

Reviewer: Anonymous
School: El Dorado High School
Grade: Senior
Book Title: The Bone Houses
Book Author: Emily Lloyd-Jones
Rating: 5

In a medieval Welsh village where cursed corpses come back to life by night, Ellis, a distraught young mapmaker, and Aderyn, the daughter of a gravedigger, go on an adventure to break the curse plaguing the land. They must travel out of the village of Colbren, through the forest, and into the mountains, believed to be the origin of the old, inhuman magic covering the land. Together, they learn about each other and themselves while fighting imposing threats and learning heart-rending truths.

I thought this book was amazing. The pacing was very well done and fits the story well. I really enjoyed the dynamic between the main characters Aderyn and Ellis. Their characters and backstories are written very realistically in my opinion, and their relationship was very fun to watch grow throughout the book. Aderyn's siblings and their pet goat were also particularly entertaining to me. As for how this book made me feel, I loved it the whole way through. I genuinely had to stop myself from crying at certain parts towards the end. It really is such a journey, and it puts so much emotion and care into its characters and story. There is so much to learn about each character and the world surrounding them.

I would absolutely recommend this book. If you like fantasy, Welsh folklore, light romance, and just a drop of light horror, then this book is right for you. I can't think of any other book I've read that was quite like this one in its story's premise or execution, and it's a very rewarding read.