alrpw>

The Restoration Series, co-written by Dan Walsh and Gary Smalley, comes to a very satisfying conclusion with Doug's story in The Legacy. These stories are a shining example of how fiction can be used not only to entertain, but to impact lives. I have greatly enjoyed all four books in this well-written series - but for me, Dan and Gary hit it out of the ballpark with this one. I believe the themes of prodigals and legacy are things to which countless faithful parents can relate, for love and concern for children are at the core of every parent's being.

Jim's "legacy" plays a big part in this story, because we could anticipate the trajectory Doug's life would take back in book #1, The Dance - the result of Jim's absentee parenting many years before that. Without question, my favorite character is Jim's Uncle Henry, through which much practical wisdom is imparted in personal conversations. Each book in this series could technically stand alone, but I think it would feel like a piece of the puzzle was missing if not read in order.

Many readers will enjoy Doug's talent for illustrating graphic novels and his visit to ComicCon. Through the character of Christina, we see the effect of a believer's witness, and her comparison between fantasy heroes and Jesus is too good not to share:



"I think they're so popular because they give us hope that all the bad, crummy things going on all around us, and all the evil people making them happen, can be stopped. The real-life people in charge don't seem to be able to do anything about it. . . . Jesus was a superhero, but for real. He stood up for the people no one paid attention to or cared about. He defied all the power brokers of his day, all the greedy people, all the users and the takers. And he said things about life and love and relationships that no one had ever said before. And if that wasn't enough, he had the power to pull it off. He could heal the sick with a word, walk on water, calm a raging storm, even raise the dead back to life. But then he didn't use all that power to get things for himself. Instead, he gave it all away, even his own life . . . just so we'd have a chance to get close to his Father."

There is so much to take away from *The Legacy*, so much to dwell upon. This is not a retelling of the Prodigal Son, yet many applicable points are drawn from this parable, especially relating to the father. Trusting God to deal with my children is a lesson that I have to continually relearn, and I cherish the reminder that while they may be out of my ability to reach, they're certainly not out of God's.

But it's these words of Uncle Henry that parents everywhere can cling to . . .

"Sometimes being a parent is about being the kind of person they'll want to turn to, maybe even listen to, when they've made a total mess of things. Sometimes all the hard things and all the right things God wants us to do now - when they're drifting away from us - are just the building blocks to a bridge they can cross over on their way back."

After all, aren't we all prodigals in need of that bridge leading back home to our Father?

*The Legacy* is outstanding, as is the whole series. Highly recommended.

Thank you to Revell for providing a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

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## **Jalynn Patterson says**

*The Legacy* (The Restoration Series, #4)

About the Book:

Doug Anderson has been drifting slowly but steadily away from both his family and his faith. His parents, along with Christina, a young woman taken into the family during a crisis pregnancy, have been trying to reach him before he falls too far. But sometimes you have to hit bottom before you're ready to grow up and give your life over to God. Christina's feelings for Doug have been growing, even though he writes her off as not worth his time. Will Doug's own crisis finally clear his vision and help him focus on what he has right in front of him?

Readers who have been on this emotional and romantic journey with the Anderson family will fall in love with this satisfying conclusion to the popular series.

About the Authors:

Dan Walsh is the bestselling author of many books, including *The Dance*, *The Promise*, and *The Desire* with

Gary Smalley. He has won three Carol Awards, and three of his novels were finalists for RT Book Reviews Inspirational Book of the Year. He lives with his wife in the Daytona Beach area, where he's busy researching and writing his next novel.

Gary Smalley is one of the country's best-known authors and speakers on family relationships and has appeared on national television programs such as Oprah, Larry King Live, and TODAY, as well as numerous national radio programs. He is the bestselling and award-winning author or coauthor of many books, including the Baxter Family Redemption series with Karen Kingsbury. Gary and his wife, Norma, have been married for 50 years and live in Missouri.

My Review:

Doug Anderson's parents have noticed just how distant Doug has become with them. They pray for him daily, in hopes that he'll soon come to his senses. When Doug's best friend, Christina, tells them what she has seen on social media, they know he is falling quickly. Pictures of his friends drinking and doing things they shouldn't, worries them all greatly.

Doug and his friend, Jason, have been working on a graphic novel in-between the parties they are at constantly. Doug feels that he finally has everything figured out, and besides it's not like he's drinking when he's at those parties. He has a girlfriend who loves everything about him and he enjoys her company, despite her constant drinking. One afternoon, Doug and Jason drive down to Orlando, FL, for a comic convention. It all seems great until that night when on the way back to school, Jason is smoking something he shouldn't and a police officer pulls them over. Then it hits Doug, it's time to grow up.

The Legacy is book 4 in The Restoration series. This book is another wonderful addition to the series. The authors did a wonderful job portraying the life of a troubled boy.

**\*\*Disclosure\*\*** This book was sent to me free of charge for my honest review from Revell.

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**Kathy Mizell says**

**The Long Road Home**

I had read all the books in the Restoration Series and had to know what happens in the fourth book. Would the youngest son return to the life he was raised in, would Christina be part of that life? I think anyone with kids or grandkids that are struggling with life would benefit reading this whole series not just book four. There is a lot of good Christian advice in all four books that each of us could apply to our lives, from teenagers to grandparents. Thank you Dan Walsh for another one.

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## **Anna says**

While I thoroughly enjoyed the other three books of this series, I found this one to be a bit of a disappointment. The story focuses on Doug, the youngest of the Anderson children. Doug has grown up spoiled, often butting heads with his father. When he goes off to college, he joins the party scene with his best friend Jason. Yet, Doug maintains a small piece of the Christian values he was raised by. At home, Christina, the teenage girl his parents opened up their home to, is struggling with her feelings for Doug. When Doug is caught by his mother and Christina in an awkward scene with his girlfriend, things really fall apart. Based upon the familiar Bible passages of the Prodigal Son, the story offers some interesting insight into raising teens in today's liberal society. That said, the story wraps up a little too neatly and a bit cliché.

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## **Nicki Olsen says**

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### **\*Summary\***

One young man is about to discover the true cost of independence

For years, Doug Anderson has been drifting slowly but steadily away from both his family and his faith. His parents have been trying to reach him before he falls too far. His friend Christina hopes what she is seeing online isn't true. But sometimes you have to hit bottom before you're ready to grow up.

Just as things begin to settle down a bit, Doug's life takes a turn that requires every bit of faith and patience for both his family and Christina--whose growing feelings for Doug, a man who writes her off as not worth his time, keep her off balance. Will Doug's crisis finally clear his vision and help him focus on what he has right in front of him?

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### **\*My Thoughts\***

I must say, I was immediately drawn to the cover of this book. I guess, as any typical girl, seeing a face to accompany the male protagonist is always a special treat to me, so it's not surprising this book had to make it to my tbr list. What is probably surprising, was the fact that I had never read these authors before despite hearing great things about them. Actually, I take that back, I did read Gary Smalley in the Baxter series with Karen Kingsbury but that's it. Unfortunately, once I delved into the book, I was a little disappointed at first. It just seemed so SLOW! Finally about midway through the book, I got more interested but I think it was the writing style that didn't give me the suspense I usually like in a book. Gary and Dan had a good story, great cover, e.t.c, I just think the writing was a bit too simple for my taste. Not that I like a bunch of fancy words, it just didn't seem to flow well and I didn't feel like I'd meet Doug in Walmart, like they could be real. Probably just me.

I did, however, love their story line. It's a good idea. Maybe not necessarily for a teen like me but for someone like my aunt who struggled with a son like Doug, it's tangible. They had a perfect amount of conflict and just the right ending to make it believable which I appreciate. Which leads me to my next pro for

"The Legacy". They did an excellent job with the spiritual content in this book. I think it's because it works with worried, Christian parents but they conveyed The Christian message perfectly without being pushy. For someone (just an example, not true for me) who's not into a ton of religious content within their books, staying away from pushiness helps a LOT.

Some parents are really cautious about what their kids watch/read as they should and this book is very real. Not that it's a bad thing but it does refer to some pot/smoking, beers, as well as some possible deaths. While this book was engaging towards the end, it didn't keep me up all night like usual...then again, that could be a good thing!

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\*My Rating\*

As previously mentioned, I give The Legacy by Dan Walsh and Gary Smalley...

4 stars!!

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\*My overall thoughts\*

The Legacy by Dan Walsh and Gary Smalley is a sweet, complicated story about a college guy, his struggles and how his choices affected his family and friends. Add a little romance and it makes for a charming weekend read without the usual suspense of an "up all night" novel.

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\*I have recieved this book from the author and the publisher in exchange for an honest review which I have given. All thoughts are my own and I was not compensated in any other way.

<http://bookreviewsforchristians.blogs...>

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### **Carolyn Vandine west says**

I loved the conclusion to this series called the restoration. I hate things spoiled for me so I won't tell too much. This is the story of the youngest child of Jim and Marilyn whom we met in the first book called "The Dance". Doug is at college away from mom and dad for the first time. He is tempted to stray from the things he has been taught as a child and young man. Will he be lead astray or stay on the right path? Read and see. Great story you won't be disappointed

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