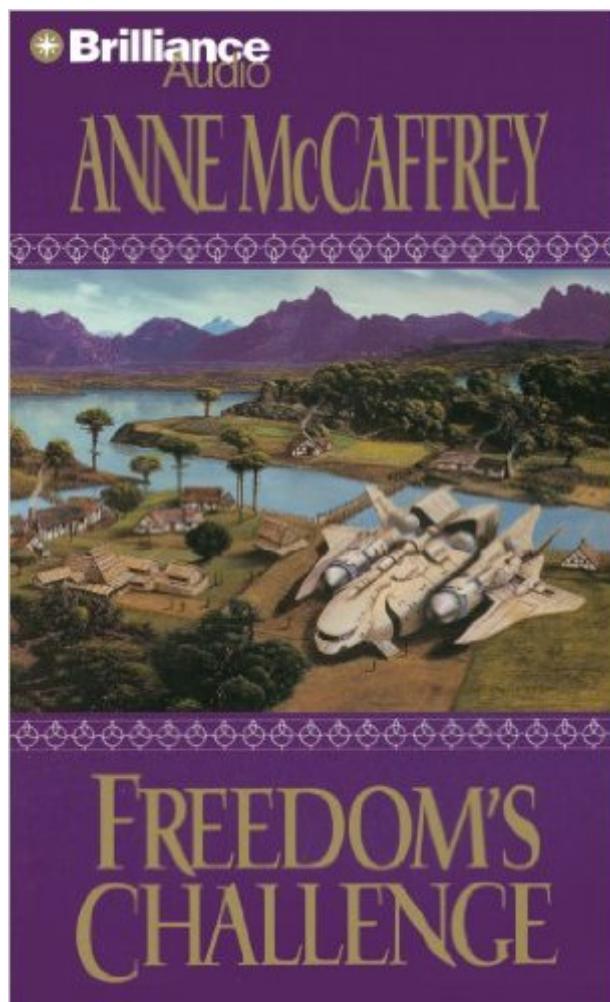


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# Freedom's Challenge (Freedom Series)



## **Synopsis**

Kris Bjornsen has come a long way since alien slave ships scooped her up in Denver with thousands of others. Dropped of an apparently uninhabited world with the rest, she has fallen in love with Zainal, a renegade Catteni, and made a comfortable life for herself and her new family. But she feels a soldier's duty to escape Botany and rejoin the struggle for freedom. As the Eosi overlords continue to drop captives on Botany, the colonists learn that there are freedom fighters on every captured world, and Earth is full of pockets of resistance. There are even rebels among the warlike Catteni. Now the colonists have the technology they need to go back to war with the deadly Eosi - with a surprise strike at the enslaved planet Earth itself!

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

In this third volume of the Freedom trilogy, Anne McCaffrey closes all the loose ends she'd left open in the previous two volumes, effectively ending the series. As a whole, the series was interesting, and throughout the three books, I felt for the characters, and wanted to know what they'd do next. It was a step-by-step detailed description of how a small group of exiles built a home on a planet that was initially hostile to them. In the context of being a series ending, the book is satisfying. The colonists finally realize success after so long and hard an endeavor. But when viewed by itself, this book contained only the successes, and none of the real hardships. The entire book passes by with very little challenge to the colonists of Botany. It was an interesting logistical inventory for setting up

a successful colony, but there's no real conflict. Just about everything they attempt works out, often better than they'd expected. About halfway through the book, I was sure something would finally go wrong, but it never did. Some of the successes were ridiculously easy. Some were at the very least, improbable. The humans on Botany were able to disguise themselves as Catteni with a little makeup and prosthetic cheekbones. This disguise was somehow able to fool real Catteni even after prolonged interaction. I found this a little bit unlikely. As an ending to the series, it was adequate. But to make it a good installment in a trilogy, the author really should have included more conflict and story. The last book could have ended "And they lived happily ever after" and no real plot points would have been lost. Still, the writing style is enjoyable, and I already liked the characters enough to see what happened next. The same favorites are back in this book, and the story such as it is moves along with good pacing. On that merit alone, the book earns three stars.

Of the three books in this series, this was undoubtably the worst. I greatly enjoyed the first two, and certainly do not think that my reading of the third book was a waste of time . . . but I think perhaps Ms. McCaffrey was a bit hasty in ending this storyline. She didn't have her usual depth in resolving the plots. The characters were also not as fully developed as I've come to expect from this marvelous author.

4.5\*  
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The dropped survivors on Botany have come a long way from those first days when they had virtually nothing. They are living very well with many comforts of home and they are at the brink of ending the Eosi domination of several species and many planets and Kris Bjornson and Zainal are at the center of things. Making a good life on Botany isn't enough for Zainal though. He intends to destroy the Eosi for enslaving his people for two thousand years and for enslaving other worlds as well. However, the final piece of the plan will only work at great sacrifice to himself. Will his plan work and, more importantly, will he survive it? Once again I'm plunged into the fight for survival, the fight to free Earth, Botany and many other planets and how everyone works together for the greater good of the community. It's an awesome ride. All of the pieces of the puzzle come together and if they do so a little too neatly I'm not going to argue. I love this series and I love watching how everyone handles their part of the Great Plan despite overwhelming odds. A fast-flowing plot, great writing and wonderful characters keep me engaged from beginning to end. Anne McCaffrey always has so much going on and yet manages to keep the books to a reasonable length. There's just no way to summarize her stories without going on and on about everything that's happening. All I can say is this; open to the first page and hang onto your britches. It's going

to be a wild ride.

Freedom's Challenge is the third book in this intriguing science fiction series, by Anne McCaffrey. As in the first two novels the story mainly evolves around Kristin Bjornsen (human) and Zanial (catteni) and a growing population of alien dissidents who refuse to bow down to the Eosi domination of their species. With Botany now under the protection of a bubble shield, along with three ships they freed from the catteni, the dissidents have gained a small amount of freedom for themselves. But now the Eosi are wise to the problem that Botany has become to them and take steps to put an end to all involved. this novel contains a summary of the first two books of this series. I would recommend this novel for teens or adults.

As a devoted reader of Anne McCaffrey I couldn't wait to find out what happened with the Botany people. I was very disappointed to find out that the book tells the story in such a general fashion, and in such broad notions, that no depth is created. I always loved Anne McCaffrey's books for their characters' depth. Since she has given a lot of information and details in the Pern series, I expected that to reflect in other works. It was not. The character of Zainal is shallow. There is no info on the way he thinks, feel, or even why he is doing what he is doing. And if you do not like to know that, but just like the action of the book - well, not much there either. The story is what I would tell a friend if asked what the book is about. It is general, without the details that are expected. It gives the basics of actions taken, without giving information about the actions themselves. If you read other works of science fiction or fantasy, such as another favorite of mine Rober Jordan, you immediately see a difference. In the Wheel of Time series, for example, the characters come to life and the story is complete without gaps. I really regret to write this about this book, as I truly like the writing of Anne McCaffrey, and plan to continue reading her books.

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