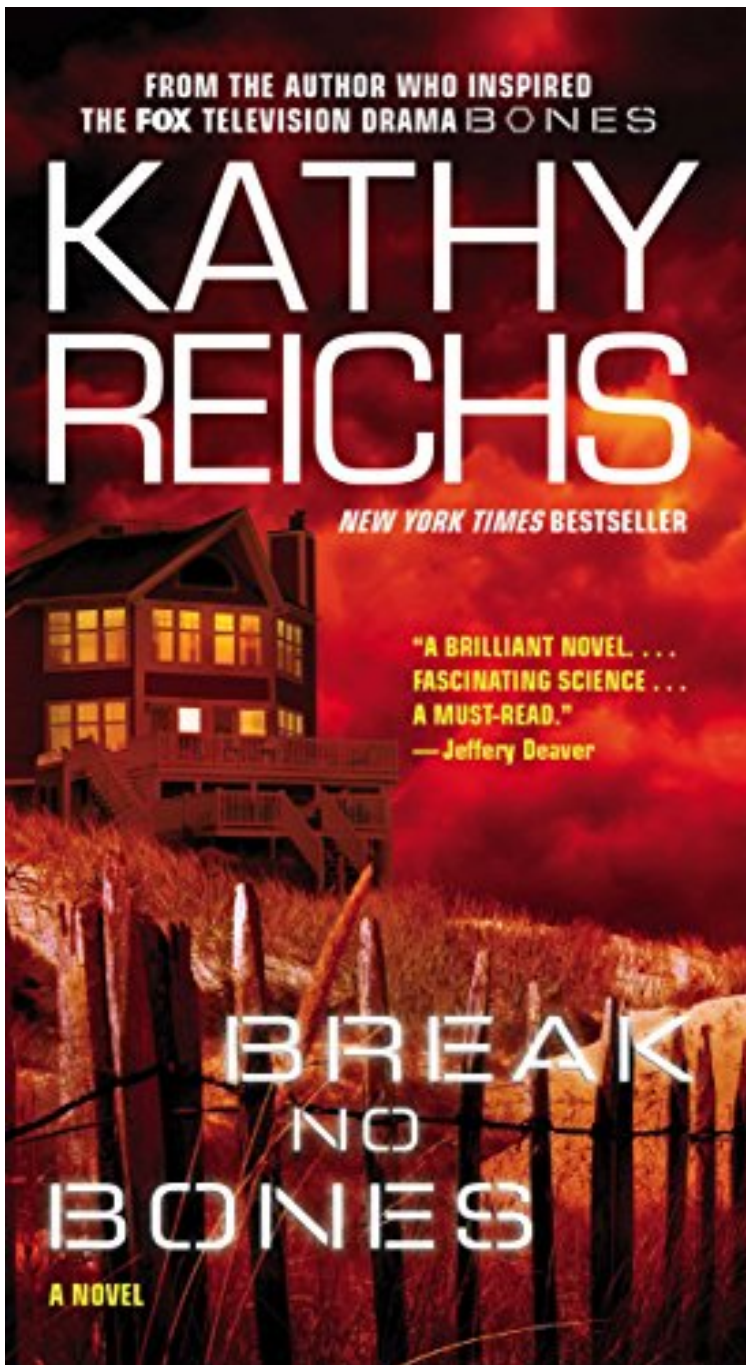


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Break No Bones: A Novel



Par Kathy Reichs
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Description :

Prsentation de l'diteurFrom bestselling author Kathy Reichs a book set in Charleston, South Carolina, the center of a lucrative, clandestine, sophisticated trade in body parts, the kind that leaves the donor dead.Summoned to South Carolina to fill in for a negligent colleague, Tempe is stuck teaching a lackluster

archaeology field school in the ruins of a Native American burial ground on the Charleston shore. But when Tempe stumbles upon a fresh skeleton among the ancient bones, her old friend Emma Rousseau, the local coroner, persuades her to stay on and help with the investigation. When Emma reveals a disturbing secret, it becomes more important than ever for Tempe to help her friend close the case. The body count begins to climb. An unidentified man is found hanging from a tree deep in the woods. Another corpse shows up in a barrel. There are mysterious nicks on bones in several bodies, and signs of strangulation. Tempe follows the trail to a free street clinic with a belligerent staff, a suspicious doctor, and a donor who is a charismatic televangelist. Clues abound in the most unlikely places as Tempe uses her unique knowledge and skills to build her case, even as the local sheriff remains dubious and her own life is threatened. Tempe's love life is also complicated. Ryan, her current flame, has come down to visit her from Montreal, and Pete, her former husband, is investigating the disappearance of a local woman and he and Tempe are staying in the same borrowed beach house. Ryan and Pete compete for her attentions, and Tempe finds herself more distracted by her feelings for both men than she expected. *Break No Bones* is a smart, taut thriller featuring the kind of high-stakes crime that makes the headlines every week. Reichs, the inspiration for the hit Fox TV show *Bones*, is writing at the top of her form, and Tempe has never been more compelling. It must be harder and harder for Kathy Reichs to keep each new novel as forceful and dramatic as the one before--not that delicate effects (which are not Reichs' thing!) are particularly easy, but there is a danger in a certain fatigue setting in for the reader when an author puts them so comprehensively through the ringer with each novel as Reichs does. *Break No Bones* is proof positive that the author still knows how to cannily ring the changes on the theme of her earlier work--this one is every bit as unsettling as *Bare Bones* or *Grave Secrets*, but the path Reichs takes to our pulse rate is somewhat different. Dr. Temperance Brennan is working with her students at an archaeological field school on an Island near Charleston, South Carolina. A decomposing corpse is discovered in a shallow grave, showing evidence (connected vertebra, etc.) that the body has not been dead for long. While engaged in this mystery, Tempe's own life encounters real havoc when a bullet, possibly meant for her, hospitalises her estranged husband Peter; and her new relationship with Detective Andrew Ryan is in trouble. But, as so often before, cracking a mystery may cost her her life. All of this is handled with the assurance that we have come to expect from Reichs, but there are new things here: Reichs' sense of structure has always been strongly linear, but the extra looseness of the narrative pays dividends in disorienting the reader. Set pieces, too, are more integrated, though with all the usual capacity to raise hairs on the back of the neck. When so many authors are repeating themselves to ever-diminishing effect, it's good to see Reichs is clearly not content to rest on her laurels. --Barry Forshaw

From Publishers Weekly

The success of the Fox TV show *Bones*, based on bestseller Reichs's series featuring forensic anthropologist Temperance Brennan (*Cross Bones*, etc.), bodes well for this latest installment, in which Brennan once again stumbles on a modern-day mystery inadvertently. While supervising a dig of Native American burial grounds in Charleston, S.C., Brennan finds more recent remains. Soon, her ex-husband, who's a lawyer, appears in town, pursuing leads in a missing persons case connected with a local church. Bodies start piling up at an alarming rate, and Brennan begins to suspect that the deaths are linked to each other and her ex-husband's inquiry. Reichs's down-to-earth heroine is an appealing creation, who deftly juggles personal problems with professional challenges. Despite the somewhat obvious solution, this novel confirms the series' place in the front rank of the ever-expanding forensic thriller subgenre. (July) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.