



El mapa de huesos

Francesca Haig , Manuel Mata Álvarez-Santullano (Translator)

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Cuatrocientos años después de un apocalipsis nuclear, la sociedad se divide entre la élite formada por los alfas, físicamente perfectos, y sus oprimidos gemelos omegas, marcados con algún tipo de deformidad. Pero a pesar de su proclamada superioridad, los alfas no pueden escapar a su destino: cuando un gemelo muere, también lo hace el otro. La resistencia omega ha sido brutalmente atacada y los supervivientes han tenido que esconderse. El plan alfa para la contención permanente de los omegas ha empezado. Perseguida por sus visiones del pasado, Cass ve cómo la obsesiva crueldad de su gemelo Zach amenaza con destruir todo lo que le importa. El país se dirige hacia una guerra civil y Cass aprenderá que para cambiar el futuro, antes debe descubrir el pasado. Pero nada puede prepararla para el secreto que está a punto de salir a la luz.

El mapa de huesos Details

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From Reader Review El mapa de huesos for online ebook

Carlos says

This was a solid 4 for me, it's not a perfect book but the story is solid, the characters credible and the conflicts believable..... if you have read "the fire sermon" and liked it , then you need to read this sequel.... you won't be disappointed. A lot of answers to questions the first book left open are answered in this one can't wait for the end to this trilogy!!!

Karen says

This review was done by **KissinBlueKaren**

I really enjoyed the first book in this series The Fire Sermon. Map of Bones is the second book in this series.

*****This review contains major spoilers for book one.*****

Map of Bones continues with it's dark setting and bleak future for the survivors of nuclear fallout. This story follows Cass after the death of Kip. Cass is accompanied by siblings Piper (the former leader of the Omegas) and Zoe. Zoe is an alpha twin who chose to stay with her Omega brother and be part of the resistance. Once they join up with other resistance Omegas things move at a crazy pace. They are gonna make a discovery that changes everything for the Alphas in control and might be enough to gain an edge for the resistance.

I really liked Zoe and Piper. I think both of their backgrounds lead Cass to the place she needs to be as a seer for the resistance. This story starts off a little slow as they gain each others trust and figure out how to live together. Zoe and Piper add so much to this story, that I don't think a review can be done without mentioning them. Zoe is an alpha so her very presence shows that some people can overcome their prejudices and live together.

Once they meetup with other Omegas and the soldiers for the resistance, we are back to square one with the prejudice about seers. Actually, prejudice is a reoccurring theme in this story. I can see that almost everyone in this world harbors a little prejudice and it keeps them from co-habitation. Alliances are made for some different groups but it is not without problems and daily struggle.

I honestly didn't enjoy the first 50% that much. I was really sad thinking I would have to write a negative review after liking the first book so much. There was a lot of idle time traveling and back and forth in conversations. I felt like these characters are on the run for so long, and then after that 50% mark the focus is off running and on to something else, (it was a weird transition). I almost gave up on the book, to be honest. I am glad I didn't but readers should be aware that the beginning is slow going.

There are some **big things** revealed in this story. One thing that is revealed answers a lot of "how in the hell?" questions I had in the first book. The other gave me major angst for the fate of Cass. Those big things saved the story for me and made me so excited to read the next book in this series. They didn't completely save my rating though.

Aleshanee says

3.5 Sterne

Achtung! Diese Rezension enthält Spoiler zu Band 1!

Meine Meinung

Da der erste Band bei mir schon eine Weile her ist hatte ich Bedenken, wieder gut reinzukommen, aber die Autorin hat die früheren Ereignisse sehr geschickt in die Handlung eingefügt, so dass ich keine Schwierigkeiten hatte, der Geschichte zu folgen.

Der Schreibstil ist sehr ruhig und leider noch etwas gestreckter wie im Vorgänger. Da hatten ja schon einige bemängelt, dass es langatmig ist (obwohl mir das bei mir gar nicht so ins Gewicht gefallen ist) aber ich finde, dass es sich hier noch mehr zieht. Während dem Lesen ist mir das zwar meistens gar nicht so aufgefallen, weil es schön flüssig ist, aber es hätte ruhig um 1/3 gekürzt werden können.

Insgesamt passiert wirklich nicht viel, aber es steuert immer wieder auf kleine Höhepunkte hin - trotzdem hatte ich mir doch etwas mehr erwartet.

Dafür ist man immer nah am Geschehen und alles ist eindrucksvoll beschrieben, auch die Charaktere, die jeder für sich besonders und untypisch sind.

Cass ist ja mit den Zwillingen Piper und Zoe auf der Flucht, nachdem die Insel zerstört und die Widerstandskämpfer versprengt wurden. Bis sie dann endlich auf weitere Rebellen treffen und die Handlung an Fahrt aufnimmt, dauert es einen langen, einsamen Weg, der die Drei jedoch immer mehr zusammenschweißt.

Cass steht durch ihre Rolle als Seherin im Mittelpunkt der Ereignisse, da sich alle auf ihre Vorhersagen verlassen - dabei hat sie aber immer vor Augen, welches Opfer ihre Begabung erfordern wird, denn alle Seher verlieren sich irgendwann in ihren Visionen und werden verrückt. Aber noch kann sie den Rebellen helfen, denn sie sind einem hoffnungsvollen, aber auch gefährlichem Geheimnis auf der Spur.

Das besondere hier für mich ist immer noch das Motiv mit den Zwillingengeburt und deren Verbindung, worüber man auch mehr erfährt, wie es dazu kam. Die Vorurteile, die Ausgrenzung von Menschen mit "Makeln" und der Wert jedes einzelnen steht auf subtile Weise immer wieder im Vordergrund, was ja leider auch in der heutigen Zeit immer noch ein Thema ist.

Aber auch die Maschinen bzw. die fortschreitende Technik und ihre zerstörerische Kraft, der Respekt und vor allem auch die Angst, die in der Gesellschaft gewachsen ist, in der Cass aufwächst und die Frage, ob der Nutzen hier die Gefahr aufhebt, wird immer deutlicher. Welche Risiken wir Menschen eingehen, nur um einen Vorteil zu nutzen, der meist viel mehr Nachteile beinhaltet.

Fazit

Der Widerstand von Cass und den Rebellen geht etwas stockend voran, dafür lässt uns die Autorin mühelos in eine unwirtliche Zukunft eintauchen, die einige besondere Themen aufgreift. Auch hier gibt es am Ende wieder einige Überraschungen, die meine Neugier auf den nächsten Band geweckt haben!

Weltenwanderer

Das Feuerzeichen

1 - Das Feuerzeichen

2 - Rebellion

3 - Rückkehr (ET April 2017)

Anabel says

Puntuación: 4.5

Me ha encantado. Se nota la evolución tan grande que ha tenido la autora, ya no me he encontrado descripciones pesadas ni extensas, ni escenas interminables en un mismo escenario. Ya conocemos la historia, eso hace que la lectura fluya, además de que los escenarios son más extensos y ricos en detalles. Los personajes esta vez han sido mucho mejor y trabajados sobre todo. Los gemelos Piper y Zoe increíbles, y Cass ha evolucionado a mejor. Sin duda vale la pena pasar un poco por alto el comienzo del primero, y poder seguir con la trilogía solo por este libro.

Liz Barnsley says

I do love a good post apocalyptic trilogy (or indeed standalone novel) and Francesca Haig's "The Fire Sermon" was absolutely top notch, not only because of the beautiful writing but because of the wide imaginative scope, the endearing characters and perhaps most of all the ability the author has to dump unexpected trauma onto you. A writer that is fearless is one that I admire, The Fire Sermon often surprised, always delighted and the final pages had me reeling. So to say that I was excited to read Map of Bones would be putting it mildly.

The second book then, often the one in the middle that fails slightly to deliver – not in the case of The Map of Bones which if anything just took off at a gallop. Following on immediately in the aftermath of part one, the ripples of those events heading ever outwards, once more we join up with Cass for the next part of her intense and often emotional journey. Determined to stop her brother fulfilling his twisted plans for what is left of humanity, Cass faces down a future that would scare the most stoic of us. Worse for her, she can see what is coming, what has gone before and is often powerless to make sense of it all.

This then is the world that Francesca Haig throws you into, one of conflict and betrayal, hope and despair, once again she keeps the reader on their toes as the plot thickens – every time I think I know what is coming she throws me a curveball. This is not only terrifically emotive storytelling but descriptively gorgeous, the landscape which the surviving generations of "before" inhabit is bleak yet often beautiful and creating visual imagery with language is one of the strengths here.

Cass is surrounded by a supporting cast of cleverly drawn characters, the author creating a group dynamic of unexpected allies, strange companions and ever changing loyalties – the interweaving of relationships another strength, you just live these peoples lives right alongside them. Hugely fascinating and complex is the twin relationship, specifically that between Cass and Zack, after all one cannot live without the other no matter how at odds they are. This creates some wonderful and heart stopping moments when they are in confrontation. The twin dynamic as a whole gives the author a really good chance to explore very real social issues in a totally imagined environment – she does that with bells on. The Fire Sermon and Map of Bones will make you think and consider. I wasn't always necessarily on the side of the angels here...

Overall a really really great read. Once again I've reached the end and gone "OH NO WHAT NOW? How will I wait?" But wait I will because one thing is for sure I'm in this to the finish. I do like a novel that creates fear in me. Fear of the unknown because I am attached like a limpet to Cass, to Piper, to all of them, yes even Zach. I've bonded. Because I never learn. But then that's what great writing does.

Passionate and intense, evocative and involving, Map of Bones (and The Fire Sermon) come highly recommended from me.

Tez says

CONTENT WARNING: The world is very ableist: the whole concept of Alphas and Omegas, and how Omegas are treated. Also, if you're pregnant, you may want to skip Chapter 17.

The problem with reading a sequel more than a year after its predecessor is that my memory sucks. OK, my memory sucks anyway - a month after reading a book, I may have already forgotten character names. (And reviewing The Map of Bones a month after I read it, my recall is failing.) But I digress.

For the first 100 pages of The Map of Bones, I didn't know where the characters were going and why. And when they formed some kind of army and invaded a town, I didn't understand that, either.

But the best part of the novel is when Cass and Piper find the Maze of Bones, and journey underground. It's dangerous, creepy, and claustrophobic, and what they find in there - and how they struggle to exit - are jaw-dropping scenes of brilliance. These books so far are at their best when they fall on the science part of the spec-fic spectrum. (The epic/high fantasy journeying doesn't work for me.)

Even when confused about the story, one thing is always certain: Zoe is awesome. Unfortunately, the novel's from Cass's point of view, but Zoe is still the best. We learn more about her backstory here. And she goes out on a mission that could change the lives of the Omegas forever...

Patry Fernandez says

En realidad 4,5*

Me ha gustado incluso más que el primero, ahora a esperar que no tarde mucho en publicarse el desenlace.

RESEÑA -> <http://thewordsofbooks.blogspot.com.e...>

Dark Faerie Tales says

Review courtesy of Dark Faerie Tales

Quick & Dirty: The time to fight is now, or all will be lost.

Opening Sentence: Each time he came to me in dreams I saw him as I'd seen him the first time: floating.

The Review:

Cass is still reeling from the devastation on the island and Kip's sacrifice at the silo. The island is lost and most of the resistance is dead or hiding. The only good news is thanks to Kip the Confessor's dead as well. Zach's power has been weakened but not enough. Cass stills sees the tanks and knows that if they don't do something all of the Omegas will be tanked forever. As Piper, Zoe and Cass continue to make their way across the deadlands they know they have to come up with a plan. All of them are hoping about the ships that haven't returned yet, and the hope is they will have found Elsewhere.

Zoe and Piper decide that they must ask Sally for help, many of the Omegas are still mad because he didn't turn over Cass and Kip and that decision cost too many lives. They hope that Sally's backing will help them retain their standing in the resistance. Once they meet up with her, she lets them know that Simon is alive and on the move. So they make the decision to meet up with him and form a plan to help the Omegas. Along the way the Ringmaster meets them and offers an alliance against the General and the Reformer. Too many people are afraid of the machines and the Alphas are unhappy with the current council.

Cass discovers that Sally has proof of the Before and a place called the Ark. Cass knows that something there is important for the future and it ties into New Hobart. The town is still being held and rumors that the council is searching for something are all over. So as all the players converge on New Hobart, will Cass be able to save the children? Will they be able to figure out a plan for the future or will all be lost?

I recommend starting with book one or you will have no idea what is going on. I still can't believe Kip is gone, and that he was an Alpha. Thankfully there doesn't seem to be a new love interest for Cass and this really focuses on the future and coming up with a viable way to save the Omegas. This one was fast paced and action packed from like a third of the way in all the way until the end. Whew, plus so many exciting things happen at the end.

I am not going to tell you, but I need Book 3 like now. I really like the concepts and the way that Francesca has built her world. A lot of questions are answered in this book and more are raised, so I really can't wait to see how she is going to wrap it all up.

Notable Scene:

"That was the council's plan for us all. And if we didn't have a plan of our own, a goal to work for, then we were just scrapping in the dust, and there'd be no end to it. We might forestall the tanks for a while, but no better than that. Once, the island had been our destination. That had ended in blood and smoke. So now we were seeking the ships that Piper had sent out from the islands months before, in search of Elsewhere."

FTC Advisory: Gallery Books/Simon & Schuster provided me with a copy of *The Map of Bones*. No goody bags, sponsorships, “material connections,” or bribes were exchanged for my review.

Dion Yulianto says

Sekitar empat ribu tahun di masa depan, dunia porak-poranda akibat perang nuklir yang membakar habis peradaban. Seluruh kebudayaan musnah beserta sebagian manusia penghuninya. Sisanya, manusia-manusia yang selamat harus memulai semuanya dari nol sambil menghirup udara serta meminum air yang penuh radiasi nuklir. Sejarah bumi lenyap, orang-orang hanya tahu masa Sebelum Detonasi dan Sesudah Detonasi. Selain menghancurkan peradaban, perang nuklir juga menghasilkan efek samping yang sangat mengerikan. Semua bayi yang lahir Setelah Detonasi terlahir kembar. Satu bayi sempurna dan satu bayi yang mengalami cacat. Bayi yang terlahir sempurna ini lalu disebut kaum Alfa sementara kembarannya yang tak sempurna masuk golongan Omega. Uniknyanya, setiap kembaran dipersatukan oleh ikatan yang sangat erat. Alfa dan Omega lahir dan mati secara bersamaan. Ketika yang satu mati, maka kembarannya akan ikut mati. Jika si Omega mati karena dibunuh atau sakit atau kecelakaan, maka kembarannya si Alfa juga akan ikut-ikutan mati—meskipun saat itu fisiknya dalam kondisi prima. Hal yang sama juga berlaku sebaliknya: si Alfa mati, maka kembaran Omeganya juga ikut mati.

“Keberanian jenisnya macam-macam.” (hlm 535)

Dalam buku pertama, *The Fire Sermon*, dikisahkan tentang penindasan yang dilakukan golongan Alfa kepada kaum Omega. Dewan Alfa sudah menetapkan bahwa antara Alfa dan Omega harus dipisah sejak anak-anak. Kaum Omega yang cacat lalu dicap dengan lambang omega di dahinya, lalu ditindas semena-mena oleh kaum Alfa. Keberadaan kaum Omega yang cacat menjadi momok bagi kaum Alfa sehingga mereka menekan, menjauhi, bahkan menindas kaum Omega. Cass dan Zach adalah kembar Omega – Alfa yang dipisah sejak anak-anak. Keduanya lalu tumbuh dewasa di pihak berlawanan, dan saling memusuhi. Dalam buku pertama, pembaca telah menyaksikan pembantaian kaum Alfa terhadap kaum Omega di Pulau. Tetapi, Cass juga berhasil menghancurkan rencana Zach yang hendak mengurung para omega dalam tabung cairan. Bagi kaum Alfa, mengurung kembarannya dalam cairan yang disokong mesin pendukung kehidupan adalah alternatif terbaik untuk menjaga kembaran Omeganya tetap hidup. Tetapi, bagi kaum Omega yang dicelup dalam tabung, mereka harus mengalami penderitaan tak terpeti, serasa hidup segan mati pun tak mau.

“Kekerasan tidak menghasilkan perubahan nyata yang permanen.” (hlm. 302)

Cass dan kaum Omega lainnya sudah muak ditindas. Dan di *The Map of Bones* ini mereka melanjutkan perlawanannya di dunia yang sudah terlalu dikuasai kaum Alfa. Bersama Piper dan Zed, ketiganya bertualang mencari para Omega yang tersisa untuk kembali mengobarkan perlawanan terhadap tirani Alfa. Mesin tabung temuan Zach semakin menguatkan tekad mereka. Kaum Omega harus melawan, lebih baik mati dalam pertempuran ketimbang dibiarkan sekarat dalam tabung. Perjuangan belum berakhir. Diawali dengan menemukan Sally, mantan anggota Resistance yang legendaris karena berhasil menyusup ke lingkaran dalam Dewan Alfa dan masih bisa kabur hidup-hidup dari sana. Sally ini walau sudah sepuh, tetapi legendanya menjadikan kaum Omega hormat kepadanya. Sally juga yang membantu Cass dkk dalam menjalankan rencana-rencana mereka melawan Dewan Alfa.

“Tidak ada salahnya diperhatikan oleh orang lain.”(hlm 130)

Banyak ulasan menyebut buku kedua trilogi *The Fire Sermon* ini muram dan datar. Kisahnya memang cenderung datar, dengan begitu banyak peristiwa sederhana yang diceritakan berpanjang-panjang sementara adegan perangnya hanya muncul satu dua kali. Muram juga karena pembaca terus menerus disodori Cass yang galau berat akibat terawangan yang diterimanya, serta beban rasa bersalah yang menghimpitnya. Tetapi, novel ini ditulis dengan luwes. Kalimat dan paragrafnya—kalau bukan indah—terasa rapi dan halus. Meluncur halus mungkin ungkapan yang tepat untuk novel ini. Alurnya lambat tetapi tidak membosankan, bisa dinikmati. Nyatanya saya hanya butuh dua hari membacanya, padahal baca *Magnus Chase 2* saja sampai seminggu. Dan walau adegan perkelahannya sedikit, tetapi penulis tidak tanggung-tanggung dalam mendeskripsikannya. Adegan pertempuran seperti digelar seutuh-utuhnya di depan mata pembaca. Darah tumpah, tebasan pedang, tusukan anak panah, darah yang membanjir. Ini buku kalau nggak muram ala musim dingin ya berdarah-darah ala peperangan—tetapi dalam artian yang seru untuk dibaca.

“Sama sekali tak ada unsur keindahan dalam berkelahi.” (hlm. 71)

Ada alasan mengapa buku ini lambat. Banyak pertanyaan yang muncul di buku pertama coba dijawab penulis. Tentang bagaimana Zach bisa membuat tabung-tabung mengerikan itu, tentang apa yang sebenarnya menimpa Bumi pada masa Sebelum, tentang adanya Tempat Lain, tentang ledakan yang terus menerus muncul dalam terawangan Cass, juga tentang Bahtera yang konon menyimpan informasi dari masa Sebelum. Cass juga akhirnya menemukan jawaban atas sikap dingin Zed kepadanya. Hubungan Piper dan Cass juga makin tegas di sini. Akankah Piper menjadi pengganti Kip? Membaca buku ini membawa rasa kepuasan tersendiri, sulit untuk tidak jatuh cinta pada karakter-karakternya, juga pada dunia paskaapokaliptik, serta cara menulis penulis yang halus. Romancenya terhitung minimal untuk buku setebal ini. Dan, yang terpenting, nilai-nilai kemanusiaan yang tersirat dalam ceritanya akan mengubah persepsi pembaca tentang menjadi manusia dan bagaimana memanusiakan manusia. Terjemahannya juga apik sekali. Saya selalu suka sama model terjemahan ala mbak Reni Indardini yang kayak gini.

“Kau mau bertarung, sekalipun kau melihat kita kalah. Kau sudah tahu sedari awal dan kau tetap saja berdiri di sini, siap untuk berjuang. Itu dia yang namanya harapan.” (hlm. 263)

Chris C - A Midlife Wife says

I have to admit, sci-fi and fantasy books are so far out of my normal genre that I read, but I try and keep my mind open to all works and publications I am asked to review. Most authors I find are incredible and have amazing foresight. I am jealous of them! So when you run across an author that has the ability to keep my interest in a genre that I do not normally enjoy, they have a special gift in their craft. Francesca Haig is an author like that!

This book takes off immediately where the last book stopped, I assume. Since I never read the first book, I was a bit lost. It took me about a 1/3 of the way in to feel comfortable with the characters and to figure out where the story came from and was going. Because of that, it was hard for me to get into the story. But once I got mid way through and the action starting picking up, this book took off for me.

The author has a genius mind when it comes to the post-apocalyptic vision she has of Earth. Her descriptions are in-depth and captivating and for me that totally made the story. With plenty of plot changes and twists you do not expect, this book was an interesting look at what the future could hold. The third book in the series will tell the rest of the story.

While I made it through the book with some interest due to the authors hard work, fantasy is still not my favorite genre. Sorry!

karen says

3.5

i liked this second book more than *The Fire Sermon*, but i'm not in love with the series yet.

i'm going to be as spoiler-free as i can, but any book review worth anyone's time is going to include some discussion of the book's contents, so if you're a person inclined to recoil in horror from knowledge, you *may* not be safe with me.

i'm usually able to roll with a premise, even an oddball one, but there's something about this situation that i can't stop "but wait"-ing because it is bonkers.

in the briefest of nutshells and with many omissions - a nuclear event has occurred, whose biological aftereffects are that every human birth now results in twins - one perfect baby and one "burdened with deformity" (<—from the synopsis). these "deformities" manifest in a number of ways - extra fingers or toes, missing limbs, blindness, etc. bottom line - they are all physical anomalies, (except for seers, but we don't need to go into them here). when the babies are born, the twins are separated as the wheat from the chaff into "alphas" and "omegas;" the alphas are kept at home with their parents to love and rear and educate, while the omegas are branded on the forehead and sent off to a life of hardship and sterility in omega communities with limited opportunities and fewer and worse resources. oh, but fun fact - when one twin dies, so does the other. when one twin is injured, they both feel it, no matter how far apart they are. if an alpha falls in the forest, somewhere an omega makes a sound.

none of this makes sense to me. not the psychically linked twins part - that's just ordinary creepy twin shit, but i find it hard to believe that parents would give away half of their children for what is essentially a cosmetic reason. six fingers? who cares? it's hard to wrap my head around a society's collective shame towards physical imperfections overwriting the individual's hardwired biological imperative to protect its young. and particularly in this case, where the death of the icky omega also results in the death of the beloved alpha. shouldn't these bound fates be incentive enough to keep both babies close, watched over, provided for, even if one of them only has one arm? if not compassion, at the very least self-interest should provide enough motivation to keep everyone alive. it seems short-sighted, letting one of the children toddle out of parental reach, when there's a risk of waking up to a dead heir and not knowing how it happened and if it could have been prevented.

that's just one of the things that makes me wonder why this wasn't marketed as a YA series; that whole "exploring injustice or racism or bullying or ostracization in terms of pretty vs. ugly" theme that pops up so

often in YA lit but is a little underbaked to serve to an adult audience. don't get me wrong - i am an adult who happily reads YA, but there are different expectations when reading adult fiction than reading fiction targeted at a younger audience, and this series features many of the hallmarks of YA lit - the age of the characters, the division of society into capital-letter groups like "Alphas" and "Omegas," the "Council" whose leaders are known as "the Judge," "the Reformer," "the Ringmaster," "the General," etc., the all-consuming insta-love between cass and kip in *The Fire Sermon*, cass' stubborn anti-violence stance despite the realities of her world, the ramped-up dramatic tone; these are all the snips and snails of YA fantasy-adventure.

The Map of Bones has less of this than *The Fire Sermon*, but it's still there, worked deep into the trilogy's roots. however, there are definite improvements for my tastes. for one thing, kip and cass are separated at the end of *The Fire Sermon*, so this is mercifully free from that overwrought romance. there's also a bit more of a reality-slap for cass. despite everything that happened in front of her in the first book, she still seems to believe that it can all be worked out with a conversation and maybe a bonk on the head if things start getting especially heated. traveling with piper and zoe grows her up a little bit, and i really appreciated zoe's soldier-impatience with cass' little girl squeamishness about violence and her need to remind everyone that every death is actually two deaths, as though anyone's going to forget about that when their own death is twice as likely to take them by surprise. this one pulls back a bit less from unpleasantness, and there are some interesting developments i look forward to seeing continued/concluded in the next book.

reading this to get myself one step closer to finally being able to honor the goodreads giveaway gods for their generosity in crowning me the winner of the third book in this trilogy. i am coming for you, book three - don't give up on me!

Justine says

Zach had been the steady point in my life. Not a force for good--I'd seen too much of what he'd done to believe that. But a force nonetheless. I knew there was no part of me that had not been shaped by him, or against him. And if I allowed myself to slip into madness, then I could neither stop him nor save him. It would all be over.

The Map of Bones picks up where *The Fire Sermon* left off. The Island has been destroyed by the Council and the resistance is being systematically dismantled. Piper, Zoe and Cass are on the run following the deadly confrontation at the Silo.

Throughout the book, Cass continues to be plagued by her visions of the blast, but now also has to contend with an almost crippling case of survivor's guilt. Guilt over the deaths of the people at the Island; guilt over the actions of her twin Zach and all the pain he has caused; and especially guilt over Kip. Even as the three of them rejoin the struggling resistance and try to make make plans to move forward, it seems that there is no path that is not fraught with more violence and death.

I felt more than ever the truth of what Zach had said on the road outside New Hobart. I was poison. He was right. Even to glimpse me now, a hooded figure in the snow, meant death. My journeys in the last few months had left a map of bones laid across the land. If I was a prophet, I foretold only death, and I fulfilled my own prophecies.

This is a very dark book in every sense. The post-nuclear apocalyptic setting; the senseless violence and casual indifference the Alphas visit upon the Omegas; and the deeply depressed Cass who simultaneously fights despair and potential madness from her visions. There isn't a lot of respite here. That said, I also got the sense that with *The Map of Bones*, now that the darkness has been revealed most starkly, Cass may be able to start to make her way through it. I'll have to wait for the final book to find out.

Rich says

Awesome first book of the year. RTC

Elaine says

Rating 3.5/5 rounded up to 4/5

It is over a year since I read and reviewed the first novel in this dystopian trilogy, *The Fire Sermon*, and I still remember it well for the fantastic prose, well developed dystopian world and the characters. For this reason I was really looking forward to reading this second in series novel. The excellent descriptive and emotive prose continues in this novel but I found the characters less engaging. I think I was missing the interactions of Kip and Cass which added humour and romance to the saga and many of the reminiscences are dour, appropriate for the scenarios and situations, but toning down the actual empathy I had felt in the first novel.

Having said that, it is still an engaging read and many of the changes in characters are due to their growing maturity, especially after all their experiences and ordeals. The hatred and mistrust between the Alphas and Omegas has grown for many with manipulative murders, political intrigue and fear fueling these emotions even more. The plot reawakens dramatically in the final section of this novel, this section is enthralling and a riveting read, easily 5* worthy and making me still keen to discover how the trilogy will end, I await the third novel with eager anticipation . . . in the meanwhile I'll just close "my eyes and let myself remember"....

Thanks to the publishers for gifting me an ARC of this novel, via NetGalley, in exchange for my honest review.

May says

Una segunda parte ARROLLADORA.
¡Os hablaré de ella en el canal la semana que viene!
