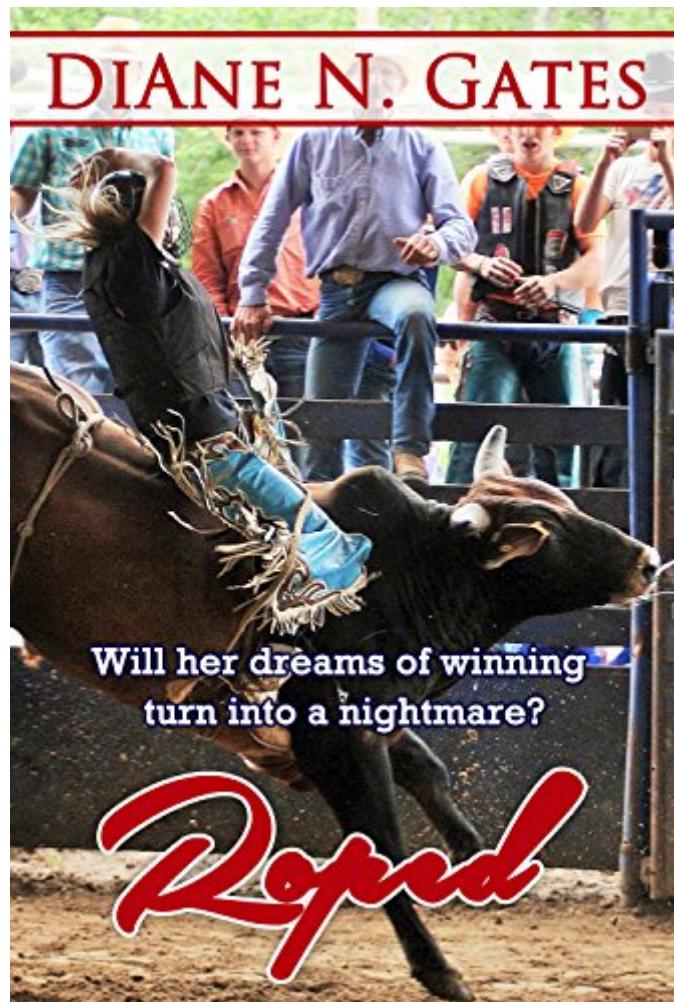


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# Roped



## Synopsis

Thirteen-year-old Crissy Crosby chases a dream to live up to her parents' rodeo legacy. But the rodeo championship is two months away and problems beyond her ability to solve stack and teeter like a game of Tumbling-Towers. Meanwhile rival Jodie Lea and her father, Ed Fairgate, contrive to swipe the silver buckles from Crissy's grasp any way they can. Prejudice, anger, and dark secrets simmer in a pot of family feuds destined to boil over in a tragic nightmare at the rodeo. Will Crissy develop courage and faith to overcome the consequences of her temper? Will her dreams of buckles and titles become reality? Or will the character-building adversities of her life quash her dreams forever? ENDORSEMENTS FOR ROPED • Roped has much more tension and suspense per page than any book, adult or otherwise, I've read in years. Like the serial books I loved as a young person, Roped leaves you panting for the next installment. Entertaining, exciting, and colorful, the descriptions, particularly of the villainous Ed Fairgate after Buster's demise, helps you remember why books were always better than movies. So much more show than tell.

Crissy's temper is a major theme. Her growth comes at a high price, but she does her folks proud and wins big. And teaches Christian values. Love certain phrases like, "Shame sifted over me like pollen in the springtime." • Judy Madsen Johnson, Author of Joy Cometh in the Morning, the Joy Postle Blackstone Story and Stories from the Front Lines, the Battle Against Abortion, judymadsenjohnson.com • I read the novel Roped by DiAne Gates, because I was curious to see what kind of work she could produce, having been a writer alongside her for a few years. I was not excited about it because I do not generally like or read fiction. However, I want to say I found it truly a page-turner and I actually enjoyed it very much. I read it in one day, although I had many other things I should have been doing. I found myself, a Granny, quite anxious to know what happened to each character and felt a sense of satisfaction at the end of each episode, coupled with a sense of time passing while I wasn't reading, something I've only before experienced while reading Frank Peretti. DiAne has written a great book for young adults, one that will engage them, I feel sure, and also will inspire teens to do the right thing, a lesson that is much needed in this day. I cannot emphasize my surprise at liking a piece of fiction. To me this says more than any other words I could say. I am glad I read it and look forward to the next in the series. Brava, DiAne! • Katharine Trauger, The Conquering Mom.com, katharinetrauger.wordpress.com

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## Customer Reviews

A great read for teens and adults, Roped is a gallop-paced rodeo ride from the first to the last page. As the story opens, Chrissy has one dream—“to win the silver buckle” and she’s determined to make that dream come true, no matter what. But when tragedy strikes her family and her rodeo and personal nemesis, Jodie Lea Fairgate, makes it her mission to complicate Crissy’s life, Crissy may lose her only chance. While I have no personal experience with Texas rodeo, after reading Roped I feel like I’ve sat in Lollipop’s saddle, smelled the fried food, heard the crowd cheer, walked the arena, and come face-to-face with snot-nosed Booger Daddy the bull. Diane put me right in the middle of all the excitement. Besides the rodeo action, what I loved most about this book were the relationships. It was fun to get to know Chun and watch his friendship with Crissy grow. My favorite scenes were the ones between Crissy and Papa. Not only is she trying to win in the arena, she’s trying to win in life and Papa becomes her rock in deep journey of self and faith discovery. Roped is a read not to miss!

As I read the first few pages of this wonderful story, I thought, “Great! A girl’s book!” But it wasn’t long before I was “Roped!” Real life is filled with many ups and

downs just like a bucking Brahma bull, and sometimes the downs hit hard like when the ground comes up to meet you from a none-too-graceful dismount. This story centers around a young teenage girl, Crissy Crosby, whose major dream focuses on winning a silver championship buckle. Her nemesis, Jody Lea Fairgate, shares the same desire but is driven by forces outside herself. Crissy is surrounded by a loving family and caring friends, while Jody Lea garners support from a gaggle of mindless followers who flock to her mostly because she's the rich girl. The two girls could not be more different. They frequently find themselves at odds, and the friction often sparks fireworks. DiAne Gates weaves a wonderful tapestry of real life with all of its good times and bad, and without being preachy, shows how God works in the lives of people who love Him and love each other. This is a story of how to deal with loss, anger, and how to forgive and love one's enemies. And it is all taught with an undeniable Texas drawl, y'all. Ifen y'all don't talk Texan before you start this book, you'll certainly talk Texan when ya get er dun!! I enthusiastically recommend this book. This is a never-a-dull-moment, heartwarming story with very meaningful life lessons.

I have the privilege of knowing the author, DiAne Gates and highly respect her integrity and love of God. I am impressed with the other reviews and not at all surprised at how wonderful they are. DiAnn is a straight-shooter with an amazing talent for living life as God intended, so her Christian values are neither contrived nor minimized in her telling of this story. DiAne shares with her readers many true life lessons, so vital to a growing teen but needed in all of our lives - young or old! This book captured my heart from the very first page and took me on one of the most heart-touching (and sometimes bumpy) rides that I have ever experienced! Crissy Crosby, her parents and grandfather will fill you with joy as they go through some heartbreak developments with their faith always lifting them up to overcome and move on toward victory. I loved Crissy's new friend Chun and how he helped her work through many of her issues just by being a true friend. I was almost in tears as the story was coming to the end and all was revealed about Crissy's mean little competitor, hateful Jodie Lea, her diabolical father, Ed Fairgate and her mother, Suzie. This book was wonderful in its truth telling about our human nature and how we can be changed by God's love and protection. I am looking forward to the sequel "Twisted." Thank you DiAnn for "Roped" and the lessons I learned. Having been raised a Texan, having lost my drawl after being away since 1962, I am getting it back y'all!

I love how author DiAne Gates subtly accomplished tying three generations together in Roped, an

excellent, well-written story sure to appeal to readers of all ages, but especially the younger set who love horses, rodeos, and all things Texas. At thirteen years old, Crissy's life turns upside down in a short time. Everything changes--save for the bullying at school. Thankfully, her family's support and encouragement to trust God sees her through. Her faith and Christian heritage draws a sharp contrast to her tormentor's, the girl's father's, and his ancestors' unbelief. Their prejudice plays a sour tune when Crissy befriends a new oriental boy in her class. A difficult issue handled beautifully in *Roped!* This easy-to-read novel teaches, but never preaches. The author has spun an exciting western tale for young readers, but grandparents will enjoy it just as much. You know, when they read it to make sure it's all good before passing the book along to the grandsugar!

Take a deep breath before you begin reading this book. A very deep breath. Because once you start reading, the action is so fast-paced you won't be able to take a breath again until the very last page. Ms. Gates takes you right into the heart of Crissy Crosby's quest for her first silver buckle. But just like real life, the road to her dreams is filled with pitfalls and obstacles. Prejudice, her own temper and nasty rival and several major losses all make it look like Crissy may not achieve her goal. Not this year anyway. Crissy wrestles with her faith as she tires to muscle through these challenges until the climactic ending that leaves you wanting more, like the next book from this author. Even if you've never been to a rodeo, perhaps especially if you've never been to a rodeo, you'll be drawn into this exciting story. Get a copy for any pre-teens or teens you know. And do yourself a favor and pick up a second copy for yourself. You won't be sorry.

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