



Bone Hunter

Sarah Andrews

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Time and again, Emily-- Em-- Hansen uses her geological training and her unflinching scientist's eye to sniff out a killer.

Now in her newest case, Em heads to Utah for a paleontology conference and ends up embroiled in murder when her host, a notorious dinosaur expert, ends up dead, stabbed with a dinosaur bone.

The high-stakes world of dinosaur study and research, coupled with the secrets of a conservative sect of Mormonism, provide the suspects and Em, if she isn't buried like so many fossils by a determined killer, is forced to provide the solution.

Bone Hunter Details

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From Reader Review Bone Hunter for online ebook

Rita Gorra says

What a fun, refreshing book. I love to learn things from an author as background information. It is pretty obvious Sarah Andrews knows quite a little bit about the topic. I found Ray romantic and mysterious. I saw some reviews that saw him as boring, but he seemed to be more quiet and intelligent than most romantic interests. Not everything needs to be shouted. This is the first I've read of the series and hope to read them all!

Eva says

Vždycky jsem dumala nad tím, proč je tolik detektivek s "archeologickým pozadím" a o geologii? tená? nezavadí. Sarah Andrews je autorka, kterou jsem chtěla potkat p?l života. Zajímavý p?ř?h, doplněný o geologické zajímavosti (i geologická mapa by se hodila), dinosaur?i, kšeftování s fosiliemi a bezohledné ni?ení lokalit, univerzitní sbírky nacpané v suterénech, ú?astníci konference, demonstrace kreacionist? a navíc mormoni - prost? paráda.

Rogue Reader says

Bone Hunter is Sarah Andrews' fifth Em Hansen mystery, and my first. Em Hansen is a wonderful character: as a scientist, she's bright and rational; as a person, she's empathetic and emotional. Raised on a Wyoming ranch and now working as a Colorado oil geologist, the protag has lots of experience and opportunities to get caught up in mystery and mayhem.

This book grew out of the 1997 meeting of the Geological Society of America, held that year in Salt Lake City and (after a dead body), Bone Hunter opens with the annual conference of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology. The competition, back biting and jealousy in the academic paleontology community is well developed and gives both method, motive, and opportunity. The sympathetic treatment of the Mormon belief system is an interesting and revealing contrast to the science.

I love that Sarah Andrews brings such real life research and experience to her writing: flying, academics, science, geology. She's thoughtful and organized, setting out specific goals and working through these in the progression of the mystery. The introduction and author's note clarify and highlight Andrews' approach. *The mystery writer as mystic* describes how narrative can challenge and explain; *the scientist as mystic* presents the scientific method as a gradual process of enlightenment and reflects on how a scientist must accept the unknown.

--Ashland Mystery

Kristi says

I really like and feel more connected to Em with each book in this series. She is snarky and witty and I frequently am amused by her observations. There were several descriptions in this book that made me chuckle, but were equally effective at drawing an image. I am certainly looking forward to reading the next book in this series.

Sandybear76 says

Set in Utah. first book I have read by this author. Emily Hansen is attending a paleontology conference in Salt Lake City to present a speech about forensic paleontology and staying at a paleontologist's house. Unfortunately, she is trying to break into his house to get her car keys to go to the conference when the police show up and questions Emily about the paleontologist's death.

Jack says

Interesting murder mystery. Try finding another book with characters ranging from devout Mormons of Utah to vertebrate paleontologists!!

Crissie says

Great travel book, especially when the flight across the Rockies turned out rather bumpy - took my mind off the size of the small plane flying me from Montrose to Denver as the book took me through Utah (culture, religion, land). Thanks, Wendell!

Kirsten says

Much better than the last Em Hansen book I read! A nice, intriguing mystery with the expected geological tour of a new setting. Sure, Sarah Andrews gets preachy, but she has great things to say. Her characters may be a little smarter than you'd want to give them credit for, but those intelligent conversations are pretty damned beautiful. Are there blah points? Of course. Em's hormones point her in some pretty stupid directions (but when it comes to that, I'm also a guilty party, so...), and there's the typical beaten-nearly-to-death-by-the-end mystery novel thing, but it's a fun read and I'll read more.

Nancy H says

This is a really good mystery involving Salt Lake City, geologists and paleontologists, Mormons, and of course, murder. There are also some good musings on religion and life philosophy in it as well. It is an engrossing read.

Kate says

"Forensic geologist Em Hansen uses her keen senses and fascinating scientific background to uncover the buried secrets of the most baffling murder cases. Now Em travels to a Utah paleontology conference, where a renowned dinosaur expert is found brutally murdered ... making Em, his houseguest, the chief suspect. Now, digging for clues amidst a canyon of suspects like a modern-day Sherlock Holmes, Em's gotta catch a killer, clear her name, and save herself from becoming extinct ...:

~~back cover

I liked this book a bit less than the first four books in the series, when I had expected to like it more than most of them. Paleontology! Awfully close to archaeology (only the items being sought and the hardness of the soil surrounding them are different -- the theorizing and internecine professional warfare are exactly the same) so I settled down to read about digging out in the great outdoors. Silly me -- didn't I realize that 340 pages of digging in the great outdoors would be BO-riiing to most readers? So of course there was much more paleontological conference, suspicion falling upon our heroine, car chases and narrow escapes -- a more conventional (pardon the pun) murder mystery, which our heroine eventually solves (as usual).

However, this book had a LOT of discourse about scientific methodology and philosophy vs creationism, a LOT of instructional dialog about how the former two work and why the latter doesn't, etc. Imho, it was an overwhelming amount of trudging through to get to the action parts. Maybe it's just me, but this book was published in 1999, and I think most readers are much more aware of at least the basic aspects of paleontology twenty years later. I mean, there's been Jurassic Park, and Walking With Dinosaurs and Allosaurus!, to name only a few. And documentaries aplenty. How could a reader these days not know at least the basics of paleontology?

There was also a good bit about the Mormon religion, and its splinter groups -- some of it very disquieting and painful to read. But of course, splinter groups aren't the core of any religion, but the outlaws around the edges. What was really unnerving was the incipient romance between our heroine and the Mormon policeman who was on the case. How could either one of them ever contemplated a relationship between a good Mormon and a heretic atheist? And how long could it possibly last?

Alton Motobu says

This is part romance (between Em Hansen and the handsome police officer assigned to protect her), part religion (long passages with characters espousing Mormonism, creationism, and polygamy), part paleontology and the fossil trading black market, and a little bit of murder mystery. There was not enough about the murder, and too much of everything else. The ending was unclear as the presumed murderer was not clearly identified and his fate was dealt "off screen." Not for fans who like complex plots with lots of action; but you'll enjoy it if you like a lot of romance with handsome men in your mysteries.

Lindsay Luke says

Enjoyable Em Hansen forensic geologist mystery. Em is invited to give a presentation at a convention in Salt Lake City by a famous paleontologist. He turns up dead and she is a suspect. In the course of finding the real killer, we get to learn about dinosaurs, paleontologists, and Mormons. Let's just say there is dysfunction and

a lack of social skills in the scientific dinosaur bone hunting community.

Gerry says

Very spotty writing -- good in some parts, pathetic in others. The whole novel hangs together poorly, but had moments of excellence. The main character is Em, a geologist who dabbles in forensics as well. She's been lured to Utah under false pretenses, and becomes embroiled in a murder investigation, which she has tremendous motivation to solve, since SHE's the main suspect.

R. says

I love books written by authors that have "lived the life" they highlight in their fiction. Sarah Andrews is a geologist and her knowledge of her science and related sciences give more body to this mystery. My favorite is still Nevada Barr, but I will look for more of Andrews.

Pammy says

A mystery featuring dinosaur fossil thieves, creationism, Mormons, and murder.... What's there not to like?! And, strangely, I found a marvelously insightful paragraph, instructing a technique for relaxation and stress release.... based on contemplation of our insignificance within the universe!
