



To the Bone

Jeff Carson

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Chief Detective David Wolf's son has a new girlfriend, and when she discovers her father—a well known man in ancient fossils trade circles—has been murdered, she and the rest of her shattered family turn to Wolf to bring them justice.

With the help of a small town sheriff and a retired police dog named Jet, Wolf follows the clues to a dig site in northwest Colorado, where secrets have been entombed for eons, and people are dying to keep them that way.

In a place where killing monsters are buried under the earth, it becomes clear there are still some roaming topside, and in this suspense-filled seventh installment of the David Wolf series, Wolf must keep his wits or his bones will be found next.

To the Bone Details

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Author : Jeff Carson

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From Reader Review To the Bone for online ebook

booksthribifocals says

Worth your time.

"To the Bone" was a multi-layered novel. The police procedural/mystery wasn't terribly suspenseful or rapidly moving, but the author invested a lot into the main characters and their relationships. David Wolf once a sheriff of a smaller county is now a detective after his former county was joined to another. He and his son, Jack are still getting back on their feet after the loss of his wife. When Jack's girlfriend's father is shot, Wolf is in charge of finding the culprit. A student in a local archeological dig disappears and other students become suspect in an illegal procurement and sale of dinosaur bones off a protected site. Wolf's sensitivity to others, bring out nuances of individual struggles and the reader is drawn into the inner workings of this small community surrounding Wolf and how they are influenced by each other. The reader is drawn into the microcosm of characters and unite with Wolf as he evaluates and disregards one suspect following another. The plot was complex with sufficient red herrings to hold your interest, although I read it over the course of a week, rather than a single sitting as is my usual approach, the holidays may have had a bit of influence in that regard.

Jerry Walch says

This was the second time that I've read *To The Bone (David Wolf, #7)* . When you read as many books as I do, all the titles begin to run together, so I didn't realize that I had already read this wonderful book until after I started to read it again. Fast paced, great story line, wonderful characters, and snappy dialogue. Like I said in my previous review of this book, the only thing that kept me from giving it a five star rating was the fact that the author uploaded the manuscript as a fully justified text which made for difficult reading. Even the rankest beginner knows that a book manuscript should be left-justified--even left margin, ragged right margin. I guess that no one has pointed this out to Jeff and this is the 7th book in the David Wolf series. Still a really neat action packed mystery and well worth reading.

Carlin says

I grew up in Colorado where fossils are a common sight and I know people collected them (like arrowheads and stone axes from early inhabitants of the region). But I never really thought about fossils as being a valuable commodity until a few years ago when I learned of Sue, a 90% complete tyrannosaurus rex skeleton, brought \$8.36 million when she was sold at auction by Sotheby's in 1997. Of course the location of the find is vital. The United States' Bureau of Land Management prohibits any commercial collection from public lands, but does allow collecting for personal use. University Paleontology/Anthropology/Archeology Departments send students out to digs to find artifacts and fossils for their collections, for science and not for financial gain. (Note: I majored in Anthropology at Colorado State University.)

This David Wolf mystery is centered around a University of Utah sponsored dig in Western Colorado near Dinosaur National Monument. Greed dictated what a professor decided when he and his students discovered two nearly intact rare dinosaur skeletons, and he decided to sell one of them commercially through a "fossil

broker" in Rocky Points where Wolf is a detective. The broker was found murdered and the skeleton missing. Wolf's teenage son Jack is romantically involved with the broker's daughter.

The story was exciting and drew me into the plot with characters in the Sheriff's Office I've grown to care about (this is the 2nd Davis Wolf mystery I have read). It included the teenage daughter of the neighboring County Sheriff making two single parent fathers dealing with family relationships to complicate the two jurisdictions working together to solve the mystery. I did not guess the murderer until close to the end and several more murders had occurred. I certainly could relate to the difficulty of policing a very large area where cell phone coverage is spotty at best!

I highly recommend this book.

Lori says

To The Bone by Jeff Carson is an interesting read. I received this book as a free e-book via Amazon.com. The title promises creepiness, and I was pleasantly surprised that it centers on archaeology and dinosaur digs. This is my first David Wolf mystery, and when I saw this is #7, I was a bit leery. There was no need to fret because this novel did well as a stand-alone, and it did not leave me hanging over an excavation pit.

I enjoyed the journey of the read. The characters are believable, and there are twists and turns that made the ride exciting. When I am able to sit back and jump into the author's world without much effort, I call that good writing. I look forward to reading more Jeff Carson, and if not for the free e-book, I may never have read him. Jeff Carson has a new fan.

Thank you for the enjoyable read.

Content: Violence: There is violence, but not in your face blood and gore. There are homicides, but we do not experience the killing.

Sex: There are allusions to sexual activity, but no graphic sexual activity.

Would I read this author again: Yes

Would I recommend this series? Yes

Would I recommend this author to others? Yes.

Linda Galella says

Choppy

is about the only way I can really describe this book. While I appreciated the short chapters, they were so truncated that it felt like driving in stop n go traffic on an 8 lane expressway. Maybe it's because this is the only book from this series I have read, but I needed to know more about the characters. It's very hard to be invested in a story when little is understood about the intended recipients of care and attention. There is not a lot else to garner support in this book. Details about archeology are few and the mystery was woefully inept, but, the spelling and grammar were good. That, my reading friends, is a rarity in today's instant, ebook nightmare, publishing panacea.

Julie says

First time reading this series and I didn't start with book 1. But I didn't feel like I couldn't follow the storyline starting so far into the series. David Wolf is a cop in Colorado. He is a widower with a teenage son. His son's girlfriend find's her father murdered and the dinosaur bones that he was selling are missing. Lots going on - raising a son by himself, keeping his team working smoothly, working with out of town departments, forest fires raging nearby. And Wolf has a flatulent, retired police dog which made me chuckle several times. Good story! And I think I would very much enjoy finding the rest of the series. So many books, not enough time.

Satrajit Sanyal says

I love these books and can't wait to get the next one. I was pleasantly surprised to see the hero in this one David Wolf did not get injured. Now I am in hopes Carson will at least let him have a chance at some peace and a good relationship with both his son and a romantic partner. The characters are becoming well developed and seem to be people I would like being around.

Please keep up the good work I like to dive into books that hold my interest and have a nice mystery. With Carson's books I appreciate the clean story line and the minimum of bad language and long tedious sexual relationships. So many pages filled with graphic sex means the writer has nothing to say and can't add to the story line. Jeff Carson's books leave all that stuff out because he does have a lot to say. This one was a little too short. Sonow I have to wait for the next one. Thanks for a really good book Mr. Carson.

Susan Fox says

Paleontology is the last topic I would expect Detective Wolf to weave into a crime scene up in the Rockies but why not? Any where there's treasure there's greed and man's avarice will lead to crime. This is a very complex plot with so many twists & turns I almost want to date you sleuth solvers among you to try and figure this one out! Loved it! And of course now Detective Wolf has his aromatic side kick 'Jet' that we learn about biological functions of 'older German Shepards' I never knew! Now that's TMI for me Jeff! Lol

M says

Fun, Fast-Paced Read

I enjoyed this small-town police procedural written by new-to-me author Jeff Carson. Although this is book #7 in the David Wolf series, I didn't have problems reading it as a stand-alone. I especially liked the dinosaur dig storyline that was set in a hot, arid wilderness area of Colorado.

This mystery is complex and well-plotted with good side stories, but the characters made the story come to life. I wanted to follow these characters. Other pluses: no familial melodrama, no gratuitous sexcapades, and no OTT language that I noticed (my tolerance for bad language is middling to high).

For a shortish book, there were a lot of characters, but unlike some other character-heavy books, I was able

to mentally separate them into groups: 1) Wolf's civilian family/friends/victims, 2) Wolf's police colleagues, 3) other towns' police, and 4) dinosaur & fossil fiends.

I will seek out other books in this mystery series.

Murrel Lowry says

Headline

Once again. Nicely done by author Jeff Carson. From the opening page I was hooked. David Wolf had his work cutout for him and me along with him as I'm trying to check out my detective skills. Believe me when I say Jeff Carson and David Wolf do not have to worry about me being on the scene. I'll leave that to the good guys. Now for the 8th book in the series. I always have to have more. And thank you Jeff Carson. I definitely appreciate your efforts for people like me.

Steve says

Getting Better (?)

I applaud the author's "new" habit of actually finishing the story being written, before starting a new book; it's a much better philosophy to keep the reader interested.

The geology and geography described in Book #7 was difficult to keep up with, and it seemed like some parts of the story were short-changed before Wolf came up with his conclusions. And, the shooting capabilities near the end of the book are considered highly unlikely to me, if you consider the shooting that had occurred earlier in the story.

Sheena BZA says

This one I enjoyed because of the subject. I did find it a bit predictable and although the twist was there I feel the chapter about the reason for the murder even though no names were mentioned spoilt the end...I knew within a couple of pages who "done it".

All the crew is there, developing from the last story with a new 'bad boy' Barker who takes on the role of internal antagonist.

Again a quick light and enjoyable weekend read.

Anne Hill says

Okay read

I thought his first 2 books were the best of the series so far. The characters were more developed in this book but I found some of the dialogue stilted and forced, like the author was trying to squeeze personal tidbits in but it really didn't fit the scene. Will wait for the next installment.

Richard Howard says

A fairly standard, though readable, police procedural set in an interesting landscape. The characters didn't engage me enough to make me want to search out more books in the series: too many of the usual tall, well-built tough men and beautiful women. When will someone write a realistic thriller set in an America where most adults are obese?

Mary says

The main character is a excellent cop but stinks in any kind of personal relationship. When he's on a case he has tunnel vision he hardly eats or sleep and fails to keep his 14 yr old son posted on what he is doing. I don't think he will ever have a lasting relationship job is first and all else doesn't come close to comparing. If would be interesting to see this character's personality advance.
