



Bones of the Past

Holly Lisle

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The City of the First Folk was an Archaeological Find -- and a Lurking HorrorNever dig up the bones of the past -- because the past never dies, and it resents being buried.... A tiny band of outcast children.... A young girl marked for sacrifice.... An ancient scholar.... A head-hunting mage.... An insane historian.... And the discovery of a lost city that brings them all together -- only to discover that the deadly bones of the past are alive and stalking them!

Bones of the Past Details

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Author : Holly Lisle

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From Reader Review Bones of the Past for online ebook

YouKneeK says

I enjoyed this second book in the Arhel trilogy even more than the first book. The first book was entertaining, but the story was really pretty generic as far as fantasy stories go. *Bones of the Past*, on the other hand, had a more unique story and it too was written well.

I can't think of any way to provide a brief synopsis of the plot without spoiling some part of it that I had fun discovering for myself, so I'm not even going to try. Well, I guess I could just limit myself to saying that there's a society in this fictional world that has a really odd view about how to celebrate the twelfth year of a child's life.

I really liked three out of the four main characters in the story. The fourth one was ok, but I never warmed up to her much. Two of the main characters are children/teenagers from the aforementioned odd society. The other two are adult mages. One of those is the one I never really warmed up to. The other was Medwind, the mage instructor who had discovered the main character in the previous book, Faia. Faia herself is in this book a fair amount, but I don't believe we ever read anything from her perspective.

Both books so far have each told a complete story. I complained in my review of the first book that there was some wolf stuff that was never explained, and it wasn't followed up on in this book either so I don't think it was intended to be a plot thread. That book was Holly Lisle's first novel, and I guess she was just using it to foreshadow events but forgot to consider whether it actually made sense in the context of the story. In this book, I didn't notice anything like that. I thought everything made sense, although there was one aspect of the story near the end that I found to be way too coincidental, and there were several things related to that aspect which weren't explained to my satisfaction.

But overall I was happy with the story and with the way most of the main plot threads were tied up. I had trouble putting the book down because I always wanted to see what would happen next, and I definitely plan to read the final book in the trilogy.

?Misericordia? ~ The Serendipity Aegis ~ ?????? ✨*♥♥ says

Human-loving trees we got ourselves here... loving humans for breakfast, of course, would we have it any other way?

I'm still not sure how to rate it. It's about 4,5, subjectively.

Objectively, we start at 5 stars (I read it, had no ranting fits and all...):

+1 star: my eyes got not workout here, I'm gonna pick something else to exercise them today;

-1 star: many POV's here, I sort of think there might be too many of them, and we are led from so far that I'm sure many readers are likely to get bored (not me);

+1 star: many POV's here, we are led down several roads simultaneously twisting and joining somewhere very far down the plot development, I think it's cool;

(Yes, I have contradictory feelings on the multi-POV feature.)

+1 star: very anthropologically oriented approach to world-building: I love how various societies sprout along the book;

+1 star: everything above happens without noticeable infodumping (seriously good job done featuring

multiple societies having multiple quirks and all!);

-1 star: something was a bit off about the characters, some of whom were sort of larger than life (including the trees, the human-loving ones, and Faia, being sort of nonchalant on teaching her 2-year old kid to become a headhunter), though it's ok for fantasy.

Review TBC...

J.T. says

Bones of the Past is the second book in Holly Lisle's Arhel fantasy series, and it stands well on its own. Familiar characters from the first book *Fire in the Mist* (Faia, Medwind, Nokar) along with some new ones (Roba, Kirtha) set out on a quest to discover the city of the First Folk in the treacherous Wen Jungles. But little do they know that by unearthing the bones of the past, they are unleashing an ancient evil.

Let me begin with what I liked about this book.

-The plotting and characterization unfold with freshness and originality, no opportunity to create tension is wasted, and emotional content never seems contrived.

-Seven Fingered Fat Girl is a marvelous character. In the early going she often carries the book, keeping the reader compelled to read on, just to see what will happen to her and Four Winds Band. Choufa and the tale of the sharsha frequently serve the same role.

-Holly Lisle does a fantastic job of limiting descriptive passages and time spent on scene setting.

-Her ability to maintain a driving level of tension is wonderful, and she isn't shy about including compelling and unusual subject matter (for a work of Fantasy) like; mass child abuse, abandonment and neglect; and adolescent sex. She does an excellent job of showing us what's happening in these cases without ever resorting to boring passages of exposition.

What's not too great:

-Unfortunately, Medwind Song and Roba's plot lines (quest for the Lost City) were dull. If not for those of the Wen kids and the sharsha, I would have probably set the book aside soon after opening it. Until the characters come together as a group, about halfway through, these last two characters and their tales are just plain boring.

-Readers unfamiliar with this world may feel lost early on. Though there is a glossary at the end of the book, it is small and doesn't explain everything.

-Lisle's odd mix of an 'ancient' world coupled with modern thinking and terminology (like "nested subroutines") takes time to get used to.

-Her knack for drawing emotions from her readers is good, but inconsistent.

Still, I would recommend this book to all readers of Fantasy.

Teemu says

A little slow to start but from around half way through, when all character end up together, really turns interesting.

Kelley Ceccato says

This is a fast, involving and entertaining read, with some intriguing and sometimes frightening world-building. After getting to know Medwind Song in *Fire in the Mist*, I liked seeing her rise to main-character status in this one, and I loved the fresh insights into the culture from which she comes.

Things can get pretty gruesome (carnivorous tree-gods!), and some readers may feel a bit squeamish about Medwind's relationship with her much older husband and the exploitation of the "sharsha" girls, but this is a good book to read if you're looking for a story that shows women lending each other a helping hand. Female friendships and even complicated female rivalries are foregrounded in this book. Medwind, Faia, Seven-Fingered-Fat-Girl, Choufa, Roba, and even little Kirtha and Runs Slow are all well worth getting to know.

Debbie Ledesma says

This proved a good book with plenty of suspense and adventure. The author covers the story from several different viewpoint characters, which made the story stronger. I felt for the children of the Wen being outcasted by their people or ending up food for cannibal trees. All the characters were three dimensional and sympathetic. Ms. Lisle writes good books with vivid images and likable characters. If a bit grim in places, the book keeps you hooked until the end. I believe readers will enjoy this book.

AndrewP says

Apparently a sequel, but worked as a stand alone novel and I did not know until later that it was a follow up book.

? BookAddict ✍ La Crimson Femme says

I used to read all of Ms. Lisle's books. This was an odd one. The first one was a bit over the top with the man hating. This is was a decent follow up I guess.

Sean Talbot says

while this book was written well it seemed to lack something which made the characters so special

Laura of Lurking says

A fantastic second novel. While this does have a predecessor and some of the events from that have shaped the story, this novel is set several years after the first and has a largely different setting so it could be read as a stand alone.

This novel is largely set in the forests, with tribes who worship trees, monsters, outcasts as well as a few character from the first novel thrown in. it is a great read, and also touches on many social issues that ourselves have. For example each group believe all f the others to be savages because the do things differently, and only learn that they aren't so different when they have to work together to survive

I found it fascinating from start to finish and look forward to the third and (I believe) final novel in this series

Anthea Strezze says

Review to be added later.
