



The Girl from Snowy River

Jackie French

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The year is 1919. Thirty years have passed since the man from Snowy River made his famous ride. But World War I still casts its shadow across a valley in the heart of Australia, particularly for orphaned sixteen-year-old Flinty McAlpine, who lost a brother when the Snowy River men marched away to war.

Why has the man Flinty loves returned from the war so changed and distant? Why has her brother Andy 'gone with cattle', leaving Flinty in charge of their younger brother and sister and with the threat of eviction from the farm she loves so dearly?

A brumby muster held under the watchful eye of the legendary Clancy of the Overflow offers hope. Now Flinty must ride to save her farm, her family and the valley she loves.

Set among the landscapes of the great poems of Australia, this book is a love song to the Snowy Mountains and a tribute to Australia's poets who immortalised so much of our land. *The Girl from Snowy River* combines passion, heartbreak, history and an enduring love and rich understanding of our land. It continues the grand saga that began with *A Waltz for Matilda*.

The Girl from Snowy River Details

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Author : Jackie French

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From Reader Review The Girl from Snowy River for online ebook

Raven Gravenor says

I love it. there should be more like it.

Gabby Kenny says

The Girl from Snowy River is a heart-warming story about a seventeen-year-old girl called Flinty living in the Australian bush, recovering from the losses of her mum, dad, and elder brother, all who were lost in the presence of the war.

With both parents dead, Flinty is bringing up her younger siblings, as her brother Andy has 'gone with cattle' to Queensland. Money is tight, but as the best rider in the family, Flinty seizes the opportunity to make a quick 100 quid. Disguised as a boy, she talks her way into a brumby muster headed up by the legendary Clancy of the Overflow. Among the herd there is an unbroken colt that Flinty buys as she can see his enormous potential. But for a young girl, there is still so much of life to be lived and while she has hints of her future, she never imagines what life can really hold for her.

As Flinty gets on with her life, the story unfolds, bringing you closer to the characters in the book, making you feel for them as if they were your own family which is why I really loved it. I don't read much however, I really loved every part of this book. There are many cliff hangers making you want to keep reading forever! I would recommend this book to people between the ages of 10 and 16. However it is an easy read and very enjoyable for all ages.

abby says

It was such a beautiful love story with a sweet ending.

Ashleigh says

See blog for review, as I read this as part of the Australian Women Writer's Challenge 2017.

Miriam Lo says

Genuine Australian historical fiction at its best. I love Jackie French for the warmth and generosity of her characters - and for her attempts as a writer to understand the complexities of history and human behaviour and to explore these complexities with such grace in her work. There are no cardboard villains or two dimensional heroines here! Flinty (Felicity) McAlpine faces the tribulations of World War 1 at home in

Australia with courage equal to that of the boys in the trenches of Europe. When Flinty loses her older brother and parents, she struggles with the burden of caring for her siblings, but finds help from a strange man who appears in the mist around the Rock that sits on the edge of her farm. One of the gifts of great art is its capacity to be a school room for the soul. This book helped me to face and process my own experiences of loss and grief by providing a model of dignity in the face of enormous hardship.

Isabelle says

Another great book by Jackie French.

Set after at the end of WWI.

A young woman is struggling to make sense of the war: all the young men who died in it, those who died as a result of the war and those who come back from it but can't talk about it or even can't settle back into life.

A young but strong woman who fights for life.

A woman passionate of horses.

Other themes in the book are insight into the Future and how that can give us faith and courage, how aboriginals were treated, their knowledge of plants medicine. How women were treated at the time...

Lauren Boeyen says

Jackie French has this incredible way of writing that blows me away every single time. *The Girl From Snowy River* was no exception. Flinty is a determined young woman, desperate to prove she is capable, but is still believably constrained by thought patterns and expectations of her time. Some of the things that happen to her are devastating, but her reactions are what makes her such a joy to read about.

The way French writes about war and the impact it had on the men, women and children of the early twentieth century is fascinating and rings true.

"The men who'd marched away weren't the only ones who'd suffered. She'd lost a brother at Bullecourt, Mum to heartbreak, Dad to the influenza brought back by the soldiers. Her older brother was off with cattle, fleeing his memories. The boy she loved had come back a man she hardly knew."

"Even the war had been impossible. A whole generation of men couldn't just march away with bagpipes playing and children laughing, and a third of them never come home."

Sandy and Andy face their own struggles, and while we don't see them firsthand, they are addressed and we see how they affect the returned soldiers and their loved ones. Not only are the problems of returned soldiers addressed, the difficulties faced by women left alone during war are shown and spoken about, and the aftermath is something Flinty's whole valley struggle with.

Speaking of Flinty's valley; Jackie French created such a beautiful atmosphere. Flinty's neighbours are a tight-knit community who all look out for each other because that's what neighbours do. As well as her community, Flinty's love of her mountain and horses shine via French's descriptions of the Australian bush. It clearly comes from a place of knowledge and love on French's behalf, and gives the book an almost nostalgic feeling, even from someone who has never truly been out bush.

The Girl From Snowy River is an atmospheric, character focused book that I would recommend to everyone.

Clare Cannon says

French's books help to put *heart* into history. Her characters are so real and warm you can just about feel their pulse; they are people you get to know, and after reading their story a part of them lives on in you.

This third instalment of her *Matilda Saga* narrates an experience of World War I for those left behind. Told through the eyes of seventeen year old Flinty McAlpine, the novel starts with her frustration at not being able to find out what the war was really like.

Then, as we get to know her and her siblings and neighbours, a new and initially surprising element is introduced in the figure of a young man from the future with whom Flinty is able to converse. While a little disconcerting at first, his presence allows some apt comparisons between the attitudes and experiences of the early and later 20th century, and somehow his appearance doesn't feel inconsistent with mountain folk lore.

Other staples of French's stories feature here as well: a strong female character whose strength is not merely bestowed by the author but earned through a life of struggle; a wonderful, holistic romance that has its ups and downs but ultimately works everything for the good; and it poses the kind of questions about history that one has always wanted to ask, dealing with it as something real and lived through rather than mere text-book facts.

French has now announced the series will contain six books, spanning from 1894 - 1972. I'm very much looking forward to reading the next three. Reviewed for www.GoodReadingGuide.com

Emily says

See this review and more on my blog: <https://readwritetravel.wordpress.com...>

I've started to fall in love with historical fiction, and Jackie French's books set in past Australia are particularly appealing at the moment.

This is the story of Flinty McAlpine, a girl living in the mountains post-World War I Australia. When the boys came back from the war, nothing was the same—Sandy, her sweetheart, wouldn't talk to her. Andy, her brother, left the farm to go droving in Queensland, leaving her to look after her younger brother and sister. Then there are the boys who didn't come back, like her brother Jeff. No one will talk about the war until Flinty meets a soldier ghost from the future, who gives her an idea of what her friends went through. He also bears a warning: that for Flinty, the worst is yet to come—but the best is, too.

Chock full of Australianisms, this book might require an Australian dictionary close at hand (if you don't have an Australian in the room to ask.) But that's what makes this book so engrossing. With brumbies and chooks and billies and whatever else, it couldn't be set anywhere but Australia. I think that makes it fresh, too—Australia is often overlooked by most, and it's not often you come across a book set here, even when you're living in the country.

The characters were lovable and well-written, Flinty standing out as strong and curious; Mrs. Mack the quintessential caring housewife; Kirsty, a girl who's had to take on too much too soon but remains upbeat nonetheless. Flinty is surrounded by strong women who help and encourage her—like Miss Matilda,

previously seen in *A Waltz for Matilda*, who owns the largest farm in the district. Flinty draws strength from all of them in her time of need, and it's that which gets her through.

I did think that this was a book begging to be written in first-person. Each chapter started with a diary entry from Flinty, in first person of course. It then transitioned to third person, and I admit I stumbled sometimes over the "she"s meant to be Flinty, as I constantly thought of her as "I." Not to say it didn't work this way, too, but it would be interesting to see it all in first person and see what difference it made.

This book was well worth the read, especially if you're interested in Australian history, or if you just like historical fiction and are looking for a new setting. Can't wait to sink my teeth into *A Rose for the Anzac Boys* next!

Veronica Best says

It was a bit hard to rate this one, cos I read it at work in my break, and not every day, so it was a bit of a disrupted read over what seemed like a long time. I did enjoy it, though I wish I had read the series in order. I still like the final book in the series the best.

Sophie says

This is the second time that I have read this book and the experience was as phenomenal as I remember it to be. With a mixture of love, loss, heartbreak, horses and hope intertwined with beautiful descriptions of mountainous Snowy River scenery makes for a magical story. I like Jackie French's writing as she mixes in bits of real history (in this case WWI) with a fictional story keeping the reader both educated and interested. Jackie French tells the untold story of women in war and the hardship they went through during and after the war as well. This story had it's share of tragedy but in the end was uplifting and is bound to put a smile on your face!

Helen says

I really enjoy how Jackie French incorporates the history of Australia into her stories. The difficulties for the women coping as their men go to war and the aftermath as they return, or don't, is gently pointed out. This in no way diminishes what the men suffer and how they come out of it afterwards. The love of the mountains shines through as does the way of life in those times with neighbours helping neighbours. A great history lesson for kids.

BlueSky says

Thoroughly enjoyed my first read by Jackie French! Due to the quality of writing, it was easy to slip into post World War 1 Australia and experience the joys and hardships on the land in that era.

'Flinty' McAlpine is a positive role model for the ages - strong, interesting, independent and smart.

There's quite a lot going on in this story - war, loss, love, challenges, history, and a tantalising element of the supernatural. The conclusion thankfully resists being fairy tale perfect yet still manages to be satisfying, addressing all of the issues raised.

Recommended!

Heidi says

Reading the entire series for something like the FIFTH time as I prepare for the 8th book to be published in December. This series is mesmerizing and captivating - I intend to buy it once Jackie French finishes writing it!!

Kataryna Hermans says

What a fabulous novel by Jackie French. A thrilling story of the Australian Snowy Mountains, the great brumby musters, the legend of the Man from Snowy River and a girl who made her way through all of life's challenges. This is a story that can't be missed.
