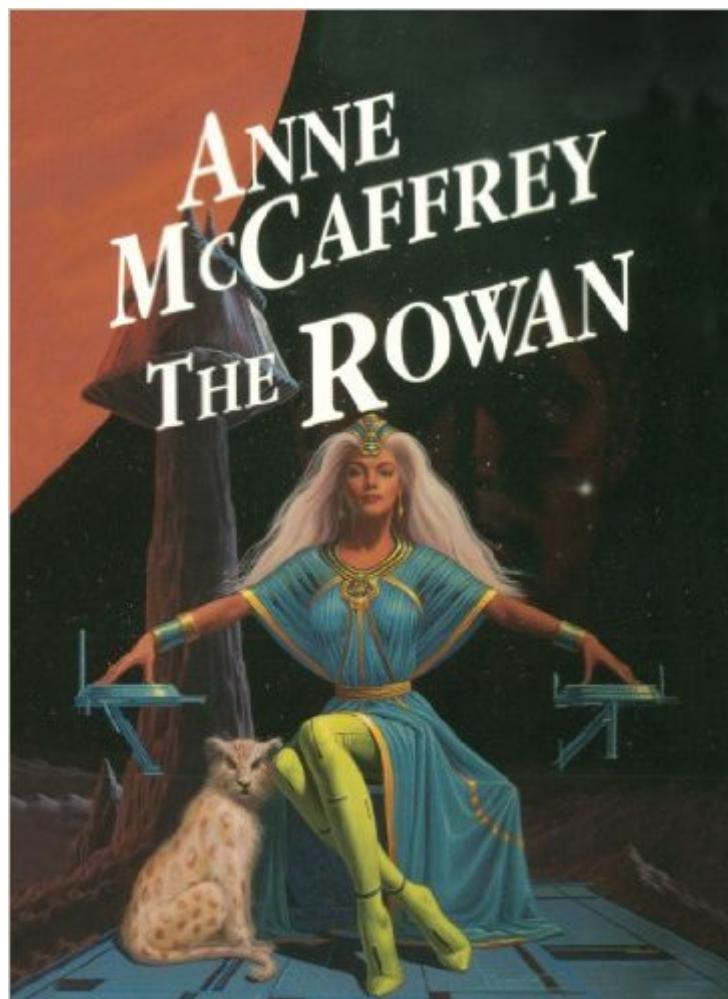


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# The Rowan (Rowan/Damia Series)



## **Synopsis**

Told in the timeless style of Anne McCaffrey, *The Rowan* is the first installment in a wonderful trilogy. This is sci-fi at its best: a contemporary love story as well as an engrossing view of our world in the future. The kinetically gifted, trained in mind/machine gestalt, are the most valued citizens of the Nine Star League. Using mental powers alone, these few Prime Talents transport ships, cargo and people between Earth's Moon, Mars' Demos and Jupiter's Callisto. An orphaned young girl, simply called *The Rowan*, is discovered to have superior telepathic potential and is trained to become Prime Talent on Callisto. After years of self-sacrificing dedication to her position, *The Rowan* intercepts an urgent mental call from Jeff Raven, a young Prime Talent on distant Deneb. She convinces the other Primes to merge their powers with hers to help fight off an attack by invading aliens. Her growing relationship with Jeff gives her the courage to break her status-imposed isolation, and choose the more rewarding world of love and family.

## **Book Information**

Series: Rowan/Damia Series (Book 1)

Audio CD

Publisher: Brilliance Audio; Unabridged edition (September 5, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 9781441840677

ISBN-13: 978-1441840677

ASIN: 1441840672

Product Dimensions: 5 x 1.4 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars See all reviews (101 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #3,634,862 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #40 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > ( M ) > McCaffrey, Anne #2480 in Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction #2889 in Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy

## **Customer Reviews**

Although there are actually about 3 "prequels" to this book including "To Ride Pegasus", "Pegasus in Flight" and "Pegasus in Space", the prequels are several generations before "The Rowan" but do give a nice background/foundation. I highly recommend reading the prequels as they are a nice series in and of themselves. *The Rowan* is orphaned at 3 years old on Altair during a horrible

mudslide which wipes out her family and an entire mining camp except her. She is heard and rescued because she is a very strong "Talent" -- a person with strong psi skills and in this case, telepathing (as well as telekinesis and teleport as shown later in the book). Her mental crying and shouting is heard throughout the planet by even minor Talents. The Prime, Siglen, on Altair has an inner ear condition which makes her violently ill when trying to travel in space. Siglen has inhibited all of the Primes (a T-1 or strongest of the Talents) she has trained so far and when they propose to send the Rowan to Earth for training she scares her as does the Rowan's past experiences. Thus Siglen and a host of other nurse/psychologists/engineers train the Rowan until she is ready for a Tower of her own. She lands a post on Callisto, a moon of Jupiter, where there is a domed environment. The Rowan being very temperamental takes a few years to get her staff together finally setting on Afra of Capella for her T-3 assistant. She is contacted by a untrained Prime on the far out colony world of Deneb which is being invaded first by bio-warfare and then missiles by ruthless aliens. Even though she hasn't met this new Prime, she is drawn to him by his sense of humor and voice and charm. Jeff Raven, the new Prime, is not inhibited and can easily 'port himself to Callisto so they finally meet.

Years ago, I read a story by Anne McCaffrey that she later expanded into this novel. From there she went on to write a series of books about the dynasty of telepathic/telekinetic "Talents" founded by Altair's Angharad Gwyn (a/k/a "the Rowan") and Deneb's Jeff Raven. I've somehow managed to read Book One of the series last, but the story on which McCaffrey based it was so memorable that I almost thought I'd read it already. Until I noticed its copyright date, and realized that couldn't be true! Orphaned at age three, little Angharad Gwyn has her memories of those first years of her life blocked by rescuers who desperately need to silence the child's telepathic cries for her dead parents. Since she therefore can't even remember her name, she comes to be called "the Rowan child" - for the mining company whose remote work site has fallen victim to a landslide, of which this little girl is the sole survivor. Hers is the strongest Talent that the Human colony-world Altair has yet bred, and she's immediately marked for training as a tower-dwelling Prime. She'll spend her adult life shifting cargo containers and passenger vessels, and military units as well, from one star system to another. Instantly, across light years of space. The Rowan's future looks bright, but lonely; because when Primes travel between worlds, they suffer horribly. Everyone knows that's true. Everyone, that is, except Jeff Raven - a "wild" Talent on far-off Deneb, who calls out to the Rowan for help when an alien invasion force bears down on his colony. This is classic McCaffrey. Science fiction romance, published before anyone identified the sub-genre as such, with an intriguing "villian"

in the alien invaders whose nature the rest of the series continues to explore.

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