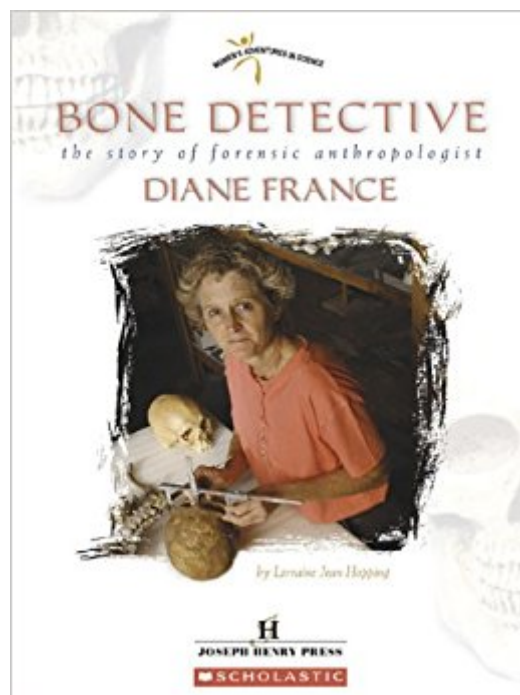




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Bone Detective: The Story Of Forensic Anthropologist Diane France (Women's Adventures In Science)



Synopsis

Diane France loves bones. Why? Because they talk to her. Every skeleton she meets whispers secrets about the life and death of its owner. Diane France can hear those secrets because she is a forensic anthropologist, a bone detective. She has the science skills and know-how to examine bones for clues to a mystery: Who was this person and how did he or she die? Bones tell Diane about the life and times of famous people in history, from a Russian royal family to American outlaws and war heroes. They speak to her about murders, mass disasters, and fatal accidents. One day she is collecting skeletal evidence at a crime scene. A phone call later she is jetting to the site of a plane crash or other unexpected tragedy to identify victims. Young readers will be captivated by the thrilling real-life story of this small-town girl full of curiosity and mischief who became a world-famous bone detective. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr. 7-10. This unusually personal biography in the Women's Adventures in Science series introduces the life and work of a contemporary forensic anthropologist, from her rural childhood to her work identifying the victims of the 9/11 tragedies. Chapters, illustrated with sporadic color and black-and-white photographs, strike an uneven tone. Some anecdotes seem unnecessarily detailed for this age group (a conversation between France and her husband as they decide to split up),

while the sometimes bubbly tone ("What a hoot!") and cheeky chapter headings ("The Nose Knows") seem at odds with the often somber subject matter. Still, the extensive detail gives readers a vivid sense of the daily work of a "bone detective," and clear explanations of the science will intrigue and inspire readers. Report writers may be frustrated by the sometimes rambling text, but the relationship to CSI subject matter ensure plenty of browsing interest. An appended list of further resources includes a publisher's Web site that leads to more information. Gillian Engberg

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A lovely paperback, well worth the price with great color pictures and straight forward text. An excellent reading choice for an older child who might be interested in learning more about Forensic Anthropology and/or about the interesting life story of Diane France and her work experience in this sub-discipline of Anthropology. The book provides a sufficient and straightforward overview of both the field and her work. There is no attempt to candy coat some of the finer details of her experiences, so beware of this if looking for a book for the younger child, or those who may have strong sensitivities.

My fourth grader read this book in order to write a report on a female scientist. She did it all by herself and enjoyed herself immensely while reading it.

Do not buy this book if you are and an adult interested in a broad scope details. I surely overlooked that the reviews are geared toward grade school students or else I simply ordered the book by mistake.

As an adult, I have relished many well-written biographies. As a veteran middle school teacher, I have a bone to pick with the countless boring, repetative children's biographies my students and I have endured. Finally, a biography that is engaging, interesting, human and educational. Bone Detective is a breath of fresh air in my classroom. Students love the photos that give the book a "scrapbook" feel. Sidebar photos and diagrams clearly explain complicated science concepts. The writing style has grabed my 6th students' attention and held it - suspenseful, humorous and thought-provoking. The forensics topic couldn't be more timely. Diane France is presented as a real human, in a real science job in a way that my students are really relating to!

Diane France is a forensic anthropologist. She solves murder cases and disappearances. She

helped discover bones from the Guam incident in 1997 and at Ground Zero, 9/11. This is a great book to read because it teaches you about cases you've never heard about like the Romanov bones and Diane's cast of her face and a tiger's tongue.

This book is a great, fun to read biography on Diane France. It would be a very good book to read if you are interested in science. It is very well written and it explains Diane France's life, her career, and what a forensic anthropologist is.

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