



The City of Sacred Bones

Katie McVay

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Are the remains of Saint Peter buried in Rome, beneath the basilica that bears his name? Novelist Mara Beltane thinks they might be in Jerusalem—the place of his birth—and she hopes to find the evidence to prove it.

Just coming off the success of a best-seller about the death of Jesus, the former chick-lit writer is in need of material for a new book, and she thinks a thriller about Saint Peter's tomb would prove she's not a one-trick pony. In Rome, she teams up with Uri Nevon, a handsome Israeli professor who helped her research her first book. Together they set out to crack the case, a journey that will have them living *la dolce vita* in Italy, stumbling through ruins of sacred churches in Israel, and carefully navigating a mutual attraction that threatens to derail their mission.

But a foe lurks in the shadows: members of a clandestine group with a chain of command that extends all the way to the Pope himself. They have reasons to keep the truth of Saint Peter buried. So as Mara and Uri dig deeper, the group resorts to desperate and violent measures, proving that they'll stop at nothing to prevent the truth from being revealed—a truth that could put the whole world in jeopardy.

The City of Sacred Bones Details

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From Reader Review The City of Sacred Bones for online ebook

Noreen Fredriksen says

I won this book from goodreads. Once I started reading it, I could not put it down. It is book two of the Mara Beltane mystery series. I look forward to reading her other books.

Jaime K says

I won this in a Goodreads giveaway, hoping to get a story that had real Christian history with a fictional undertone (like Dan Brown's 'Robert Langdon' series).

Instead I read a book that had little continuity about St. Peter's history and was more about Mara Beltran being lovesick with a near-stranger (Uri) from a previous encounter (from the first novel by McVay, which I didn't read) who has secrets, lies, and a paranoia issue (which turns out to be legitimate).

Mara goes to Rome to meet with Dr. Uri who has told her he has material for her next novel: Is St. Peter really buried in Rome, where he was martyred? Or could he possibly be in Jerusalem where an ossuary bearing his name is? They head to Jerusalem for a quick look (after some political and security maneuvering) and then go back to Rome almost immediately. Mara feels like they've made headway with the secret.

Headway? You've only proven there's an ossuary with the name "Simon son of Jonah" in Jerusalem. THAT'S IT. THERE IS NO HEADWAY. What was supposed to be the main plot was incredibly disjointed. Mara talks freely of secrets she's supposed to keep and acts on empty promises made by strangers. I find her behavior ridiculous.

The writing was good. McVay kept me reading and interested. Mainly though I was hoping something with the story would turn around and legit Christian issues would arise. It just didn't happen.
