

Annie's Choices (Settlers Book 4) Reviews

<https://jennifermacaire.blogspot.com>

Frontier life in Australia was made up of backbreaking hard work. The author says in her dedication; "gallant women and brave men", and it's true. This is the story of Annie, a girl who has come to spend Christmas season with her brother Tim and his wife Jo. The year is 1843, and after Christmas, Annie decides to stay in Port Philip, where life is far more exciting than in the mountains where she grew up. Young and frivolous Annie sets her sights on Jacob, who works for her family. Jacob is serious and hardworking. Annie manages to get him to take her for a drive, but a violent storm hits and they find an injured girl in a ditch at the side of the road. The girl suffers from amnesia and can only remember her name – Sally. Annie's brother and sister-in-law agree to take her in until she can recover, and Sally and Annie, being the same age, soon become friends.

Then Zachary enters the picture, and Annie finds herself attracted to the dashing, mercurial man who takes her to parties and compliments her extravagantly. Soon Annie is driving out with him on Sundays, and going to his house where his family hold large gambling parties. Knowing her brother would not like that, Annie keeps that a secret. While at Zachary's house, she also meets a servant girl who looks disturbingly like her friend Sally, who still claims she remembers nothing of her past life, and who has now started working in the Annie's brother's house.

This story is like a winding brook, carrying you with it as it goes, bubbling with life and laughter, joy and tears. It's not only a coming of age story and romance; there is adventure, a murder, a journey, and a cast of well-rounded, believable characters. It's also beautifully written and once I started reading, I couldn't stop until I found out what happened to Annie, Jacob, Zachary, and Sally. Ms McGill's writing is like a tapestry with the woven threads of the story leading you further into the design – a design that shows Australia in the eighteen hundreds in all its complexity. The author also includes the massacres inflicted on the Aborigines and their consequences. I love historical romance, and this one is a wonderful addition to my collection.

"Annie's Choice" is book 4 in the Settlers' Series, but it can easily be read as a standalone. Warning – reading this one will make you want to read the entire series! Highly recommended.

5 stars "Really good read." Peggy at [Stormy Nights Reviewing and Bloggin'](#)

With everything going on in today's times, it was so nice to sit back and settle in for the evening with this book. This book takes you back to what seems to be a much simple time. Or at least will give you an escape from today's mess. A sweet story to say the least. With this being the 4th book in this series I didn't find it difficult to follow along and to stay with what was going on.

5 stars "An engaging historical set in Australia." Susan Verified Amazon Purchase. **"Ms. McGill pens an excellent 1800's historical story located in Australia. There's a mix of the life and times, a coming of marriage age, incredible landscapes, a murder-mystery, an evolving romantic relationship, and family ties all wrapped in an intriguing, tastefully written gemstone of a story.** If you haven't read any of Ms. McGill's novels, this is a good one

to check out. Her Settlers series are stand-alone books, so you can start reading them in any order...and you'll end up reading them all."

5 stars "Annie's Life Lessons" Juliet Waldron

"This is Book 4 in The Settlers, a series of historical romances set in Australia. These concern the Carstairs family, now a second generation beyond the original novels in the series. In this one, a young woman, Annie, comes from beyond the Blue Mountains to the bustling town of Port Phillip. She stays with her brother and his wife, already settled there. Annie is almost 18 and certain she's quite grown-up, so this story concerns her occasionally rocky path to wisdom. She needs to acquire more worldly wisdom, especially about the motives of young suitors, but the most important lessons she learns are about herself. "Annie's Choice" has a host of believable characters. **Above all, it is a charming slice of Victorian romance-Australian-style, and an engaging addition to a deservedly popular series.**"

5 Stars "Successful Australian Convicts Daughter" Rosemary Morris

I enjoyed Annie's Choices and the first three books in this series about early settlers in Australia. I liked catching up with members of her family, most of whom arrived on convict ships and thrived.

Educated by a tutor, lived on her parents' farm in Bathurst until she came to Melbourne in January 1843 to stay with her brother and sister-in-law. Somewhat headstrong, Annie reminds him he is not her guardian and insists on making her own choices, some of which are unwise. Self-doubt and uncertainty about her choices, until she decides to return to the farm where she must decide how to fill her days with a worthwhile enterprise and choose what she really wants.

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Annie's Choices is an historical novel set in the early 1840's in Australia. There were several things I liked about the book.

First, Annie didn't behave as I thought a woman of that era would. She didn't sit in the house wearing a corset and doing needlework. She dreamed of helping people and was adamant in making her dreams come true. She was blunt and honest and often acted on impulse, which sometimes caused problems for her. She was a well-drawn character whose path to emotional maturity I enjoyed following.

Second, the author created a vivid setting for the book. She didn't have pages and pages of description or history, but she created a sense of place that was super well done. She chose her words wisely, and in this case less really was more.

Third, Annie was surrounded by a large and loving family. If you like stories of family life, you should enjoy this book. It's Book 4 in a series so you can get to know the family very well. Each book is stand-alone.

Fourth, the book is a clean read with no graphic sex. And last of all, there are several surprises in the story that you probably won't see coming.

All in all, I got immersed in the story and couldn't wait to find out what happened next. I totally recommend it.

4 stars <https://amybooksy.blogspot.com> and Recommended on Book Bub

Annie's Choices is the fourth instalment from the Settlers series by Tricia McGill. I have not read the other books in the series and felt like this one could be read as a stand-alone. I thought it was pretty good. I liked the characters, the setting and the sweet romance. I am giving Annie's Choices four stars. **I would recommend it for readers who enjoy historical romance. I am looking forward to reading the other book from the Settlers series.** I received this book from the publisher. This review is 100% my own honest opinion.

4 stars [campbellamyd](#) Recommended and rated this book on BookBub

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Connie Vines Recommended this book on BookBub

"Well-plotted, all of the characters were individuals with a strong voice. The depth of the story line reminded me of the Thorn Birds--with strong character arcs, which deepen the story. The history of Australia and the Outback enriched the story. It's 1843. Annie, seeking adventure, decides to visit her brother and his wife in Port Philip. Annie has inherited her mother's independent streak--which makes this story, Annie's Choices, a great selection for Ms McGill's readers!"

4 stars recommended on BookBub by Kathy@ourtownbookreviews "Sweet and Fun"

This is a sweet story and yet one with enough substance that it's hard to put down. While this is a romance, which I might add is not my favorite genre, there really isn't much romance to it. I'm using the wrong description here. There is romance, the kind where people fall in love or hope to. But...there isn't sex; nothing embarrassing. That may be why I enjoyed it so much. Just a feel-good story with plenty of trials and tribulations. I think I have just described something that both adults and the YA genre (young adults) can read. The characters were sweet and yet very realistic for the time period the story is set in, and they were easy to picture. Always makes a story better if you can see them in your mind. **Overall a nice read. The perfect curl up in a chair kind.**

4 stars "A Good Read" by Margaret H. on May 30, 2020

Fascinating Victorian-era romance set in southeastern Australia with a bit of murder and mayhem thrown in for good measure. The author creates a wonderful cast of characters both good and bad, admirable and deplorable. Annie's choices are not necessarily what you expect a romantic lead to face.

4 stars "Loving and Growing" by JLW on May 23, 2020

This is Book 4 in The Settlers, a series of historical romances set in Australia. These concern the Carstairs family, now a second generation beyond the original novels in the series. In this one, a young woman, Annie, comes from beyond the Blue Mountains to the bustling town of Port Phillip. She stays with her brother and his wife, already settled there. Annie is almost 18

and certain she's quite grown-up, so this story concerns her occasionally rocky path to wisdom. She needs to acquire more worldly wisdom, especially about the motives of young suitors, but the most important lessons she learns are about herself. "Annie's Choices" has a host of believable characters. **Above all, it is a charming slice of Victorian romance-Australian-style, and an engaging addition to a deservedly popular series.**

4 stars ERVY on May 18, 2020 "Romance and history."

"Enjoyed this novel and the characters. If you like romance with a historical / period piece, you'll like this. Read this unknowingly it was #4 in the series set in Australia."

Unabridged Andra's

Annie Carstairs is young and looking for love. She isn't sure if it will come in the form of Jacob, the muscle-bound hunk working for her brother Tim, or the enchanting and mysterious Zachary who seems to be the only one that might be able to see her as a woman and not as her brother's kid-sister.

Poor Annie. Such a headstrong young woman who believed she knew everything. It was mildly (*extremely*) infuriating how Annie really did not take even the simplest precautions around unknown people, especially men. She had a bit of a haughty attitude about her actions, and her brother's lack of control over her that made her a bit less than a sympathetic narrator. It's unsurprising then, when the product of her actions start to trend towards the calamitous and make life difficult for her.

The character development could have been a bit stronger in my opinion. Right away, I was introduced to approximately 10 characters in the first few pages so it was difficult to keep them all straight, particularly as I hadn't read the other three books in the series. However, I was able to get a sense of them more or less eventually. Annie, as the protagonist, was the most fleshed out, but I did not feel I really got to know her as much as I wanted to. I felt like an observer of her actions, not a visitor in her head to understand her thoughts and feelings. This led me to be a bit more critical of her - I found myself screaming in my head, "What's wrong with you woman?" much more often than I found myself cheering her on. Still, you spend the whole book on a journey of self-discovery with her and you can't help but grow to feel sympathetic.

I won't tell you which of the two men our heroine ends up with, but I think an accurate summary might be that slow and steady wins the race. Particularly if the slow and steady one happens to have plenty of muscles and be an intriguing and intelligent guy. **Fans of historical fiction, particularly Australian colonial books, will find lots to like in this book and the others in the Settlers series.**

4 stars Phoebe's Randoms

Tricia McGill gives Annie quite a few predicaments in Annie's Choices. Annie is nineteen-years-old and thinks she knows it all. (laugh) It doesn't matter if it is today or 1843 in this case, but young women do not seem to change. Bad choices seem to happen no matter what.

Annie's heart is in the right place at times. She tries to rush life at other times. Annie is on the lookout for excitement too. These ideas get Annie into some trouble. McGill writes Annie's journey with some chuckles thrown in. Annie's Choices is not a heavy drama piece.

McGill takes us traveling through some of Australia. We get to experience class differences and racial bigotry. Surprisingly Annie is pretty independent for this time period. McGill emphasizes the history which brought many families to Australia during this era.

Annie's Choices is a nice journey to adulthood and a glimpse into the early history of Australia.

I received an ARC of this book and I am writing a review without prejudice and voluntarily.

4 stars Fabulous and Brunette

This book was an intriguing, engaging, eventful, and enjoyable read!

This book follows the story of Annie, an eighteen-year-old girl. Annie's parents and she came down to visit Jo and Tim for the holidays and to meet the baby. However, instead of returning home with her parents at the end of the visit, Annie decided to continue her stay and spend more time in Port Philip, a town much bigger than the small Bathurst mountain area she's from. During her visit she meets Jacob. He works for her brother at his furniture manufacturing business, and lives in the stables. Annie is quickly smitten with Jacob and tries to maximize her time with him, but always finds herself tongue-tied when she tries to talk to him. Annie convinces Jacob to take her with him on his day off to visit his mom and then later a trip to the seashore. After an uncomfortable interaction with Jacob's mom, she meets a dashing lad by the name of Zachary. Now with the interest of two men Annie is trying to determine who is the better suitor. However, with repeated and ignored advice that Zachary is a well-known racketeer, up to no good, and not to be trusted Annie continues to pursue him while drifting further away from Jacob and her family. Are they telling the truth? Is Zachary up to no good? Should she be staying away from him and chasing after Jacob instead? Why would Zachary be so sweet and kind to her if he wasn't interested in her? No spoilers here! But you definitely will want to read this book and find out what happens!!

I enjoyed the story line and found myself intrigued and curious to how Annie's story would end and who she would end up with.

I enjoyed and appreciated the author's depth of research that was thoroughly highlighted in this book. Her awareness of the history and culture of Australia – all added insight and authenticity to the story.

I also liked that the author used old language in her writings such as the terms: on the morrow, mayhap, dapper, fripperies, invalid, revelry, deigned, and chamber pot. She also used Australian slang terms such as frock, daft, cove, dowager, flogging, skivvy, whist, etc. It made the story feel more accurate.

There are some predictable scenes. However, there are still a few very unexpected twists and turns that you won't see coming!

This book is Book Four in The Settlers Book Series. I had not read any of the previous books in this series, before reading this book. This book can absolutely be read as a standalone without any confusion.

All in all, there were just a couple hang-ups for me, but overall, **I still enjoyed reading this book and would still recommend it! I think all historical romance readers will like this book too! So, add it to your TBR List and get to reading – you won't be disappointed!**

****Disclaimer: I received a complimentary copy of this book and have voluntarily provided an honest, and unbiased review in accordance with FTC regulations. ****

3 stars Iron Canuck Reviews and More

I liked this story. Annie was such a sweet, innocent young woman finding out the bad parts of life as well as the happier ones. Jacob was protective of Annie and cared for her from the beginning. Their reluctance to admit their feelings for each other almost cost them the life

they both yearned for. Circumstances forced them to face their feelings and led to an HEA. I found the story a bit long and a little slow in places, but the journey was an interesting one.