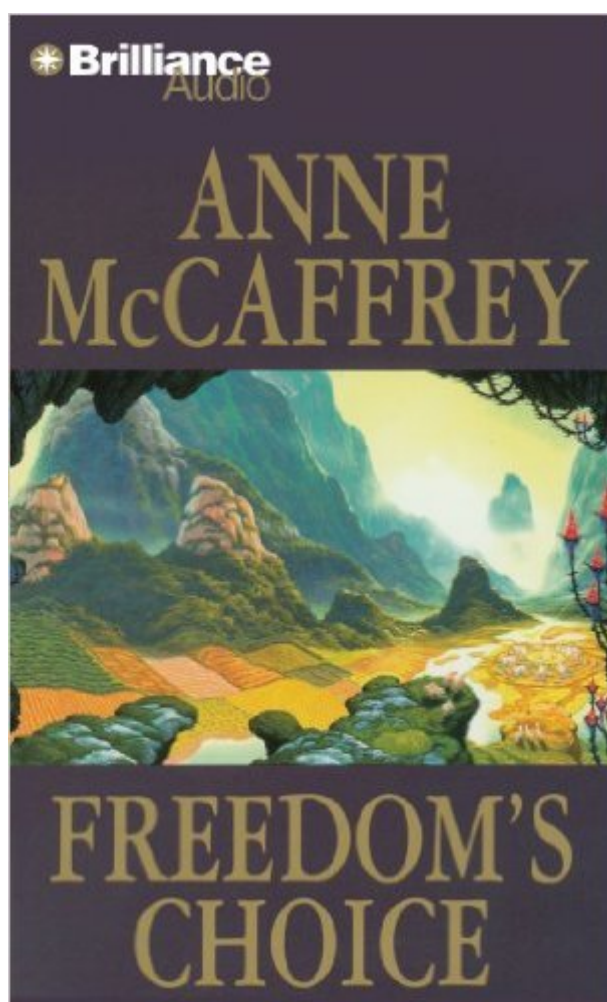


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## Freedom's Choice (Freedom Series)



## Synopsis

Anne McCaffrey captured the interest and hearts of many with "Freedom's Landing" as Catteni slaves unexpectedly became settlers establishing a new colony on Botany, presumably an uninhabited M-type planet. In "Freedom's Choice" the saga progresses to an extraordinary level. The shipments of Catteni slaves continue, but they find that they are enjoyably reinventing the creature comforts of home, and searching for the origin of the Farmers who were the original occupants of Botany, all under the keen eyes of two very different observers. When scouts for the Emassi come to retrieve Zainal, shanghaied in the original shipment of slaves, Botany changes irrevocably. Listeners will delight in this continued adventure of survival, romance, and ingenuity.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I read the first book in this series, and in spite of an overabundance of exclamation points, weird syntax, and many other problems, it was pretty compulsively readable, so I figured I'd give this, the second book, a chance. It's so bad. If I could give it zero stars, I would. It has all of the problems of the first book, and while the plot remains pretty interesting, I became so frustrated with the characters and their poorly developed relationships I could not make myself finish. One scene, in particular, disgusted me. I'll describe it, but it's pretty far along in the book, so spoilers ahead. Ok, so at one point the colonists decide that they need every women of childbearing age to have children to maintain a sustainable degree of genetic diversity within the colony. Kris, the main character, is

not interested, but she comes around to it for the good of the colony. Now, this was a little icky, but I could understand the larger idea of making personal sacrifices for the good of the group or whatever. But wait, there's more! One of the male members of the colony WHO IS SUPPOSED TO BE HER FRIEND gets Kris drunk after she breaks her arm and TRICKS HER INTO HAVING SEX WITH HIM. THIS IS RAPE. IT'S RAPE. Is Kris upset? Not really, somehow. She kinda shrugs it off and when she gets pregnant she's excited. So it seems like the view of the book is that no matter how independent a woman you are, all you really need is some guy who knows what you want better than you do to show you the joys of pregnancy/motherhood. Goody. I mean, the whole "sustain the colony with babies" idea is just presented in such an unhealthy way.

I liked the first book, and the first half of this one was okay if a little slow. At about the halfway point, I had to put it down. It was just ridiculous. First, I'm a little upset that there is little to no character development, both with the main characters and the new characters being introduced. The first book was pretty good about letting you get to know new characters with each drop, but in this one all of a sudden there's a bunch of new people and very little is actually said about them, and many of the minor characters, that were actually given character, in the previous book have just disappeared. The second big problem I had with this book were the weak female characters. I assumed that with a strong woman as the main character in this series, that other strong women would be highlighted as well. Keep in mind that I only read the first half of this book, but from what I saw, Kris was the only woman included in meetings, and that was mostly due to the insistence of her lover, her contributions, when she actually contributed, were defense of her lover or some other man. And the one other meeting that I remember with other women included, the women were not able to put together a comprehensible thought let alone say anything of value. It is as if the author felt the need to make all of the women as weak as possible to highlight how great the heroine is. I do not have a lot of respect for women authors who write other women as weak and boring. They should know better. And reason I finally put the book down, and I don't put books down very often, is the whole planet-wide pregnancy decision. This is the decision of the other people of the planet for all fertile women to have babies due to the men outnumbering the women. Or at least that's how I understood it.

I have been one of those who mourned Anne McCaffery's decision to MERGE with other writers....supplying the plot while others tell the tale. This book, with her name alone on the spine, should be the real thing, I thought!...on the a par with the best of the Dragonriders and

Crystal-Singers!WRONG! This novel does have a story underneath all, possibly even a story worthy of McCaffrey, but it loses itself in the banality of the tale-telling! The novel, the second part of a series, is set on a planet to which recalcitrants are sent by a superior race who have conquered and colonized Earth, along with many other planets. They have a surefire way of working out which planets are suitable for further development....dump the troublemakers on it, with minimum survival-supplies. If there are lots of survivors at check-time, send more 'colonists' and put in an overlord; if there are few or no survivors, write off that planet! McCaffrey has obviously read Australian history....the planet is named Botany, a main settlement is Sydney, and the colonists use crossbows...and boomerangs!! The basic construct of the novel is actually worthy of better than the 'Boys Own' treatment it gets. I mean, these are thinking, breathing, argumentative Earth people, transported, unconscious and against their will, to other planets where they will be slaves, or fodder, or worse...torn from careers, family, friends, heritage.... yet we are expected to believe that they settle into a mixed-race-planet with no backward glances, no arguments, no established governments, no TRAUMAS! And how INVENTIVE they are, and how uncomplicated their lives as the sandwiches keep coming from the kitchen even as they face interstellar hazards quite unthought of...

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