

Bog Child

By Siobhan Dowd



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DIGGING FOR PEAT in the mountain with his Uncle Tally, Fergus finds the body of a child, and it looks like she's been murdered. As Fergus tries to make sense of the mad world around him—his brother on hunger-strike in prison, his growing feelings for Cora, his parents arguing over the Troubles, and him in it up to the neck, blackmailed into acting as courier to God knows what—a little voice comes to him in his dreams, and the mystery of the bog child unfurls.

Bog Child is an astonishing novel exploring the sacrifices made in the name of peace, and the unflinching strength of the human spirit.

From the Hardcover edition.



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Bog Child By Siobhan Dowd Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Starred Review. Grade 9 Up—It is 1981, and 18-year-old Fergus lives on the border between Northern Ireland and the south. His older brother, Joe, a member of the Provisional IRA, is jailed at Long Kesh and joins a hunger strike. The family is traumatized, and Fergus does his best to comfort his mother and to convince Joe that his "sacrifice" for the cause is not worth it. Fergus has been pressured (blackmailed) to smuggle packages for the IRA, but wants nothing more than to leave Ireland and study to become a doctor. His life becomes even more complicated when he and his uncle discover the body of a young girl while pilfering peat. It turns out to be 2000 years old. Thus begins a double narrative that involves a love story and a discussion of destiny and self-sacrifice. Fergus's story includes his struggle to understand his brother's actions and his growing love for the daughter of the archaeologist called in to investigate the Iron Age discovery. Interspersed is the story of Mel, the bog child, who makes the ultimate sacrifice to unite her people, and who finds love at the end of her life. The two narratives work beautifully together. The love story between Fergus and Cora is depicted with tenderness, and their adolescent sexuality is sensitively portrayed. Readers will come away with a strong sense of the time periods (especially of the "Troubles") through dialogue and action. This compelling read is lyrically written and contains authentic dialogue and challenging and involving moral issues. It's a first, and a must-have purchase.—Jennifer Ralston, Harford County Public Library, Belcamp, MD

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From **Booklist**

Starred Review While cutting peat in the Irish hills, Fergus McCann and his uncle discover a body preserved by the bog. Archaeologists and politicians fight over the find, while Fergus starts to dream about the past of the bog child he names "Mel." Dowd slowly reveals the story of Mel's mysterious death, an apparent murder, amid the 1980s troubles of Northern Ireland and the hunger strike of the Long Kesh political prisoners. Fergus' imprisoned older brother joins the strike as Fergus is blackmailed into delivering packages that may contain bomb-making supplies. The history, which will likely be as unfamiliar to American teen readers as the story's dialect, may need fleshing out with additional sources, but the intriguing characters and their motivations and sacrifices will translate directly to contemporary readers. The plotlines are braided together into a strong story that is rich in language, setting, and theme. Fans of David Almond's work will savor the similar religious influences and the elements of magical realism. A budding romance with the archaeologist's daughter, exuberant Cora, will delight readers, who will wonder, as Fergus does after his first kisses, "Why wasn't the whole world doing this all the time, why?" Grades 8-11. --Cindy Dobrez

Review

Starred Review, Kirkus Reviews, July 15, 2008:

"[A] painful and moving read."

Starred Review, School Library Journal, August 2008:

"This compelling read is lyrically written and contains authentic dialogue and challenging and involving moral issues."

Starred Review, Booklist, August 1, 2008:

"A strong story that is rich in language, setting, and theme."

Starred Review, Publishers Weekly, July 28, 2008:

"Dowd raises questions about moral choices within a compelling plot that is full of surprises."

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lavelle Hildreth:

As people who live in often the modest era should be change about what going on or details even knowledge to make these individuals keep up with the era that is certainly always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by examining books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know what type you should start with. This Bog Child is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Detra Satterwhite:

A lot of people always spent their own free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read a new book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent the entire day to reading a book. The book Bog Child it is rather good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to create this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore very easily to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book provides high quality.

Fred Martinez:

In this age globalization it is important to someone to receive information. The information will make anyone to understand the condition of the world. The condition of the world makes the information much easier to share. You can find a lot of personal references to get information example: internet, newspaper, book, and soon. You will see that now, a lot of publisher that print many kinds of book. The actual book that recommended to your account is Bog Child this reserve consist a lot of the information in the condition of this world now. This particular book was represented how does the world has grown up. The vocabulary styles that writer use for explain it is easy to understand. The writer made some study when he makes this book. Honestly, that is why this book suitable all of you.

Andy McNeil:

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