

A Troubled Heart –Reviews:

The Avid Reader

A Troubled Heart is a story about two people with different backgrounds come together to make a life. From the first page, A Troubled Heart pulled me into Finn and Ester's life. The descriptions are so well written, making it easy to picture everything I read. The story was a hard one to read at times but it was also very mesmerizing. Pulling me in more and more page after page.

Finn was an orphan all his life. He ran away at the age of ten ending up on the streets living with a gang of boys. At fifteen he ends up in prison for stealing. He is sent to prison for ten years. When he gets out he is alone with no money and nowhere to go.

On his first day of freedom, he meets Ester. Ester trips and falls, and Finn helps her up. Ester takes a liking to Finn instantly. Ester is a nanny. She became a nanny after the death of her parents. Ester takes Finn to her employer. Finn is hired by Ester's employers.

The more Ester and Finn get to know one another the more they click. They soon decide to marry and spend their lives together. Life is not good to them as it tries to tear them apart on many occasions. Is the bond between Finn and Ester strong enough to keep them together? Can they withstand the storms that get in their way?

I recommend A Troubled Heart to all fans of historical romance. Grab a copy of A Troubled Heart today!

4 stars - [Iron Canuck Reviews & More](#)

I enjoyed the setting for this story, as I have been to Australia. This was an interesting look into that world at that point in history. Esther was a strong woman, accepting of her circumstances, and had a big and trusting heart. Finn was less sure of himself, his worth, and his future. They fell in love, but it was not strong enough to keep them together, though they did come back to each other and built a better life. I did feel that this was a bit dragged out with quite a bit happening to this couple, individually and together, but I loved the way their world ended on a happier note.

[Maggie Blackbird](#) & <https://www.bookbub.com/reviews/1257514048>

The blurb intrigued me, and then finding out the author set the novel in Tasmania made me want to dig into the read even more.

A Troubled Heart takes place in the mid-19th century and follows Ester, a sympathetic woman with a big heart for those in need, left alone in the world after the tragic deaths of her parents, and Finn, a former street urchin, snatched away at birth by a gypsy from his true parents, who ends up serving time in prison.

The author did a good job creating problems the two must overcome from a mentally unstable employer to a gold-digging dandy. There is also the trope of marriage of convenience the two must face.

As I said, I loved the setting. Tasmania is one of my favourite places in the world, and the author did a great job describing the island from both POVs. Ester sees it as a lovely place, while Finn can do without the ocean views since it only reminds him of his journey from England to Australia as a convict sick at sea.

There is also the social class difference between the two, especially when Ester learns something (I won't say what or I'll spoil it for others). During the Victorian times, one did not marry beneath their station. So they have this strike against them. I also wanted to know the mystery of Finn's past. Who was he really? Would I find out?

The author did a great job bringing these two together in a romance. What started out as a thoughtful deed to aid another becomes two people thrown together because of circumstances. The writing is lovely. The dialogue between the two creates friendship with sparks of chemistry that will lead to a romance. The conflict between the two is realistic.

Do yourself a favour and get a copy. It's a wonderful story, and the author's prose matches Ester's gentle disposition and Finn's bleak outlook on life.

5 stars: by Justin S. on May 1, 2024

I love Tricia's Australian historical novels. This was one of the best books I've read. You cannot help but fall in love with Finn and Esther and your heart aches for them to find their HEA. Loved this story.

<https://karensiddall.wordpress.com/>

4 stars! Unique setting for a unique romance.

A Troubled Heart is a new historical romance by veteran author Tricia McGill, and with its unique setting and unusual pairing it was a wonderfully satisfying love story. I found the two main characters an interestingly complex couple, and with twists in their backstories that elevated them from the norm.

While so many stories feature orphans, especially women in dire straits, in this case, it is the man, Finn O'Connor, who fits that description. He has no idea of who he really is, who his parents were, or even his date of birth, only the story related to him by the wealthy English woman who took him from Ireland to London. It is Esther Blythe who changes his course in life.

Under normal circumstances, these two would probably have never come in contact; their stations in life are too disparate. Temperamentally, they are quite the opposite but there is just something about them and how they relate to one another that I was rooting for them from their first meeting. The bottom line is theirs is not a fiery, passionate romance but a slow realization of mutual love and respect gained after shared experiences and overcoming obstacles faced together, including people, the place, and the times. I enjoyed this author's storytelling and was

absorbed by this story immediately. Not only was the love story good but as I was completely unfamiliar with the setting, a lot of history to learn about the place.

I recommend A TROUBLED HEART for readers of historical romances who enjoy a story about steady, fulfilling relationship and a setting far from the usual.

<https://amybooksy.blogspot.com/>

A Troubled Heart is my first introduction to the talents of Tricia McGill. I enjoyed this historical romance. I was quickly engaged with Finn's story. His life is not an easy one and many times leaving him broken. I loved how he was introduced to Esther and the two were able to relate with one another. The two were able to find out who they truly are and want to be. Lovely read.

I am giving A Troubled Heart four and a half stars. I believe lovers of historical romance will not want to miss out on reading it. It is definitely worth reading. I would love to read more by Tricia McGill in the future.

I received a digital copy of Tricia McGill's A Troubled Heart from the publisher, but was not required to write a positive review. **This review is one hundred percent my own honest opinion.**

<https://wowfromthescarprincess.blogspot.com/>

As a fan of historical romances, I was immediately drawn to the unique setting of this story and its premise of starting over and finding a haven in the storm of life. The author has crafted a world based on facts while adding in bits of melodrama to keep readers guessing and on edge.

Finn O'Connor never seemed to have a chance in life, an orphan from the start of his life, he's been abused and tossed away like garbage. He ends up on the streets and in a gang of thieving children that ultimately leads to a 10-year prison sentence in a penitentiary known for cruelty. Once his sentence ends, he's left with a life full of indecisions as he has no money, no education, and no one supporting him. Though Finn is rough around the edges, and has a quick temper, I still found myself rooting for him as he never quite seemed to catch a break. He's a handsome young man, hardworking, and the moment he meets Esther Blythe his life changes irrevocably in a rocky journey full of societal judgments and conflicts.

Esther's a young woman all alone in the world after the death of her parents. To survive she becomes a nanny which allows her to remain respectable. Adding to that genteel persona is a kind heart and open nature. Despite his being an ex-con she's drawn to Finn the moment they meet, offering him a job with the people she works for in a display of intense trustworthiness. Time together leads to a slow burn romance and ultimately marriage. Their connection isn't perfect though, battered by outside forces and inner doubts, their time together is a rollercoaster ride of emotions.

This is a quick read, one that often felt familiar, but still managed to satisfy. The setting was unique, with a harshness to this world, and it added an "us against the world" vibe to the story at

times. While Finn and Esther's romance wasn't a scorching one, it was one based on mutual support and respect, allowing each to find themselves. Romance and love was never the main focus for them, but it still had me rooting them on toward HEA. **This may have been my first time reading a book by Ms. McGill, but it won't be the last!**

5 out of 5: <https://www.thefaeriereview.com/2024/03/a-troubled-heart-book-tour/>

This book transports you back in time, to watch as a connection blooms between an unlikely pair. The opening grabs your attention immediately, and from there we get to see everything unfold from both Finn and Esther's POVs. McGill did a great job of bringing the historical setting to life, and the characters feel real. I have to admit, I actually kind of liked that this wasn't an immediate, love-at-first-sight, passionate, whirlwind romance. It felt more *real* this way. Esther has a kind heart, and her reaction to Finn when they first met was sweet, and a little unexpected, as evidenced by how Finn reacted to her. Finn is an interesting character in his own right, a bit rough around the edges, with a tough past, much different from Esther's own upbringing. They're not quite opposites, but they do seem to be each other's other half. If you enjoy sweet historical romances then you'll want to grab this!

<https://ginaraemitchell.com/a-troubled-heart/>

A Troubled Heart is a captivating and emotional historical fiction novel about two lonely souls who find each other in a harsh and unforgiving world. It is a well-written and well-researched book that offers a glimpse into the history and culture of Australia and Tasmania in the 19th century. This book will appeal to fans of romance, drama, and adventure. I recommend it to anyone who enjoys historical fiction with a touch of romance.

My Thoughts on A Troubled Heart

What if you had no idea who you were, where you came from, or what your future held? That's the dilemma faced by Finn O'Connor, a protagonist of A Troubled Heart by Tricia McGill, a historical fiction novel set in the 19th century.

Tricia McGill is an award-winning Australian author who has written over 40 books, mostly in the romance and historical fiction genres. A Troubled Heart is her latest novel, inspired by her research on the convict history of Australia and Tasmania. The book explores the harsh realities and challenges the transported convicts face and the social and cultural differences between the British settlers and the native inhabitants."

The book follows the life of Finn O'Connor, a young man who was born in Ireland and taken away by a gypsy woman, then raised by an English woman in London. After joining a gang of street urchins, he was caught stealing and sentenced to 10 years of transportation to the colony of New South Wales. There, he endured brutal conditions and punishments until he was transferred to the notorious Port Arthur penitentiary in Van Diemen's Land.

On the day of his release, he met Esther Blythe, a kind and gentle woman who worked as a governess and nursemaid for a wealthy family. Despite their different backgrounds and social statuses, they felt a connection and decided to help each other start a new life. However, their journey was difficult, as they faced many obstacles, dangers, and secrets."

The character development of Finn and Esther portrays them as complex and realistic. They have flaws, doubts, fears, and hopes and grow and change throughout the story. They also have a strong chemistry and a believable romance despite their differences. Another strength of the book is the theme of identity, which is central to the plot and the characters. Finn struggles to discover who he is, where he belongs, and what he wants from life. Esther also questions her role and purpose in society and whether she can overcome the stigma of being associated with a convict.

The book also explores themes like freedom, justice, loyalty, and love. The book's writing style is engaging and descriptive, creating a vivid picture of the period's settings and atmosphere. The author uses historical details and references to add authenticity and credibility to the story.

<The book does contain some violence, abuse, and mature content, which might not be suitable for some audiences.>

I received a copy of the book for the tour. This review is my honest, unbiased opinion.

<https://ironcanuckreviews.blogspot.com/2024/02/>

I enjoyed the setting for this story, as I have been to Australia. This was an interesting look into that world at that point in history. Esther was a strong woman, accepting of her circumstances, and had a big and trusting heart. Finn was less sure of himself, his worth, and his future. They fell in love, but it was not strong enough to keep them together, though they did come back to each other and built a better life. I did feel that this was a bit dragged out with quite a bit happening to this couple, individually and together, but I loved the way their world ended on a happier note.

5 stars: <https://www.literaryau.com/2024/02/a-troubled-heart.html>

I usually don't read much romance, let alone a historical romance. I was greatly surprised at how much I enjoyed this story. I found myself anxious to return to the book to pick up where I had left off. I was caught up in the storyline wondering what would happen next to Esther and Finn. I truly enjoyed the character development and quietly rooted for all the good things to happen to these two. If a book such as this can win over a non-romance reader such as myself, I'm certain that you will enjoy it as well. My rating: 5 out of 5

5 stars: Rosemary Morris.

To use an apt cliché Finn and Esther the main characters in talented novelist Ms McGill's novel *A Troubled Heart* are 'chalk and cheese'. Homeless orphan Finn had lived with a group of boys who survived living on their wits and theft in London. Arrested for a minor crime when Finn is about fifteen years old, he is convicted he is transported to Tasmania.,

Esther's deceased father a doctor and mother emigrated from England to Tasmania. They were devoted to each other and were a good example to Esther of what it meant to share life with another.

In 1848, on the first day of Finn's parole, when he leaves hospital after an injury Finn is penniless. Esther, alone in the world lives with a family where she is employed to teach a small girl. She tumbles down the steps. Finn helps her up. She thanks him and asks who he is. He tells her he is a homeless ex-convict. Esther believes she is a good judge of character. She takes her to her employer's house, where he is employed as an odd-job-man, and from then on helps him in every way she can.

Finn and Esther's friendship develops. It is frequently tested by many trials during which Finn is convinced she is too far above him for them to have a future together.

I enjoyed this – as far as Finn, a decent man, rags to riches story. I have awarded it a five out of five stars review.

4 stars: [Novels Alive](#)

Nineteenth-century Tasmania served as a penal colony for convicts of multiple nationalities. Just released after serving a decade for a misdemeanor crime, Finn O'Connor seeks a new path.

His new chapter begins courtesy of Esther Blythe, who tells him of a laborer position where she works as a companion to a young girl. Author Tricia McGill delivers a story about two people whose lives have been shaped by the fear of the unknown in *A Troubled Heart*.

A tragedy sends them to another town, setting in motion a series of events that allow the couple to grow closer. However, their fragile happiness is marred by two crooks who dupe Esther out of her money.

It's Finn's back story that yields several surprises in light of his unknown origin. Together, he and Esther create a future with a family of their own.

A Troubled Heart features two people seeking a new beginning after a series of misfortunes.

4 stars: <https://www.bookbub.com/authors/lisabet-sarai>

<https://lisabetsarai.blogspot.com/2024/03/two-lonely-souls-at-edge-of-world.html>

He calls himself Finn O'Connor, but that's just because he's been told he came from Ireland. Orphaned, abandoned, abused, thrown onto the streets of London to make his way as part of a gang of child thieves, Finn was eventually arrested and sent to the Port Arthur prison colony in Tasmania. Now he has completed his ten-year sentence, but his future looks dark. Barely educated, with no money and no connections, how will he survive? Lovely and genteel, Esther Blythe is also alone in the world. Still dealing with the pain of losing her beloved parents in an accident, she has more financial resources than Finn as well as a kind heart and an independent spirit. When Finn assists her after a fall in the street, she offers him a lifeline in the form of possible employment with the family for whom she works as a nanny. Common sense suggests she shouldn't trust an ex-convict about whom she knows nothing. However, her intuition urges her to give the strong, good-looking young man a chance to prove his worth. To Finn, she seems an angel sent to rescue him from impending disaster. He's powerfully drawn to her, but how can he expect a cultured young woman like Esther to care for a piece of Irish trash? *A Troubled Heart* chronicles the efforts and misadventures of Finn and Esther as they try to build a life in mid-nineteenth-century Tasmania. From a murderous mad woman to a corrupt gold-digging dandy, the two deal with a variety of challenges. As they grow closer, they come to value, respect and love one another, eventually deciding to marry. Even as a societally-sanctioned couple, however, they must battle against forces that could easily tear them apart. I enjoyed *A Troubled Heart*, due to its unusual setting and background as well as its sympathetic characters. I don't think I've ever read a novel set in historical Tasmania. Ms. McGill paints a picture of a fairly harsh life in a society

on the frontiers of the contemporary world. I don't have enough background to evaluate whether her portrayal is accurate, but it felt real. Meanwhile, Esther and Finn are such fundamentally good people that you can't help hoping for them to succeed together. They're not without flaws: Esther is overly trusting, which Finn can be a bit of a hot-head. At one point in the book, even after they've wed, they are forced apart by their weaknesses. Of course, since this is a romance, you know they'll find one another and reconcile, but the situation is quite tense for a while. I found the pacing and prose in *A Troubled Heart* less satisfactory. Though the plot includes a number of negative occurrences, the tone felt too even. The exposition is very direct and matter-of-fact, with little in the way of artfulness, suspense or conflict. I did not get a strong sense of a narrative arc, events building toward a crisis and resolution. Finn's and Esther's relationship, likewise, seems to lack passion. Their decision to wed (at Esther's suggestion) is more of a practical step than driven by intense emotion. They're attracted to one another, but that attraction is secondary. One tends to read romance at least partially to experience the breathless excitement of new love. This book was a bit disappointing for me in that regard. **All in all, though, *A Troubled Heart* is worth reading. In a genre rife with cookie-cutter plots and brazenly manipulative tropes, it offers originality and sincerity.**