

Bare Bones: A Novel (Temperance Brennan Book 6)

By Kathy Reichs

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Bare Bones: A Novel (Temperance Brennan Book 6) By Kathy Reichs

World-class forensic anthropologist and *New York Times* bestselling author Kathy Reichs explores international endangered species trafficking in this electrifying new thriller that brings Temperance Brennan back to her home base in North Carolina where several sets of bones, both human and animal, lead her on a terrifying hunt for a killer.

It's a summer of sizzling heat in Charlotte where Dr. Temperance Brennan, forensic anthropologist for the North Carolina medical examiner, looks forward to her first vacation in years. A romantic vacation. She's almost out the door when the bones start appearing.

A newborn's charred remains turn up in a woodstove. The mother, Tamela Banks, hardly more than a child herself, has disappeared. Did she kill her infant, or is an innocent teenager also about to become a victim?

A small plane crashes in a North Carolina cornfield on a sunny afternoon. Both pilot and passenger are burned beyond recognition. Was it pilot error? Something more sinister? And what is the mysterious black substance covering the bodies?

Most puzzling of all are the bones discovered at a remote farm outside Charlotte. What has Tempe's dog, Boyd, unearthed? The remains seem to be of animal origin, but Tempe is shocked when she gets them to her lab.

With help from a special detective friend, Tempe must investigate a poignant and terrifying case that comes at the worst possible moment. Is it time for emotional commitment? Will she have the chance to find out?

Everything must wait on the bones. What story do they tell? Why are the X-rays and DNA so perplexing? Who is trying to keep Tempe from the answers? Someone is following her. Someone is following Katy. That someone must be stopped before it's too late.

With the riveting authenticity that only world-class forensic anthropologist Kathy Reichs can bring to her fiction, *Bare Bones* asks important questions and thrills

us to its pulsating end. Fresh from the success of *Grave Secrets*, Reichs proves once again that she is the consummate crime-writing star.

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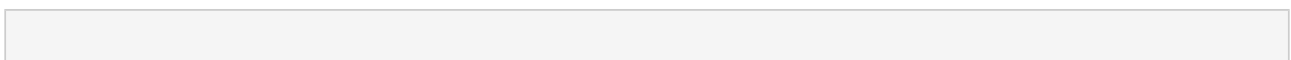
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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

"As I was packaging what remained of the dead baby, the man I would kill was burning pavement north toward Charlotte."

With this opening sentence, Kathy Reichs serves notice that her heroine, Temperance Brennan, is in for one of her scariest, most gruesome adventures yet. As fans of this popular series already know, Tempe is a forensic anthropologist: an expert in the human form (especially bones) who helps solve crimes. The abovementioned infant is only the first in a series of grisly remains, both human and animal, that Tempe must sort through and decode. Meanwhile, as several seemingly unrelated cases begin to intertwine, her sleuthing puts her in the crosshairs of a very nasty stalker who hides behind an e-mail alias.

Reichs knows how to keep the narrative ball rolling with a canny mix of plot developments, character delineation, and scientific detail, all relayed in Tempe's smart, breezy, sarcastic voice. In fact, *Bare Bones* has a few *too* many characters and plot lines for Reichs--or most readers--to keep perfect track of. But it's a fun ride anyway, enlivened by some steamy romantic scenes and some fascinating, appalling information about the illicit trade in endangered wildlife (did you know that bears' gall bladders fetch more money per ounce than cocaine?). *Bare Bones* is a crisp, enjoyable read that cements Kathy Reichs's standing as the best forensic-thriller writer at work today. --*Nicholas H. Allison*

From Publishers Weekly

Feisty forensic anthropologist Temperance (Tempe) Brennan is supposed to be on vacation, but body parts keep turning up. At the start of her sixth adventure, she's awaiting the arrival of her current flame, Quebecois sleuth Andrew Ryan, so she can head for the beach near her hometown of Charlotte, N.C. Before he shows up, she's called in to use her world-class forensics skills when a local janitor's infant granddaughter is found dead and charred in an oven. Then some strange, decomposing remains ("`Human?' `I'm not sure' ") are discovered by Brennan's dog during a barbecue at a local lakeside resort. Ryan finally arrives, but Brennan's vacation is indefinitely put on hold when a small plane crashes nearby. Two people are dead, and her expertise is required yet again ("The skull had suffered massive communitive fracturing on impact. The fire had done the rest"). Brennan eventually realizes that all three cases are linked to a drug-smuggling ring that also dabbles in poaching exotic animals. As she pursues her investigations, she is forced to work with "Skinny" Slidell, a redneck cop who rubs her the wrong way, but tension is defused by the presence of Ryan, who gamely gives up his vacation to pitch in. He matches Brennan quip for quip, and Tempe's dog, Boyd, provides extra comic relief. Reichs has built a reputation on cut-to-the-chase writing and swift plotting, and this latest effort delivers everything her fans have come to expect.

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From [Booklist](#)

A giant step up from her lackluster *Grave Secrets* (2002), Reichs' latest puts her right up there with Patricia Cornwell's early Kay Scarpetta mysteries. The similarities are obvious--single woman forensic specialist (Reichs' character is Tempe Brennan, who splits her time between North Carolina and Canada) with a daughter, a romantic interest, a generally repellent but perspicacious detective in the background, and an abundance of gory detail and science fact. This time Tempe is in North Carolina, poking her keen investigative nose into what seems at first to be an alarmingly sprawling mess that includes everything from

bear bones to a headless corpse. But unlike in *Grave Secrets*, Reichs manages to pull mostly everything together here (though not without a quick fix or two), and her character's dedication, intelligence, dry wit, and femininity (her romance with Andrew Ryan, lieutenant-detective of the Surete du Quebec, takes a pleasant leap forward) really shine through. A comeback that's definitely hard to put down. *Stephanie Zvirin*
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Arturo Hasan:

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