



Bog Child

By Siobhan Dowd

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DIGGING FOR PEAT in the mountain with his Uncle Tally, Fergus finds the body of a child, and it looks like she's been murdered. As Fergus tries to make sense of the mad world around him—his brother on hunger-strike in prison, his growing feelings for Cora, his parents arguing over the Troubles, and him in it up to the neck, blackmailed into acting as courier to God knows what—a little voice comes to him in his dreams, and the mystery of the bog child unfurls.

Bog Child is an astonishing novel exploring the sacrifices made in the name of peace, and the unflinching strength of the human spirit.

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Starred Review. Grade 9 Up—It is 1981, and 18-year-old Fergus lives on the border between Northern Ireland and the south. His older brother, Joe, a member of the Provisional IRA, is jailed at Long Kesh and joins a hunger strike. The family is traumatized, and Fergus does his best to comfort his mother and to convince Joe that his "sacrifice" for the cause is not worth it. Fergus has been pressured (blackmailed) to smuggle packages for the IRA, but wants nothing more than to leave Ireland and study to become a doctor. His life becomes even more complicated when he and his uncle discover the body of a young girl while pilfering peat. It turns out to be 2000 years old. Thus begins a double narrative that involves a love story and a discussion of destiny and self-sacrifice. Fergus's story includes his struggle to understand his brother's actions and his growing love for the daughter of the archaeologist called in to investigate the Iron Age discovery. Interspersed is the story of Mel, the bog child, who makes the ultimate sacrifice to unite her people, and who finds love at the end of her life. The two narratives work beautifully together. The love story between Fergus and Cora is depicted with tenderness, and their adolescent sexuality is sensitively portrayed. Readers will come away with a strong sense of the time periods (especially of the "Troubles") through dialogue and action. This compelling read is lyrically written and contains authentic dialogue and challenging and involving moral issues. It's a first, and a must-have purchase.—*Jennifer Ralston, Harford County Public Library, Belcamp, MD*

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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review While cutting peat in the Irish hills, Fergus McCann and his uncle discover a body preserved by the bog. Archaeologists and politicians fight over the find, while Fergus starts to dream about the past of the bog child he names "Mel." Dowd slowly reveals the story of Mel's mysterious death, an apparent murder, amid the 1980s troubles of Northern Ireland and the hunger strike of the Long Kesh political prisoners. Fergus' imprisoned older brother joins the strike as Fergus is blackmailed into delivering packages that may contain bomb-making supplies. The history, which will likely be as unfamiliar to American teen readers as the story's dialect, may need fleshing out with additional sources, but the intriguing characters and their motivations and sacrifices will translate directly to contemporary readers. The plotlines are braided together into a strong story that is rich in language, setting, and theme. Fans of David Almond's work will savor the similar religious influences and the elements of magical realism. A budding romance with the archaeologist's daughter, exuberant Cora, will delight readers, who will wonder, as Fergus does after his first kisses, "Why wasn't the whole world doing this all the time, why?" Grades 8-11. --Cindy Dobrez

Review

Starred Review, [Kirkus Reviews](#), July 15, 2008:

"[A] painful and moving read."

Starred Review, [School Library Journal](#), August 2008:

"This compelling read is lyrically written and contains authentic dialogue and challenging and involving moral issues."

Starred Review, [Booklist](#), August 1, 2008:

"A strong story that is rich in language, setting, and theme."

Starred Review, Publishers Weekly, July 28, 2008:

“Dowd raises questions about moral choices within a compelling plot that is full of surprises.”

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Hill:

Inside other case, little folks like to read book Bog Child. You can choose the best book if you want reading a book. Providing we know about how is important a book Bog Child. You can add know-how and of course you can around the world with a book. Absolutely right, because from book you can learn everything! From your country right up until foreign or abroad you will find yourself known. About simple thing until wonderful thing you can know that. In this era, we are able to open a book or perhaps searching by internet gadget. It is called e-book. You can use it when you feel uninterested to go to the library. Let's examine.

Cleveland Bolton:

Hey guys, do you desires to finds a new book to study? May be the book with the concept Bog Child suitable to you? Typically the book was written by renowned writer in this era. The actual book untitled Bog Child is a single of several books this everyone read now. This specific book was inspired many men and women in the world. When you read this book you will enter the new dimensions that you ever know prior to. The author explained their concept in the simple way, so all of people can easily to understand the core of this e-book. This book will give you a lot of information about this world now. To help you to see the represented of the world in this book.

Deana Broom:

Reading can called brain hangout, why? Because if you are reading a book mainly book entitled Bog Child your brain will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each aspect that maybe not known for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging every single word written in a publication then become one type conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get previous to. The Bog Child giving you one more experience more than blown away your brain but also giving you useful information for your better life in this particular era. So now let us demonstrate the relaxing pattern is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished reading it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary paying spare time activity?

Lydia Rogers:

That book can make you to feel relax. This kind of book Bog Child was colorful and of course has pictures around. As we know that book Bog Child has many kinds or genre. Start from kids until young adults. For example Naruto or Private eye Conan you can read and believe that you are the character on there. So , not at

all of book are make you bored, any it can make you feel happy, fun and unwind. Try to choose the best book to suit your needs and try to like reading that will.

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