



## Savannah Winds

*Tamara McKinley*

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## Savannah Winds Tamara McKinley

When Fleur receives word of a surprise inheritance from an aunt she never knew, it couldn't come at a more opportune moment. Her relationship is crumbling, and she's caught in the middle of a serious family rift.

Consulting her aunt's long-lost diary, Fleur sets out on a voyage of historical discovery up the coast and through the Gulf Country, to the isolated cattle ranch Savannah Winds. But unbeknownst to Fleur, what she uncovers there could have devastating repercussions for her own life.

Set between the 1930s and the modern day, *Savannah Winds* is an exploration of family ties, bitter rivalry and the strength of enduring love.

## Savannah Winds Details

Date : Published September 11th 2014 by Quercus (first published August 26th 2014)

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Author : Tamara McKinley

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## **From Reader Review Savannah Winds for online ebook**

### **Rochelle Pitcher says**

Tamara McKinley has delivered again a great story. I have read all her books starting with my all time favourite Matilda's last waltz. This story is about Fleur finding her family history thru an inheritance her Auntie leaves her. The inheritance consists of 2 properties (Savannah Winds and Birdsong) and her aunties diaries . A great story with mysterious characters and love stories

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### **Amanda - Mrs B's Book Reviews says**

Fleur receives notice of an unexpected inheritance from Annie, an Auntie she did not know existed, just as her world has come crashing down. Her relationship is in tatters, she has lost her job and a deep rift has occurred in her family. It seems that this inheritance which includes a beautiful property called Birdsong in tropical Queensland and the cattle station Savannah Winds, is just the distraction Fleur needs in her life at this present moment. Fleur packs her bags, armed with diaries written by her Auntie and embarks on a journey of discovery.

Savannah Winds is the latest release from Australian author of more than eleven novels, Tamara McKinley. The storyline shifts neatly between present day, following Fleur's story to 1930/40's Australia, where the reader learns about Auntie Annie's background. Both storylines support one another nicely and the use of Annie's diaries is the perfect vehicle to drive the novel along. The book held my interest from start to finish, there was a little twist to the story closer to the conclusion of the book, which was unexpected, but nevertheless added to the heart-warming ending. Tied to Fleur's inheritance story are secondary plots involving Fleur's sister and another involving Greg, Fleur's partner. I was more invested in Fleur's story and felt these subplots detracted from the main, interesting storyline. A standout feature of this book is the Australian landscape, which was richly described. I liked how McKinley contrasted the lush tropical paradise of the aptly named Queensland property Birdsong, to the vastness of the Savannah Winds cattle station. A story of self discovery, family connections and undying love, a book worth giving a whirl.

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### **Knihomo?ka Bleise says**

Myšlienka dobrá, nápad takisto. Avšak preklad a celkové podanie... slabota. :(

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### **Tanya Boulter says**

a bit slow and predictable, an ok read

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### **Lauren K says**

Tamara McKinley is a well-established Australian author whose books I have seen around for many years. In fact *Dreamscapes* has sat on my TBR shelf for some time. *Savannah Winds* is McKinley's most recent novel and is set in the present day.

Fleur's life has come to a junction, she's at a point in her life where starting a family is most desirable, however for her paediatrician boyfriend it's not on the cards and never will be. Just when Fleur is faced with one of the biggest decisions of her life-to stay in the relationship or leave- she inherits two properties from an estranged aunt, turning her life completely upside down.

On a 'break' from her boyfriend, Fleur takes off to Far North QLD to uncover the truth behind her mother's death, her father's fables and why her Aunt was not only estranged but left a hefty inheritance to a niece whom she had no relationship with.

Simultaneously, as Fleur uncovers her family history, her boyfriend Greg digs into his childhood trauma and unravels the reason for his aversion to have a child. He reluctantly traipses through his own past in search of the answers for his future.

While the premise for *Savannah Winds* was enticing, I just didn't enjoy this story as much as I'd hoped. It was an interesting storyline, the characters were interesting-both past and present- but I felt disappointingly unconnected to Fleur and her boyfriend. I'm not sure how to explain it other than just a feeling of detachment-whether it be down to characterisation or writing style -I'm not sure. The disconnection to the main characters made it difficult to enjoy the overall story, no matter how fascinating the plot was.

That's not to say I wouldn't recommend it, as it probably comes down to my own personal experience of the story. I'd be interested to hear what other readers have thought of *Savannah Winds* and I'd still like to give *Dreamscapes* a go and see what that's like.

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### **Lissy Fahey says**

I had a lot going on during the time I read this book but know that if I wasn't so busy it would be a book to read in one sitting, I'd love to escape to the tropics!

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### **Bernadette Royal says**

Good, easy read set in North Qld with the usual family drama's and relationships

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### **Kathy says**

Tamara McKinley is one of my favourite Australian authors and *Matilda's Last Waltz* is in my all time favourite books, so Tamara McKinley is an automatic read for me – without even looking at what the story is about. I did enjoy *Savannah Winds* but was a little disappointed. For some reason I felt detached and unable to connect with the characters. I liked the story line with Fleur looking for answers about her mother's death and her father's lies (her father was an awful man) and although I read it start to finish with interest, I didn't feel emotionally involved. I will still be reading her future books though..... A little better than OK read....

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## Sue says

Enjoyed this story vary much and had a laugh with family discussions but was disappointed seeing the words "Barn" and "Corral" in a book set in Australia.

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## Koki says

Prís? o prácu, poháda? sa s mužom, ktorého milujete a prís? do konfliktu so svojou rodinou v priebehu nieko?kých dní? U?inená katastrofa. A presne to sa stalo hlavnej hrdinke tohto románu. Ke? sa sype, tak sa sype... Napriek všetkému negativizmu sa na ?u, v tých najhorších chví?ach/krízach života, usmialo š?astie. Ne?akane zdedila obrovský majetok, ktorý v sebe zah?al dobyt?iu farmu.

Bolo zaujímavé sledova? Fleur pri jej vydávaní sa po stopách tety Annie, o ktorej existencii nemala ani potuchy. Niet sa ?omu ?udova?, ke? s ?ou pretrhal všetky vz?ahy jej otec Don ešte ke? mala Fleur iba nieko?ko mesiacov. Fleur je zvedavá, ?o sa za tajomstvo skrýva v Anniných denníkoch, a ke?že v jej osobnom živote - konkrétne vo vz?ahu s Gregom, to škrípe, rozhodne sa vyda? na farmu Vtá?ia piese?.

Na farme nachádza Fleur vytúžený pokoj. Už vie, pre?o žila teta to?ké roky odrezaná od celého sveta. Pokoj a ticho dokážu ?loveku usporiada? myšlienky. Pomôžu mu zisti? ?o-to o sebe samom...

V knihe, okrem hlavnej hrdinky, vystupuje množstvo ?alších postáv, ktoré majú k deju ?o poveda?, a niektoré ho dokonca i skvele zamota?. O dramatickú zápletku tak nie je núdza. Napriek tomu bol môj kone?ný dojem z knihy taký nemastný - neslaný. Zvyšok recenzie nájdete tu:  
<http://kokina1.blogspot.sk/2017/08/la...>

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## Kathy says

A Great Read Lotsof Family Mystery!

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## Dale Harcombe says

Three and a half stars

A surprise inheritance from Annie, an aunt she never knew existed comes at a time when Fleur really needs a boost after an enormous rift with Greg. While Fleur is feeling a need for a child, Greg refuses to entertain the idea of children. They reach an impasse. Added to that her father is being his usual obnoxious self and causes friction between the family that consists of him and Fleur and Fleur's two much older half sisters. The father, Don is an abrasive, selfish and unlikable man. It seems Greg is not much better until the reader is introduced to some of his back story that helps understand his attitudes.

Birdsong, in tropical North Queensland sounds like an idyll and the description of Savannah Winds and the outback was also well portrayed. I liked the story of Annie from the 1930s and 1940s as it connected with the present day story of Fleur and her family. While I enjoyed the setting and story line and read this book

through quickly, somehow I didn't connect to Fleur and Greg particularly. I found Fleur's sisters Margot and Bethany were annoying for different reasons. One is a bossy and the other is a doormat. Melanie, Bethany's daughter was the typical self-centred teenage daughter we have come to expect in novels. So although I was interested in the story and the way it came together, I never felt greatly emotionally involved with the characters. Having said that, it shows various scenes and attitudes of Australian life. It's worth reading, though it didn't appeal to me as much as her other book *Ocean Child*. Once again, I think the cover would have looked better with just the scene instead of the face. The friend who loaned me this book also hated the face on the cover. When it comes to characters, some of us would just prefer to use our imagination.

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### **Tia Murrell says**

Loved this book as much as all of Tamara McKinley's other books however the only tiny criticism I would have with this is the Aussie slang used in this book ( in the almost present times of 2000 or so anyway) is so exaggerated for example when the main character makes a phone call to a lawyer she says "G'day , how's it going " or something similar which someone in her position would hardly do, so I found the old "ocker" way slightly irritating.

In the older part of the story and the outback I do believe people would talk like this so it was only when the main characters and a surgeon talked to another surgeon this type of "ocker" talk just seemed so overdone and silly. However it did not stop me from giving 5 stars as I truly loved the story and the books and I love stories based in our beautiful country so well done and I would recommend this novel to my friends <3

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