



## The Witchdoctor's Bones

*Lisa de Nikolits*

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## **The Witchdoctor's Bones** Lisa de Nikolits

In *The Witchdoctor's Bones* a group of tourists gather in Namibia. Some have come to holiday, others to murder. Canadian Kate ditches her two-timing boyfriend and heads to Africa on a whim, hoping for adventure, encountering the unexpected and proving an intrepid adversary to mayhem. The tour is led by Jono, a Zimbabwean historian and philosopher, and the travellers follow him from Cape Town into the Namib desert, learning ancient secrets of the Bushmen, the power of witchcraft and superstition, and even the origins of Nazi evil. A ragged bunch ranging from teenagers to retired couples, each member of the group faces their own challenges as third world Africa pits against first world greed, murderous intent and thwarted desire. The battle between goaded vanity and frustrated appetite culminates in a surprising conclusion with shocking twists. With the bones of consequence easily buried in the shifting sands, a holiday becomes a test of moral character. Unpredictable, flawed, fun-loving, courageous, bizarre, weak, kind-hearted and loathsome; the individuals in this novel exist beyond the page and into real life. Seamlessly weaving history and folklore into a plot of loss, passion and intrigue, the reader is kept informed and entertained as this psychological thriller unfolds.

“By planting her characters in the untamed landscape of the South African wilderness, de Nikolits has stripped away the niceties and rigours of polite society. You’re drawn in. Illicit love, rejected love, misfired love, machinations of all sorts. Embark on a journey that seethes with peril.”

— Doug O'Neill, Canadian Living Magazine

“Fascinating South African lore comes to life in *The Witchdoctor's Bones*. De Nikolits gives us more than an intriguing mystery - a look at the dark side of the human soul and the healing power of love.”

- D.J. McIntosh, bestselling author of *The Witch of Babylon*

“Beautiful, sexy, exciting, mysterious, dangerous and twisted. Those words can be used to describe not only the alluring locations depicted in Lisa de Nikolits’ thrilling novel *The Witchdoctor’s Bones*, but also some of the eclectic characters fatefully traveling together on a tour bus through South Africa and Namibia. A suspenseful page-turner that will bewitch you until the end.

Warning: You may get hungry reading this book. Some of the exotic dishes described in this novel sound so enticing you may want to risk being on a bus-load of crazy people to sample them.”

- Alexander Galant, author of *Depth of Deception* (A *Titanic Murder Mystery*)

## **The Witchdoctor's Bones Details**

Date : Published April 30th 2014 by Inanna Publications & Education (first published April 25th 2014)

ISBN : 9781771331265

Author : Lisa de Nikolits

Format : Paperback 388 pages

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## **From Reader Review The Witchdoctor's Bones for online ebook**

### **Rosemary McCracken says**

Characters take centre-stage in Lisa de Nikolits' psychological thriller, The Witchdoctor's Bones. The sixteen travellers who set out on a bus tour through South Africa and Namibia are as varied a group as you're ever likely to meet. And de Nikolits draws them vividly with an eye for detail and an ear for dialogue. These are characters so believable that they become friends—or intriguing enemies. Delightful reading!

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### **Alexander Galant says**

Beautiful, sexy, exciting, mysterious, dangerous and twisted.

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### **Philana Memraj says**

Best book by this author.

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### **Rob Brunet says**

In The Witchdoctor's Bones, Lisa de Nikolits drives a busload of seemingly? normal souls into the heart of Africa, revealing the baggage they've dragged? along, piece by sweaty piece. Against a backdrop of Bushmen tales and? geography she clearly loves, de Nikolits creates by turns a lusty dusty romp?and excursions to the nastier regions of human desire. Passions both ?wandering and misplaced pull the story ever deeper down a bumpy road. Well ?worth the trip!

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### **Wall-to-wall books - wendy says**

4.5 Stars

Well my first book by this author started out with a bang! I really enjoyed this book!

This story was a great mix of - touring South Africa, murder mysteries and mayhem, and a total zany cast of characters. I have to be honest, this book kept me guessing all the way through. Everytime I thought I had it all figured out, I was wrong. Well I was right on a few things, but they were only the things the author

wanted you to know.

This book starts out good and just keeps going all the way to the great ending. There is so much happening in here you don't have a moment to get bored. I thought the writing was excellent. I would definitely like to read another by this great author.

The character development was very good. There were a LOT of characters but I had no trouble keeping them all straight because the author did such a fantastic job. One thing I really liked was that you got to go into the head of a madman and see what he was planning all along. This part kind of reminded me of the movie "Mr. Brooks" with Kevin Costner.

Secrets, secrets, everyone has secrets! There are so many little mysteries to figure out. And so many little romances (and almost romances).

A few great lines -

"I would have kept him around as eye candy." Ellie said, flicking at a large ant.

"Too much candy causes cavities," Gisela commented. "To sustain you in life, you need real food."

"You got it," Helen agreed. "I need a good thick steak to sink my teeth into."

"Sounds rather painful for the steak," Richard commented idly.

Kate watched Helen turn towards him, her eyes widening and she smiled. "All depends on the technique," she drawled.

"There is no such thing as a truly civilized man in the way you like to think there is. We all have the potential to kill each other and sometimes, for reasons known only to ourselves, we do."

"I like to be happy," Kate told him, "even though it can be tiring at times. How foolish is that, to say that happiness can be tiring."

"Not foolish. It means you make the effort. Making an effort is always tiring, even if you badly want the reward of what you are making an effort for,"

All-in-all - A very good mystery, very well planned out. There are also a lot of great little facts about Africa, so if you are looking for a great easy-reading book about Africa that is also fun - this is a great choice!

Thank you "Partners in Crime" for sending me this book for my honest review!

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### **Evadne says**

The Witch Doctor's Bones is absolutely gripping. Lisa de Nikolits excels in artfully alternating from playful tourist banter to plot twists that are masterfully unsettling and unpredictable. This book was quite different from an earlier de Nikolits novel, A Glittering Chaos, but in both I loved the subtle exploration of who we are when we are away from home, the ways in which vacations can change who we are and how we see ourselves and the capacity for travel to broaden our perspectives on the world around us--if we are open to that potential. Also, if you have a chance to hear Lisa read live, I recommend that too!

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### **Anna says**

A thoroughly captivating tale, this book will take you across the world to the sandy lands of South Africa. With Canadian-born Kate as your eyes and ears you will embark on an enthralling bus journey, travelling far and wide across the continent with a cast of colourful characters. Like a multi-week mystery dinner on a tour bus, each person has secrets to hide and is motivated by their own strange ambitions. De Nikolits cunningly tosses the reader only snippets of clues, making every page a new piece of the puzzle. You will keep guessing even after you have read the final page, trying to figure out the hints you missed, and how the characters could be so complex and multi-layered. Relatable and fantastical all at the same time, this is the perfect read for a hot summer's day on the beach, or a cold winter's evening, curled up by the fire. In truth, it is the ideal read for any occasion, because the truly marvellous writing, and the intricate web of plot points, details, and delights will keep you totally captivated, no matter where you are.

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### **Joan O'callaghan says**

Put together an international group of travelers, each with their own secrets, in a bus touring Africa and you have the makings of a very suspenseful tale! Lisa de Nikolits does a masterful job of drawing the reader in and not letting go until the last delicious word! Set against an exotic backdrop of Africa and Namibia, this story is a great read! I loved it!

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### **Carole Giangrande says**

Lisa de Nikolits knocks it out of the park with a fast-paced thriller: a busload of characters on a tour of South Africa/Namibia meet mayhem, witchcraft, sexual passion and more than a dose of insanity. Telling the story from an omniscient point of view signals to us that the author wants us to pay attention to the group dynamic -- and the story's unique and spectacular setting -- as much as to the psyches of the characters. Some individuals register strongly, others make less of an impression, but the over-all impact of the story itself is gutsy, entertaining and, in its final pages, beyond bizarre. Tuck it into your travel bag for your next vacation -- if you can wait that long.

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### **Diane Coto says**

In beautiful Cape Town, South Africa, 16 strangers are waiting for their guide in a hotel room lobby. They will be taken on a 12-day camping bus tour beginning in Cape Town and ending at Fort Namutoni, Namibia. Jono, a Zimbabwean historian and philosopher, leads the tour. He relays South African history and folk lore to the group to fill the evenings. The land is primitive and wild, but that is nothing compared to the intentions and motives of some members of the group. Early in the novel, the author tells us "Some have come to holiday, others to murder."

At the beginning of the book, the author included a map and a character key. The character key is very helpful considering the number of people included in this story. Even without the key, you will get to know them as the author does a wonderful job of bringing out each individual's personalities from near-normal to very bizarre. There is no one protagonist, but Canadian-born Kate Fraser is a predominant character. She cuts

loose from her cheating boyfriend and plans this trip hoping to dismiss him from her mind and to find a little adventure. She gets more than she could ever imagine. I rated this 4 out of 5.

<http://www.fictionzeal.com/witchdocto...>

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### **Harvee says**

*What I got from the book:* I learned about the Bushmen tribe, about some of their folk beliefs and mythologies. I found out more about local witchcraft and the local beliefs in the power of the supernatural.

I saw vicariously a part of South Africa and some of the tourist sights and places to see wild animals in Namibia, and also learned about the dangers of the land - poisonous plants being one of them. I liked that the novel included a map of the places on the tour. This was a tense but interesting story of a group of people stuck together in an unusual situation, on an African tour in this case, some of the people having pretty murderous intentions.

*My recommendation:* This is not a beach read. A few of the characters and situations are truly frightening, but then all ends well in the end. Well told and developed, this is a book for mystery lovers, adventure lovers, and those curious about Africa.

See my full review: <http://bookdilettante.blogspot.com/20...>

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### **Egreene4 says**

The Witchdoctor's Bones passed the bus test--I read it steadily on the trip from Toronto to Kingston and then stayed up past 1 reading it until I finished (and was a wreck the next day).

The sixteen people on the bus are carefully chosen and provide conflict and humour, welcome in a thriller. Kate is a lovely heroine and does provide a moral compass for the novel, so that I finished it with vision cleared, not just on an adrenalin high.

Definitely worth the read!

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### **Dorothy McIntosh says**

Sixteen travelers embark on a voyage into South Africa's hinterland. Although each has different motivations for the journey, and some of those are strange, the trip begins in a light hearted enough fashion. As the trip continues, the harsh yet beautiful landscape, racial prejudices, mystic beliefs and social group dynamics, spiral into darkness. A great read - not to be missed!

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### **Victor Gentile says**

Lisa De Nikolits in her new book, "The Witchdoctor's Bones" published by Inanna Publications gives us a

journey like none other.

From the back cover: A group of tourists gather in Namibia. Some have come to holiday, others to murder. The travellers follow their tour guide Jono, a Zimbabwean historian and philosopher, from Cape Town into the Namib desert, learning ancient secrets of the Bushmen, the power of witchcraft and superstition, and even the origins of Nazi evil. A ragged bunch ranging from teenagers to retired couples, each member of the group faces a unique challenge as third world Africa is pitted against first world greed, thwarted desire and murderous intent. With the bones of consequence easily buried in the shifting sands, a holiday becomes a test of moral character. Unpredictable, flawed, fun-loving, courageous, bizarre, weak, kind-hearted and loathsome; the individuals in this novel exist beyond the page and into real life. Seamlessly weaving history and folklore into a plot of loss, passion and intrigue, the reader is kept informed and entertained as this psychological thriller unfolds.

This is the way mysteries used to be made. Take sixteen strangers and put them on a tour bus and there is bound to be trouble when there is murder involved. Ms. De Nikolits has given us a fairly complex story that starts out interesting and then whips along at a brisk pace. There is a lot going on as we study the dynamic of the group over the course of the twelve-day journey. "The Witchdoctor's Bones" is very exciting and quite a page-turner.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Partners In Crime. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

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### **Lauren says**

To comply with the terms and conditions that I'm beginning to realize that people read more than I expected them to, I hereby disclose in this, my review, that I received this book for free through Goodreads First Reads, etc, etc, etc. I'm quite thrilled that I won it, to be perfectly honest. It was a pretty darn good, though slightly odd book; definitely one of the better ones I've read recently.

My main issue with this was that there were WAY too many characters with important or at least strong supporting roles. There were too many names to keep straight in the beginning which made things a little hard at first. They all served their purpose, for the most part, but in the beginning, keeping track of all the names and who people were and where they came from made my head spin a little.

Once I got hold of all the characters, it was much smoother sailing, to be sure. The whole story was very much like a South African "And Then There Were None", but I liked it much more. The story line was, without doubt, more interesting and less "PB&J book" (as my mother would call it). The little bit of romance sprinkled through out was a nice way to lighten the dark mood. In fact, the whole trip reminded me a little of a college campus, with seemingly everyone trying to hook up with everyone else, except with much more death. I did love Kate's knight in shining armor though... or Porsche, however you want to look at it.

I only had one other issue with the story, and that was the dialogue. First, in the beginning, Nikolits made it very evident that Mia had a very thick, rough British accent (imagine something out of... Sweeney Todd, lets say), but it didn't seem that she was consistent with it throughout the story. She did pick it up again towards the end, but it dropped off a little through the middle. Additionally, some of the dialogue seemed forced.

Perhaps that's not the right word... it sounded, at times, as if many of the characters, even the native English speakers, were ESL. Maybe it was just me. I don't know. It's just that some of the phrasing or exchanges struck me as a little odd.

One last thing, and this I LOVED! I was very thankful, even though I didn't discover it until the end, that Nikolitis included a glossary of terms at the end of the story. All the Afrikaans words were there with definitions. It was wonderful. I love when authors who sprinkle other languages in their stories do that! Personally, it makes things SO much easier!

Overall, it was a great story and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I can't wait to delve into her other stories. Hopefully they're as good as this one!

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