



Bone Swans: Stories

By C.S.E. Cooney

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Winner of the 2016 World Fantasy Award for Best Collection

Contains "The Bone Swans of Amandale," 2015 Nebula Award finalist for Best Novella

2015 *Locus* Recommended Reading List, Best Collection and Best Novella

"C. S. E. Cooney is one of the most moving, daring, and plainly beautiful voices to come out of recent fantasy. She's a powerhouse with a wink in her eye and a song in each pocket."

—Catherynne M. Valente, *New York Times*-bestselling author of the *Fairyland* novels

"These stories are a pure joy. C. S. E. Cooney's imagination is wild and varied, her stories bawdy, horrific, comic, and moving-frequently all at the same time. Her characters are wickedly appealing, and her language—O! her language. Lush, playful, poetic, but never obscure or stilted, it makes her magic more magic, her comedy more comic, and her tragic moments almost unbearable."

—Delia Sherman, author of *Young Woman in a Garden: Stories*

"*Bone Swans* is a joy of feathery bones & ghoulish clowns. I adored every word. Like an eyes cries for meat, I cry for more. C.S.E. Cooney's a major talent and these are major talent stories. Who can resist hero rats, pouting swans, feral children, flying carpets and the Flabberghast? So tongue-tied am I with delight I fall back on the usual cliches: gripping, delightful, insightful, rollicking & lyrical—and yet not one cliché is to be found in *Bone Swans*, only stories of surpassing delicacy and wit, told by a lady of rare talent. Please, ma'am, might I have some more?"

—Ysabeau S. Wilce, Andre Norton Award winning author of *Flora's Dare*

A swan princess hunted for her bones, a broken musician and his silver pipe, and a rat named Maurice bring justice to a town under fell enchantment. A gang of courageous kids confronts both a plague-destroyed world and an afterlife infested with clowns but robbed of laughter. In an island city, the murder of a child unites two lovers, but vengeance will part them. Only human sacrifice will save a city trapped in ice and darkness. Gold spun out of straw has a price, but not the one

you expect.

World Fantasy Award winner Ellen Kushner has called Cooney's writing "stunningly delicious! Cruel, beautiful and irresistible." *Bone Swans*, the infernally whimsical debut collection from C. S. E. Cooney, gathers five novellas that in the words of Andre Norton Award winner Delia Sherman are "bawdy, horrific, comic, and moving-frequently all at the same time." Cooney's mentor, Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America Grand Master Gene Wolfe, proclaims in his introduction that her style is so original it can only be described as "pure Cooney," and he offers readers a challenge: "Try to define that when you've finished the stories in this book."

More praise for *Bone Swans*

If your familiarity begins and ends with C.S.E. Cooney's poetry, do yourself a favor and stick around for these novellas. If you aren't new to her stories, know that you will find her here at the top of her not inconsiderable game. Highly original, mythic in scope, lyrically told, just plain *fun*.

—Nicole Kornher-Stace, author of *Archivist Wasp*

C.S.E. Cooney's **Bone Swans** is like visiting a literary Ys. Coaxed by her deft hand, lands and people long lost to memory resurface, breaking through the hearts of readers with the force of a gentle tsunami. Once that wave has broken over you, you are never the same.

—Tiffany Trent, author of *The Unnaturalists*

"Like one of her characters, C. S. E. Cooney is a master piper, playing songs within songs. Her stories are wild, theatrical, full of music and murder and magic."

—James Enge, author of *Blood of Ambrose*

"It's a treasure chest of a collection, and it's full of gems."

—Sharon Shinn, author of the *Elemental Blessings* series

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Bone Swans: Stories By C.S.E. Cooney Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

"Cooney's brilliantly executed collection of five stories is a delicious stew of science fiction, horror, and fantasy, marked by unforgettable characters who plumb the depths of pathos and triumph. ... All of these stories could easily serve as the foundation for novels while also working beautifully at their current length. These well-crafted narratives defiantly refuse to fade from memory long after the last word has been read."--*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"In five beautifully crafted stories, Cooney builds imaginary worlds full of flying carpets, fairy-tale characters, and children confronted with a postapocalyptic Earth ...Each tale packs in enough plot for a novel, with adventurous characters who brim with wit."--*Library Journal*

"Writing without ostentation and featuring characters who may be flippant, terse, or even tongue-tied, Cooney produces memorable prose propelled by extraordinary ideas ... Faced with such twisted genius, I'll say no more!"--*Locus*

"A fascinating mashup between the tropes and resonances of the mythic tale with the sensibilities of contemporary action-oriented fantasy: simultaneously lighthearted and serious, full of consequences but also ubiquitous happy endings."--*Tor.com*

About the Author

C. S. E. Cooney is the author of *How to Flirt in Faerieland and Other Wild Rhymes* and *Jack o' the Hills*. She won the 2011 Rhysling Award for her story-poem "The Sea King's Second Bride." She is a Rhode Island writer who lives across the street from a Victorian Strolling Park.

C. S. E. Cooney launched her voice-acting career narrating short fiction for Podcastle, the world's first audio fantasy magazine. She is a performance poet, singer-songwriter, and fantasy author whose collection *Bone Swans* has garnered starred reviews from *Publishers Weekly* and *Locus Magazine*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Randolph Dilworth:

The book *Bone Swans: Stories* will bring one to the new experience of reading the book. The author style to spell out the idea is very unique. If you try to find new book to see, this book very suitable to you. The book *Bone Swans: Stories* is much recommended to you to learn. You can also get the e-book from official web site, so you can easier to read the book.

Lee Erbe:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray you, why because this *Bone Swans: Stories* publication written by well-known writer whose to say well how to make book that could be understand by anyone who read the book. Written inside good manner for you, dripping every ideas and composing skill only for eliminate your

hunger then you still uncertainty Bone Swans: Stories as good book not just by the cover but also through the content. This is one guide that can break don't determine book by its handle, so do you still needing one more sixth sense to pick this kind of!? Oh come on your looking at sixth sense already said so why you have to listening to another sixth sense.

Mark McKinney:

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