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John Barrowman, Carole E. Barrowman

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In this thrilling sequel to *Hollow Earth*, Matt and Emily must stop someone from unleashing an army of mankind's worst nightmares.

In the Middle Ages, an old monk used his powers and a bone quill to ink a magical manuscript, *The Book of Beasts*. Over the centuries the Book, and the quill, were lost.

Twins Matt and Emily Calder are Animare—just like their ancestor, the monk. The things they draw can be brought to life, sometimes with disastrous consequences. Now Matt and Em are being watched—hunted—because only they can use *The Book of Beasts* and the bone quill to release the terrible demons and monsters their ancestor illustrated.

And someone is tracking down the lost *Book of Beasts*, page by page, and reassembling it. Matt and Emily have no choice: They must get to the bone quill first...before somebody gets to *them*.

Bone Quill Details

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From Reader Review Bone Quill for online ebook

Heather says

This is a sequel that's better than the first book. It ends on the cliffhanger of all cliffies, so I'm awaiting the third book.

I feel that the Barrowmans have done something really clever in the way they've built up this story. There's a lovely device of introducing characters from the past and then bringing in the device of time travel so that the stories all come together.

I know there's the thing of celebrities writing books that winds some people up, and mostly I agree, yes there are no doubt lots of people out there who write as well or better but never get published, but that applies no matter who the author is. However I feel John Barrowman has done something different, and it's admirable as well as a good business idea, instead of using an uncredited ghost writer who often gets paid a fraction of the money the celeb gets, he's properly collaborated with his sister, who can properly write. I have recommended these books to friends who had discounted them thinking it was just another celebrity rip off.

Landon alexander summers says

Em and Matt Calder are back to save the world. You thought after defeating Tanan and the Hollow Earth Society once that it would be all good, case closed? Ha! You thought wrong! After the incident that ripped through the family, Matt and Em are stuck in a world without animating, which at the moment, meant no drawing, making art, or coloring of any kind until they could get their powers under control. But do you think that will stop them? Of course not, because in a book, do main characters usually do what their told what to do? So in a trip to 19th Century London, Zach is separated from Matt and Em, so Matt and Em use water skis to chase after him, accidentally scaring some fisherman, and Zach almost gets killed. Typical time-travel. When the group comes back, all the adults are angry. Except Sandie. Did I mention she disappeared? Oh, and a book filled with monsters is close to being unleashed, which would overrun the world with monsters. So, the sum up the situation, it's pretty bad. The second book in the Hollow Earth series will sure to keep you on edge.

Miss Thing says

More please :)

CaroleHeidi says

I confess that I only bought the first book in this series to fuel my John Barrowman obsession and didn't really have very high expectations of it. Then I read it and loved every second and desperately wanted book two already.

Luckily for me, Liberty received Bone Quill for review (having borrowed my copy of Hollow Earth and loving it, too) so I didn't have to wait long before I could borrow it.

I raced through Bone Quill because it was fast-paced and gripping, the story carrying on from where it left off at an unrelenting speed.

There was all the previous excitement of the Animare with added time-travel and the complications that brings to any story.

The two storylines of past and present, previously not directly connected, suddenly become intertwined and the peril notches up several levels. Matt and Emily suddenly find themselves having to choose between their family and the world – a choice no 12 year olds should have to make – and they hit all of the obstacles you would expect, plus a couple of extras (such as flaming Hellhounds).

The world of the Hollow Earth series is beautifully crafted, rich and well-thought out and so carefully described that it is very easy to lose yourself in it and really feel like you are there with the characters. Everything is covered, not just the sights but the smells and sensations – the world-building is one of my favourite things about this series because it is so thorough.

If you liked Hollow Earth then you will love Bone Quill, no second book syndrome here!

Clarabel says

Après avoir appris qu'ils étaient les héritiers de dons hors du commun, en tant que Animare et Gardien, les jumeaux Calder, Matt et Emily, ont trouvé refuge chez leur grand-père Renard, dans son manoir sur l'île d'Auchinmurn (au large de l'Écosse).

Leur mère a disparu et leur père a été enfermé dans un tableau. Le danger n'a jamais été aussi proche, mais Matt et Emily n'ont que douze ans et sont donc naturellement prompts à désobéir et minimiser les conséquences de leurs actes.

Cette suite (tome 1 : Le réveil des Créatures) ne faiblit pas et propose le même mode narratif qui avait déjà su m'enthousiasmer : un ton vif et entraînant, des chapitres courts, qui défilent à vitesse de l'éclair, un univers qu'on n'a plus besoin de présenter et qui se développe en proposant des tas de rebondissements !

Et c'est franchement PAL-PI-TANT ! Il est difficile de se détourner une seconde de cette lecture, qui nous capture entre ses filets et ne nous lâche plus avant la toute dernière ligne. Voilà une très bonne série, pour jeunes lecteurs, écrite avec panache et un peu d'humour. Bravo Captain Jack !

Candace says

This is the second in the Hollow Earth series. I enjoyed the first one enough that I wanted to keep reading the rest of the series. This second one still wants me reading the third, so that is a good thing!

Twins Matt and Em are back again, drawing pictures that come to life. But this time Matt goes off on his

own creating conflict that was absent in the first book. The writing is similar, an easy read where you can get into the story and not be bogged down by either too good or too bad writing. The story flows and you care about the characters. The book is not challenging but a good, fast read.

Rita says

it was a fantastic read. just like the first one (hollow earth) it was full of excitement and adventure. at one point i knew what was going to happen but the suspense to get there was well worth it. but the ending had me in tears.

i only hope there is a third part and as soon as its out i'm getting it.

the characters where so realistic and honest. i felt their feelings and saw what they did.

loved it.

Shannon O'Donnell says

Great sequel--every bit as action-packed and suspenseful as Hollow Earth!! L-O-V-E!!!

El Amethyst says

awesome!! there are no words to describe the unique ingenious of this story and world!!!

Colleen says

So this book gets 3 stars instead of 4 because it had a typical series cliff hanger ending with no closure. I guess I didn't mind the cliff hanger in the first book because there was closure -- here there obviously needs to be another story. It also took me longer to get into but I think that is because I read it immediately after finishing the first book. Once I did get into the story I enjoyed it and was shocked and surprised by some of the plot elements. Enjoyable but I'm tired of series books.

Anja says

Not quite as good as the first installment, but still great, entertaining, and fun. Confusing from time to time, all those switching back and forth in time made my brains tingle ^^. It wasn't always gripping, some parts dragged a little bit. The thrilling ending made up for the slow parts, though.

Loved the setting and the imaginative world, loved the protagonists (esp. Solon and Zach ❤?), loved how the

plot developed. The evil cliffhanger, however, I didn't like that much... which is why I'm off to read the third and final book in this trilogy right now.

Liberty Gilmore says

I think I hate John Barrowman. Not only is the man a good actor, a good singer, charismatic and attractive and got paid to kiss Billy Piper and Christopher Ecclestone, he's now co-authored really good books with his sister. Books that show a fine appreciation of art, just to add to the general level of culture and talent being exuded here.

Sigh.

Bone Quill picks up where Hollow Earth left off, and it's another great, fast paced fantasy adventure which - sickeningly - I really enjoyed.

I love the characters, particularly Matt, Em and Zach. Matt's temper and restlessness is something I think a lot of young people will relate to, male or female, and his helplessness in the face of his mother's disappearance just makes you want to take him under your wing and give him a cuddle. I loved how he and Em played off each other, and how Zach - at once a friend to Matt, but also a caretaker of Em - adds to the dynamic. I also loved that Zach is deaf - I think it's wonderful to have characters with disabilities at the centre of an action story, and at the centre of any story, to be honest - we don't see enough of it.

I enjoyed Bone Quill more than Hollow Earth, mostly because the world has been established, the characters know a bit more about what's going on, but also because: Time Travel. Did I mention I'm a time travel fangirl?

The locations are beautifully brought to life as well, and a real passion for the Scottish Islands comes across in the books that almost makes me want to coat myself in midge repellent and head up there again. And it's only 'almost' because last time I went to Scotland I was almost eaten alive by insects and came back looking like a Klingon.

So, overall, a fantastic children's book that I devoured in moments snatched between jobs I had to do and had to tear myself away from. I really, really, want the next book.

Rating: 4.5/5

Kris Padget says

This series is so imaginative. I really enjoyed the first book 'Hollow Earth' and 'Bone Quill' was even better. Matt & Em's journey is full of twists & turns and some darker adventures than I would expect. The way the plot skewed at the end was a surprise that wasn't totally unexpected but definitely welcomed. Life is complicated, even more so when you have magical abilities. The cliffhanger has me desperate for the rest of the series!

Jennifer says

awesome

Iris Halliez says

I totally loved this book, it's a great read for everyone regardless of age. It was captivating from the very start and I was glued to it until the very end. I read it in one sitting. It's fast paced and exciting with lots of suspense, mystery and gripping adventure, great characters and many unexpected turns. I was most intrigued by the sinister forces and mixture of myth, fable and fantastical vision. As in the first instalment fiction is linked in a great way with real places and artwork which I enjoyed very much. I already loved Hollow Earth but enjoyed Bone Quill even more. I was thrilled to learn more about the Calder Twins and their fascinating powers and their enemies. I think the concept of the Animare with their ability to bring art to life and enter paintings at will is brilliant and totally unique and I was thoroughly entertained. I wish there were more quality books like this! I can't wait for the next instalment. I highly recommend this book to everyone.
