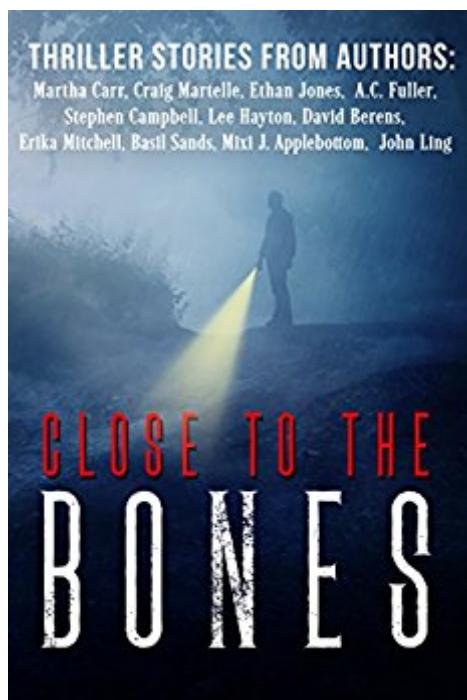


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Close To The Bones: A Thriller Anthology



Synopsis

Eleven talented authors. Eleven remarkable thrill rides. One incredible thriller collection. From the frozen waste to a tropical paradise, nowhere is safe. Nearly 350 pages of thriller short stories to capture your imagination and keep you on the edge of your seat. Start at the beginning and you may find that you can't stop until you've reached the end. A Bedtime Bones Story by Martha Carr. "Sometimes the darkest moments can set us free." Paranoid in Paradise by Craig Martelle. "Attitude can make anywhere a paradise, until the kidnappings begin." Green Lake Bones by A.C. Fuller. "Elite Indie Reads anticipates that A.C. Fuller will soon be a household name." • Elite Indie Reads Knuckle Bones by David Berens. "Someone is sending finger bones to the U.S. Embassy in Afghanistan and it's up to Troy Bodean to figure out who they belong to and why they're no longer attached." The Spy Who Came in from the East Coast by Erika Mitchell. "What makes this series so pleasurable to read is Bai himself, his somewhat snarky attitude and self doubt make him more than the mere superhero jumping into the chaos to save the day." Jeff Ayers for Suspense Magazine Fatherlands by Basil Sands. "Based on a true family story, Fatherlands blends history, action, and suspense in a tale of espionage, murder and a flight to freedom, all beneath the gaze of the Midnight Sun." The Interrogator by John Ling. "An engaging thriller that investigates the psychology of fanaticism." San Francisco Book Review The Backpack by Ethan Jones. "Justin is such an awesome character Read in one sitting. Lots action." Reviewer Girl Will Frame by Mixi J Applebottom. "Why does a small-town woman make a decision with terrifying consequences?" Catching the Edge by Stephen Campbell. "You had me at elegantly sleek woman crawling across the bed, damned good story!" The Dark Imprint by Lee Hayton. "When Bretta actions a job for the police, her work reveals a serial killer who may prove to be unstoppable."

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Customer Reviews

Wonderful run through the whole gamut of thrillers, from psychological twists to torture scenarios, from murder secrets to media hostage-taking. Two stood out for me for their fine, polished craft and well-woven plots: "The Spy Who Came in from the East Coast by Erika Mitchell and "Green Lake Bones" by A. C. Fuller. All the stories had really good tales at their heart, and they all were fresh scenarios for me and there wasn't one I could put down before getting to the end. A Hawaiian vacation, a short job as companion to a dying, secretive man, interrogation terrors, a kid's backpack at school, hand and toe bones on a trail to a surprise ending--well, best you go read them all and be thoroughly diverted from your humdrum day!

Fantastic collection of short stories! I normally am not a fan of reading collections like this, but it has some authors included that I really enjoy so thought I'd check it out. I am not disappointed! Well done to all of them.

This anthology has several of our favorite authors appearing. Craig Martelle, Martha Carr, and Stephen Campbell to name a few. The stories are thrillers taking place around the world. I was very glad to see Mr. Martelle include a story about one of my favorite characters, Rick Banik. It appears Rick can't even take his wife on a vacation without falling into trouble. John Ling, a new author for us, pulls back the curtains and gives us a peek into what motivates a fanatic. The stories are well written and hold true to the promise of the book cover.

A collection of stories with a common theme, Close to the Bones has contributions from eleven authors. Only three of the stories failed to hold my interest. Read the short descriptions below to find out which ones. The first two stories and the last story are worth the investment of time and money.

Priced at USD 4.99 on , I opted for the KU subscription option and read it for the subscription price.1. Bedtime Bones Story by Martha Carr Amy Simmons is a most unlikely hero. Newly graduated and looking for her first job, she surprised herself with her growing satisfaction at being hired to read stories to a man on death's door. She felt there was more to the man's situation than what appeared on the surface. After a series of Nancy Drew like investigation attempts, the dying man finally told her a secret. She probably could have done without the confidence.2. The Dark Imprint by Lee Hayton People leave evidence of their presence after death. Bretta Ariel can read the imprints left behind. The police are interested in her abilities to solve cold cases. Bretta is looking for a full-time job. Each time she enters a mental state from which she can read these imprints, she risks losing a bit of herself. How badly does she need a job?3. Fatherlands by Basil Sands This story is one of the better spy short stories I have read. There is a lot of interesting cultural information about turn-of-the-twentieth century society in Europe and the US.4. Paranoid in Paradise by Craig Martelle In a contrast with Fatherlands, this is one of the most unexciting stories I read. There are too many coincidences so readers have to be willing to suspend belief. There are multiple agents from different spy agencies who just happen to be in a hotel area. A hotel "floating" employee, hired to give kiosk employees a break, is also a spy. A garrulous police officer who is quite willing to talk about police methodology to a wife of one of the spies is fortuitously present. This is a story detached from reality.5. The Spy Who Came in from the East Coast by Erika Mitchell A story along the lines of "You can't go home again." Daniel is a spy; he hasn't seen his family for seven years. On his first vacation home, he confronts the problem of what to talk about. His worries were unfounded. They had somewhat figured out what he did for a living and they had a mission for him. Just help Uncle Johnny get rid of the problem he had with a gang that was blackmailing him. This is another story set in unreality.6. Catching the Edge by Stephen Campbell Another story of coming home, this time from the war in Afghanistan. Reggie Carpenter graduated from law school but joined the Marines looking for adventure. After six years of excitement, he was home working as a private investigator for the family law firm run by his twin sister. While on a date, he received a wrong number call demanding ransom for a five-year-old girl. His date didn't want him to pursue the matter. The police wanted him to abandon the case. Reggie didn't listen well. Maybe he had hearing loss from the war. But there would be an almost happy ending.7. Girl Will Frame by Mixi J. Applebottom John is her husband, Sam is her brother and her baby was born dead. We don't know who she is but she has resolved to kill herself and frame her husband for her murder. She can't decide exactly how to do it and leave proof behind that will send her husband to jail. What did he do to deserve such a strange revenge? He was not present with her at the hospital the night her baby

was born dead. She tried and tried to call him but there was never an answer or return call. He was probably with his secretary but she wasn't sure about that. She was just sure that she would kill herself and her husband would pay.⁸ Knucklebones by David Berens An interesting story about an unusually highly placed US government officer in Afghanistan being kidnapped and held for ransom. While ransom negotiations are going on, parts of the kidnap victim are returned incrementally to officials who are arguing about paying the ransom. There is a highly entertaining account of lower ranking US helicopter pilots negotiating with Afghan citizens who might or might not be the enemy.⁹ The Interrogator by John Ling Haron Omar was pulled out of his home and subjected to interrogation by the rendition team. Top level interrogator Karim would manage the step-by-step program that would lead to Omar's confession. Omar claimed innocence but as Karim told him, "Everyone is innocent ... until they are not." And Karim was always right ... until he wasn't.¹⁰ The Backpack by Ethan Jones This is a pure non-stop action car chase story with a few other things added. You won't put this short story down after starting it. It's good.¹¹ Green Lake Bones by A. C. Fuller This last story is the best of the collection not only because it is so topical about trends in fake news but because it is a well-told (written) story. Can you imagine a time when CNN, Fox News, and the cable news channels all cease transmission at the same time? A. C. Fuller can and explains why.

There is a bit for afficionados of every stripe¹². Personally, all the writers had edge-of-your-seat, non-stop action, well-done laid plots and believable characters. Several left me wanting more, and only one left me somewhat perplexed. But that's personal, and no spoilers will be dropped here. I love anthologies, and recommend you get this one and give it your consideration.

Great sample of Ethan's writing on Justin Hall. If you are interested in action packed books this is a great opportunity to be introduced to his writing.

Difficult to sleep after reading this.

Close to the Bones: A Thriller Anthology is a great read. The stories are intriguing and full of suspense that keeps¹³ you turning the pages. Even though the stories are shorter, they pack a punch and are well developed with some great characters. The story by A.C. Fuller is top-notch. I¹⁴ have read all his books and love them. There are 11 stores in all and some new authors that I have discovered such as Craig Martelle, Martha Carr, and other authors I am familiar with like Ethan

Jones and Lee Hayton who always have great storylines and characters. Don't miss out, and reward yourself with a copy of this book. You won't be disappointed. I received an advanced copy of this book and this review is my own and done voluntarily.

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