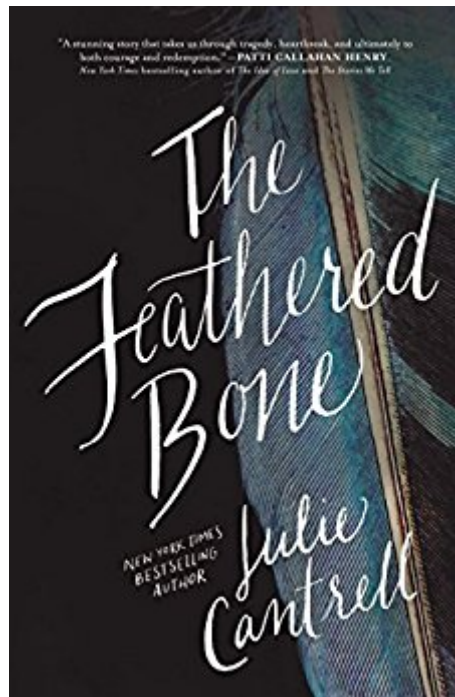


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The Feathered Bone



Synopsis

“no matter what size or shape or color” are all the same, if you think about them. They’re soft. Delicate. But the secret thing about feathers is . . . they are very strong. In the pre-Katrina glow of New Orleans, Amanda Salassi is anxious about chaperoning her daughter’s sixth-grade field trip to the Big Easy during Halloween. And then her worst fears come true. Her daughter’s best friend, Sarah, disappears amid the magic and revelry “gone, without a trace.” Unable to cope with her guilt, Amanda’s daughter sinks into depression. And Amanda’s husband turns destructive as he watches his family succumb to grief. Before long, Amanda’s whole world has collapsed. Amanda knows she has to save herself before it’s too late. As she continues to search for Sarah, she embarks on a personal journey, seeking hope and purpose in the wake of so much tragedy and loss. Set amidst the murky parishes of rural Louisiana and told through the eyes of two women who confront the darkest corners of humanity with quiet and unbreakable faith, *The Feathered Bone* is Julie Cantrell’s master portrait of love in a fallen world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I really struggled with how to review this book. I'm giving it a 2, not because it's a poorly written book, but because I wanted to offer a contrasting review to those who are giving it high ratings. (I know that personally, I always look at the 1 and 2 star ratings to find out why some people had a different perspective, so that's what I offer here) Julie Cantrell's "Into the Free" series was just beautiful, so I looked forward to reading this one, "The Feathered Bone" as well. However, this book was just far too sad for me. While I'm sure the author intended it to be a "triumph over tragedy" story that shows how even through the darkest of circumstances, life must go on and it can go on with faith and renewed hope, I did not reach the end of this book and feel hope. I felt devastated. I really think that your perspective on this book will have a lot to do with your personal faith, your own comfort level and how willing you are to face your worst fears and believe there is still hope on the other side of horrible things happening to you. The main character in this book, Amanda, and those around her, face so many difficult things that as a reader, it's hard not to feel assaulted such a range of negative emotions that you almost want to set the book aside. It doesn't start off that way. If you picked up the book, you already know the basic premise. I'll admit, at first, I couldn't turn the pages fast enough, but I think that's because the human heart wants to hope and I couldn't wait to get to the positive outcome after so much heartbreak.

I'll begin with the end, the part where I turned the last page, wiping away tears of joy, relief, and wonder at the stunning, beautiful truth captured in this extraordinary story. My awe mixed with gratitude for the God who blessed this author with the sanctified imagination that allowed her to transform an idea into a novel in which every word is a gift. Powerful. Deeply true. Hauntingly beautiful. Stunning, in every sense. From its very first line, *The Feathered Bone* held me captive, hitting all my marks dead-on. I was dazzled by the unusual energy bound up in its prose, an almost-restlessness so appropriate to the story that reminded me of the jazz made famous by the city in which much of this novel takes place. The story took me deep, deep into the depravity of man and the brokenness of this fallen world. But it didn't leave me there, oh no. It brought me back again not as I was before, but enriched, because I returned with a renewed hold on hope and the promise of goodness. The emotional payoff was huge because Julie Cantrell dared to dive so deep. I couldn't have foreseen that she would go where she did. She shocked me honestly shocked. Wait I remember thinking as my eyes raced ahead "is she really going there? No way.

Yet she did. And then she kept going. The story was so gripping that I wanted to speed to the end, yet I was compelled to linger so that I might savor every elegantly scripted theme, each of them so lovely and so real. If someone had told me that a single novel could contain all the heavy issues in this one (sorry, I can't name them else I would spoil it for you), while allowing readers to emerge on the other side completely uplifted, I would have declared it practically undoable.

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