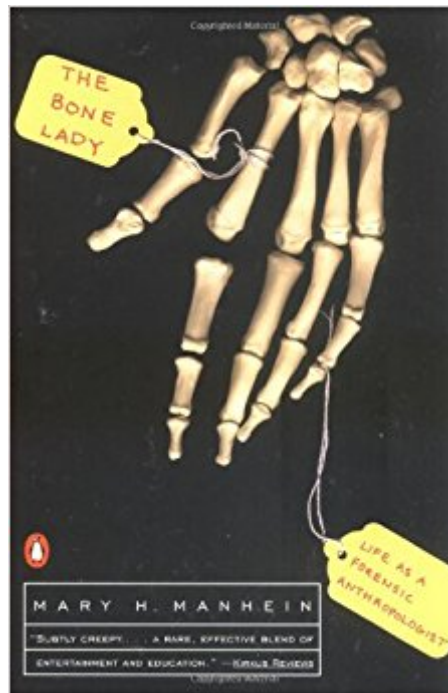


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The Bone Lady: Life As A Forensic Anthropologist



Synopsis

When a skeleton is all that's left to tell the story of a crime, Mary H. Manhein, otherwise known as "the bone lady," is called in. For almost two decades, Manhein has used her expertise in forensic pathology to help law enforcement agents--locally, nationally, and internationally--solve their most perplexing mysteries. She shares the extraordinary details of the often high-profile cases on which she works, and the science underlying her analyses. Here are Civil War skeletons, cases of alleged voodoo and witchcraft, crimes of political intrigue, and the before-and-after of facial reconstruction. Written with the compassion and humor of a born storyteller, *The Bone Lady* is an unforgettable glimpse into the lab where one scientist works to reveal the human stories behind the remains.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I just received *The Bone Lady* by Mary Manhein from a friend who knows how interested I am in forensics. Kirkus Reviews called this book "A rare, effective blend of entertainment and education." I can't agree. Well, it's educational, I'll give it that. But it's not in the least eerie, as the back cover claims. Dr. Manhein may be a riveting oral storyteller but it does not come across in her writing, which, apart from the requisite touch at the beginning of each chapter meant to hook you ("It was a cold March day") rapidly devolves into descriptive narrative I sometimes wondered what the point of was, especially as in many cases the examination didn't even reveal the cause of death. Much of it was simply filler. Style wasn't bad, but readability varied and I suspect her editor worked very hard with her. Even so, a few unedifying sentences slipped through ("Corresponding inferior facets of the

atlas articulate with the superior facets of the second vertebrae, ...").The format, each "case" presented in a two- or three-page chapter that usually ends rather flat, was the wrong way to go, in my opinion. It tended to highlight just how insignificant her contribution often was, and fostered the suspicion that this was hyped up for an easy sell just because there is so much interest in CSI-type stuff lately. In *Under the Porch*, the gunshot victim's identity was in the billfold on the body; the Coroner just needed her to confirm the age. There was no mystery as to the killer. The crime scene investigators solved that when they found his own gun next to him.

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