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WHY WE LOVE *Written in Bone*

Dear reader,

You may have noticed on your social media the increase of memes poking fun at our newest obsession: true crime documentaries. And if you're like me, you can totally relate to this fascination. And if you're like me, you are feeding into the obsession with books and television. So when it came time to select a new title for book club, the mystery buff in me knew it was my time to shine.

Since the start of the pandemic, Nielsen research has shown a significant increase in viewership for true crime TV shows and documentaries, mainly among the female demographics. You may find yourself late at night streaming the latest cold case show or documentary about a crime that was in the national spotlight. I found myself curling up with a psychological thriller.

So it should be no mystery that we were excited to select *Written in Bone* for the fall 2021 Spotlight Selection. Written with insightful knowledge, a touch of humor, and a deep respect for the victims, world-renowned forensic anthropologist Dame Sue Black takes us on a tour of the human skeleton. From skull to feet, via the face, spine, chest, arms, hands, pelvis, and legs, she shows that each part of us has a tale to tell.

As Professor Black explains, each person's life history is revealed in their bones, which she calls "the last sentinels of our mortal life to bear witness to the way we lived it." Each chapter includes an explanation of the biology, from how the bone is formed in a person's development to how it changes as we age and the secrets it may hold, accompanied by anecdotes from the author's career helping solve crimes and identifying human remains, whether recent or historical. *Written in Bone* is full of entertaining stories that read like scenes from a true-life CSI drama as Black reconstructs with sensitivity and compassion the hidden stories in what we leave behind.

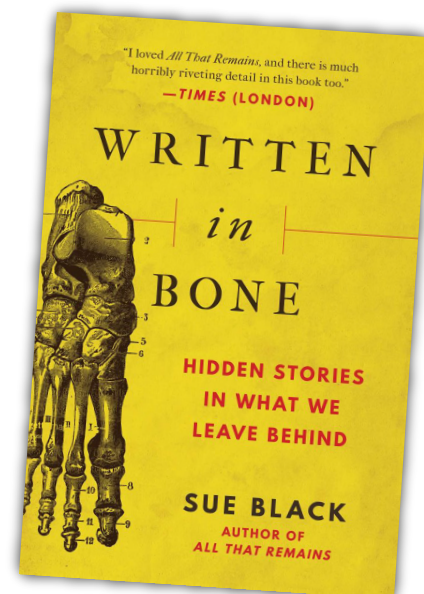
Proving truth is stranger than fiction, I was drawn in by the science and complexity of her work while fascinated by the stories she recalls. At times I found myself Googling the cases she mentions and at others holding in emotions as she reveals her own personal truths.

While *Written in Bone* gave me a better understanding of the complexity of solving crimes beyond the 60 minutes on TV, I know for now I will stick to being an armchair detective. Share your thoughts with us on social @hoopladigital and find fellow readers using #hooplabookclub.

Happy Reading!

Stephanie Hinamon

Product Marketing Lead, International
hoopla digital





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About the Author

Sue Black, DBE, FRSE, is one of the world's leading anatomists and forensic anthropologists. She is also the pro vice chancellor for engagement at Lancaster University. Her forensic expertise has been crucial to solving high-profile criminal cases. She was the lead anthropologist for the British Forensics Team's work in the war crimes investigations in Kosovo, and she worked in Thailand after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. She makes regular appearances on radio and television. She was appointed Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 2016. She lives in Scotland.



Selected Praise for *Written in Bone*

Winner of the Crime Writers' Association ALCS Gold Dagger for Nonfiction

"A fascinating overview of the human skeleton from the forensic anthropologist's point of view, with case studies that are both pertinent and entertaining." —**Kathy Reichs, author of the *Temperance Brennan Bones* series**

"Sue Black regales us with her greatest hits of forensic detective work...Of course, the book is stuffed with corpses, leaking out of suitcases, stuffed in plant pots...But my eye was always drawn back to her. Her extraordinarily cool, authoritative, and bloody life leaks out at the sides." — ***The Times (London)***

"Black guides morbidly curious readers through baffling crime scenes, ancient crypts, and courtroom testimony to illuminate the body of evidence bones, even the smallest fragments, can offer to forensic investigators...Enjoyable." —***Booklist***

"Revealing: about the human body, about the evil that men do, and—in brief, flinty asides—about herself." — ***Sunday Times (Scotland)***

"Gripping from the start, *Written in Bone* is superb—fascinating in its detail of real-life cases and written with a narrative that propels you forward to the next page." —**Dr. Richard Shepherd, author of *Unnatural Causes***

"The corpse whisperer...could Black's life be any more ready for a series producer to pitch to Netflix?...and is it OK for her, or us, to enjoy this quite so much?" —**Helen Rumbelow, *The Times UK***