



Splintered Bones

Carolyn Haines

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She may be a Mississippi belle, but Sarah Booth Delaney is no pampered daddy's girl. Unwed and over thirty, Sarah has her own set of problems--like coping with regular hauntings by her great-great-grandmother's nanny, a busybody of a ghost who's set on marrying her off to the first suitor who comes calling. But when an old friend is in trouble, Sarah Booth doesn't hesitate to get involved.

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Eulalee McBride has confessed to murdering her husband...and she wants Sarah to dig up the dirt on the violent scalawag to prove he got what he deserved. Sarah Booth suspects that her friend is lying through her pearly whites...but why? There 's certainly no lack of suspects in Zinnia, Mississippi, including Bud Lynch, a horse trainer who arouses killer lust in the town's women. As Sarah Booth begins to put together the pieces of the case, a killer is preparing to strike again. And this time it could send one late-blooming southern sleuth into an early grave.

Splintered Bones Details

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From Reader Review **Splintered Bones** for online ebook

Linda Smatzny says

In this book, Sarah Booth Delaney is hired by Eulalee McBride to prove her husband deserved to be killed. Eulalee has confessed to the murder but no one believes her including Sarah. Everyone agrees that the victim deserved to die but who did it is up in the air. Lots of suspects, lots of lies and lots of threats. The book was a fast easy read.

Mary Smith says

Great book! It keeps you guessing and second guessing until the end.

Susan says

So much better. Really high 3s, but I'm giving it 4 stars because it was so much better. Not as much Jitty--yay!--or maybe I'm getting better at skimming past those passages. A good mystery and some really nice interpersonal scenes. I'm also liking Tinkie a lot.

Kaye says

I am so loving this series. I have been reading so much paranormal lately that I decided to start back on my cozy mysteries. This series is just great. I love books that are set in the south. These have just the right amount of mystery plus comedy. I do wonder when Hamilton will appear again though.

Karen says

There are a few life lessons to be learned in Carolyn Haines' third Sarah Booth Delaney mystery, *Splintered Bones*:

- * Don't mess with a Daddy's Girl.
- * Don't mess with her horse.
- * Don't mess with her friends.
- * Don't mess with her daughter.

and, of course, the one lesson that you likely won't ever have need for:

- * Don't let your live-in ghost help a teenager hook you up in the online dating world.

Sarah Booth is tasked by her fellow Daddy's Girl and long-time friend, Lee, with watching after Lee's 14-

year-old daughter and helping to prove that her husband was such a vile specimen of mankind that he needed killin'. Lee has already confessed to the crime but few believe that she actually did it -- and those that believe that she did largely believe that it was for the greater good. Of course, things are complicated and suspects and secrets are popping up all over the place -- almost as often as the selection of men who arrive thanks to the online dating profile Sarah Booth wasn't aware she even had.

There's a great mix of humor and good ol' mystery going on and, once again, I found myself alternating between audible laughs and gasps. I've quite fallen in love with the community that Carolyn Haines has created in Zinnia, Mississippi and won't be waiting nearly as long to read the next one!

Joy says

I'm a big fan of Janet Evanovich, and when Carolyn Haines was recommended for those who like Janet, I was excited to give her a try. And I've not been disappointed at all. I love the humor and the ghost and the proposed boyfriends and all her "helpful" friends. This is my 3rd one to read. Can't wait to get on to the next one!

Nova Walsh says

A lot of book series get worse with time but so far I am just as in love with Sarah Booth Delaney as I was after reading Them Bones. This is absolutely one of my favorite mystery series. Depth, humor, fun characters, ghosts, and animals. I will be reading more!

Monica Aplin says

I love this series but this was my favorite one so far! I mean, take a little Southern humor and mystery and stir it up while adding a little horse breeding, love triangles, blues musicians, and Elvis impersonators and you have the recipe for the perfect entertainment while sitting on the porch sipping some _____ (insert the beverage of your choice)!

Donna Keithley says

Carolyn Haines never disappoints. Another wonderful Sarah Booth Delaney mystery!

Janice Workman says

I liked the story - a good mystery.

Kathy says

Dr. Libby Drake... the good sister, of even temperament, easy to see the good & the pain in all, understanding... her talent is healing, both as a regular doctor with great intuition as well as an empath, able to sakte the symptoms of the ailment to herself and healing the patient, and relying on her sisters to heal her, and she can sense danger... She travels the world with different organizations – Doctors without Borders, animal protection, indigenous people protection...

Also highlighted in this story is Hannah – shy, stutterer, world famous model, her talent? I'm not sure, she can call the wind to knock off jonas' hat, she cooks for the family, she levitates things... she thinks little of herself as she relies on her sisters to overcome her shyness... she is getting older for a model, and is feeling pressure from her manager to be thin, etc... her counterpoint is the deputy sheriff Jonas – connected to the family forever, as an adopted brother, one who watches over them, comes to them for comfort, teases them, and rides Hannah, criticizing her... not seeing the insecurities... When he is shot, Hannah does not leave his bedside, feeding her energy to him to facilitate his healing. His bad temper at his helplessness is focused on Hannah... and Libby counsels him on how to better act around her... a turning point? Will the next book be about them? Hmmm

Joley, the musician, the bad girl of the sisters, challenging rules, authority, etc. The entertainment news makes much of her activities, all slanderous... she takes it, mostly in a good way... they allude to someone who is holding some favor over the sisters, and he has contacted Joley... obviously her love... another story... When malicious pictures of Libby & Tyson having sex are published, Joley immediately dies her hair black to match Libby, and works so that the reporters think it was her and Tyson together, so as to protect her sister...

And this story also delves a little into Elle & Jackson... Elle is the youngest, she has a little of all of the talents, and is strong as a psychic – able to read feelings (especially her sisters) and to communicate telepathically... Jackson, the sheriff's right hand man, is a special ops guy, looking for respite... a man of few words, but he communicates with Elle – so far we are not privy to their conversations, but Elle is tied to him and not happy about it... for the Drake magic to continue, she will be the one to have 7 children, something she is not sure she wants...

Kate (the security expert), Sarah (I didn't get to read her story), & Abigal (I didn't get to read her story either) are all engaged... Abigal wants a quiet wedding, but Kate and Sarah are going for the big weddings... Their men don't play a part in today's story – I guess too many characters to juggle... and I think they want all the sisters to be engaged before there are any weddings.

And Tyson... brilliant mind, winner of the Nobel medicine prize, works for a pharmaceutical company, competitive, focused, socially inept very rich... he & Libby 1st meet in 7th grade and he generally bested her in school – even through Harvard... Although they were very aware of one another, any social discourse was awkward and Libby felt criticized... Tyson's parents were more involved in their jet setting ways, and were often embarrassed by him and certainly did not understand him... he started to spend most of his time with Aunt Sophie and cousin Sam, where even though they didn't get him, they did accept him... his aunt encouraged him to build a lab in her basement, Sam looked after him in school, and continued to care for him after Sophie left her home to the two of them... Tyson can go days without eating or sleeping when he is focused on unraveling a mystery... To feel alive, he pushes himself physically by racing, mountain climbing, riding motorcycles, and training and working as a volunteer rescue firefighter... He buries his feelings, preferring to deal with facts, and when in an uncomfortable social situation – which is just about any time he

is around people – he pulls out random facts... (and Libby, when she understands this, just pulls out counter facts – they are amusing)...

He takes 3 months off from the lab job to volunteer, and during that time he stays with Sam... His parents died, making him a multimillionaire – and since he didn't really care about the money, Sam stepped in to handle his finances... He also takes care of Sam when he's in one of his moods, by feeding him & trying to keep him anchored in the real world... Tyson's scientific mind does not allow for magic, and he is sure that the Drakes are con-women – perhaps hysterically believing their own press. In college he saw the results of a car accident victim that Libby healed, seeing her with the wounds instead... and perceived it similar to an hysterical pregnancy. He wants to help Libby see reason...

However Sam is a sociopath... he is a gambler, and is embezzling money (though Tyson doesn't care about the money), he manipulates Tyson while undermining his self confidence, and as he sees him getting closer to the Drake family & to Libby, he gets increasingly frustrated as his attempts to put Tyson off of them (making fun of their magical gifts, saying Libby is after his money, etc.). Tyson is somewhat aware of problems, but doesn't see the depth of them, but he feels Sam is the only one who accepts him & cares for him and wants to do his best by him. To relieve him of some of the burdens he's taken, Tyson hires an accountant to manage his money, and confesses to Sam that he is interested in Libby and he's going to take steps to let her know... Sam, of course, is threatened by these changes.

The Drakes know that there is darkness stalking them, but they are unable to identify where it is coming from and who is targeting... Tyson falls 30 feet onto rocks in the middle of a rescue when his harness fails... his brain is damaged (along with ribs & sternum) with swelling & bleeding, and little help is held out for him... Libby is drawn to his side in the hospital, and without thought she heals him, placing herself & her sisters at risk as she is close to dying herself.

And from that point forward, they become more intertwined... their attraction is strong, and little by little they see past the attraction to what is inside of each of them – their vulnerabilities; their strengths, their weaknesses... and each feel the other needs them... As Libby becomes more tied to him, her family embraces him, bringing him another source of comfort and joy... and he finally comes to accept their magic... at first he wants to study it & harness it, but ... well I can see him running tests in the future...

They overcome a few more attempts on their lives... and finally, when Tyson gives Libby an engagement ring, Sam pulls out all of the stops... They both almost die... Jackson, sent by Elle, helps them... the sisters' power helps Libby... and they defeat Sam... leaving Tyson very sad...

But they end, hand in hand... and Libby reaches out to him as someone who loves him, not someone who can feel for him, not as someone who can heal him... only as one who loves him... And at dawn they watch the whale pod passing, in the circle of warmth & love of all the sisters together.

Deborah says

Southern women who know what they want, a ghost with an attitude, a murder that has been confessed to, and a mystery that needs solving. Throw in a little spice and sugar and you have a really good recipe for a great mystery story. This book was light reading, although I hated to put it down as I couldn't wait to see what truly was going on. Boy, was I surprised!

Chris says

Very entertaining!

A crime I couldn't figure out, a 14 year old playing cupid/matchmaker via the internet - one-by-one men are showing up at Sarah's door assuming she invited them and one of them is an Elvis impersonator...lol

Of course, I never tire of her resident ghost who has a keen sense of fashion, an attitude and always with an opinion on how Sarah can improve her looks, life and entice a man because she is getting older don't you know...lol

It was so good I am going on to the next one in the series.

Cathy says

well written, another good mystery book

Marilyn says

Around the Year in 52 Books 2018 Reading Challenge. A book whose title includes a body part.

Kemper Fuquar is dead and his wife Eulalee McBride has confessed. But who is she protecting, her daughter Kip or her prize stallion Avenger who would be worthless if it is known he is a killer. She asks Sarah Booth to dig up evidence that like Earl (from the song) he deserved to die. She also asks Sarah Booth to take Kip into her home until Lee can again be there for Kip. In fact, lots of evidence shows that Kemper was a horrible person who had repeatedly abused Lee. However, Lee had never filed a report of his abuse and there was no evidence that he had abused her the night he died.
