Tisha: The Story of a Young Teacher in the Alaska Wilderness by Anne Purdy

Anne Hobbs is a prim and proper 19-year-old schoolteacher who yearns for adventure. She finds this and much more in a town with the unlikely name of Chicken, located deep in the Alaskan interior. It is 1927 and Chicken is a wild mining community flaming with gold fever. Anne quickly makes friends with many of the townspeople, but is soon ostracized when she not only befriends the local Indians but also falls in love with one. A heartwarming story in the tradition of Benedict Freedmans classic, Mrs. Mike, Tisha is one of those rare books that stays with the reader for years, beckoning to be read again and again. --Maudeen Wachsmith

My Personal Review:
In 1927 young Anne Hobbs goes to Alaska to be a teacher and to have an adventure. Having no family left in Colorado, she seeks to do something special as her beloved grandmother predicted she would. She finds life difficult because of inclement weather and a lack of conveniences, but the biggest problem she faces is that of prejudice. She seeks to teach and befriend all of the people in the small town of Chicken, Alaska, where she lives but she soon discovers that her kindness towards Indian children raises the ire of the white people in the town. She has to face up to the local school board and the towns people before she is allowed to teach Indians in her school. As if that isn't bad enough she ends up falling in love with a half-breed and adopting some mixed-race children. This book is full of adventure and real insight into what it was like to live in Alaska in the 20s. It is also a triumphant story of one woman's love and her persistence in encouraging justice in her small Alaska town.

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