



Chasing Freedom

Blurb

A sweeping character-rich novel set against George Washington's doomed Potomac Canal project -- where ten lives collide in a search for freedom, belonging, and hope.

Rooted in meticulous historical research, *Chasing Freedom* brings to life the rugged world of Matildaville, Virginia, a canal town carved into the cliffs above Great Falls. As Washington's ambitious engineering dream falters, the people who live and labor along the Potomac find their own futures shifting with the river.

At the center is Jane Myers, a London-born woman whose life changes in an instant. Her dying grandmother reveals a long-guarded secret - she is the anonymous abolitionist writer whose words have stirred a movement. And when her husband is hired by George Washington to work on the canal, she is thrust into a harsh new frontier where tragedy, widowhood, and survival reshape everything she thought she knew.

Now the widowed tavernkeeper of Matildaville, Jane becomes far more than a witness to a community in motion -- she becomes a force within it. Through her door pass:

- a stagecoach driver searching for stability
- runaways risking everything for liberty
- freed labourers navigating a hostile world
- Irish servants fleeing grief
- a superintendent fighting to hold Washington's vision together
- an overseer whose cruelty threatens them all

Their stories intertwine with real historical figures -- George Washington, Meriwether Lewis, Dorothy Ripley, Yarrow Mamout, John Davis, and Captain George Pointer -- revealing a nation struggling to define itself.

Told through ten interwoven perspectives, *Chasing Freedom* blends documented history with imagined lives to explore a single resonant truth: freedom is not one path but many. For some it is safety; for others dignity, belonging, purpose, or the courage to stand for what is right. In their search for freedom, these characters discover something deeper -- the strength found in one another, the unexpected community that rises in hardship, and the enduring power of love, compassion, and hope.

Author Rebecca Royer **Genre** Historical **Date** January 2026 **Formats** Paperback and ebook, 487 pages (Paperback)

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