



## The King of Bones and Ashes

*J.D. Horn*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

# The King of Bones and Ashes

*J.D. Horn*

## **The King of Bones and Ashes** J.D. Horn

From the bestselling author of the Witching Savannah series comes the first book in a fascinating trilogy following the quest of a young witch to uncover her family's terrifying secret history...

Magic is seeping out of the world, leaving the witches who've relied on it for countless centuries increasingly hopeless. While some see an inevitable end of their era, others are courting madness—willing to sacrifice former allies, friends, and family to retain the power they covet. While the other witches watch their reality unravel, young Alice Marin is using magic's waning days to delve into the mystery of numerous disappearances in the occult circles of New Orleans. Alice disappeared once, too—caged in an asylum by blood relatives. Recently freed, she fears her family may be more involved with the growing crisis than she ever dared imagine.

Yet the more she seeks the truth about her family's troubled history, the more she realizes her already-fragile psyche may be at risk. Discovering the cause of the vanishings, though, could be the only way to escape her mother's reach while determining the future of all witches.

## **The King of Bones and Ashes Details**

Date : Published January 23rd 2018 by 47North

ISBN :

Author : J.D. Horn

Format : Kindle Edition 320 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Urban Fantasy, Paranormal, Witches, Fiction

 [Download The King of Bones and Ashes ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The King of Bones and Ashes ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online The King of Bones and Ashes J.D. Horn**

---

## From Reader Review The King of Bones and Ashes for online ebook

### Lauren Stoolfire says

**I received an ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.**

Magic is leaving this world, making the witches who've relied on it forever absolutely helpless. Some are willing to accept it, while others are willing to do whatever it takes to stay in power. Alice is using her remaining power to solve the mysterious disappearances of those in occult circles of New Orleans. She knows the feeling as her family put in an asylum and she just recently got out. She's afraid that her family is connected, and the more she investigates the more she comes to realize that her fragile psyche may be in trouble. Figuring this out, though, may be her only way to get out from under her mother's thumb while determining the future of magic.

*The King of Bones and Ashes* by J.D. Horn sounded like it would be exactly my kind of read. There are so many elements that I love - magic and witches, atmospheric setting (New Orleans), voodoo, warring families, and more. Unfortunately, I ended up preferring the concept to the final product. The novel travels at far too slow of a pace for me, and it follows far too many characters to get thoroughly invested in anyone. I liked Alice quite a bit, but I wish that the story would have focused primarily on her (and perhaps one or two others at the most) rather than bouncing back and forth between its enormous cast. There are a lot of characters, and there were many times I had trouble keeping everyone straight in my mind - definitely took me out of the story to have to keep flipping back to the cast list. Overall, J.D. Horn's new release just wasn't for me in the long run, although I wish I could say otherwise. I still would like to try his *Witching Savannah* series, which is described as a Southern Gothic urban fantasy with witches.

---

### Amalia Gavea says

I never thought that I would find finishing a book set in New Orleans, with a story that includes witches and voodoo traditions and everything such a chore...And yet, it happened. I prompted myself to finish it, I even bribed me with chocolate and ice cream and it was painful. And sad. And it lasted for about two months and a half. And not even watching Clayne Crawford in "Lethal Weapon" could make me feel better...

I won't occupy your time with long paragraphs. All the problems I faced with this novel have been described in wonderful reviews. The issues started fairly early and everything went downhill from the sixth, seventh chapter. There was little to no development. The characters were utterly ludicrous with the exception of Alice that was drowned in the sea of indifference. The dialogue was mediocre, at best, and I felt as if I was watching a teen TV series with witches and vampires. Since I don't watch those, the book was not for me. I thought I would love it because I love New Orleans and witches but this novel had very little to give me. Almost nothing apart from a handful of beautiful New Orleans descriptions.

I know many readers enjoyed this one. Many others didn't and it is sad to say that I fall into the second category...

Many thanks to 47North and NetGalley for the ARC in exchange of an honest review.

---

## **Barbara (The Bibliophage) says**

J.D. Horn begins a new series with *The King of Bones and Ashes*. Set in post-Katrina New Orleans, Horn introduces us to the Marin family, young, old, and not entirely alive. This is definitely an atmospheric, Southern gothic-tinged fantasy.

The Marins are part of the Chanticleer witches' coven, and their magic is slowly but surely fading out. Those that still have some magic are forced to use drastic means to maintain what they have.

Since this is a new series, Horn must provide extensive world-building detail. He introduces a raft of characters, witches, voodoo practitioners, believers in magic, and those who question its validity. Integral to the plot is Horn's version of bogey man—named Babau Jean. And a pretty boss magical cat!

The New Orleans Witches are aware that an ancient grimoire, *The Book Of Unwinding*, may have answers to the decline in available magic. But no one knows quite where it is.

My conclusions:

I picked this book up for two reasons. First, I enjoyed the author's previous *Witching Savannah* series. Second, I was approved for the ARC of book two in the New Orleans series. So I needed to get filled in!

Horn dumps a huge amount of information on his readers in *The King of Bones and Ashes*. The process could have used more finesse, since it felt more overwhelming than exciting.

Because Horn uses alternating POVs with shifting time periods, you've got to pay attention. It wasn't easy to keep all the characters and relationships straight. Although I'll admit I might feel this way because I listened to the audiobook. But, truthfully, at one point I wanted to sit down and make myself a family tree for the characters.

I'm glad to have book two, called *The Book Of Unwinding*, ready to read. I hope it delivers more action and less exposition in that book.

But don't think I'm not intrigued by the mythology Horn is building here. I am. It's just creepy enough for me to allow myself to be drawn into the strange and magical brew.

More reviews at [TheBibliophage.com](http://TheBibliophage.com).

---

## **Robin (Bridge Four) says**

This review was originally posted on Books of My Heart

I received this book for free from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

This book is what I like to call a slow stroll. If you are patient, not in any hurry to get where you are going and just want to take in the scenery, then you will probably have the temperament needed to get to your destination.

I'm a pretty patient reader and so I'm fine with wandering around blind in a story for a little while as an

author skips around to different characters points of view to build the ambiance and stage the story to come. I actually expected that a little bit for this story because it is set in New Orleans and it seemed like it wanted to encompass the laissez faire attitude of the city. Still, this flow isn't going to work for some readers.

**The King of Bones and Ashes** has the feel of a gothic suspense. The thing it did best was give us an introduction into all the witching families of New Orleans that are going to be in play and some history on their family dynamics. Some witches are feeling the decline of magic more acutely than others and with power available for magic waning, some witches are willing to go to extremes to hold on to what they can.

This had some fantastic start up character building in it with a lot of room to grow. Each character given a PoV in the story shows us a very interesting surface and hints at some depths behind it. I think character development in the next books will show just how three dimensional all the characters of the story are.

Alice, (the young witch locked in an asylum for years) in particular, I think we have only scratched the surface of who she really is down to her core. Evangeline is the other. She is a natural witch who loved one man and then after he died fell in love with his father. It was different but I still found myself wanting them to figure out a way to work through their past.

There isn't a lot of action in the story until the end. So if you were thinking going into this that it is more of a horror novel, I think you will be disappointed. There is definitely a boogey man and some gore but it isn't until the very end and I thought it would be a little scarier throughout. Mostly this is a story about a witch family and a secret they have kept for generations.

The concepts and ideas for the story are well planned but I struggled to follow a few times due to number of characters, PoV change ups and general pacing of the story. I loved the mix of both magic and voodoo and the different families that were part of each. I just wanted the flow of the story to feel a little smother because it got a bit jumpy at times.

I will continue the series as this is a solid foundation. I read J.D. Horn's Line series and enjoyed most of it. But I'm hoping that the next book picks up the pace a little to a solid stride.

---

## **Kathrin says**

I received a free copy via NetGalley.

'The King of Bones and Ashes' is an urban fantasy series set in New Orleans. The story begins back in 2005 when Katrina devastated the town and the local witches try to prevent the worst. Unfortunately, almost everyone involved can tell that the magic is slowly dying away and that they are not strong enough anymore. And then there's Babau Jean, a boogeyman hunting young Alice.

Fast forward a couple of years, family ties are broken, friends become enemies and it turns out that not everyone in the witching community is losing their power. The story follows three women trying to find their place in a new world where power is shifting.

I thought long about how much to write about the book without giving too much away. To be honest, you have to stop early because it's easy to spoil the story for others. The story is very detailed and next to the three main characters there are numerous other characters worth watching. Truth be told, a lot is happening but (and that's a big one) we're not talking about a fast-paced story. This is a slow burn and it takes its time. You could tell from the beginning that this is the first in a series because the author sets you up with an

overload of information. I'm usually a fast reader but I had to stop several times to sort out who is who and how is everyone connected. Once you do that, you are rewarded with a great story.

I loved the main characters - especially Alice and Evangeline. Alice was an instant like. Her story arc is full of complex family ties and resentment of those who took power over her. It took me a while to like Evangeline - mainly because of how she is connected to the Marin family. In general, the author did a great job to present complex characters with a rich background story. At some point, I struggled because there were just too many characters involved but I hope that you'll need all the information for later books in the series. This kind of makes it okay in my eyes.

The setting is also lovely. This isn't the first time I encountered New Orleans as the perfect setting for an urban fantasy in a book/TV series/movie. Different cultural and religious beliefs interact in the book and thus add an interesting layer to the complex family story.

In some aspects, the book was exactly what I wanted it to be while truth be told, it took me some time to get into it. It definitely wasn't an easy read. If you are looking for a fast-paced, cute story you might want to skip 'The King of Bones and Ashes'. I recommend this to readers who enjoy a complex, character-driven urban fantasy.

I enjoyed the read a lot and I wasn't aware of the fact that there is already another witch series by the same author. This means that there are now two series that I can check out and this makes me insanely happy.

---

## **Sara says**

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

This is, at its heart, a family drama surrounding a coven of witches in the Deep South. Throw in a dash of magic, the bogeyman and the harvesting of dead witches and you've got yourself a good novel.

I enjoyed the three main protagonists, but especially Alice. We first find Alice locked away in an asylum for witches, haunted by the death of her brother by Babau Jean. She's a complex character, who's a little reserved at first, and although it takes a while to warm to her, I found myself enjoying her story the most. I liked the dynamic relationship she has with her siblings in particular, and I felt she had the most character development throughout the novel. Her interactions with Evangeline and Lisette too, and the complex interweaving of their history together was connected well (if a little convoluted).

The story itself is relatively slow to start as the author sets the scene, and we're introduced to these woman. The plot twists get progressively darker and more horror orientated as it progresses too, which I wasn't expecting, but actually came to appreciate as it added another dimension to the story. It was more than your average 'urban fantasy', and helped keep me interested enough to continue reading.

The story could be difficult to keep track of at times though, as it jumps timelines and has various points of view, which did affect the flow of the story. I can see a lot of people will struggle with the initial pace of this, but I'm glad I persisted with it.

An interesting take on the urban fantasy novel that would appeal to those looking for witches with a little extra bite.

---

## **Sarah Marie says**

The King of Bones and Ashes by J.D. Horn

First in the Witches of New Orleans series

### **DNF- 1.5 stars**

The King of Bones and Ashes is a novel that focuses on three witches within the New Orleans area. I was super interested in the premise behind this one because I'm from Louisiana and I always enjoy seeing authors' takes on this famous city. I really wanted to like this novel. I did, but I just felt so disconnected from it since the beginning. For me to want to read a novel, I have to make a connection to something. It doesn't matter if it's the characters, world building, plot, or romance. I have to have some level of interest to continue otherwise reading begins to feel empty. I don't want my reading to feel empty. I DNF novels for multiple reasons. Sometimes the book makes me rage, rolls my eyes, cringe, uncomfortable, or the writing is horrible and I just can't continue or my brain cells will die. This isn't the case with The King of Bones and Ashes. I have to DNF this novel because I'm not connected to it. I can't continue to read this novel because it will make me unhappy and I want to leave off feeling unsatisfied instead of raging and telling everyone that this is a horrible book.

My biggest problem lies with the formatting and sequencing of the story. The prologue is ridiculously long. So long, that it feels more like an opening chapter. A prologue should be quick and to the point. I don't want my prologue to be long because when it is I usually feel confused and annoyed because I'm being thrown into the middle of a very big plot that should not be the opening sequence for a story. This book also has three alternating PoVs. One of them is from Evangeline who is mentioned as the hated girlfriend of the prologue narrator's brother. She owns a strip club and has become romantically involved with her ex-boyfriend's FATHER.

Then there's the opening narrator, Alice, she is currently locked up in an asylum for witches after she witnessed her brother, Luc (Evangeline's ex-boyfriend), be murdered by a monster, but no one believes and thinks he killed himself. Her father has been keeping her locked up at the asylum against the doctor's wishes. There is also a third narrator, Lisette, who seems to be a middle-aged woman, but sounds like a teenager. I have no clue what her purpose is in this story other than to be a woman who has forgotten that magic truly exists and just thinks the people around her are crazy. Can you see why it was hard for me to keep up? There's a lot going and this is only the first 17% of the novel. I can't do it. It's not interesting enough and I don't feel like I am gaining anything from this story. I think I'll just watch Coven instead.

**Whimsical Writing Scale: 2**

**Character Scale: 1**

**Plotastic Scale: 1.5**

**Cover Thoughts: This isn't a horrible cover, but I'm not a huge fan of it.**

*Thank you, Netgalley and 47 North, for providing me with a copy of this novel in exchange for an honest review.*

---

**❁?Rory?❁ says**

2.5 Stars

Celestin Marin, patriarch of the Marin family and former head of the powerful Chanticleer Coven has died after being in a coma for eight years. During his long illness his son Nicholas has been head of the coven and now is poised to take over permanently. But all is not well in New Orleans. Magic is dying and the scramble for what power remains pits the witches of the city against one another and some are willing to do anything rather than lose their magic.

I enjoyed J.D. Horn's *The Line* and was really looking forward to this one. The premise is great, and it's chock full of my favorite things; witches, magic, mystery, Gothic overtones, New Orleans, family grudges etc. There is just too much of everything coming at you from too many different directions.

Alice Marin was a wonderful character and I wish the author had stuck with her and one other, perhaps Lisette Perrault. Allowing these two characters to tell the story would have sharpened the focus and made things less confusing. I did like this, and I'm going to keep my eye out for the second book.

---

**Bonnie Shores says**

I hate to say it, but... This book was a huge disappointment after loving the author's *Witching Savannah* series. I have read many books that started off slowly and then took their time in order to tell an amazing story. Unfortunately, that is not the case here. I found this book to be boring and confusing and way too long.

I didn't feel that any of the characters were developed in any meaningful ways; therefore, I felt no connection to any of them. Not one. That would be okay in a fast-paced, plot-driven story. But while this was a plot-based story, it moved at a snail's pace.

The book begins in the past, just as Hurricane Katrina is about to hit New Orleans. Something kind of scary almost happens, but then we're thrown forward to the present day. For the first I-don't-know-how-many-chapters, we are introduced to a different character in each new chapter and are thrown into their current situation without any point of reference. At some point, relationships are revealed, but clues as to what's going on are cryptic at best.

Toward the end, you learn how all the random characters are related, but, for me, it was too late. I was just

waiting for the book to end. And then it happened...

...the dreaded **information dump**. At the every end, the most ridiculous scenario occurred and everything was neatly explained. Except that it didn't really make sense to me. It felt like a tv series that's been unfolding week after week only to find that it's being cancelled so the writers do the best they can to wrap everything up in one episode.

I wanted to like this book. I really did. I love supernatural fantasy. I find witches and witchcraft very interesting, but this book contained very little on witchcraft. I understand that one of the issues facing the witches of New Orleans was the diminishment of their powers, but still. There was almost nothing magical—just mentions of a more glorious past. The idea of the "dreamer" was really cool, but the various avenues taken to that end were convoluted. Technically, J.D. Horn is a really good writer, but I don't know what happened with this story.

---

### **Ali (the bandar blog) says**

This is a DNF review for me, but NOT because the book was bad. I DNF'd at 40%.

I very much liked the mysterious atmosphere and the implication of the witches' powers. I wanted to learn where everything was going and how all these different characters were going to tie together. I also really wanted to see more of what the witches could do. I enjoyed how the witches lives were represented in the book. It felt very authentic, as though this is what you'd expect to see if this was all real.

BUT... it was just too slow paced for me and I found myself only reading a few pages every time I'd pick it up. I felt that by 40% things should have started to pick up a little bit, but I felt like we were still laying somewhat of the groundwork.

I ultimately had to stop reading it. I knew that if I kept with it, I'd just get bitter and it would likely result in an unfair, poor review.

---

### **Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says**

I instantly felt that The Kings of Bones of Ashes was something I wanted to read and I was thrilled when I got the book to read and couldn't wait! And, the book was great. I was thrilled to read a book about witches set in New Orleans (and not a YA) and the premise of a story about witches that are slowly losing their magic felt refreshingly new.

The King of Bones and Ashes is the first book in the Witches of New Orleans and the book starts off with a young Alice Marin right before she is sent to an asylum by her father who feared that she was going insane just like her grandmother. She will not come back to New Orleans until 10 years later when her grandfather dies. And, her return will be the start of unstoppable events...

This book is the kind that I felt right from the start was perfect for me. I love reading Gothic novels set in the American South about old feuds and secrets. The writing really appeals to me and I loved how the book both had a satisfying ending (to the story in this book), but at the same time, a cliffhanger that makes me wanna read the next book since not everything has been resolved.

*I want to thank 47North for providing me with a free copy through NetGalley for an honest review!*

---

## Evelina | AvalinahsBooks says

### *5 Reasons To Read The King of Bones and Ashes:*

Read the full review here on my blog.

#### **Reason #1:**

##### ***New Orleans!***

**YES YES YES YES!!** I have never been to New Orleans myself, so this book was nothing short of an amazing trip. There's jazz. There's color. There are all the French names. There's tribute to the events of Katrina. There's even voodoo – and not your Hollywood scare, but the actual religion (*I hope I'm using the right name!*) Not to talk about all of the mythology around it! ***I was skeptical before reading the book, wondered if it won't be too stereotypical, but when I started reading, I truly loved the setting with all my heart.*** Besides, I feel like this book wouldn't really be anywhere if not for the New Orleans lore!

#### **Reason #2:**

##### ***The Intrigue***

***This was a very slow burn intrigue, but SUCH a good one.*** I couldn't work it out till the end. Generally, the book is rather slow going, there are no tumbling events, but it truly goes out with a blast (*something I didn't expect!*) It keeps a very satisfying pace, and just the right amount of suspense to keep you hooked, but not too stressed. ***It was a very comfortable read that still kept me on my toes!***

#### **Reason #3:**

##### ***Magical Cats?***

I mean, ever since the cat was introduced, I just saw it coming. I never miss an opportunity to talk about cats in my review, ***BUT GUYS, one of the main characters can talk to her cat.*** No, not in words, nothing to cliche, but I promise you **THEY TALK AND UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER.** ***This was the absolute fangirl moment for me in this book!!! Head over heels!*** (*I would have put it down as Reason #1 as well, but didn't for fear you wouldn't think I'm being serious in my review. For future reference, I'm ALWAYS serious about cats!!*)

*(I just couldn't leave that one alone.)*

#### **Reason #4:**

##### ***Unnameable Terror***

***This book truly does have a villain worthy of Stephen King's IT!*** Primal, dark, coming from the depths of each of our darkest dreams. J.D. Horn dips into the depths of history of the city to create such a monster, and that's a beautiful way of doing it. ***I can appreciate a villain like that!!*** The only reason I remembered to not be scared while reading it was that I was sitting snuggled up in a beanbag, drinking hot chocolate, and the

Christmas tree was glowing right beside me reassuringly.

#### **Reason #5:**

##### ***The Secondary Characters***

Actually, it's pretty hard to tell who is a secondary character and who is not – as you would probably call it 'lead characters' instead of 'main characters'. The book follows quite a few lines, and ***there are at least three people whose lives you'll see up close, and they're all really likeable. But I loved the secondary characters even more!*** They are so fleshed out – all different, all unique (*I'd dare to say that my favorite was a familiar called Daniel – I don't normally have book crushes, but I'm willing to make exceptions here.*) All of this gives the story even more depth.

#### **Overall...**

***This was such an engaging and pleasant read, but also an exercise for the mind (cause I'm still not entirely sure about the ending, it's all twisted up!)*** I loved the tone – it's a very no-nonsense tone, no silly banter, no fancy invented terms. It's quite down to earth, despite being about clans of witches. But despite my upbeat review, ***keep in mind that this book is sufficiently, unexpectedly dark.*** It doesn't really seem so from the tone, but when everything that happens, happens... You'll see. So be prepared! I can truly recommend ***The King of Bones and Ashes***, and absolutely can't wait for the sequel!

*I thank 47North and Darlene Chan PR for giving me a copy of The King of Bones and Ashes in exchange to my honest opinion.*

Read Post on My Blog | My Bookstagram | Bookish Twitter

---

#### **Jeri says**

This book was just okay for me. Not a series I will continue with I don't believe. It took a lot to try to keep things straight as to what was going on, who was who and what the heck was happening! But I THINK I may have it straight now that I finished the darn thing. Still kinda makes me wanna say, "huh?"

I won an ecopy of this book from Goodreads First Reads program.

---

#### **Malina Skrobosinski says**

This is what I would definitely consider a 'slow burn'. There's so much going on in this book for there to be nothing going on at the same time. There were far too many characters in my opinion, and the storyline was very convoluted. This isn't typically the type of novel I would read, usually preferring thrillers, but an occasional story involving the supernatural realm isn't always a bad thing. That said, this wasn't quite the novel I thought it was going to be when I chose it.

The story centers around the loss of magic among the witches in the New Orleans area. The struggle to hold on to the last bit of remaining magic has left ripples among the community of witches; fear and feuds that have lasted for years. The Chanticleer Coven has remained the most powerful in the New Orleans area, but not without deceit and manipulation. At the head of the coven, Celestin Marin, after having fallen into a coma, loses his battle with life and thus the Chanticleer Coven loses yet more of the magic that holds them together. Nicholas Marin, the oldest of the Marin children steps in as the head of the Coven, but with this,

comes great burden and secrets that he's not sure he can bear.

In the midst of all of this is Alice, Nicolas' youngest and only daughter. Their relationship is strained and Alice is left with lots of unanswered questions. Alice at the young age of 7, after witnessing her brother's murder from who she believed was the bogey man, Babau Jean, was sent off to an asylum. She remained there until she matured into a young woman, at the age of 21. Having been estranged from her family for quite some time, she's slowly reintroduced into this world of magic, and is slowly trying to unravel the secrets that has burdened this family for decades.

As I mentioned before, there is so much happening in this novel... and rightly so as I understand this will be a series. Having said that, in some fashion, it was all just a bit too much to take in, and it lacked in keeping the storyline moving along at a nice pace. For the first 55% of the book I simply found myself trying to understand these characters and get a grasp on the plot. I couldn't get how they were connected, or where in the heck the storyline was headed. It wasn't until about 70% into the book where I finally began to get fully invested.

In the end, I will admit, I'm still confused... there's so much that's explained and not explained at the same time. Perhaps as the series continues things will begin to make more sense, but in truth, this one has just left my head spinning.

I want to thank NetGalley, 47 North, and J.D. Horn for allowing me the chance to read this novel in exchange for my review.

---

### **Eve Recinella (Between The Bookends) says**

This book had all the ingredients to be a 5-Star read for me. Fabulous setting (New Orleans). Mystery. Feuding families. Witches and magic. The Boogeyman (Babau Jean). Voodoo, etc. And I enjoyed it mostly, but unfortunately, it also had a few issues that kept me from giving it a higher rating. It was a LONG (and slow) book with multiple POVs and a HUGE cast of characters. So many that at times it became confusing and hard to follow. That said, I enjoyed it enough I will keep my eyes out for book two (this one ends on a cliffhanger of sorts). Yours truly gives this one a solid thumbs up.

---