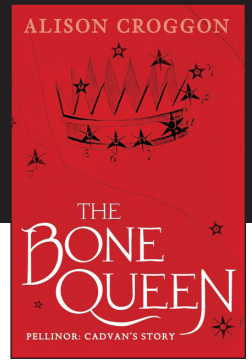


THE BONE QUEEN

Alison Croggon



Discussion Questions

1. Cadvan behaves differently at various points in the book. How do the different settings affect his behavior? Is Cadvan most himself in Jouan, where he is a relative stranger; at the Schools of Barding, where he is well known; or at another point on his journeys?
2. Cadvan constructs a life for himself in exile. How do you think other Bards, such as Dernhil or Selmana, would fare if they were banished from the Schools?
3. Annar is an intricately built world, from the landscape to speech to customs. What specific details make it feel most real to you?
4. Why isn't it immediately apparent to Bards that Likod is a Hull?
5. The dynamic between Dernhil and Cadvan evolves throughout the book. What are some of the turning points in their relationship?
6. What is Ceredin's function? What do you think would have happened if she hadn't appeared to Dernhil or Selmana? How does Ceredin influence Selmana and Dernhil's feelings about Cadvan?
7. Why is it so difficult for the Bards to heed warnings of evil in a time of relative peace? Do you see this effect in the real world?
8. How does the hierarchy of the Schools work against the Bards?
9. Larla invites Selmana to her home almost immediately after they meet. Were your first impressions of Larla that she was kind and good, or some sinister agent of the Dark? What were Selmana's? What kind of role did you predict Larla would have in the novel?
10. What is the importance of the Truenames of the Bards? Is there anything comparable in your life?
11. The characters in *The Bone Queen* have very different attitudes toward taking action and ways of acting. How do you think they would have dealt with Likod and Kansabur if they had been working individually?
12. Bards speak of Knowing both the world and themselves. Which kind of Knowing is more important? Which do you value in yourself and your friends?



Discussion Questions (continued)

13. When Larla uses Selmana's Gift to see what was happening during the storm more clearly, is it a violation of Selmana?
14. Likod's forced scrying and possession of Bashar is an assault on her body and mind with irreversible damage. Do you agree with Nelac that it is better to be dead than to live after such a violent desecration?
15. Even though Noram, Coglint, and the Bardhouse in Lirigon had been ensorcelled, why wasn't the power of the Light strong enough to show that Nelac spoke the truth? What did it mean that the truth was not enough to convince the Bards?
16. Which servant of the Dark seems most threatening to you: Likod or Kansabur? The Shika or the Nameless One? Why? Which would you least want to fight?
17. In what respects are the Bards justified in their mistrust of the Elidhu? In what respects are they not?
18. What do you expect Selmana's life will be like going forward? What do you hope comes of her link to the Elidhu?
19. "Happiness wasn't what he had thought it was: it was like the dragonfly, a fragile winged thing that arrived, unsought and unexpected, and graced the work of living. You couldn't hunt it down; you couldn't hold it. But sometimes, in a blessed moment, it was there" (page 404). Do you agree with Cadvan's statement? Do you think he would have come to this realization even if Dernhil had never come to Jouan?
20. There are four other books of Pellinor, set fifty years after *The Bone Queen*. If you've read them, do you think knowing what's on the horizon for Annar — and, especially, for Cadvan — colored your reading of *The Bone Queen*, and if so, how? If you haven't read them, how do you think a knowledge of Cadvan's past would influence your reading of the other books?

Don't miss
Alison Croggon's
Books of Pellinor!

