



The Bone Queen

Alison Croggon

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Perfect for readers of Tolkien and Garth Nix, *The Bone Queen* is the highly anticipated prequel to the original Pellinor sequence, and will delight fans of critically acclaimed author Alison Croggon, as well as newcomers to the world of Pellinor.

Cadvan of Lirigon, one of the most powerful Bards of his time, has been exiled from the School of Lirigon for a grievous crime that unleashed the power of the Bone Queen. Isolated and guilt-ridden, he is burdened by memories of his dealings with the Dark. Meanwhile, across Edil-Amarandh, a number of disturbing events suggest that the Bone Queen may not have been successfully banished, as was previously believed. The Light is under threat, but does Cadvan have the strength to face the Bone Queen again?

The Bone Queen Details

Date :

ISBN :

Author : Alison Croggon

Format :

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, High Fantasy



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From Reader Review The Bone Queen for online ebook

Grace says

Cadvan is the messiest emo, and I love him.

I had a ton of fun with this book. It's probably my favorite Pellinor book, because I'm trash for Cadvan and also it not being set smack dab in the middle of the worst disaster to befall Edil-Amaranh since the Great Silence made it more... I won't say *cheerful*, but less grindingly sad. It also didn't seem to take as much "work" to get through as certain other Pellinor books *cough The Riddle cough* that I could mention.

I'm very glad *The Bone Queen* doesn't actually tell you the story of Cadvan's first raising of her dark spirit. Having to sit through the Cadvan v. Dernhil poetry duel would have just been too much. But I am glad it takes place close enough to the event that we get to see Cadvan dealing with the fallout, and taking the first steps to eventually become the messy emo mentor that we all know and love.

My favorite part of everything was probably the mining village Cadvan hides out in that eventually adopts him as their own. I also liked Dernhil a lot, which was good, since I was never too keen on him in *The Naming* even though the books really WANT you to like him. It was a relief to finally be able to like him. The quest was good too, and meeting Milana and Dorn and everyone before you have to hear about them posthumously from third-party sources.

Some classic moments from the Greatest Hits of a Messy Emo:

a) The whole village wonders what Cadvan is doing when he disappears for days. What can he be up to, that mysterious Bard? The village children investigate. He's lying on his bed, motionless, staring at the ceiling for literally the whole time.

b)

Cadvan: *demands that Dernhil perform taxing and unpleasant magery*

Dernhil: I wish you wanted to make love instead, then it would be easy to refuse.

Cadvan: You would REFUSE???

c) Cadvan has a prescient dream of death, destruction, and despair. He wonders: *Why did I have this horrible dream? What have I dreamed of?* The answer immediately occurs to him: *It's a metaphor for MY SOUL.*

d)

Nelac: They must have been bewitched by the Dark. It's the only explanation for why they are behaving this way.

Cadvan: Or they're just stupid.

Allison says

I really enjoyed this chance to get to know Cadvan in his youth and to see his growth from immature folly into the wiser character we know much later. And now I feel like reading the main series again.

Alyssa says

Guys I need more information about this book. PRONTO. STAT. ASAP. NOOOOW. :O

Sonia says

I FINALLY HAVE THIS IN MY HANDS!!! I AM SO HAPPY! (I forgot most of the plot of the series though....as it has been 7 years si NC e I last read anythin pertaining to this series... ?_?)

SINCE WHEN DID THIS HAVE A COVER!?!?!?

and it's already release overseas????!! Book depository here I come!!!!

Sseonana says

Croggon is the best current High Fantasy author and deserves more recognition for her work. The Pellinor series is often compared to Tolkein, and although it's clear that his writings have influenced her style and worldbuilding, allegations or plagiarism the series has attracted are unfair and unfounded. The quest narrative has been existence since people started telling stories, and it's common knowledge that Tolkein himself drew on mythologies and social structures of Ancient Norse and Medieval European societies. Croggon reworks the classic fantasy tropes (chivalry, Good Vs Evil themes, quest narrative, unlikely hero) which Tolkein made popular to produce a tale that is ultimately richer and more accessible than The Lord of Rings.

The Bone Queen is an excellent introduction to the series, developing some of the key characters and setting up the events of the later books whilst still telling its own story. Well paced and unpredictable, it completely draws you into the world Croggon constructs. It's given me the bug to re-read the whole series again. Have yet to find another fantasy series that compares to this one.

charlotte says

Rep: wlw characters

tbh i would probably have dnfed this if cadvan hadnt been one of those character types i am Weak for and if i hadnt loved him from the start and if he and dernhil hadnt interacted as they did (basically cadvan carried this book for me). there wasnt all that much action in this, and when there was, it seemed a bit not thought through, and there was So Much Description i almost died.

Alexa says

It's been years since I first read the Pellinor series, so I had forgotten what Alison Croggon's writing style was like. I'll admit that it took me a while to get used to it, and I very nearly thought it wouldn't click. But it certainly worked out, and I found this prequel quite interesting.

Sasha Moore says

I am so happy I was in the UK to get this book pre-ordered sooner than in the states. I really love the other four books in this series and it was a great joy to see characters I love at a younger age. I want to reread all the books now! Besides the world she has created, I love how beautiful many of Alison's sentences are. I love how much she values poetry, music, and beauty in her world.

Matthew Turner says

The original four books of Pellinor are among my favourite works of fiction and so it was with some trepidation that I approached this new story, set approximately 50 years before the events of 'the gift'. I am glad to be able to say that I was not disappointed, Croggon's writing is as breathtakingly beautiful and engaging as ever, her characters as wonderfully developed and explored. I especially loved being introduced properly to Milana, Dorn and Pellinor itself-these moments were particularly poignant, and viscerally upsetting when Enkir is concerned, given the revelations of 'the gift'. Although there were some plot weaknesses (the worst offender being possibly a touch of ret-conning regarding the 'circles') and a somewhat hurried ending, 'the bone queen' manages to expand even further the world and people of Edil-Amarandh and is a worthy addition to the previous four books. For optimal enjoyment I would recommend reading the original quartet first- especially for the full emotional impact of Dernhil's character and the scenes set in Pellinor- but 'the bone queen' stands perfectly well on its own two feet as an excellent read.

Kirsti says

I was first attracted to this book by the beautiful cover, and even the knowledge that it was a prequel to a series I haven't read couldn't put me off. I don't think I actually needed to read the series first; I felt like this stood up all on it's own. I loved the lyrical, almost sleepy writing. Everything from eating bread to washing your hands sounded pretty. At the same time I was intrigued by the world created, and I wondered what the actual series would focus on. It's definitely on my radar now!

All in all, I enjoyed this high fantasy. Four stars!

Leah (Jane Speare) says

I loved accidentally stumbling upon this arc! I had no idea there would be a new Pellinor book. This is a rich backstory to Cadvan's earlier years. While there aren't any romantic relationships, there are a number of incredibly well written friendships and other kinds of relationships which I found wholly satisfying and genuine. It was fun to jump back into this world.

(I'm always a sucker for Aussie fantasy books. :))

Lindsay (LindsayHWrites) says

Every sentence had the same cadence, so I couldn't force myself through this one, even though I really wanted to love it.

Molly says

I loved being able to revisit this world. I have read the Books of Pellinor series at least 4 times already and I can not get enough of the world these characters are in. I first read them when I was in 9th grade and I fell in love with them.

Reading the first 4 books I had always wondered what it was that Cadvan had actually done and being able to have Dernhil in the story too was wonderful, as well as all the other familiar characters. My only regret is that the cover of "The Bone Queen" will not match my other books and I still want more story. Short stories like the special one sent out by email not too long ago about Maerad.

A novella maybe about Cadvan and Maerad after the events of "The Singing".

Shannon (Mrsreadsbooks) says

I should have looked into this book a bit more before just reading it after I received a copy from the publisher. I didn't realize it was a prequel to a series I have not read, whoops.

I had high hopes for this book as it sounded like an interesting high fantasy book. But I really just wasn't that interested in the story or the characters. Perhaps this is because, as I stated, I didn't realize it was a prequel to a series that I needed to read before reading this book. I just didn't find myself becoming very invested in the characters or the story itself. I hope that fans of the series will enjoy this, as they would actually know what is going on at a more in depth level.

Thank you to the publisher for sending me an advanced reading copy of this book.

Jeanna says

Not as good as the original quartet but it did have its moments.

In this prequel to The Books of Pellinor series, readers follow Cadvan as he tries to rid the world of the evil he summoned. The Bone Queen is unleashed and with every passing day, she grows stronger, capable of villainy the world has not seen before. Faced with a perilous journey, Nelac and Dernhil join Cadvan to defeat the Dark and restore peace to the land. The Bone Queen by Alison Croggon is sure to have your stomach in knots by the end with anxiety.

The Naming by Alison Croggon became the start of my love for high fantasy novels. Set in a truly magnificent world, Croggon places her readers right into an unbelievable plot. When I discovered she was making a prequel to the series, I couldn't have been happier. The Bone Queen is set in Northern Annar, giving readers new places to delve deeper in to the world Croggon created so long ago. The novel takes place fifty years before the events of The Naming.

I recommend reading the quartet, The Books of Pellinor, first because as much as there is an author's note in the beginning—which explains little of Croggon's world—most of the world building happens in the quartet. Going into The Bone Queen without the initial world introduction may make readers confused about the magic system and the different places. The Bone Queen, though chronologically happens first, continues building the world as if readers already know all about it.

Croggon adds new characters and settings that are only briefly discussed in the original series. The characters are developed gorgeously. Each character gave a new surprise to the story and right in the center was Cadvan. In The Books of Pellinor series, I always liked Cadvan. He was mysterious and secretive, yet well-written and interesting. With the focus on Cadvan in the prequel, readers finally get to delve deeper into his character and discover who he is. New characters bring new surprises. Selmana quickly became a favorite of mine. She was a fierce heroine who could stand her own amongst even the strongest of foes.

Close to the end, there seemed to be a romance that—given time—would probably have developed nicely. However, the romance fell flat and was a strange obsession with a rescuer than anything else. Croggon kept throwing around the word "love" when describing the two characters but their story together seemed too rushed, begging for something to be there when there really wasn't.

Croggon is a wonderful writer of high fantasy, showing readers a world we can easily get lost in. The story itself has so many layers, so many facets Croggon could explore if she wanted to write even more stories in her world. Despite the depth of the plot, the story is incredibly simple, something readers have all seen before: a fight against good and evil. However, Croggon develops the world and characters tremendously well, giving readers a fantastic adventure we will be sure to return to again and again.

I was sorely disappointed with the amount of action. There seemed to be a lot of talk and not a whole lot of saving the world. This made for the plot to trek continuously in circles, going through the same discussions on how to defeat the evil and save the day. The ending was a set up for a new beginning. And readers of The Books of Pellinor series will find that it flows nicely into The Naming.

If you love classic high fantasy like Lord of the Rings and The Chronicles of Narnia, you will love this series.
