



Crane

Jeff Stone , Kiki Barrera (Read by)

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Drugged. Wounded. A price on her head. And that's the good news.

Herself. For years, Hok has hidden her true identity from her brothers at Cangzhen. Now, at last, she can be herself. And yet, who is she? Calm and thoughtful, Hok is a crane-style kung fu master carefully attuned to others, but she has never spent much time looking inward. After barely surviving the destruction of two warrior monk strongholds, Hok realizes her old world is gone. She finds her way to the city of Kaifeng and begins a new life.

But her old life intervenes and she must join forces with Fu and Seh to pursue the captured Malao. Their quest takes them to the city of Jinan and into the sinister underground world of fight clubs, where matches are fixed and rules don't exist. Against incredible odds, the young monks must use their sharp wits to stay together and their formidable kung fu skills to survive.

Crane Details

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From Reader Review Crane for online ebook

Amy B says

This books a amazing! I looove Hok and Ying ugh this book is perfect

Anna Francesca says

This is another book in the five ancestors series that has interesting plot development but which doesn't stand alone. (If I could, I would give it 3 1/2 stars, but this site doesn't allow for halves). The end clearly is an opening to the next book in the series as the fates of most of the main characters are up in the air. This is an active book with an intelligent female protagonist. However, some parts of the story were so dark and violent that it took me longer to get through this one than the others that preceded it in the series. Although I do feel for the characters and like getting to know Hok (the protagonist) and her family better, I would only recommend this book to people who want to read the rest of the series.

Amy says

Lots going on in this book, the 4th in The Five Ancestors series. To be honest, there was probably a little too much that went on, making the story drift even further from any kind of clear center. I really have no idea any longer what our monks are trying to do, because they are continually being swept off course and then brought back together only to be swept away from one another again.

That said, I did enjoy this installment. I found Hok to be an interesting character. She was a nice blend between masculine and feminine, hardness and softness, tenderness and firmness. Of any of the characters up to this point she was much more of a yin and yang character, making her, I think, the most enigmatic and unpredictable character in the story. I love that she so well embodies the tenacity that martial arts requires of students.

Jeph says

Of all the books in the series, **Crane** seems to get inside the head of it's focal character the best. Each book tells the story from a different perspective of one of the main characters, and Hok, the young female Crane stylist tells the story the best. Crane introduces Cheung, the Leopard stylist, Bing, Hok's mother and Charles, a foreign boy who is a crack-shot with pistols.

Hok's outsider perspective, being forced to live as a man adds a nice touch to the ever-present charms of the series and the story itself continues to introduce interesting characters while keeping the action flowing, as ever.

Paula Howard says

Poor Hok. Life has been extremely hard for her, yes her, since the destruction of her Temple. Hok was admitted to the Temple to train as a boy as girls were not allowed. The Grandmaster was the only one who knew Hok's true identity. He allowed her presence as that was the only way to protect her life.

Hok means Crane. That was the Kung Fu in which she was trained. She was separated from her brothers, found some of them only to be separated again. Drugged with Dream Powder and finally escapes. She and Seh (snake) escape together. Hok finds her mother and discovers that she was a younger sister but has to leave once again. Hok and Seh head out to rescue Fu and Maleo who have been captured. Seh is facing an uphill battle as he has been blinded due to too much Dream Powder.

Crane like the previous in the series has a great deal of action. Good vs. Evil. Personal challenges.

Fantastic series for grades 5-8.

Gloria says

Okay, I guess I should comment on this series, as I have just blustered through the four currently available books in this seven book series: It's not really deep, but it is very engaging. And there are many twists that develop as the series moves along, which is, perhaps, why _Crane_ (number four) receives higher marks than the others.

Details regarding the actual movements of martial arts are quite good (although for me, a bit much---I just want to know what else is going to happen), and quite informative (for me, an ignoramus in regards to the different fighting styles). I am personally tickled to have the story move on to Kaifeng (I've been there!), and make historical references.

I am puzzled by the mixing of Cantonese and Mandarin naming (I know, it is part of the plot, but gets me wondering about a broader history of martial arts in China.... and I don't think I really want to go into that line of inquiry right now, so someone just tell me).

Finally, I have enjoyed seeing how the author's biography has evolved over the four books. Pretty neat (check it out).

Aelvana says

Hok has always needed to be more careful than her brothers---no one must know she is a girl. And not only a girl, but a girl with brown hair, whose color will betray her mixed blood. After the temple is destroyed, she finds an unexpected chance at new life. But the secrets that placed her at the temple as a child, the national intrigue that continues to broil, and the false accusations laid against her will make any kind of life difficult. .

Hok's perspective is similar to Seh, in that she's much more likely to think things through before doing them. Unlike Seh, however, she's more relationally-focused. On the one hand, that makes sense as her past required her to constantly be aware of what other people noticed about her. On the other, though, she's just much better than he is at reading people.

There is an interesting twist involving Seh about halfway through that did a lot to show both his character and hers, and force them into a much more dependent teamwork. In some ways this is his story as much as hers. There's another interesting twist that implies Hok has probably done the most of any of them so far when it comes to fulfilling Grandmaster's request to win Ying over.

Now that the separate storylines look to be closing in, it will be interesting to see how the plot proceeds. One thing I don't know if the kids have realized yet is that the changing national forces will deeply affect them no matter what happens with Tonglong and the others. They've certainly managed to get the Emperor's attention . . . I rate this book Recommended.

Angel Cortes says

the book is about a little girl name hok. she was a little girl at the beginning of her life. but then she had to be changed just like china. china was taking her mom away and her mom had to turn her daughter into a boy so that she could practice marcial arts. but the temple was only for boys and the master accepted her only because he showed sympathy for her. but soon after that she was very good at marcial rts and she left the temple and left to find her mother. but she was stoped in the middle of her journey and she had to fight for life and deth. and she won but was wounded. and her journey countinued.

i can connest to this book because remember whe i had to go on a journey to go to my moms job. so i had to go and take the train alone. so i had to go and transfer and i didnt take the right stop and i hit a bump in the road just like in the book. she got injured in the book so she had to get help. just like when i had gotten lost and i had to get help to go to my moms job.

i rated this book 5 stars because it was very interesting. it wasvery suspenceful. i couls connect to it and i liked the action. so i would reccomend this book to anyone who likes action.

Jeff says

My daughter and I continue to enjoy listening to these books. I'm not sure what we'll do when we get done with the next one since it is the last one on audiobook at our library and there are a few more books in the series! Great read if you like a bit of Chinese history with your young adult kung fu. :)

Alexa Ayana says

"It is Jade. Some people believe the precious green stone absorbs pain. Wear it over your heart. That is where you will hurt most."

Crane diawali dengan momen apa yang dialami Hok (biksu master ilmu Bangau) di ending buku sebelumnya. Yang seru di sini, fakta mengejutkan tentang identitasnya yang tersembunyi selama ini akhirnya

terungkap dan bagaimana Hok menerima dirinya apa adanya. Di sepanjang buku, kita akan mengikuti perjalanan panjang pelarian Hok sejak kuil Changzen mereka di serang utusan Kaisar yang dipimpin oleh salah satu saudara seperguruannya yang memberontak, Ying.

Well, seri ini jelas angin segar di genre YA yang biasanya di dominasi dystopia, cinta segitiga dan narasi galau gadis-gadis. Buku ini mengingatkanku pada versi serius film Kungfu Panda. Diceritakan dengan gaya lugas dari POV 3 serba tahu dari masing-masing karakter utama sesuai judul, setting China yang tidak asal-asalan, dan karakter-karakter yang menguasai bela diri ala binatang tertentu, kisah ini akan memikat mata tiap pecinta kungfu. Konflik cerita ini terus bersambung dari buku pertama, alur ceritanya cepat, twist kejutan seru dan penuh dengan adegan jurus-jurus laga Kungfu yang mendebarkan.

Karena endingnya yang cliffhanger dan beberapa momen yang mengaduk emosi, buku ini sudah pasti tipe yang asyik untuk dibaca maraton hohoho.. Seri ini gampang dipahami dan bisa dinikmati oleh anak-anak juga pembaca dewasa yang gemar cerita berlatar belakang bela diri China. Tak sabar lanjut ke buku selanjutnya yang akan mengkorek-korek motivasi, isi hati dan perjalanan penuh ambisi si anti hero Ying.

Conan Tigard says

Finally, we get to find out about Hok, who we learned in previous books was not a boy, but a girl. She never really appeared in the first three books, so I was excited to learn more about this mysterious monk. Once again, Jeff Stone has created another tale of mystery, intrigue, and kung fu way back in China's past. The Five Ancestors is probably my favorite series today and one of the best that I have read in a long, long time.

I love each one the monks that I have gotten to know and look forward to leaning more about Long. I really enjoyed the when the monks teamed up to look for their missing brother and also enjoyed the fight club scene. As always, the dialog and character development are wonderful. The reader feels quite a connection with all of the monks. The action if fast and furious in Crane and I highly recommend this book to any reader, as this series is quite different from all other books out there.

Overall, Crane is an excellent book and I cannot wait to see how it continues in book five, Eagle.

I rated this book a 9 out of 10.

Anthony Lin says

At first, I was confused. I think it was because the first 3 books was based on boys and this book was on a girl. Because it was talking about a girl and was used to thinking that the main character was a boy. Anyway, the book was okay. Hok went back to the temple and spied on Ying. But she got caught, which was the bad part. I guess my favorite part was when she reunited with her mother, Bing, and learned a lot of herbal stuff. I like how the author made it really realistic. At the same time, it was very interesting for me and kind of fun to read. I couldn't stop reading and read faster than usual.

Jeff Stone says

Um, I wrote it. :-)

Kaelyn Grant says

A confusing start- as it should be, because it's told from the character's drugged viewpoint. I liked how different this one felt from the others, being told from a girls' perspective.

Jess says

This one dragged a little bit more. I didn't find Hok's story as interesting unfortunately.
