



Finn's Choice

Darby Karchut

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Just when Finn MacCullen thought fate couldn't kick him any harder after the events of the Festival of the Hunt, it does. Now, he must overcome a series of nearly impossible trials to prove his worth as an apprentice, or lose his place at his master Gideon's side.

But Finn and Gideon, and their friends, are determined to boot fate right back. They're going to do whatever it takes to succeed, including teaming up with a sorceress and a certain teen angel.

However, Finn's life has as many twists as a Celtic knot, and master and apprentice find themselves in their ancestral homeland of Ireland with only their wits—and a fair bit of the Black Hand's charm—to protect them from the vengeful Celtic goddess known as the Scáthach.

In this heart-stopping finale of the award-winning series, it's going to take every scrap of Finn's Irish luck and pluck to save himself, and his master, from death. Or worse.

Finn's Choice Details

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Author : Darby Karchut

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From Reader Review Finn's Choice for online ebook

Kelly Hager says

It breaks my heart that this is the last Finn Finnegan book. This series has been such an absolute delight and, while this book was everything I could've possibly wanted, I am not ready to say goodbye to Finn or Gideon.

It helps that there's a little crossover between both of Darby's other series...but it doesn't help that much because I will probably never read a new Finn story again and frankly, that's unacceptable.

If you are looking for a fantastic MG series that features one of the best father/son relationships ever plus Irish folklore plus strong characters, read these four books. You'll thank me later.

Highly recommended.

Clare O'Beara says

I enjoyed this fantasy adventure for younger YA readers. Loosely involving Irish legends, we meet a lad called Finn McCullen in America who has to fight off magical beasts with his friends. Finn has evidently been doing this for some time so if you have read the earlier books this one might make more sense. I had to pick it up as I went. The beasts have to be killed with bronze weaponry. Lucky the ancient Irish could make this from copper and tin, then. They could also mine iron but could not get furnaces hot enough to work the ore.

Finn has a mentor who is a mature fighter, and a Celtic witch who has heard of them comes along and insists on setting Finn a test. Not to spoil the story, but I was annoyed about how this was disposed of at the end. The story takes off in a different direction and even magically transports them to modern Ireland. Where, of course, there are still battles to be fought.

I downloaded an ARC from Net Galley and this is an unbiased review.

kenzie ? says

It's hard to believe this series has come to an end. I started the first book, *Finn Finnegan*, three years ago; but it feels like I've been a part of this world for much longer. And in some ways, it feels like it was only yesterday I first met Finn and Gideon. *Finn's Choice* was such an amazing conclusion; and without spoiling anything, I'll just say that I was incredibly happy with the way things were wrapped up – and with a particular scene at the end.

The characters. I cannot put into words what these characters have come to mean to me. Finn and Gideon are two of my absolute favorites, and saying goodbye to them was difficult; but I was really happy with the way things worked out. I really loved getting more of Griffin and Basil in this one, too. I loved their cameos in the last book, and I'm so excited to start the Griffin series to get to know them even better.

The writing and world-building in these books are absolutely beautiful. It makes my heart ache a little to think I won't be revisiting Colorado or Ireland with these characters anymore; they were written with so

much detail that it felt like I was truly standing there with them within the pages. I know it won't be long, though, before I pick up book one and begin this adventure again. These may be middle-grade books, but there is something in the Adventures of Finnegan MacCullen series for all ages. There's humor and heartbreak and plenty of adventure. I for one know that this is a series I'll be re-reading for many years to come and that someday my own kids will love it as much as I do. I'm so grateful to Darby Karchut for giving me such an amazing world to love and be a part of. I may be leaving this series for now, but it's definitely not leaving me. <3

Review originally published at A Belle's Tales.

Michele at A Belle's Tales says

The only thing better than loving a series and the wonderful characters that live within is watching your child adore it and become so filled with emotion over its coming to an end. I have thoroughly enjoyed sharing this fantastic series with my daughter. Though she is no longer middle-grade, she still counts this series among her very favorite ever. The epilogue of this final installment was beautiful and perfect, and we both shed some tears. Terrific series for kids and one that parents can't help but be pulled into as well. Kiddo's review [here](#).

RoloPoloBookBlog says

Finn's Choice by Darby Karchut
Book #4: The Adventures of Finn MacCullen
Source: ARC from author
My Rating: 6 stars (and I use a 5-star system!)
My Review:

I don't even know where to start with this read that doesn't involve loads of bad words and hand waving I will try and contain myself since I do want Amazon to publish this review ?

The Scáthach, an ancient being with tremendous power who generally takes whatever and whomever she desires. Gideon's Spear, aka Finn MacCullen is who the Scáthach wants and she will not be denied. Finn's blood is powerful and precious and with the skills learned at the Scáthach's side, she would be virtually indestructible.

What the old ones like the Scáthach often no longer understand is human emotion and attachment. Finn is young and has suffered terrible losses in his life as well as bigotry because of his half-blood status. For the first time in his young life, Finn feels wanted, cared for, and settled by Gideon Lir's side. To be sure, Gideon is a tough teacher but his toughness is tempered with real affection for Finn. To leave Gideon's home, to abandon his training and his friends is absolutely unthinkable. It is precisely that way of thinking that now has Finn and Gideon on the edge of their respective seats in anticipation of the trials the Scáthach intends to put Finn through in exchange for his freedom.

Though Finn only has a few months of training, he has a wealth of practical experience but nothing could have prepared Finn for the demands of the Scáthach. To strengthen her hand, the Scáthach has invoked the right to assign the most ancient of trials, the control of the elements. For his first trial, Finn must demonstrate control over fire. Uh, what?? Fire! Finn has to control fire and he has absolutely no idea how to do that

outside of using a lighter. Thankfully, Gideon has a large network of friends and frenemies and with just over a week to get ready, time is of the essence. To make matters far more stressful, Finn and Gideon have to be ridiculously careful that the Scáthach not know they have enlisted help.

As you might well expect, things just don't go smoothly or as planned for Finn and Gideon. Even with the help of trusted (and one not so trusted) friends, the trials are a nightmare that eventually leads the group to Ireland and on the trail of ancient legend that is pretty much a last-ditch effort at saving Finn from the Scáthach's grasp. Nothing, no matter how wretched and awful that has come before could have prepared Finn for what happens in Ireland. Everything and everyone Finn loves is threatened, the Scáthach is ruthless in her pursuit, and if Finn and his friends don't find the legendary burnt bones, all will absolutely be lost.

The Bottom Line: I truly wish I had the words to adequately describe how much I have loved not only this book but this series. If I were describing this book and the series to friends or strangers, there would absolutely be wildly waving hands, naughty words, and we're-fairly-certain-she's-bat-shit-crazy enthusiasm. Karchut has built a world that is steeped in legend and myth, friendship and loyalty, care and concern, and action and adventure. Each element is woven into the story and acted out by the various players rather than being bluntly written. Karchut's descriptions, her characters, and her worlds are kind and welcoming, drawing the reader in from the very first page and having to forcibly kick us out at the end because we just can't bear to let go. With that being said, I'm glad this series is ending where it does, at its peak and not five (or more) books from now with a stale and played out cast of characters and horribly contrived plots, schemes, and machinations. Karchut, like any elegant and graceful woman, knows when it's time to leave the party. Though I am sad to see such wonderful and impactful characters walk out of my life, I know they, like all good friends are only a thought away and can be pulled from my shelf and revisited at any time. I bid you adieu, Finn MacCullen and wish you all the best in your next adventure . . .

Deb says

Mixed feelings. First the negative...IT IS THE LAST BOOK IN THE SERIES...NOOOOOOO!!!
Now for the positive...As with EVERY book I have read from Darby Karchut, she grabs you right away. That is a gift very few authors are able to achieve. Finn is continuing his training with Gideon. Think things are falling back into a familiar routine. WRONG. The Celtic goddess Scáthach is insisting on taking over Finn's training, since Finn is THE SPEAR. She agrees to giving Finn four test. If he passes ALL 4, Finn can stay with Gideon. In order to pass test #1, Finn and Gideon enlists the help of Iona, the witch and Griffin, a earth angel in training. Nothing goes as planned for Finn. There are twist and turns that will keep you turning page after page.
THIS IS A MUST READ SERIES

Starr says

I won't go over, again, how much of a fan I am of Karchut's. Yes, I am biased. Yes, she is one of my D.E.A.R. authors.

Ok, this is the 5th time that I have attempted to write this review. I am stuck between gushing over it and trying to be impartial. if you have been following me for a while, you know that I am a huge fan of Karchut, and that I have yet to be disappointed by anything of hers that I've read. And at this point, I believe that I have read everything that is available.

This is the final book in The Adventures of Finn MacCullen series. This time, Finn is facing his biggest challenge. In the other books, it was more about saving the world or at least other people. This time around it is just about Finn, and saving him from an uncertain future and losing everything that he has grown to love. There are special cameos that made my heart smile.

I loved this book! Despite it being the final book, I think this is my favorite. Things didn't end the way that I expected. There was no secret catch behind the challenges. Finn's choice revealed so much more about him than I was expecting. While everything was wrapped up nicely, there was also a glimpse into what was to come for Finn and Gideon that ultimately let my heart rest. This is a series that I will reread for the pleasure of it, but it is also one that I will love sharing with my son and my nephew and anyone else that I can force to sit down and read it.

If you have not started this series, I highly recommend it. And if you have but are waiting on this book, I say go get it now and read it tonight.

5 Stars

Dana says

This is the 4th and last book in this fun series for middle grade kids. I have only read the first book and this one, but I am sure the other two are fun reads too. This book is several months after the first book. Thirteen year old Finn now has to complete four impossible tasks or else he will have to go live and train with Scatach, a goddess, for many years. Gideon and his friends help Finn to deal with the challenges and hopefully pass them. There is magic and action and adventure in this last book of the series. I am sure that readers will enjoy the book. I received this book free to review from Netgalley.

C. McKenzie says

Just when you think Finn's out of hot water and only has to deal with a few demons, he's confronted by a powerful goddess with challenges. Big challenges. The question is can Finn meet them and remain with his mentor--the man who has become like a father to him?

In this final book of her series, Darby Karchut pulls all the stops on adventure and exciting, mystical characters--each with special talents and integral to Finn's story. Told with humor and poignancy, Finn's Choice is a page-turner. The climax is a surprise and very satisfying. The denouement not only wraps up this book, but the series.

While I'm sad to see Finn go, I'm glad to have made the journey with him. I'd recommend this books and the series to readers who enjoy the fantastic wrapped up with some very human emotions and motivations. Fun. Exciting. Satisfying.

Gaby says

Wished it had been longer because I loved it so much!
I'm sad to say goodbye but other than that the book was perfect.

Finn, Gideon you have my heart! ♥

Darby Karchut says

I'm going to miss these characters and this world, especially Finn MacCullen and Gideon Lir. But, what a joy it was to share them with my readers.

Kathy Martin says

Just when Finn is settling in as Gideon's apprentice after the events told in the previous book, his security could be ripped away from him by the Scathach, a Celtic goddess known for training warriors, who wants to make Finn her next student. If he can't complete four almost impossible tasks, he will have to leave Gideon and go with her.

Finn and Gideon need to gather their friends and allies to win the right for him to stay with Gideon. Mac Roth and his apprentice Lochlan are quick to offer help as are Kel O'Shea and her apprentice Tara. They even get help from a witch named Iona of the Hills and a couple of Terrae Angeli - Basil and Griffin. (Yes, the same Griffin from Karchut's YA series.)

This story which concludes the Adventures of Finn McCullen has fewer battles with the goblin-like creatures that they usually fight. This story is more about teamwork and working together to outsmart a goddess. The book also spends a lot of time on Finn and Gideon's relationship as they get closer and closer and more like father and son than master and student. I liked the way the three apprentices act like real middle school age kids with teasing and jealousies and friendship.

This is a great middle grade adventure series with a lot of heart.

Beverly McClure says

Tell me this isn't the end. What will I do without Finn and Gideon, the boys that have taught me so much about bravery, friendship, family, and love? I've held my breath as they faced danger and even death from the Amandan, yucky creatures that are their enemies. For three years I've followed apprentice Finnegan MacCullen and his mentor Gideon Lir, Knight of the Tuatha De Danaan, through their journey to make Finn a knight. They worked together, fought together, laughed together, and cried together.

In FINN'S CHOICE, THE FINAL BOOK IN THE ADVENTURES OF FINN MACCULLEN, by Award-winning Author Darby Karchut, a goddess threatens to separate apprentice and mentor. Gideon makes Finn a promise, however. But will he be able to keep it?

This novel is a lovely wrap up to the series. Even though he's half human and half Fey, Finn's pretty much like most boys of thirteen. He's a bit "cheeky" (Gideon's words.) He's also a loyal friend and would give his life to save others. And girls confuse him. I love the relationship between Finn and Gideon. It's more than mentor and apprentice; it's like father and son. They have their disagreements, sure, but still honor and respect each other.

Darby Karchut writes such realistic scenes that they pull the reader into the story so deeply the reader becomes a part of the action, or conversation, along with the characters.

The novel also contains a pleasant surprise. Griffin, a Terrae Angeli from The Griffin Series, plays an important role in the story. Meeting Griffin and his mentor Basil, again, brought back old memories of their story. So you know what I'll be doing this summer? Rereading the Griffin series, along with the Finn MacCullen books. What a way to spent hot summer evenings. If you haven't read them, you ought to.

Once again, Darby Karchut has created a story that's magical, and real-life, and also shows the importance of making the right choice to reach a goal. I recommend FINN'S CHOICE for MG readers and also for older readers who enjoy a great novel. FINN'S CHOICE would make a great addition to school libraries and classrooms, as well as your own library. This is not the end, for the characters live on in my thoughts. I think they will in yours, as well.
