



The Bone Garden: A Novel

By Tess Gerritsen

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BONUS: This edition contains an excerpt from Tess Gerritsen's *Die Again*.

Unknown bones, untold secrets, and unsolved crimes from the distant past cast ominous shadows on the present in the dazzling new thriller from New York Times bestselling author Tess Gerritsen.

Present day: Julia Hamill has made a horrifying discovery on the grounds of her new home in rural Massachusetts: a skull buried in the rocky soil—human, female, and, according to the trained eye of Boston medical examiner Maura Isles, scarred with the unmistakable marks of murder. But whoever this nameless woman was, and whatever befell her, is knowledge lost to another time. . . .

Boston, 1830: In order to pay for his education, Norris Marshall, a talented but penniless student at Boston Medical College, has joined the ranks of local “resurrectionists”—those who plunder graveyards and harvest the dead for sale on the black market. Yet even this ghoulish commerce pales beside the shocking murder of a nurse found mutilated on the university hospital grounds. And when a distinguished doctor meets the same grisly fate, Norris finds that trafficking in the illicit cadaver trade has made him a prime suspect.

To prove his innocence, Norris must track down the only witness to have glimpsed the killer: Rose Connolly, a beautiful seamstress from the Boston slums who fears she may be the next victim. Joined by a sardonic, keenly intelligent young man named Oliver Wendell Holmes, Norris and Rose comb the city—from its grim cemeteries and autopsy suites to its glittering mansions and centers of Brahmin power—on the trail of a maniacal fiend who lurks where least expected . . . and who waits for his next lethal opportunity.

With unflagging suspense and pitch-perfect period detail, *The Bone Garden* deftly interweaves the thrilling narratives of its nineteenth- and twenty-first century protagonists, tracing the dark mystery at its heart across time and place to a finale as ingeniously conceived as it is shocking. Bold, bloody, and brilliant, this is Tess Gerritsen’s finest achievement to date.

"An old mystery is crossed with a modern story in the latest from Gerritsen (*The Mephisto Club*, 2006, etc.). Julia Hamill, newly divorced and still smarting,

purchases an old house outside Boston. Determined to dig a garden, she instead finds the bones of a long-dead woman—the apparent victim of murder—which starts her on a journey to ferret out the story behind her death. Julia connects with Henry, a no-nonsense 89-year-old with boxes of documents that once belonged to the now-deceased previous owner of Julia's home. The two discover a mystery dating back to the 1830s. At the heart of it is a baby named Meggie, born to the beautiful but doomed Irish chambermaid, Aurnia. Married to a man who cares nothing for her, Aurnia lays dying in a maternity ward with her sister, Rose, at her side. Rose, a spirited 17-year-old, takes Meggie to protect her from Aurnia's husband, but soon finds herself the target of a bizarre manhunt. Someone is after the child—and Rose, as well, because she witnessed a horrifying murder. The body count piles up as Rose struggles to remain free of those who would take Meggie from her. Meanwhile, a young medical student becomes the chief suspect of the West End Reaper killings when he stumbles onto another terrible homicide. Although he fights the prospect, eventually he and Rose join forces to solve the murders and protect the baby at the heart of the mysterious deaths. Readers with delicate stomachs may find Gerritsen's graphic descriptions of corpse dissection hard to take, but the story, which digs up a dark Boston of times long past, entices readers to keep turning pages long after their bedtimes."

- *Kirkus Reviews* (starred)



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

At the start of this disappointing stand-alone thriller from bestseller Gerritsen (*The Mephisto Club*), 38-year-old divorcée Julia Hamill discovers a skeleton buried in the garden of the Boston house she's just moved into; the ring found with the remains was in fashion in the 1830s, the fractured bones suggest murder.

Flashback to 1830: medical student Norris Marshall, an outcast among his wealthier classmates, meets Rose Connolly in a Boston maternity ward, where Rose's sister recently died of childbirth fever. When several gutted bodies turn up in deserted alleyways, Rose and Norris are the only ones to catch a glimpse of the killer, dubbed the West End Reaper. Norris, Rose and Norris's fellow student, Oliver Wendell Holmes, race to uncover the truth behind the slayings, which will remind many of Jack the Ripper's crimes. In the present, Julia is able to trace their progress with the help of a relative of the house's former owner. Unfortunately, neither the present nor the historical story line maintains the suspense necessary for a whodunit spanning several generations. (*Sept.*)

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From [Booklist](#)

Medical examiner Maura Isles returns in another thriller that joins past and present. In the present, in the backyard of Julia Hamill's old Boston house, a long-buried body is unearthed. In 1830, long before the invention of the term serial killer, medical student Norris Marshall is accused of being a mass murderer. To dig himself out from under suspicion, Norris seeks help from a fellow student, one Oliver Wendell Holmes. Together they pursue the cold-hearted killer, while, in the present day, Julia Hamill tries to find out the identity of the body buried in her backyard. As her fans well know, this is not Gerritsen's first shot at combining the modern and the historical. Yet it reads as though it might be: it's clunky, with overly familiar plotting and an attempt at 1830s-era dialogue that's often painful to the ear. Incorporating real people into historical fiction is a well-worn device, and while the author succeeds in bringing Holmes vividly to life, she doesn't really do anything particularly special with him—a fictional character would have served the story just as well. This is a passable thriller—Gerritsen does generate a fair amount of suspense—but it fails to come together on any level beyond plot. Recommendable, finally, only because the author's many fans will want to read it. Pitt, David

Review

Praise for The Mephisto Club

“Equally fascinating and horrifying . . . The pages seem to turn themselves.”

—The Boston Globe

“Powerful . . . white-knuckle suspense at its finest.”

—Mississippi Clarion-Ledger

“A potpourri of thrills.”

—Orlando Sentinel

“A tale that will keep readers feverishly turning pages.”

—Newsday

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Dorothy Roper:

Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their free time with their family, or their particular friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic from the park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? May be reading a book might be option to fill your free time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of e-book that you should read. If you want to attempt look for book, may be the e-book untitled The Bone Garden: A Novel can be great book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

Leonard Bartow:

Exactly why? Because this The Bone Garden: A Novel is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will surprise you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who else write the book in such remarkable way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning totally. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book get such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I have been you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

Shalon Dougherty:

Reading can called mind hangout, why? Because when you are reading a book specifically book entitled The Bone Garden: A Novel your mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every aspect that maybe unfamiliar for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging just about every word written in a book then become one contact form conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get previous to. The The Bone Garden: A Novel giving you one more experience more than blown away your brain but also giving you useful details for your better life on this era. So now let us demonstrate the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished examining it, like winning an activity. Do you want to try this extraordinary wasting spare time activity?

Charlotte Neville:

As a college student exactly feel bored to be able to reading. If their teacher asked them to go to the library or to make summary for some book, they are complained. Just small students that has reading's heart or real their interest. They just do what the educator want, like asked to go to the library. They go to presently there but nothing reading really. Any students feel that looking at is not important, boring and also can't see colorful photos on there. Yeah, it is to get complicated. Book is very important for you personally. As we know that on this age, many ways to get whatever you want. Likewise word says, ways to reach Chinese's

country. Therefore , this The Bone Garden: A Novel can make you truly feel more interested to read.

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