



Bones of Faerie

Janni Lee Simner

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The war between humanity and Faerie devastated both sides. Or so 15-year-old Liza has been told.

Nothing has been seen or heard from Faerie since, and Liza's world bears the scars of its encounter with magic. Trees move with sinister intention, and the town Liza calls home is surrounded by a forest that threatens to harm all those who wander into it. Then Liza discovers she has the Faerie ability to see into the past, into the future and she has no choice but to flee her town.

Liza's quest will take her into Faerie and back again, and what she finds along the way may be the key to healing both worlds.

Bones of Faerie Details

Date : Published January 27th 2009 by Random House Books for Young Readers (first published December 29th 2008)

ISBN : 9780375845635

Author : Janni Lee Simner

Format : Hardcover 247 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Paranormal, Fairies, Fiction

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Fantasy Literature says

Ruth: The human world has been rendered almost unlivable, victim of the wild magic unleashed by the faeries in their war with the humans twenty years earlier. Liza, a teenage girl, tries to survive in a small community in the Midwestern United States that has been savaged by the remnants of the war. The corn fights back against the humans harvesting it, and the blackberry vines seek flesh. Everyone who survived the war knows that magic is dangerous and cannot be tolerated, so when Liza's sister is born with the clear hair that marks her as magically tainted, Liza's father leaves the infant on a hillside to die.

This is where *Bones of Faerie* starts, with a horrified young woman finding the remains of her baby sister's body scattered on a hillside. In this dark, post-apocalyptic YA novel, Janni Lee Simner sets up an interesting story of a teenager seeking... Read More:

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Skye: The story *Bones of Faerie* takes place years after a great and tragic war between the Fae and the Humans. Those who survived the war on the human side greatly distrust any sort of magic. However, the war changed the human world; trees never shed their leaves, instead they attack unsuspecting victims. Plants have minds of their own, and only the most benign can be eaten. Some children are born with transparent hair; marking them part-faerie. These children are killed for what they may become, and the destructive powers they could possess.

Liza lives in such a town. Any child born with magic is cast out to die or else be taken by the faerie. Strangers are not welcome, and trade is nonexistent. The inhabitants of the town live off of what tame plants they can harvest and are not poisonous. Liza lives with her father, a strict man and firm believer in 'the rules': ... Read More: <http://www.fantasyliterature.com/reviews/Bones-of-Faerie>...

Beth Cato says

While a bit predictable, *Bones of Faerie* establishes a fascinating post-apocalyptic setting in the aftermath of a devastating war against faeries. The book is young adult and deals with heady issues of abuse, survival, and loss, all through the eyes of an easy-to-relate-to heroine.

rachel says

2018 TBR Challenge: Book #4 ★★

I wish I had more to say about *Bones of Faerie* but its mediocrity does not lend well to descriptive reviews.

The world was creative. I'll give Simner that. I loved the combination of the fantastical fae elements with the post-war apocalyptic landscape. Or I did in theory, at least. The world building was a tad too underdeveloped for me to completely fall in love with it. Matthew's history and shifter abilities were never explained, and for the most part, Faerie and its magical lore were left shrouded in mystery. I understand that was probably

intentional on the author's behalf because our protagonist was ignorant of it herself, but it didn't help quell my growing curiosity. There were several moments that I had no idea what was going on and had to roll with it. I much prefer my fantastical stories to have some sort of consistent magical system. Worlds with limitless magic - or magic without rules/sources/*something* - always fall into that 'anything could happen therefore nothing has consequences' pitfall that makes me lose investment in the story.

The characters themselves were okay. Liza was not, by any means, an unpleasant protagonist; just bland and largely forgettable. I appreciated that her relationship with Matthew remained platonic but I still needed more from them as individuals to appreciate their friendship. Allie definitely stole the spotlight.

Overall? *Bones of Faerie* felt like an odd mix of *Skylark* and *Wings* but lacked the world-building of either to make it successful. I struggled to stay invested in the story when the magical system felt so messy and the characters were so bland. I will not be continuing with the series.

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Miriam says

This was older and darker than I expected. I think I had assumed it was middle grade because of her other publications (I actually think this is as suitable for tweens as teens) and fluffy because of the titular "faerie" which usually seems to involve some sparkliness. Well, there are sparkles, but they're the light of evil magic that wants to eat you.

Crystal says

I have to say this book was beautifully written. The descriptions were so vivid and I found that I could really see the world that Simner created. I think her main characters could have used some strengthening, but all in all this was a good book.

Liza is the main character and she goes on a journey after finding out that she holds magic within her. Knowing that her Father would kill her if he found out she goes in search of her Mother who left after her Father left her sister out for the Faeries to take. The world in which she lives is one that is struggling to deal with the remains after a War with the Faeries. Children are taught that magic kills and to never go outside in the dark. After the War the Faerie magic still remained and plants that were once just pretty to look at turned into something that will haunt nightmares. So her journey begins and we get to see what really hides inside Liza and if she has the strength to fight the forest to save her Mother.

This book is not about world saving, it is simply about one girl's adventures trying to find out where she belongs. I liked how it ended so I don't know if I will ever pick up the sequel, but I was impressed with this one.

Marcy Jo says

This is quite possibly the most captivating first chapter of a book that I can ever remember reading. It is only eight short paragraphs long, but Simner manages to get her hook so deep into you that the thought of putting the book down is impossible. It made me catch my breath. It made me go back and reread those two simple

pages to see if the text was as fabulous as I thought it was (it was.) It made me say "there's no way the rest of this book can be THIS amazing (it was.)

The premise of this story is wonderful. It is set in a post-apocalyptic world in which a war between earth and faerie has devastated the planet, and sent its inhabitants centuries of years back technologically while also having to deal with the new dangers of faerie enchanted flora and fauna that are not so harmless as they were "Before."

The main character flees her village when she discovers that the magic has touched her as well, and doesn't want to bring harm to those around her.

The story is brutal and tragic and beautiful and hopeful all at the same time. Part of what makes it so magical is how much is left unsaid. The story unfolds in a way that you know what happens, and you grasp the backstory (both the individual threads and the full tapestry) but you don't see everything. The prose was so elegant yet so simple. So very, very well done.

Tabitha says

Intense, Brutal and in your face with the darkness!

Dark and gripping, *Bones of Faerie* had me captivated from page one! With the opening line: "**I had a sister once.**" I knew I was likely in for some heartache, and boy was I completely on the mark.

Fifteen year old Liza is a cautious girl, she has grown up under a tyrannical father, who is quick to anger and even faster to turn to violence. He doesn't spare the rod one bit! The fear and dread Liza feels is palpable! But you can also sense that she seems to think she deserves it, she considers it her shame when she is disciplined, because that is the only thing she knows. I feel like Simner got this so right and true to reality the way the abused can feel like they are in the wrong and that they are deserving of the abuse.

They live in a post apocalyptic time after a war with the Faerie folk. These are hard times now, where the land is dangerous and plants and animals all possess violent magic. I was entranced with the seemingly evil nature of the plants. They wanted to destroy living things, and venturing out into the dark in these times is practically a death sentence.

The pace of *Bones of Faerie* is very brisk. Liza moves from one crisis to the next basically through the entire book. I felt a lot of sympathy for her in the beginning but then also wanted to slap her a few times for her pig headed-ness. Luckily as she experiences more and learns more of the nature of magic I came to like her more and more. By the end I was fully in her corner.

She has two excellent supporting characters, Matthew of the same age from her village with a secret of his own and Allie, a much younger and stubborn girl with extraordinary abilities of her own. I loved these characters. They were so well done that I could see Allie starring in a book of her own.

I have to say I LOVED Matthew. He is strong, determined, self sacrificing and he manages to be all these great things without being some annoying good two shoes character that you just want to slap. Sometimes I hate the do gooders but he isn't like that for some reason – probably because he is so fierce about his convictions and I can feel violence in him like a tight coil ready to spring. Yeah if I were 16 I would be

crushing hard core.

What I loved best about *Bones of Faerie* was that originally I read it a few years ago not realizing it would be a trilogy. After reading it I was content thinking that the story was over. It stood well on its own and I didn't feel like it was just the precursor to another book. This is so important to me as I hate books that aren't complete by themselves. So if a reader wanted to, they could pick up only this book and be satisfied at the end without feeling the need that they absolutely had to read the next book. Though I'm sure like me they would want to!

Wealhtheow says

War between Faerie and the humans devastated both realms. A generation later, teenaged Liza and her town are barely surviving among the wreckage. Liza's father has kept the town alive though ruthless destruction of anything touched by magic, so when Liza starts having visions she knows she has to leave immediately--or be killed by her own father.

I was fascinated by the post-apocalyptic world Liza lives in, where "good" plastic is prized and even a single dandelion is dangerous. The magic seems appropriately powerful and scary. And I loved reading Liza's progression from cringing believer to a purposeful problem-solver. This is a dark book--Liza is abused by her father for years, and (view spoiler)

Khanh, first of her name, mother of bunnies says

I've been stuck on a reading glut lately, I've got 100000 unfinished books on my ebook reader, most of which I've made slight progress, and I've no desire to finish or continue reading any of them. So to ease my boredom, I've been rereading some old familiars that I know are enjoyable.

Some series are even more wonderful than I remembered (*The Iron Fey*), and some made me wonder how much alcohol I had been imbibing when I decided to give it a 4 rating. *Bones of Faerie* would be an example of the latter. What the hell was I thinking? I probably wasn't.

The good: it's short.

The bad: it's short. Because of the lack of length, I feel there's so much detail that could have been given that would have contributed so much to the book was omitted. I wanted more background on the war between fae and human. I want to know more about how the fae and human came to a tenuous peace. Why the St. Louis arch? Why were some humans "tainted" by fae magic and not others? So many questions, not enough answers. And what's with the random werewolf? There is very little logic, the system of magic here seems to be all over the damn place, and not something rational. Granted, the fae aren't known for their coherence, but given that they're intelligent enough and with enough acumen to beat our sorry human asses in this book, one would think that their magical system would be better controlled.

Liza is not a bad character. She's strong enough to withstand her father's emotional and physical abuse, and conscientious enough not to put her community in danger when she thinks she has developed fae magic. However, she's soft. Too soft. I didn't find her survival skills believable given her softheartedness and weak

will.

Her reaction to Allie the stowaway frustrated me to no ends. She's a day from home. Dump her whiny, sorry little overprotected ass back to her father. Liza doesn't have the heart to deal with a liability when she sees one.

“You're sure you won't let us take you back?” Matthew asked. Allie just shook her head. I said nothing. I still didn't trust myself to speak. I didn't want her to come, but in truth I had no idea how to stop her.

It's simple, Liza. You go back to the village and tell Allie's dad. This book overcomplicates stupid things like this.

I didn't hate Liza as a character, but there's nothing about her that made me sympathize with her or feel like she's more developed than just a character in a book.

And speaking of Allie. I *hated* the sorry little brat. She's very young, which explains her immaturity, and Liza is nothing less than a saint in her ability to put up with her.

“The War was stupid,” Allie said. “So stupid.”

So *profound*, Allie.

“So big!” she said as she walked, all hints of the sullen child who'd found us gone. “Who knew the world was so big?” She twirled in place, right in the path, as if that world were the scene of a child's game, nothing more.

ARG! SHUT UP ALREADY.

As for the story, it is dark and very surreal. The setting is beautifully described, lyrical and hypnotic.

Bluffs rose to either side of us, holding shadows of their own: a shadow arm with a dangling charm bracelet, a shadow boot kicking the air as if to get free, a shadow face staring at us from within a hillside, its mouth open as in surprise, a poplar root growing through one of its shadow eyes.

I also found it very confusing. I think the best way I can describe it is when I had a stomach flu, and was suffering from some massive fever-induced hallucinations. I was wandering around a dark, glowing forest, with no idea where I was going. Things were happening and yet they made no sense, but I followed along with my dream anyway. This was roughly how I felt about the plot of this book. It's lyrical and surreal, but not in a good way.

Like the art movement after which it's named, the surrealism in this book gave me a massive headache after awhile. I actually started book two about a year after reading this, and found out I couldn't remember a damn thing about this book. That should have foreshadowed it for me; writing aside, the story is purely forgettable.

Maggie Stiefvater says

Though I read this book two weeks ago and have been meaning to write a review ever since, I haven't managed to really rally my thoughts about it until now. *BONES OF FAERIE* is a fascinating and welcome addition to the YA faerie world by virtue of combining faerie lore with a post-apocalyptic world for a haunting and eerie effect.

I should preface this entire review by saying that this book is for young adults. I know that will sound weird as most of the books on my Goodreads page are for YA, but most of my five-star YAs tend to have a lot of crossover appeal. If I were rating *BONES OF FAERIE* purely from my adult eyes, I would have given it four stars. My adult eyes loved the world and would've loved to see deeper consequences explored -- but this book didn't need it for the intended audience. Because let me tell you, 16 year old faerie-crazy Maggie would've died of happiness reading this book. I think Jannie Lee Simmer absolutely nailed her readership with this YA, and it's been a long time since I've read a YA and felt that.

The details of this book really shine: the dangerous plants, the loss of black-and-white, good-and-evil that comes with growing up, and the subtle differences that resulted from the war with Faerie. I was frustrated by some of the plot choices -- a particular pet peeve of mine is when conflict is created by a character NOT acting, rather than by a character acting -- but all in all, this was a wholly satisfying read that took me four happy hours to cruise through.

Highly recommended for teens who love paranormals, especially those who are a fan of beautiful writing and subtle twists in lore.

wondering why all my reviews are five stars? Because I'm only reviewing my favorite books -- not every book I read. Consider a novel's presence on my Goodreads bookshelf as a hearty endorsement. I can't believe I just said "hearty." It sounds like a stew.

Vinaya says

[image error]

Alz says

This book had no heart and no soul, no flavor but nice color--which is to say that the setting is interesting--a post-apocalyptic US, where war between humans and faeries has devastated the world and corrupted nature to the point that tree shadows can slice and dice you, and even seeds are dangerous lest they take root in your skin--but the characters? They are boring, flat and wooden, with no depth. The protagonist Liza is a ho-hum-de-dum teenage girl abused and repressed by her tyrannical father who, incidentally, is the head of the village that repudiates magic and rejects outsiders. Then when her sister is born with the marks of fey--clear hair and silver eyes--the father abandons the baby out in the woods. Sometime later the mom disappears. I think you can see where this is going.

The story itself is so straightforward as to be mind-bogglingly boring, with people teaming up and helping Liza for no apparent reason other than plot demands it and apparently they are really nice people. The entire story is about Liza rescuing her mom, and even that makes it sound way more exciting than it really is.

Character development? There is none. Romance? There is none. Preachy passages about the devastation of war? There are plenty.

The book had a fascinating first chapter and everything thereafter was a meandering failure of narrative. You don't even find out exactly what the war between fairies and humans was about; in other post-apocalyptic books, not knowing the cause of the present society is fine because it's just a backdrop--but in this case, the war was apparently only 20 years ago and everything about it plays a major role in what's going on NOW, so not knowing anything is very frustrating. How? Why? What reasons? What were the actual battles like? Did it take place in a day or a year or several years? You will not find the answers to these pertinent questions within this book.

Save your time. Considering how very little happened in this book, with no emotional or intellectual impact, I doubt the sequel is worth the effort. I certainly won't be checking it out.

Liralen says

Lyrical, as sharp as the thorns in the dandelions, and shattered shards of broken trust that get carefully gathered together. The first two pages set the whole tone and followed through in spades. It's a beautifully written book, the first I've really enjoyed reading in the last year.

The hardships are really hard, and I loved the implicit rules behind the magic... and how consistent it was across the board. And all the reasons for the protagonist to not trust magic were hard and real, so it was an interesting and different take than the Ooooo it's *magic* so it has to be cool! I love the deadliness of it.

I learned that I STILL can't put a good book down. I was intending to not finish this, but lo and behold... I'm done and I'm probably going to read it again.

Tamora Pierce says

This is an amazing book. I am unnerved at the way I kept managing to lose it around the house from the time it came out (when I got it) until I found it for the sixth time yesterday and chose to read it instantly before it lost itself again. It makes you wonder about things like faeries, which is nonsense! Right?

The reason I ticked sf as well as fantasy is because the characters live in a bleak and scary world, the result of a war between humans and fae. Almost all the things we taken for granted are gone--or changed. Trees are vicious and will attack and kill humans. Butterflies burst into flame without warning. Rivers call people to their doom. Vegetables fight being harvested. And in Liza's village, the taint of the Faery--clear hair, silver eyes, magic--means expulsion or death. Only three weeks before, her father, in charge of clearing magic from the town, took his brand new daughter and left her on a hilltop. In the morning only bones remained. Not long afterward, Liza's mother left him.

Liza decides, against her father's warnings and lessons, fixed in her flesh with beatings, to go in search of her

mother. Though she forbids him to do it, her friend Matthew goes along, and his truth--that he is a shapeshifter--is the first of many things she will learn along the way, about the war, about other villages and how they manage, about the reality of magic and the Fae, about the future, and about her own magicless self.

The world is incredible and scary. Liz is a totally human hero, filled with doubts and bigotries she has to overcome. The book is dark, terrifying, and magnificent.

jv poore says

This is a fantastic read for the Young Adult genre. Filled with faeries, magic, shape-shifters and, of course, mere humans, this book has everything that a younger reader could hope for. The story pulled me in from the first page, as the story unfolded, the writing simply flowed so that I was half-way through, then promising myself "one more chapter" I finished the entire book. The relationships in this story are unlikely, yet remarkably sweet, and somehow, just right. The fantasies are subtly woven throughout real-life matters, making a more believable and intriguing story. The twists and turns leave the reader unsure of what he/she hopes the characters will do next, yet the ending is satisfying.

I am giving this book 5 stars specifically as a Young Adult book. As a non-young Adult, the book could seem somewhat cursory---the story-line is great and the characters are rich; however, as a Young Adult book, the depth for an avid non-young adult may not be there.
