



Skeleton Man (A Leaphorn and Chee Novel)

By Tony Hillerman

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In 1956, an airplane crash left the remains of 172 passengers scattered among the majestic cliffs of the Grand Canyon—including an arm attached to a briefcase containing a fortune in gems. Half a century later, one of the missing diamonds has reappeared . . . and the wolves are on the scent.

Former Navajo Tribal Police Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn is coming out of retirement to help exonerate a slow, simple kid accused of robbing a trading post. Billy Tuve claims he received the diamond he tried to pawn from a mysterious old man in the canyon, and his story has attracted the dangerous attention of strangers to the Navajo lands—one more interested in a severed limb than in the fortune it was handcuffed to; another willing to murder to keep lost secrets hidden. But nature herself may prove the deadliest adversary, as Leaphorn and Sergeant Jim Chee follow a puzzle—and a killer—down into the dark realm of Skeleton Man.

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Skeleton Man (A Leaphorn and Chee Novel) By Tony Hillerman Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Joe Leaphorn, former Navajo tribal police lieutenant, is not a happy retiree. So when his successor asks him to look into how a young Hopi named Billy Tuve came by a valuable diamond the boy tried to pawn for a fraction of its worth, Joe finds himself involved in a five decade old mystery. It dates back to a plane crash in the Grand Canyon, one that took the life of a man whose putative daughter also has an interest in the diamond; it could lead her to her father's remains, from which she hopes to extract enough DNA to establish her birthright. For good measure, Hillerman adds a couple of villains determined to beat her to the site of the crash, a cache of other diamonds long since given up for lost in the Canyon's watery depths, and a Hopi ritual that's kept the site secret for years. It's a good yarn, well but twice told; Hillerman sets it up in a chronologically confusing opening chapter, in which Joe spins the story for a couple of former law-enforcement colleagues--not just to entertain or enlighten them but to demonstrate what he calls his "Navajo belief in universal connections. The cause leads to inevitable effect. The entire cosmos being an infinitely complicated machine all working together."

Hillerman is a name-brand writer with a huge and well deserved following. His evocation of the landscape of the Southwest is as compelling as it ever was, and many familiar characters from the other 18 novels in this prize-winning series appear here, notably Sergeant Jim Chee and border patrol officer Bernie Manuelito, the woman Chee hopes to marry. Joe Leaphorn remains his most fully-realized protagonist; his perspective on life, destiny, and the sometimes uneasy truce between Native Americans and whites gives this series a unique place in the genre. But as evidenced by his latest, Hillerman's hero needs more than a retired duffer's memories to keep him vital and alive, even for his most dedicated fans. --*Jane Adams*

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. In MWA Grandmaster Hillerman's sterling 17th Chee/Leaphorn novel, a 1956 collision between passenger planes high above the Grand Canyon leaves a courier's arm and attached diamond-filled security case unaccounted for after almost half a century. Enter retired Navajo Tribal Police Lt. Joe Leaphorn, who must try to connect the dots between an old robbery involving a valuable diamond and a more recent crime involving another diamond, both of which may somehow be related to the plane-crash jewels. The puzzle soon draws in fellow Navajo officer Sgt. Jim Chee and former cop Bernie Manuelito, Chee's soon-to-be bride. Billy Tuve, a cousin of Chee's lawman buddy Cowboy Dashee, is arrested after trying to pawn a gem believed to have come from the more recent robbery. Dashee enlists Chee's help to verify Tuve's story of a mysterious old man who gave him the jewel during a journey to a canyon-bottom shrine. But the good guys soon learn there are plenty more people in the hunt, and some will stop at nothing to get what they're after. The stakes are high and the danger escalates clear through to the final pages.

Hillerman continues to shine as the best of the West.

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Hillerman, whose crime fiction bespeaks of Native Americans' rich history, once again mines the Southwest for a story that intricately links tribal mysticism, desert landscapes, and contemporary culture. Devoted readers will find the usual mix of compelling characters, including a Paiute mystic, a Hopi, and the Skeleton Man (the Death Kachina, whose myth Hillerman brings up to date). Though Hillerman is a first-class storyteller, critics agree *Skeleton Man* is not his best. Leaphorn (he is, after all, retired) takes a back seat to the bad guys. The 1956 airline disaster provides for an excellent story, but it has too many loose ends— and too little suspense.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jessica Bradsher:

Do you one among people who can't read pleasant if the sentence chained from the straightway, hold on guys this aren't like that. This Skeleton Man (A Leaphorn and Chee Novel) book is readable by simply you who hate those perfect word style. You will find the details here are arrange for enjoyable examining experience without leaving possibly decrease the knowledge that want to provide to you. The writer associated with Skeleton Man (A Leaphorn and Chee Novel) content conveys the thought easily to understand by most people. The printed and e-book are not different in the written content but it just different as it. So , do you continue to thinking Skeleton Man (A Leaphorn and Chee Novel) is not loveable to be your top list reading book?

John Richey:

The feeling that you get from Skeleton Man (A Leaphorn and Chee Novel) could be the more deep you searching the information that hide inside words the more you get interested in reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to comprehend but Skeleton Man (A Leaphorn and Chee Novel) giving you thrill feeling of reading. The article author conveys their point in particular way that can be understood simply by anyone who read that because the author of this book is well-known enough. This kind of book also makes your own personal vocabulary increase well. Making it easy to understand then can go together with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We recommend you for having that Skeleton Man (A Leaphorn and Chee Novel) instantly.

Shirley Martins:

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, likely to beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book may be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to consider look for book, may be the publication untitled Skeleton Man (A Leaphorn and Chee Novel) can be very good book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

Ron Taylor:

This Skeleton Man (A Leaphorn and Chee Novel) is completely new way for you who has intense curiosity to look for some information since it relief your hunger of knowledge. Getting deeper you upon it getting knowledge more you know or you who still having little bit of digest in reading this Skeleton Man (A Leaphorn and Chee Novel) can be the light food for yourself because the information inside this kind of book is easy to get through anyone. These books develop itself in the form that is certainly reachable by

anyone, yeah I mean in the e-book form. People who think that in e-book form make them feel tired even dizzy this guide is the answer. So there is no in reading a publication especially this one. You can find actually looking for. It should be here for you actually. So , don't miss it! Just read this e-book kind for your better life and also knowledge.

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