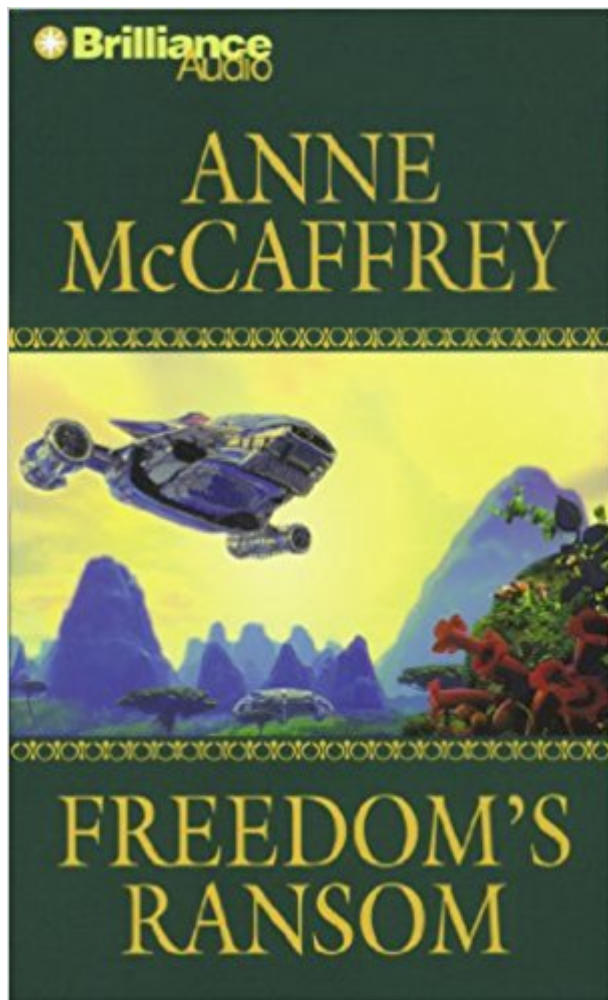


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# Freedom's Ransom (Freedom Series)



## Synopsis

When Kris Bjornsen and her fellow slaves were dumped on an uninhabited planet by the alien overlords called Catteni, there was no guarantee they would survive. Without the help of Zainal, a renegade Catteni exiled by his own people, they might all have been food for the predators of the new world. But they did survive, building a civilization and a home on the planet they named Botany. In time they were instrumental in driving the Catteni away from Earth and neighboring planets. Botany is free now, and so is the devastated Earth. The survivalist days are over, and the time has come for Botany to find its place in the power struggles of the newly configured universe. As an agricultural planet, rich in resources, Botany has more to offer than the colonists may have thought. A trip to Earth shows Kris and Zainal very dramatically how weakened the home planet is after years of Catteni domination, and how much Earth needs what Botany can give. Other worlds too have had their wealth skimmed away by the Catteni: the nearby planet of Barevi is little more than a corrupt bazaar, where bits and pieces of Earth's once powerful technology can be traded for grain and mineral ores. Earth needs food, and the resources to rebuild. Botany needs technology - from solar satellite panels to simple batteries - and, some say, the will to protect itself from being overrun by refugees who may or may not have strength and skills. As alien influence fades, the people of Botany must decide what kind of world they will become.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Freedom's Ransom is the fourth novel in Anne McCaffrey's Freedom series, also known as the Catteni Sequence. The sequel to Freedom's Landing, Freedom's Choice, and Freedom's Challenge, Freedom's Ransom will please some fans of this star-spanning science fiction series, but others will find the book slow-paced, talky, and lacking in action. Freedom's Ransom ends conclusively, with no major unresolved plot lines, yet leaves space for at least one sequel. The planet Botany was settled by a mixed group of humans and aliens, slaves of the alien Catteni and their alien masters, the Eosi. But one Catteni was dropped on Botany with the slaves: Zainal, who helped them win their independence. Now Botany must establish trade with other planets in order to survive. But the other worlds have been ravaged by the Catteni, and once-proud Earth has been reduced to primitive poverty, its technology stolen by corrupt Barevi merchants. To save Botany, Zainal and Kris Bjornsen, his human lover, must find a way to help all the worlds. While the preface of Freedom's Ransom crisply summarizes the preceding books, this series has so many characters, races, and planets that newcomers should start with the first book, Freedom's Landing.

Sophisticated SF readers aren't likely to enjoy the series, but it should hook young adults; if you're looking to broaden a child's reading beyond Harry Potter, try Anne McCaffrey's Freedom series and Dragonriders of Pern series. --Cynthia Ward --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Coffee, not oil, becomes black gold in this eagerly awaited fourth volume in McCaffrey's intriguing Catteni/Freedom series (Freedom's Landing, etc.), which focuses on the business side of revolution. On Earth and the planets Barevi and Botany in the not-so-distant future, the traditional gold standard has fallen and coffee, fresh bread and meat become more valuable than diamonds when trading for the technological parts stolen by greedy Catteni mercenaries for the evil Eosi. These vital aerospace supplies will aid Terrans and Botany colonists seeking independence from the Eosi, whose barbaric routine of loot, pillage and destroy includes removing entire urban populations and selling them to other Catteni worlds as slaves. "I dropped. I stay," is the rallying cry of Zainal, a rebel Catteni who's taken from a prison on Barevi, a trading center for the Catteni Empire, and "dropped" with other slaves of assorted species on Botany, owned by the mysterious Farmers. Zainal becomes a reluctant leader of the other slaves and becomes mate to Terran Kris Bjornsen. Zainal and his team ultimately undertake two missions one to Earth, to acquire coffee beans and dental equipment for Dr. Eric Sachs, Botany colonist and former Manhattanite, and one to Barevi, to barter the beans and dentistry, turning this installment into an entertaining lesson on supply and demand.

The visit to a bleak Manhattan after the Eosian looting is as disturbing, touching and humorous as the trading in the Barevian market. awards, McCaffrey was the recipient of the American Library Association's 1999 Margaret A. Edwards Life Achievement Award. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Anne McCaffery is one of my all-time favorite authors, and that's saying a lot considering what an avid reader I am. I loved the first three Freedom Series, which I have in hardback and have reread several times over the years. I saw book one on sale for 1.99 as an ebook and bought it. It's been a while since I read the series, and since I'm in temporary living quarters with my books boxed up, I bought the other books as ebooks. Book four was a pleasant surprise--at first. (Yay, and Anne McCaffery book I haven't read!) I can understand and make allowances for a book that's essentially a wrap-up post series. I'd like more series to have them. Yes, there isn't as much tension because the EVIL is vanquished, but it's nice to revisit the world and the characters. I wouldn't take off stars for that. However, I have to agree with many of the reviewers who had problems with this book, and I have to say that I doubt Anne actually wrote it. I think Todd might have OR if she wrote it, it may be that it was toward the end of her life, and she was ill, or this was an unfinished draft. This book lacked depth to the characters, which is bad if the book's purpose is essentially to revisit them. For example, all Kris seemed to do was cook and sell coffee. There was no trace of her adventurous spirit. While I was glad to see Zainel's sons were in the story, the interaction between them and Kris was TOLD, not shown. To my disappointment, Kris didn't have an opportunity to develop a real relationship with the boys--something that could have been a major theme to the book. The romantic relationship between the two main protagonists was also lacking. I agree with an earlier reader that everything happened too easily. The set-up with Floss being difficult never happened--although I was glad to see her changed. So, while it was nice to be in the world of the series and revisiting the characters, the book felt flat in comparison to the first three. Good to read--somewhat enjoyable, but also disappointing in the lack of what it could have been, but wasn't. More unsatisfying than satisfying. I'm glad I read it, but might not ever again. Or if I'm on a rereading binge, then read it with low expectations and perhaps enjoy it more.

Completing the "Freedom" series (thus far), Kris, Zainal, & Co., must establish Botany as part of an interstellar economy. The Catteni are free of the Eosi overlords, they've given Earth its independence, so, now what? Trade, rebuild Earth, find the deported slaves and get them home. That takes money, so Botany needs to build trade to finance all this, build relationships with Earth's

rebuilding governments, find the slaves, and a whole lot more. McCaffery is a storyteller if the first order. You care about her characters -- enough that she's sold millions of Pern books and would sell plenty more of these if son, Todd, continues his late mother's legacy here as he has with Pern. These aren't superheroes, they're us -- as we hope we would be in such a situation. They take what they have and figure out a way to succeed, sometimes with failures and side trips along the way. Great writing. McCaffrey writes great female characters! Almost everything is totally believable (you'll forgive the few, small mistakes), it really is one of those "you can't put it down" books.

What happens when you've won something and have to clean up after yourself? In a way, this book deals with it. Regrettably, it's somewhat dated in what is happening on Earth, but the characters are decent and the situations are relatively believable. Sadly, this is a book too far. It is well done, but the story arc ended in book 3, IMHO. The characters are softening, becoming less alien in the case of the Catteni, and more Romance than Sci-Fi in the Terrans. Still, it's a decent read.

I enjoyed the previous three books but found this one very dull. The heroes are reduced to flying around the planets to find or buy what items they need. There is nothing interesting happening as they place Space Merchants.

What's not to like about the story & it's characters as they join forces to right the wrongs done to them. Proving once again, if there is a way, it will happen. Just enough suspense to keep you riveted to the book, to see how it will end! Humor is subtle but definitely entertaining. Easy to read and feel how the characters react to the story as it unfolds.

I like this series - I have all four books. I was interested where the story line could go after the climax of book three. This book seems like an examination of post apocalyptic market economy rather than the edgy scify action adventure (tinged with racial and species prejudice and discrimination) of the first three. Almost like Anne was looking for a thread to the next great adventure.

They pulled it off, and saved everyone...wish there had been more stories...really it was just the beginning...They leave you wanting more. Anne's stories are allways like that...I will miss her light!

This one is not quite as good as the other three books in the series. I bought it because I like to read

the series. I love Anne McCafferty books

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