

## Rule of the Bone: A Novel


*By Russell Banks*


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The story of a homeless youth living on the edge of society - a lost boy who maps the cruel world that surrounds him with wit, humour and appalling honesty.

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## **Rule of the Bone: A Novel** By Russell Banks Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #4347529 in Books
- Published on: 1995-06-26
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Binding: Hardcover
- 320 pages

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## **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

A change in setting halfway through this ambitious novel by the respected author of *Continental Drift* and *Affliction* diminishes its effectiveness to a certain degree. The first half, a starkly realistic, powerful portrait of a troubled adolescent whose life has spiraled out of control, packs a visceral punch. Flunking out of school and already hooked on drugs, the 14-year-old narrator, secretly molested by his stepfather, emotionally abandoned by his weak mother, leaves his mobile home in the depressed upstate New York community of Au Sable and becomes a homeless mall rat. In a burst of bravado, he acquires a crossed bones tattoo, changes his name from Chappie to Bone, and attempts to find some focus in his dead-end existence. Convinced that he is destined for a criminal career, Bone vents his anger in acts of senseless destruction. His vulnerability and his need for love and direction are fused when he and a seven-year-old waif he has rescued from a pedophile take refuge in an abandoned schoolbus with an illegal alien from Jamaica called I-Man, whose Rastafarian wisdom and gentle demeanor are fed by liberal consumption of marijuana, which he deals. It is when Bone follows I-Man to Jamaica that the narrative falters. Though the drug-permeated Jamaican milieu is portrayed with impressive authenticity, the improbability of Bone's macabre adventures there frays the plot's credibility. The novel's strengths-Bone's cool, wisecracking voice and colloquial speech, the details of an adolescent's culture-are diluted by its excesses-too many descriptions of marijuana highs, too many coincidences. Yet one finishes the book with indelible sympathy for tough-guy Bone, touched by his loneliness, fear and desperation, and having absorbed Banks's message: that (as he said recently), society's failure to save its children is "the main unrecognized tragedy of our time." 100,000 first printing; \$15,000 ad/promo; author tour.

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From School Library Journal

YA?Banks is that rarest of beasts, a writer with daring, skill, and heart. His latest book is equally rare?an adult novel about 14-year-old Bone, told from his perspective with corresponding jargon and without ridicule. From the first page, YAs will be captivated?"Anyhow, my life got interesting you might say the summer I turned fourteen and was heavy into weed but I didn't have any money to buy it with so I started looking around the house all the time for things I could sell but there wasn't much." The boy has a disturbed stepfather, a long-suffering mother, and a long-gone father. The first half of the book chronicles his willing but innocent drift into criminality. His life takes a turn for the better when he moves into an abandoned school bus with a Jamaican mystic. He travels to Jamaica with "I-man," and there he finds his self-centered druggie father, turns 15, is sexually initiated, and loses I-man in a violent drug deal. The remarkable narration immerses readers in Bone's self-contained world. The plentiful dialogue is rendered without quotation marks, a quirk that contributes to the almost claustrophobic feeling of being inside the teen's head. Yet, the power of being there is that when Bone begins to mature and break out of his world, so do readers. This novel is raw and moving. Buy it.?Chip Barnett, Rockbridge Regional Library, Lexington, VA

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From Library Journal

Banks (*Continental Drift*, LJ 4/15/85) has found a new voice in this tale about a homeless youth on the edge of society.

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Michael Chapman:**

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent all their spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open or maybe read a book titled Rule of the Bone: A Novel? Maybe it is being best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time with the favorite's book, you can smarter than before. Do you agree with the opinion or you have different opinion?

#### **Faye Wilson:**

Reading a publication tends to be new life style in this particular era globalization. With reading through you can get a lot of information that will give you benefit in your life. Along with book everyone in this world could share their idea. Books can also inspire a lot of people. Plenty of author can inspire their reader with their story or maybe their experience. Not only situation that share in the books. But also they write about advantage about something that you need example of this. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your kids, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors these days always try to improve their proficiency in writing, they also doing some analysis before they write for their book. One of them is this Rule of the Bone: A Novel.

#### **Terry Tatum:**

People live in this new day time of lifestyle always make an effort to and must have the spare time or they will get lots of stress from both daily life and work. So , once we ask do people have time, we will say absolutely yes. People is human not really a huge robot. Then we question again, what kind of activity do you have when the spare time coming to you actually of course your answer will certainly unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading publications. It can be your alternative with spending your spare time, typically the book you have read will be Rule of the Bone: A Novel.

#### **Joseph Levis:**

Do you like reading a guide? Confuse to looking for your preferred book? Or your book was rare? Why so many concern for the book? But any people feel that they enjoy to get reading. Some people likes examining, not only science book but in addition novel and Rule of the Bone: A Novel or maybe others sources were given expertise for you. After you know how the good a book, you feel desire to read more and more. Science publication was created for teacher or even students especially. Those books are helping them to put their knowledge. In some other case, beside science publication, any other book likes Rule of the Bone: A Novel to make your spare time a lot more colorful. Many types of book like this one.

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