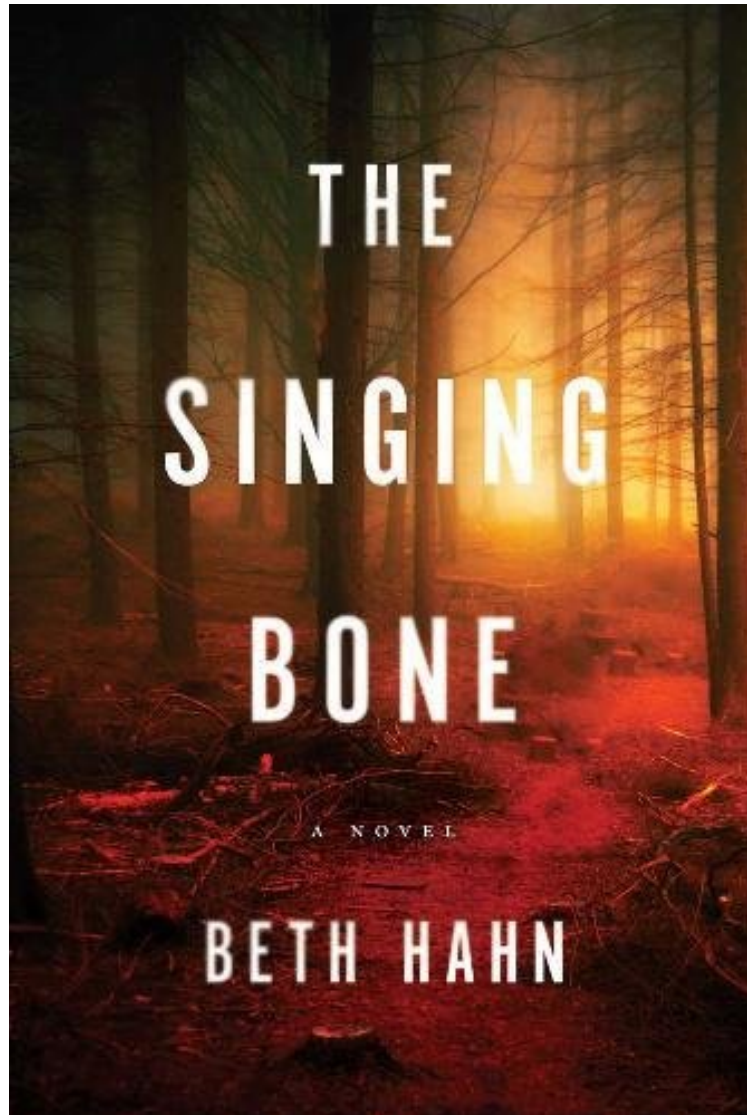


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The Singing Bone: A Novel

Beth Hahn

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Beth Hahn : The Singing Bone: A Novel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Singing Bone: A Novel:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Very good!By Sarah E CardenasGreat book from this debut author. I loved the whole story. It kept me up! I love how the author got inside the character's heads. It was very realistic and expressive...almost raw! I don't often read a book that makes me feel empathy for a character (Alice) on such a profound level. The story is interesting, with unexpected twists, deep sadness and despair. A great read that went way to fast. Looking forward to the next novel.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I really like the book until

about midway through. I really like the book until about midway through. The book portrays a Manson like group. However there was nothing new or unusual about the group dynamic. This book had the opportunity to explore how one not only survives such an experience but moves on. All the characters were there from surviving group members, victims family members and police who worked the case. Some really great characters that we never got to deeply understand. Another issue I had was the back and forth time jumping within the story. It did not flow for me. Lastly, *The Singing Bone* was an interesting concept but I would have preferred seeing how the main character survived what she did, got on with her life together and then come to this rather life changing revelation. I wanted to know what happened next not to be left with a "we knew it all along" ending. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Don't regret that you didn't read it. By Rae Missey The first couple of chapters made me feel like I was slogging through quicksand and I almost put it down. Aside from it being a "coming of age story" in the 70's I wasn't sure what this author could have done to tell the story in a way that hadn't been told a hundred ways to Sunday. As I said before, the beginning wasn't showing me anything. However, I absolutely despise giving up on a book so I kept going with my fingers crossed. I'm very thankful that I did. This book is worth the slow couple of chapters. And then some. It's touching in a gritty way, let's you see the things that hide in the corners where the light can't quite reach. And it's a cautionary tale for all of our young people, maybe even more so with the internet and social media.

A convicted killers imminent parole forces a woman to confront the nightmarish past she's spent twenty years escaping. I found you. That's what Mr. Wyck told her: I found you. 1979: Seventeen-year-old Alice Pearson can't wait to graduate from high school so she can escape the small town in upstate New York where she grew up. In the meantime, she and her friends avoid their dysfunctional families while getting high in the woods. There they meet the enigmatic Jack Wyck, who lives in the rambling old farmhouse across the reservoir. Enticed by his quasi-mystical philosophy and the promise of a constant party, Alice and her friends join Mr. Wyck's small group of devoted followers. But their heady, freewheeling idyll takes an increasingly sinister turn, as Alice finds herself crossing moral and emotional boundaries that erode her hold on reality. When Mr. Wyck's grand scheme goes wrong, culminating in a night of horrific violence, Alice is barely able to find her way back to sanity. Twenty years later, Alice Wood has created a quiet life for herself as a professor of folklore, but an acclaimed filmmaker threatens to expose her past with a documentary about Jack Wyck's crimes and the cult-like following he continues to attract from his prison cell. Wyck has never forgiven Alice for testifying against him, and as he plots to overturn his conviction and regain his freedom, she is forced to confront the truth about what happened to her in the farmhouse and her complicity in the evil around her. *The Singing Bone* is a spellbinding examination of guilt, innocence, and the fallibility of memory, a richly imagined novel that heralds the arrival of a remarkable new voice in literary suspense.

From School Library Journal Quiet, studious Alice Wood is forced to face her past when filmmaker Hans Loomis approaches her about including her story in a documentary about cult leader Jack Wyck in the 1970s. Although Alice has sought obscurity after the events of that summer, which led to Wyck's imprisonment, it soon becomes clear that Alice will be outed either by the filmmaker or a group of Wyckians, who still admire Wyck despite his conviction. In her debut, Hahn intertwines Alice's experiences with free love and drugs and her search for enlightenment as a teenager with her desire to remain anonymous as an adult. The chapters alternate between 1979 and 1999, but Alice's stream-of-consciousness narrative sometimes blurs the line between past and present. This book demonstrates convincingly how an intelligent, well-liked, and respected high school student can suddenly find herself involved with a man on the fringes of society. Although teens need to navigate between two narrators and two different time periods, those who appreciate psychological thrillers will keep reading for answers. VERDICT A good choice where Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl* and Paula Hawkins's *The Girl on the Train* are popular. Krystina Kelley, Belle Valley School, Belleville, IL "Tantalizing . . . carefully crafted." Publishers Weekly "A writer to watch for fans of sophisticated psychological suspense . . . Hahn maintains a fine balance between mystery and disclosure. The atmosphere throughout is tense and subtly creepy, and the folkloric elements are an interesting, original touch." Kirkus "The *Singing Bone* reads like the work of a seasoned novelist: rich, haunting, layered, beautifully written. It raises questions about the good and evil in all of us, the characters are complex, and the story's a page-turner what more could a reader ask for?" B. A. Shapiro, New York Times bestselling author of *The Art Forger* "I stayed up all night reading *The Singing Bone*, and I kept on reading it on the airport bus. When I finished it, I was halfway across the ocean, and I wanted to stand up in the aisle and yell, this is a terrific book by a writer with talent to burn and the only thing wrong with it was that it wasn't twice as long. Fans of the elegant, masterful, and downright chilling, watch this space for Beth Hahn." Jacquelyn Mitchard, author of *The Deep End of the Ocean* and *Two if by Sea* "The debut spine-chiller from Beth Hahn, is a concoction of sophistication and surprise . . . riveting in detail and nuance." Bookpage About the Author Beth Hahn studied art and writing at the University of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and earned an MFA in fiction from Sarah Lawrence College. She attended the Bread Loaf Writer's Conference and has been the recipient of a Ragdale Foundation residency. Beth's short stories have appeared in *Necessary Fiction*, *The Hawai'i*, *The South Carolina*, and *The Emrys Journal*. She lives in New Castle, New York, with her husband,

where she teaches yoga.