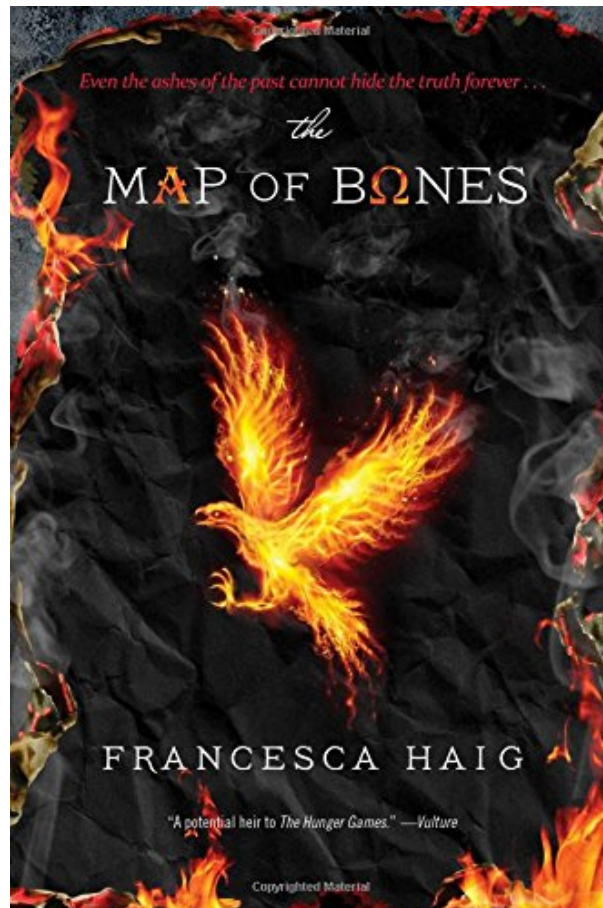
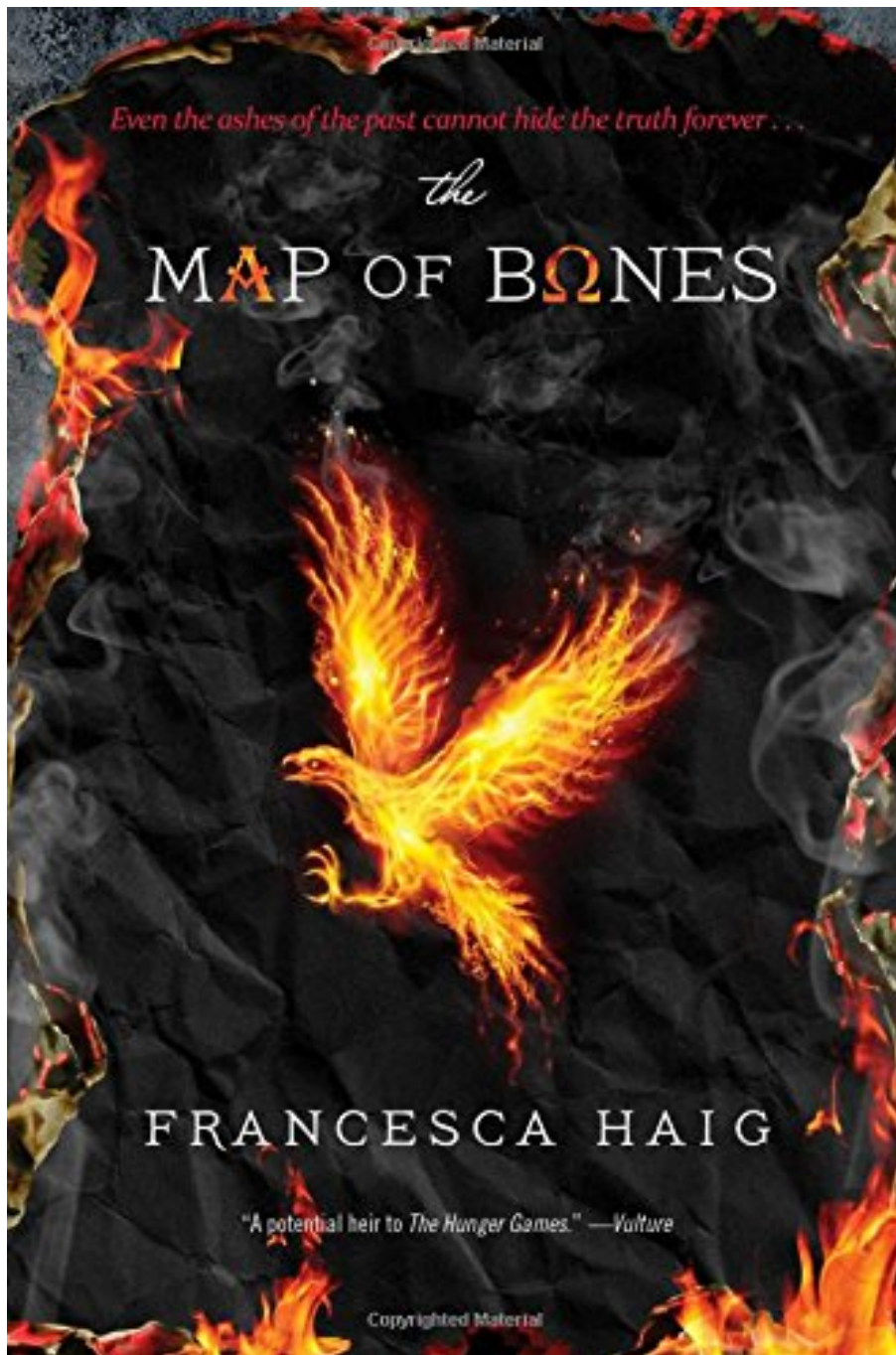


THE MAP OF BONES (THE FIRE SERMON) BY FRANCESCA HAIG



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Book Two in the critically acclaimed The Fire Sermon trilogy—The Hunger Games meets Cormac McCarthy’s The Road in this richly imagined post-apocalyptic series by award-winning poet Francesca Haig.

Four hundred years in the future, the Earth has turned primitive following a nuclear fire that has laid waste to civilization and nature. Though the radiation fallout has ended, for some unknowable reason every person is born with a twin. Of each pair, one is an Alpha—physically perfect in every way; and the other an Omega—burdened with deformity, small or large. With the Council ruling an apartheid-like society, Omegas are branded and ostracized while the Alphas have gathered the world’s sparse resources for themselves. Though proclaiming their superiority, for all their effort, Alphas cannot escape one harsh fact: whenever one twin dies, so does the other.

Cass is a rare Omega, one burdened with psychic foresight. While her twin, Zach, gains power on the Alpha Council, she dares to dream the most dangerous dream of all: equality. For daring to envision a world in which Alphas and Omegas live side-by-side as equals, both the Council and the Resistance have her in their sights.

- Sales Rank: #200881 in Books
- Published on: 2016-05-03
- Released on: 2016-05-03
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x 1.30" w x 6.00" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 416 pages

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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Not impressed

By Self-Made Model

This book was a disappointing follow up to the 1st book in the series: The Fire Sermon. The series itself has a very interesting premise and book 1 was really quite a fantastic read.

Maybe I was expecting too much, coming off of the high of finishing the well-written Fire Sermon, with it's fully-fleshed-out, relatable characters and scenes, most of which unfolded to the reader via showing by actions and such instead of 'matter of factly' telling. Unfortunately, this preferred style of writing did not carry over much into The Map of Bones.

The Map of Bones lacked momentum despite the high potential for it in the plot. For the first several chapters I was so bored with the reiterating of book one and the redundancy of the writer's over-explaining of the characters actions and thoughts that I nearly returned the book without making it half way through.

I always force myself to finish books once I start them and I am somewhat glad I kept with this one in the end.....if nothing more than for the hope that book 3 might make up for it.

Another thing that bothered me is the large handful of typos (not a huge issue, but was a bit distracting) .

I was also shocked to see that Simon and Schuster allowed this book to slip through with a major writing oops:

without giving too much a way I will explain....at the end of the book one of the female characters says that she just realized they have yet to tell this other female character about the death of one of the minor characters they came across on their travels....THE PROBLEM is that both of those female characters were present in the scene when they found their dead acquaintance. So both women already knew that person died. Maybe a small mistake in writing but those are the types of things that really grind me.

I will still read Book 3 when it is available because that is just me, I just hope that the writing is more like book one and not as boring and sloppy as book 2.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

An innovative read

By Cheryl M-M

This is the second in the Fire Sermon series, a dystopian tale set a few hundred years after the nuclear destruction or devastation of earth. A DNA mutation caused by the radiation of the initial blast has caused a splintering of the population.

Each pregnancy is a set of twins, one of which is born with some kind of mutation, ergo the lesser of the two. They are called the Omega and the perfect twin is called the Alpha.

The twins are connected via a life-bond. If one dies the other automatically dies the same way. The Alphas reject their twins, and so does society.

I'm sure if it wasn't for the pesky 'if I die you die' element of their sibling relationship, the majority of the Alphas would just kill their Omega sibling. Instead the Alphas have found a variety of nefarious methods to rid themselves of their 'broken' other halves without actually killing them. Might as well be though.

The Omegas have built a network of resistance across the country, and despite the really bad odds are still trying to outwit the Alphas. They are also trying to find out whether there is anyone else out there in the big world. Literally in the Elsewhere.

Cass is still reeling from the shocking revelations about Kip and his demise. As a seer she is both a pariah to her peers and a beacon of hope. They need her to have visions, but are frightened of them at the same time.

The Fire Sermon series is an eclectic mix of post-nuclear devastation, dystopian world-building and the usual YA tropes. Some of the topics sail pretty close to what could become a reality if we are ever faced with a nuclear disaster on a major scale. Underground bunkers, the aftermath of the destruction the inevitable changes or mutations caused by radiation. A good read.

I received a free copy of this book via NetGalley.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Interesting and creepy concept, but it still fell short for me.

By Sissy Lu

The Map of Bones is the second book in the Fire Sermon trilogy. This takes place in a dystopian world after a nuclear war and since that nuclear war, it led to mutations. Every mother has twins, an Alpha, and Omega. The omegas are riddled with mutations, some have extra appendages while others are born with lesser mutations, such as visions. Alphas are obviously the stronger, normal twin that goes on to become important figures while Omegas are shunned from society and often kept hidden as they are a weakness to their alpha. Because in this world, if one dies then so does the other.

Cass is an omega and her mutation is being a Seer, visions are linked with madness in this world. She's counting down the days until she loses her mind.

I've not read the first book but having read this one it isn't exactly necessary because for nearly the first 100 pages it's nothing but a recap and rehashing the first book. I would have thought that a second book would have hit the ground running, but it's a lot of slinking around and small developments. Maybe the first book was more set on building the world, but I haven't had a chance to read that one yet.

I felt as though the primary focus of this book was more about developing the characters rather than the world, which is okay, but for me personally I wanted to be submerged into this world that had oodles of potential. I wanted to taste, feel, see this twisted world and in spots I most certainly could. There were moments where I felt like I was in a world similar to *The Hills Have Eyes* and it made me shudder, but then there were moments where it really was just 'okay' for me.

I never felt really submerged into this world, I never felt highly connected to the character and maybe that is partially due to me not reading the first, but I am a firm believer in no matter where you pick up a book in a series you should feel connected.

It just wasn't there for me.

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