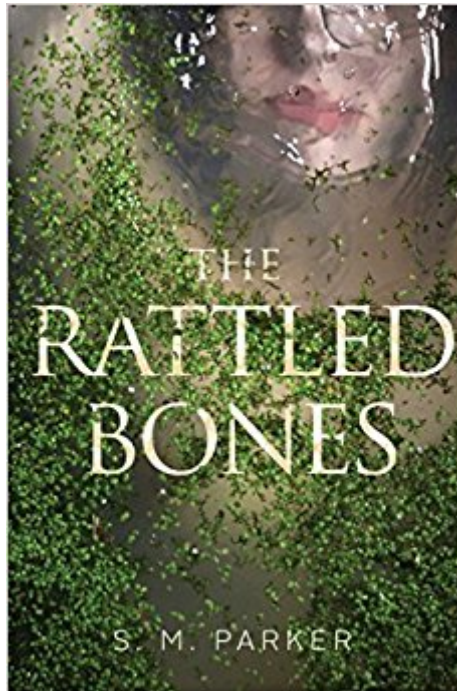




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The Rattled Bones



Synopsis

"The feminist ghost story you've been waiting for." ~Bustle
Unearthing years of buried secrets, Rilla Brae is haunted by ghostly visions tied to the tainted history of a mysterious island in this haunting novel from the author of *The Girl Who Fell From Heaven*. Maine-bred, independent Rilla Brae is no stranger to the deep. She knows the rhythms of hard work and harder seas. But when she experiences the sudden death of her father, the veil between the living and the dead blurs and she begins to be haunted by a girl on a nearby, uninhabited island. The girl floats a song over the waves, and it is as beautiful as it is terrifying. Familiar and distant. Then Rilla meets Sam, a University of Southern Maine archeology student tasked with excavating the very island where the ghostly girl has appeared. Sam sifts the earth looking for the cultural remains of an island people who were forcibly evicted by the state nearly a hundred years ago. Sam tells Rilla the island has a history no locals talk about--if they know about it at all--due to the shame the events brought to the working waterfront community. All Rilla knows for sure is that the island has always been there--an eerie presence anchored in the stormy sea. Now Sam's work and the ghostly girl's song lure Rilla to the island's shores. As Rilla helps Sam to unearth the island's many secrets, Rilla's visions grow--until the two discover a tragedy kept silent for years. And it's a tragedy that has everything to do with Rilla's past.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The feminist ghost story you've been waiting for." (Bustle)
"An evocative backdrop of life as a lobsterman grounds the supernatural elements, and Rilla's steeliness shines--she's the

kind of captain readers will eagerly follow. History and mystery meld beautifully in this ghost story with depth." (Kirkus)"The tension here is masterfully crafted." (BCCB)"With a strong main character, a well-developed supporting cast, and illustrative story-telling, the author has succeeded in meshing multiple genres into one extraordinary YA novel. Encompassing aspects of mystery, historical fiction, realistic fiction, romance, and the ever-intriguing ghost story, this tale is well worth a spot on any age-appropriate library shelf." (School Library Connection)"Parker's vivid descriptions of life on Maine's coast and the lobstering business ground a haunting and atmospheric tale about the sea and reckoning with a community's past." (Publishers Weekly) "(An) absorbing paranormal journey of self-discovery. A compelling novel with an empowered heroine. (School Library Journal)"An electrifying, taut tale of the sea, grief, and memory that will take your breath away. You will not soon forget Rilla Brae, Malaga Island, or S.M. Parker's gorgeous, scary story. Keep the lights on." (Kathleen Glasgow, New York Times bestselling author, *Girl in Pieces*) "Gorgeous and lyrical, Parker's mesmerizing story is a siren's song that lures you into a beautiful fog of secrets and mystery." (Adriana Mather, New York Times bestselling author of *How to Hang a Witch*) "In this chilling story of grief, ghosts, and secrets, Parker leads you on a journey that reveals a deep and unexpected connection between the past and the present. Full of twists and turns, darkness and light, *THE RATTLED BONES* will stay with you long after you've turned the last page." (Amber Smith, New York Times bestselling author of *The Way I Used to Be*) "Equal parts beautiful and chilling, Shannon M. Parker's sophomore novel will sweep you away to the icy waters and small coastal towns of Maine, where the past refuses to be ignored and family secrets are dredged to the surface with the day's scotch. Unputdownable, and like the roar of the sea once you've heard it, unforgettable." (Sarah Glenn Marsh, author of *Fear the Drowning Deep*) "*THE RATTLED BONES* is like a ghost story told around a bonfire on a cold northern beach. This exquisite, stormy mystery and its seafaring heroine will keep you reading long into the night." (Rebecca Podos, author of *The Mystery of Hollow Places*) "In *The Girl Who Fell*, Shannon Parker established herself as a master at weaving a compelling story in a high stakes, thrilling ride of a read. She does it again, superbly, in *THE RATTLED BONES*, where a haunting on the Maine coastline blurs the line between sanity and madness." (Karen Fortunati, author of *The Weight of Zero*) "I am in love with this book. *THE RATTLED BONES* is cinematic and atmospheric and made me feel the grief and the grit and the salt air in my chest. The writing is gorgeous yet ghostly. And brave Rilla Brae is the ultimate heroine I wish I had the guts to be." (Marisa Reichardt, author of *Underwater*) "A beautiful, mournful tale of a grieving young woman who faces, with courage and empathy, the dark secrets of her family's history and the unknown terrain of her future. *THE*

RATTLED BONES is utterly steeped in the atmosphere and hardships of life on the Maine coast, exploring a shameful and little-known episode of American history with unflinching honesty and obvious respect." (Kali Wallace, author of *The Memory Trees*) "Shannon M. Parker has (once again) created a masterpiece. *THE RATTLED BONES* flawlessly captures the eerie beauty of Maine and pulls back the curtain on a piece of history that has stayed hidden for too long. Not only is this book goose bump-inducing, it is beautifully written and completely engrossing. I couldn't put it down. I practically disappeared into it." (Lilly R. 18-year-old reader) "Vivid descriptions of life on the Maine coast meld perfectly with the haunting and tragically compelling story of Malaga." VOYA

S.M. Parker lives on the coast of Maine with her husband and sons. She works as a literacy advocate and holds degrees from three New England universities. She can usually be found rescuing dogs, chickens, old houses, and wooden boats. She has a weakness for chocolate chip cookies and ridiculous laughter—ideally at the same time. *The Girl Who Fell* was her first novel. Find her at ShannonMParker.com.

In *The Girl Who Fell*, Shannon Parker established herself as a master at weaving a compelling story in a high stakes, thrilling ride of a read. She does it again, superbly, in *The Rattled Bones*, where a haunting on the Maine coastline blurs the line between sanity and madness. High school graduate Rilla has been raised by her father and grandmother. In this last summer before embarking for Brown on a full scholarship, her father's unexpected death causes Rilla to rethink her plans. But it's more than the future of her family's lobstering business weighing on her. Rilla is starting to see things - things that others can't - things that are tied to the dark and dirty history of a small island off her Maine coastline. Forcing Rilla to face a startling truth - either she's losing her grip on her sanity or she's connecting with a woman who died almost a century ago. Parker's writing flat out stuns in this paranormal mystery. She explores Rilla's grief and loss with great sensitivity and honesty. These lines read like poetry. But it is first and foremost a thriller with a deliciously high creep element. Parker absolutely shines at scaring the bleep out of you. For me, the brilliance of this story is its layers and complexity. In Rilla's quest for the truth, Parker exposes yet another long buried incident of racial prejudice and takes a provocative look at the constraints of gender roles past and present. Scary, thrilling, thoughtful and provocative, *THE RATTLED BONES*, is going to be BIG! DO NOT MISS THIS ONE!!!!

A thrilling story with a lot of important historical research. Well done!

This is a truly beautiful book. The Maine setting is stunningly rendered, from the natural beauty of the land and sea to the hardships of life on a lobster boat, from the stubborn pride of people whose families have lived there for generations to the cycles of poverty and abuse that afflict modern teenagers in small towns. But most vivid of all is the sense of history in the place, and the constant awareness that history shapes the world we live in, whether it's good or shameful, recent or distant. The clearing of Malaga Island is a dark, shameful chapter in American history, and Parker explores it here with care and empathy. The main character, Rilla, is a teenager whose life has been marked by grief and loss, but her care for the people around her as well as those whose tragic past she uncovers as she explores the history of her home. Her conflicting emotions about going to college, about leaving her grandmother alone, about choosing a life different from the one her friends have chosen, about taking comfort in a friendship with an outsider, about the fear that if she moves away she'll change too much to come back, they're all so very real and powerful and important for readers of all ages, but especially teenagers, to acknowledge and explore. And, of course, this is a ghost story, so it's got plenty of delightful creeps as well! The slow unveiling of the supernatural elements of the story sent chills down my spine and kept me reading way past my bedtime. Very highly recommended. I can't wait to see what Parker writes next. I will be first in line to read it!

I was all in for the phenomenal *THE RATTLED BONES* from the first page. This book has everything I want in a story: hope, heart, mystery, friendships, families, swoon, history, atmosphere, and best of all, a kickass female MC. Sometimes you come to books and they are just the perfect book for you. This was that book for me. I was so completely immersed in the evocative world of Fairtide Cottage and Malaga Island and the coast of Maine that I felt these characters with me for weeks. I feel them still. In my bones. In my heart. On top of all of this, the story is so very timely and important as it highlights real-life events that show a dark side of America's history that took place on Maine's Malaga Island. The tension is built beautifully as Parker weaves this textured and layered story. You will feel like you are in Maine or on the lobster boat with Rilla or feeling the ghostly breeze along your neck hairs on Malaga Island. *THE RATTLED BONES* is an absolute must-read and one of my favorite books of the year.

Rilla Brae is officially my new favorite YA protagonist! Rilla doesn't listen to maritime lore that claims a girl on a ship is bad luck. She's a capable, tough-as-nails lobster fisherman and exactly the kind of protagonist I love to read. This story made my little feminist heart beat faster!

Then there's the writing "the gorgeous, sumptuous writing. S.M. Parker's prose is so elegant that the descriptions read like poetry. The haunting itself is deliciously creepy and downright frightening, so much so that I caught myself trying to take a short break from reading at night but found myself too riveted by the story to stay away. I may have read some sections with one eye closed! The thorough research of the history shows as well. I didn't know anything about the history of Malaga but found myself riveted by the true story and saddened about the cultural erasure. The mystery easily pulled me through the story quickly and the touch of romance was heartfelt and swoony. Frightening yet poignant, atmospheric yet grounded in a familiar reality, THE RATTLED BONES is a must-read! Buy it immediately!

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