Lovereading Reader reviews of
The Bone Field
by Simon Kernick

Below are the complete reviews, written by Lovereading members.

Lynda DeFreitas
This is the first book of a new series from the bestselling author Simon Kernick. The story is gripping – the plot well thought out, and the main characters, DI Ray Mason and PI Tina Boyd, are well fleshed out.

The book begins with a mystery – how did the bones of a young woman who went missing over 25 years ago in Thailand, turn up in a field in England?

The police don’t seem to be progressing very far with their enquiries, and only one detective, Ray Mason has any idea of what to look for, but his maverick tendencies are a threat to not only the police investigation but also to a criminal gang connected to powerful and influential people and they will stop at nothing to silence him.

The book ends on a cliffhanger and I’m looking forward to the next instalment of Simon Kernick’s new series about DI Mason and PI Boyd.

Rachael Anderson
Whilst this book might have a somewhat unbelievable plot and indeed characters, this is truly a gripping thriller. The first book in what I suspect will be a must read crime series.

DS Mason, the protagonist, seems to court trouble. The crime novel opens with an investigation of the deaths of two girls. One of them, Kitty Sinn, had mysteriously gone missing in Thailand twenty five year ago, only for her bones
to turn up in the grounds of a school in Buckinghamshire. Her former boyfriend, Henry Forbes, makes contact with Mason, indicating that he knows who killed her. In this book, Mason teams up with fearless detective Tina Boyd (a character from a previous Kendrick series).

This is a fast paced thriller which I would heartedly recommend. There are numerous twists and turns to keep you on your toes. There are quite a few occasions when you have to suspend your disbelief at the somewhat unbelievable coincidences and happenings with the book. However, it is gripping and you do want to keep finding out what is going to happen next.

I thoroughly enjoyed The Bone Field and I only wish the second part in this series was instantly available.

Sheila Dale

Great initial presentation, good characters well written and a fantastic plot. If you haven't read Kernick before do it NOW!!

I am a great fan of Simon Kernick and this book is one of his best. Loved the initial presentation with crime scene tape around the book and the postcard from Thailand introducing the plot, hope that makes it to the final version!

The book is written in an easy relaxed style with twists and turns in the plot but easy to keep track of and I read this in 2 days. The characters are great and good to see Tina Boyd re-appearing in this book paired with Ray Mason.

The main baddie is a scary character and as this is the first in a new series I look forward to seeing how the story carries on. Ramon, a low level bad character is written so well that I found myself feeling sorry for him even though he is a nasty piece of work!

A great ending to the book, can’t wait to read the next one, if you’ve never read Simon Kernick and like the genre I strongly recommend this book.

Maz Tucker

It was full of action from start to finish. The plot and characters came to life. If you’re a fan of Police Procedural books then with lots of mystery and suspense, you will love it.

I have never read any of Simon Kernick’s book, so was really interested in reading this. I was not disappointed, it was full of action from start to finish. The plot and Characters came to life. If you’re a fan of Police Procedural books
then with lots of mystery and suspense, you will love it.

Sarah Musk

A readable, dark, fast paced thriller. A twenty six year old murder mystery keeps the reader perplexed right to the finish and there is a brilliant ending!

Simon Kernick is a very exciting thriller writer. I have read several of his books and this latest one didn’t disappoint.

The story is about the twenty six year old mystery of a young woman’s disappearance in Thailand. Her body turns up in England in the present time and throughout the book it is almost impossible to guess what happened to her. The answer to the mystery is very clever and Simon Kernick builds up the answers like a jigsaw puzzle - adding a little bit here a little bit there and finally you get your answers - well almost!

It seems like there will be a sequel which I shall look forward to reading because there are more impenetrable mysteries to be solved. The main character DI Ray Mason is a bit of a stereotype detective - dogged, relentless, taken off the case and carries on regardless but this type of character does make the plot more intricate and challenging.

This book is very readable, clearly written and fast paced. If you like a complex, dark, fast paced thriller - then read ‘The Bone Field’.

Susan Andrews

Very mixed feelings with this book. Simon Kernick has always been a favourite author and I have read all his other books, so when LoveReadingUK offered me the opportunity to read The Bone Field, I jumped at it.

The story starts with a girl and her boyfriend going to Thailand, where the girl disappeared, years later her body is dug up in England. When the boyfriend is subsequently killed before the police can talk to him, DS Mason is convinced their is a tie in but has trouble proving it. There also seems to be clues leading to previously untouchable crime Lords.

There is a lot of violence, which is always the way with Simon Kernick books, but with this one it was relentless. I actually more or less had solved the murder before DS Mason! I didn’t really enjoy this book, did I need to go back to finish it? Yes! It kept me reading.

The ending was another problem for me, it didn’t end! This is more of a serial
than a series. Will I read the next one? Probably!

Laura Rowland

An exciting mystery of murder and deception, with many layers waiting to be discovered and exposed. This book is a great example of a murder mystery read that will keep you enthralled and fascinated by each twist and turn throughout the storyline. This story is primarily about the discovery of the bones of a female in the grounds of a school in Buckinghamshire, who went missing in Thailand over 20 years ago, raising many impossible questions for the detective in charge. From there the story escalates and exposes the sinister side of humanity.

I have never read a book by Simon Kernick before, however I will definitely be reading other titles by him, as he enables you to get engrossed within the story very quickly and makes you sympathise with characters that are not so innocent.

The possible sequel or series to this book promises to be an exciting tale of secrets and deception.

Margaret Freeman

A gripping, fast action thriller. I thoroughly enjoyed ‘The Bone Field’ by Simon Kernick. It’s the first of his books that I’ve read, but it won’t be the last. Kitty Sinn disappeared in 1990 whilst she was on holiday in Thailand with her boyfriend, Henry Forbes. There was no record that she ever left Thailand, but 26 years later her bones were discovered during building work on land that had formerly belonged to Medmenham College in Buckinghamshire. And then the bones of a schoolgirl who had gone missing in 1989 are found buried in the same field.

There’s plenty of fast paced, told through different characters' viewpoints. DI Ray Mason is nearly killed when he goes to question Henry and then finds himself under investigation as a suspect. From then on he acts very much on his own, with the help of PI Tina Boyd, an ex-police detective. Both find themselves in danger as they are confronted by a gang of ruthless killers, ritualistic murderers and people traffickers.

‘The Bone Field’ is the first in a new series of books, featuring Ray Mason and Tina Boyd, both of whom are the most developed and convincing of the characters and, I understand, are both characters from Kernick’s earlier books.
I read the book quickly, drawn by all the twists and turns to the dramatic ending. However instead of tying up all the loose ends, the last sentence raises a new mystery that, I assume, will lead on to the next book in the series.

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Phylippa Smithson

A good thriller but really so not that good. When the body Kitty Sinn is uncovered in the grounds of a Private school in Buckinghamshire, along with another teenage girl, it triggers the review of two cold cases. Both had disappeared over 20 years ago. What is even more intriguing about the disappearance of Kitty is that she was last seen, allegedly, enjoying a holiday with her then boyfriend Henry in Thailand – over 600k miles away.

DI Ray Mason has evidently got a reputation and it’s one that leaves him with few friends in the crime division based on his behaviour during previous cases. When he pushes his luck one step too far with his only real supporter, his boss, he is left to continue his investigation alone, and unofficially. To do this he needs to learn to trust a PI, Tina Boyd who had been asked by the former boyfriend Henry to re-investigate Kitty’s disappearance when her body is uncovered.

This had so much potential but was quite simply average. And in this day of such competition on the book shelves for high quality crime thrillers, it needed to be way above average to make it compelling

Perhaps the follow up (I understand this is the first in a series) will help improve the averages but must admit, I am not that desperate to know what happens next.

Very disappointed.

Daran Bellingham

A great first part from Simon Kernick involving two characters, DI Ray Mason, who is new to me and PI Tina Boyd that I know from previous Kernick novels.

A surprising ending. I have read a lot of Simon Kernick’s books and I am a fan, this novel brings together two characters, DI Ray Mason, whom I am not familiar with and PI Tina Boyd who I know from previous novels.

This is a dark story that starts with the disappearance of a young woman whilst on holiday in Thailand with her boyfriend. Then there is the discovery of human
remains here in the UK, it seems some of the remains are of the young woman.
Kernick manages to grip you with the story from the beginning with the disappearance, then a contract killing of the woman’s ex boyfriend, years after she went missing. DI Mason and PI Boyd meet because she was contracted by the ex-boyfriend to find one of the missing girl’s friends from the past, in fact the last known person to see her alive.

There is possible occult connotations to the disappearance, there is also a second girl that went missing whose remains are discovered at the same place, the grounds of a private school.

There is also the dark man, an evil character who likes to kill, horribly.

The end leaves you wanting more, which I like as this is the first part of Kernick’s new series.

Kerry Bridges

A fast paced read which left me hanging...

In the grounds of Medmenham College some bones have been found. DI Ray Mason receives a phone call from a middle aged businessman named Henry Forbes who claims to know the origin of the bones but, before he can tell the truth, a chain of events is set in motion sending Ray and his friend, Private Detective Tina Boyd, halfway round the globe in search of the truth.

I have read many of Simon Kernick’s novels before and enjoyed them. Very much in the manner of Tony Parsons’ Max Wolfe, his books are fast paced and generally pretty superficial - what you see is what you get and there is not too much thinking involved but it is certainly fun to be swept along for the ride! Unfortunately, I cannot say that this was one of my favourites of his. I am not a fan of police procedurals where the police are breaking the law with impunity and behaving in a totally irresponsible fashion as Ray does here. There are plenty of novels where the main protagonist is forced close to the edge and I am sure that these are totally realistic. However, I really don’t think that a policeman would cross the line in this way and this did jar quite a lot with me.

I have to say that I also felt totally let down by the way the book ended so abruptly. Without giving away too much detail, this is definitely not a standalone novel. It comes to an abrupt end which clearly leads to another book and, whilst I never mind a set of books leading on from each other, I don’t like the device of one not actually reaching a conclusion, however unsatisfying it may be.
I will obviously need to read the next book because I would like to get to the end of the story and I do enjoy this style of writing

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Lizzy Dingemans

Perfect for long-time fans of Kernick and new readers alike - a gritty thriller with a great twist to finish!

Having read all of Simon Kernick's other books reading this book is completely different. As this is a new series it is perfect for new readers of Simon Kernick's books.

If - like me - you are an avid reader of his books then do stick with it. The book starts off slowly but soon ramps up to Kernick's normal fast pace and finishes with a twist. Kernick's books are always full of surprises and this was no exception - the characters are well drawn and there's plenty of action (after the slow start) to keep you hooked. I did enjoy this book and I'm looking forward to the rest of the series!

Carol Peace

Hold on for a fast paced ride. DI Ray Mason is called to a meeting with Henry Forbes and his solicitor, he was involved with the disappearance of Kitty Sinn some 25 years ago when she vanished whilst on holiday with him. There was never any suggestion that he had killed her but he said he wanted to talk now. The meeting was interrupted by masked men and once again Ray is at the centre of an internal inquiry. He never gets to know what information Henry was about to divulge though and when Kitty's bones are dug up in England he has to find out how a woman who disappeared in Thailand ended up being buried here. I loved the introduction of PI Tina Boyd and how well they worked together. This was a fast paced and edge of your seat kind of read and I devoured it in 2 sittings.

I can't wait for the next 'Bone Field' book as this seems to be the first in a series.

Julie Evans

Fantastic, thrilling! This book is one of the best that I have read for a long time. It was a page turner from page 1 and kept me hooked all the way through. I couldn't read it fast enough!
It was a page turner from page 1 and kept me hooked all the way through. I couldn't read it fast enough! The characters were all cleverly interwoven and kept me guessing until the very end right up until the last page and then everything was turned on its head! I can't wait until the next book in the series to find out about Henry Forbes' involvement in this ever changing plot, how DI Ray Mason and PI Tina Boyd continue working on the case and what is going on with that last phone call. Don't want to give too much away about the final page twist. Please release the next book very soon!

Cathy Small

When Kitty went missing all those years ago it seemed it would be unresolved for ever. When her bones are then found it would appear that things did not happen as expected. Ray is a Detective Inspector who responds to a cry for help from a missing person many years ok. Her body has been found in the UK yet she went missing in Thailand and her boyfriend at the time wants to confess to the truth that he knows. However he is killed before he can share his story and Ray is caught up in a case that is much bigger than originally thought. He joins forces with Tina a private investigator to try & locate the truth. They both risk their lives and job suspension for Ray to hunt down their leads to unearth a truth that they were not expecting. An enjoyable thriller that will draw you into the character of Ray and willing him to win the battle with police, Tina and the gang.

Peter Mynehan

High aspirations but disappointed overall.

I had high aspirations for this book when I opened it and saw the additional props included.

Although they provided a useful background to the story that was to ensue, I found them overall somewhat superfluous.

Although the story took the reader on an exotic journey to Southeast Asia and back, I only found this book to be a relatively mundane run of the mill cop story.

Lynette McCann

A detective and a PI search for the truth when two bodies turn up, taking them
into a corrupt evil world where nobody can be trusted. A lot of action ensues leading to a shocking ending. Unmissable! Searching for what really happened when two bodies turn up, a policeman and a PI's investigations take them into a hotbed of corruption where nobody can be trusted. The action doesn't let up and all the characters are really believable leading to a shock ending, leaving readers gasping for another book to follow. Couldn't put this book down.

Adrienne Kinsella

‘Bone Field’ is a gripping, fast-paced thriller. The central character Ray Mason is a private detective who is investigating a cold case about the murder of a young girl called Kitty Sinn in Thailand.

This book is a complete page-turner. The story is centred around the murder and the discovery of bones in the grounds of a school in England that belong to Kitty and another girl. Ray tries to discover how she could have left Thailand. He enlists the help of another detective called Tina Boyd to help follow up a lead. He discovers through a friend that a ruthless crime gang is involved who will stop at nothing to protect their identity and are involved in all kinds of corrupt and deadly activity. The bodies start mounting up and Ray gets himself into deeper and deeper trouble as he gets closer to the truth. This book is the first in a series and I cannot wait to find out what happens next.

Melanie Kane

‘The Bone Field’ is an excellent example of a gripping, graphic thriller novel. The plot was both complex and intriguing not to mention highly fascinating as well as being superbly written. The characters were so realistic and well detailed bringing the story line to life. I felt completely engaged with the plot and cannot recommend this highly enough. Superb.

Angela Rhodes

DI Ray Mason and PI Tina Boyd, have a case they will come to wish they had never taken and oh, Thailand, before backpackers and tourists thought it was a good holiday destination Kitty Sinn a graduate of Brighton Polytechnic University and her twenty five year old boyfriend Henry Forbes at the same collage are holidaying there.
Only not long into the holiday Kitty goes missing, never to be seen again until her remains are found in an old Catholic school. Once again Henry Forbes, now middle-aged and a lecturer is in the headlines, only this time he along with his lawyer claim to know what happened to Kitty, and who killed her.

Why has it taken so long for him to come forward? Is the murder of another girl, whose bones are found next to those of Kitty's linked?

_The deeper Mason and Boyd look, the darker the crime becomes._

**Gill Wilmott**

I was so keen to start this book that I failed to read the back cover that told me this is the first part of a series, so must admit to being a little disappointed when I realised reading the last few pages that there was no way of tying up all the various ends by the finish of the book. However these feeling were more than balanced by a keen anticipation that more of the same is on its way!

It was an easy book to read, excellent plot, with characters perhaps a little larger than life, but highly entertaining. It did seem at times more “James Bond” than a London copper - even if he was working “unofficially”! However I have subsequently read somewhere that the author talks both on and off the record to members of the Counter Terrorism Command and the Serious and Organised Crime Agency, so perhaps they are much more “gung ho” than I imagined!

Whatever the truth of it the publishers themselves describe this new book series as “totally gripping & irresistible” and I certainly wouldn’t argue with that!

**Mrs D. Forbes-Rittes**

There were a couple of extras that came with this book which reach out to a reader from the start. My copy came wrapped in Police crime tape and had a postcard and newspaper cutting related to the plot. This establishes an instant feeling that you are involved in the story. It was very well written and easy to read and the author avoids embellishing with unnecessary graphic details. The plot follows a detective, whose career so far has been dogged by controversy, as he is pulled into investigating a cold case that has heated up considerably. There is a body found hundreds of miles from where it had been expected to be, a link to a missing child and, as the story progresses, a link to major crime.
The characters are likeable and engaging, it's easy to sympathise with their difficulties, despite the underlying feeling that the main character is a man on the edge. The plot is full of suspense and thrills and draws you in. As the first part in a new series it ends on rather a cliff hanger and leaves the reader wanting more. Definitely a series to pick up and follow.

Edel Waugh

This book started out awesome and just got better as it went on! The story begins with talk of an old crime with links to the present, the action and intrigue is upped straight away in the first chapter and it’s a blissful joyride from then to the satisfying end.

The main character is a troubled guy who has been through a lot of tough patches and now he works for the police. He is one of those rough and ready guys who I always visualise to be kind of like Macgyver in an emergency situation, basically this is the guy you want helping you or searching for you, he will get the job done! The story takes us from England to France and back again with a crippling amount of bad guys who you would not want to meet up a dark alley. The story was thrilling but had a good dose of eeriness too, I got goose bumps reading parts of this! All in all a great read that is best read in one sitting as the pace of the plot is quite quick. This would be a perfect read for any thriller fans. Read this, grab a coffee, stay up all night.

Michelle Hodson

Thrilling, engaging & fast paced. Simon Kernick at his best.

Simon Kernick is a favourite author of mine and this novel did not disappoint. It started off at full throttle and continued at 100 miles/hour.

I loved his new character DI Ray Mason and it was good to welcome back the inimitable Tina Boyd. The story concentrates on a couple of cold cases with all the usual violent and unsavoury characters along the way. Kernick's writing draws you in. You feel for the characters and the victims until the very end. There was no proper conclusion to this novel but as I understand there is more to come I cannot wait to continue this story.
Jayne Burton

*Fast moving and sometimes harrowing thriller.*

This is the first book by Simon Kernick I have read, and not sure I will be searching him out to read any more.

I didn't enjoy all the violence which I wasn’t expecting and felt it rather mundane as thrillers go. I also ended up being rather disappointed by the end – especially as I now realise this is the first part of a series. Don't think I will be reading the next one as I didn’t find it to be anything out of the ordinary.

Sarah Tilley

A really gripping read, with lots of twists and turns. All of the characters are described in depth and the writing flows exceptionally well. Some of the descriptive passages are a little gruesome, but knowing what the perpetrator is capable of, just makes you turn the pages even quicker to find out what is going to happen next. It keeps you guessing right until the end, and leaves enough loose ends to make sure that you buy the next volume as soon as it is released.

*A very powerful book and very enjoyable – just don’t read it late at night!*