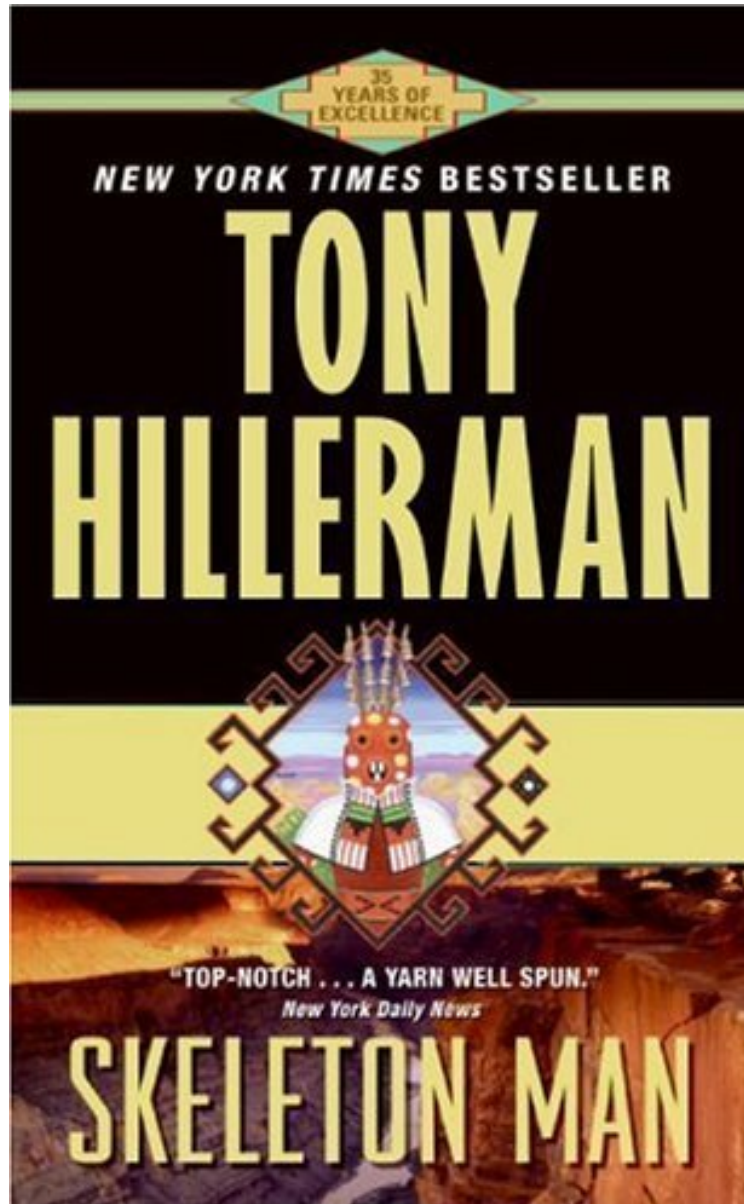


[Read now] Skeleton Man (A Leaphorn and Chee Novel)

Skeleton Man (A Leaphorn and Chee Novel)

Von Tony Hillerman

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Von Tony Hillerman : Skeleton Man (A Leaphorn and Chee Novel) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Skeleton Man (A Leaphorn and Chee Novel):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen12 von 12 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Eigentlich kann Hillerman das besser...Von weiser111Wer vor allem die frhen Thriller von Tony Hillerman schtzt,

dem dürfte "Skeleton Man" weniger gut gefallen -- wie in den meisten der späteren Bände spielt die Navajo-Kultur für den Aufbau der Handlung nicht mehr die tragende Rolle, liefert nicht mehr den Schlüssel zur Lösung des Falles. "Skeleton Man" beginnt damit, dass ein etwas einflussreicher junger Hopi namens Billy Tuve bei einem Pfandleiher einen wertvollen Diamanten gegen 20 Dollar eintauschen will. Da kurz zuvor ein Raubfall auf einen Juwelier stattgefunden hat, wird Billy natürlich sofort verhaftet. Beim FBI ist man überzeugt, einen der Täter gefasst zu haben, aber die lokalen Behörden sind skeptisch: Zwar klingt Tuves Erklärung, er habe den Diamanten "vor einiger Zeit" von einer Art Eremit im Tausch gegen einen Klappspaten erhalten, reichlich abenteuerlich, doch Joe Leaphorn bekommt von einem alten Bekannten, der ebenfalls einen Diamanten besitzt, eine ähnliche Geschichte erzählt. Und unter Indianern, die nahe der Absturzstelle leben, kursiert die Legende, dass ein Heiliger Mann dort als Eremit lebe, der sich dem Kult um die Hopi-Unterwelt-Gottheit Masaw widme und von dem Masaw als "Skeleton Man" bezeichnet werde. Es scheint einen Zusammenhang mit einem Flugzeugunglück in den 1950er Jahren zu geben; damals kam u.a. auch John Clarke um, ein junger Mann, der einen Safe mit Diamanten bei sich hatte -- der Safe war mit Handschellen an seinem Arm gesichert. Bei den Bergungsarbeiten seinerzeit wiederum konnten weder der Safe noch der Arm gefunden werden. Außerdem traut Albert "Cowboy" Dashee, Jim Chees Freund und Tuves Vetter, Tuve keine Gewaltanwendung zu. Nun kommen aber zwei Fremde ins Spiel: Eine Frau namens Joanna Craig und ein Mann namens Plymale. Beide sind offensichtlich daran interessiert, mit Tuve Kontakt aufzunehmen -- wegen des Diamanten, und wegen des Flugzeugabsturzes knapp 50 Jahre zuvor. Sie glauben nämlich alle beide, dass Tuve den Diamanten nicht bei dem Raubfall in die Hände bekam, sondern dass er weiß, wo sich der verschollene Safe befindet. Ganz so unkompliziert sind die Beweggründe der beiden allerdings nicht. Joanna ist Clarkes Tochter und hat Anspruch auf dessen immenses Erbe, aber sie braucht Gewebe oder Knochenmaterial des Verunglückten, um durch einen DNA-Vergleich ihre Verwandtschaft und damit ihren Anspruch geltend machen zu können. Die Diamanten sind ihr egal, ihr geht es um den Arm, an den der Safe noch immer gekettet sein muss. -- Plymale hingegen wurde vom derzeitigen Nutznießer des Erbes beauftragt, Joannas Vorhaben ein für allemal zu vereiteln. Er ist außerdem sehr an den Diamanten interessiert, denn für ihn stellen sie ein lukratives Zubrot dar. Der mysteriöse Eremit wird aufgrund der vagen Anhaltspunkte in einem abgelegenen Winkel des Grand Canyon vermutet. Dort befindet sich ein heiliger Ort der Hopi, dessen Betreten für Nicht-Hopis verboten ist. Jim Chee, seine Freundin Bernie und Dashee wollen sich zusammen mit Tuve dort umsehen, um ihn zu entlasten. Aber als sie Tuve abholen wollen, der vorläufig auf Kautionsfreigabe freigelassen wurde, kommen sie zu spät. Irgendjemand hat ihn bereits mitgenommen und will offensichtlich von ihm zu der Stelle geführt werden, an der er den Eremiten getroffen haben will. Es beginnt eine Art spektakuläres Katz-und-Maus-Spiel in den Höhlen der Canyons und unten im Canyon selbst; drei Gruppen sind aus völlig verschiedenen Motiven unterwegs, um Tuve in ihre Obhut zu bringen oder wenigstens die Diamanten (bzw. Clarkes Arm) zu finden: Dashee, Chee und Bernie zu dritt, und Joanna und Plymale als Einzelkämpfer... Man merkt, die Handlung von "Skeleton Man" ist etwas verwirrend, wenngleich nicht undurchschaubar. Allerdings ist dieser Thriller nicht Hillermans gelungenstes Werk; die Handlung wird ziemlich bald absehbar, die Personen sind nur teilweise überzeugend gezeichnet, und das Buch hat einige (wenige!) Längen, wie man sie bei Hillerman sonst nicht kennt. Rundum gelungen sind lediglich die Naturschilderungen, vor allem die des Grand Canyon. Und auch der Teil der Handlung, der im Canyon spielt, ist deutlich spannender als die erste Hälfte des Buches. Für Hillerman-Fans ist "Skeleton Man" dennoch lohnend, nicht zuletzt deswegen, weil man hier erfährt, wie es mit Jim Chee und Bernie Manuelito weitergeht. Als Köder für neue Fans von Hillermans Werk allerdings ist "Skeleton Man" nur bedingt geeignet; in anderen Bänden zeigt Hillerman immer wieder, dass er das eigentlich besser kann. 1 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Cultural Perspectives Clash over Fate, Honor and Fairness Von Donald Mitchell On the surface, it's a simple enough story. Billy Tuve, a young Hopi man of limited intelligence, has been arrested after trying to pawn a \$20,000 diamond for \$20. Is the diamond part of a heist . . . or was it acquired in lawful fashion? The young man soon finds himself a pawn in the middle of bigger stakes as wealthy whites battle to gain his knowledge of where other diamonds might be. The only things keeping him safe are the interventions of those who seek the truth and his cousin, Cowboy Dashee. Soon, Joe Leaphorn, Jim Chee and Bernie Manuelito find themselves drawn inexorably into the tangled web of greed and spiritual connection that link the past to the present. Beneath the surface, the story displays all of the grandeur that Navajo cosmology can bring to an odd series of events. In Skeleton Man, Tony Hillerman has tried something audacious: He's written a Southwestern tragedy along the lines of The Bridge of San Luis Rey to help us reflect on the nature of our spiritual beliefs. Unlike The Bridge of San Luis Rey, we see many different perspectives on what a tragedy and its aftermath mean . . . as a way of assessing our understanding of the hand of Providence. If you only consider that aspect of the story, Skeleton Man is a success. Chance, faith, Divine Purpose, the balance between the unseen and the seen world and many other perspectives are explored in powerful, effective ways. In the middle of that philosophical journey, Mr. Hillerman puts the traditional battle of the sexes into a sharp contrast as two determined women provide much of the impetus that bring tragic events back into natural harmony. The context is as great as one can imagine for such a story: A decades-old tragedy over the skies of the Grand Canyon followed by a dangerous journey into the very depths of the canyon today amid a powerful "male" storm. Shakespeare would have approved. Why then did I grade the story down to three stars? The story telling doesn't quite work as smoothly as it should . . . which is a surprise in a Tony Hillerman book. The introduction

foreshadows the events a bit too much . . . so the element of surprise is not as great as it should be thereafter. In addition, the last half of the book narrates the story in great detail from the differing perspectives of the characters. While that allows for the contrasts to develop nicely, it also serves to make the story unwieldy and slow to develop to its inevitable conclusion. The second half of the book should be been greatly condensed for more impact. If you love Tony Hillerman, you'll still enjoy the story. You should just realize that Skeleton Man not the normal Hillerman police procedural with a thorny criminal mystery at its center while the Native American characters develop their spiritual lives. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Tony Hillerman still has it. Von Bernie In this book many of our old friends wrap up their story. We meet a few new friends. And if I did not know any better I would say Tony was wrapping up his writing career. Many reviewers and readers would like tell Tony how to write his stories; I would also. However the path that Tony chooses is what makes his writing unique. I did notice that the good guys and the bad guys were black and white hats. Hillerman relied very heavily on us reading of his previous books before this latest story. We get a tad of Hopi and Navajo religion, a dabble of what the region looked like, and a short history of what happened to old friends are no longer take part in the story; I've often wondered what happened to the cat. A generation ago two airplanes crash over the Grand Canyon. One plane carries a man with a case of diamonds attached to his arm. Someone is after the diamonds. Someone is after the arm. And everyone is looking for a mysterious stranger down in the Grand Canyon. We along with their old friends Jim Chee, and Joe Leaphorn, let's not forget the demure and cunning Bernie Manuelito, get to search together for this mysterious stranger would ever lurking bad guys just around the corner waiting to do us in. So sit back and enjoy this quick but intense story. If you get a chance you will also want to purchase the recorded version by George Guidall. I heard both Guidall and Hillerman and they sound a lot alike.

Kurzbeschreibung Hailed as "a wonderful storyteller" by the New York Times, and a "national and literary cultural sensation" by the Los Angeles Times, bestselling author Tony Hillerman is back with another blockbuster novel featuring the legendary Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn and Sergeant Jim Chee. Former Navajo Tribal Police Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn comes out of retirement to help investigate what seems to be a trading post robbery. A simple-minded kid nailed for the crime is the cousin of an old colleague of Sergeant Jim Chee. He needs help and Chee, and his fiance Bernie Manuelito, decide to provide it. Proving the kid's innocence requires finding the remains of one of 172 people whose bodies were scattered among the cliffs of the Grand Canyon in an epic airline disaster 50 years in the past. That passenger had handcuffed to his wrist an attach case filled with a fortune in one of which seems to have turned up in the robbery. But with Hillerman, it can't be that simple. The daughter of the long-dead diamond dealer is also seeking his body. So is a most unpleasant fellow willing to kill to make sure she doesn't succeed. These two tense tales collide deep in the canyon at the place where an old man died trying to build a cult reviving reverence for the Hopi guardian of the Underworld. It's a race to the finish in a thunderous monsoon storm to see who will survive, who will be brought to justice, and who will finally unearth the Skeleton Man. de Joe Leaphorn, former Navajo tribal police lieutenant, is not a happy retiree. So when his successor asks him to look into how a young Hopi named Billy Tuve came by a valuable diamond the boy tried to pawn for a fraction of its worth, Joe finds himself involved in a five decade old mystery. It dates back to a plane crash in the Grand Canyon, one that took the life of a man whose putative daughter also has an interest in the diamond; it could lead her to her father's remains, from which she hopes to extract enough DNA to establish her birthright. For good measure, Hillerman adds a couple of villains determined to beat her to the site of the crash, a cache of other diamonds long since given up for lost in the Canyon's watery depths, and a Hopi ritual that's kept the site secret for years. It's a good yarn, well but twice told; Hillerman sets it up in a chronologically confusing opening chapter, in which Joe spins the story for a couple of former law-enforcement colleagues--not just to entertain or enlighten them but to demonstrate what he calls his "Navajo belief in universal connections. The cause leads to inevitable effect. The entire cosmos being an infinitely complicated machine all working together." Hillerman is a name-brand writer with a huge and well deserved following. His evocation of the landscape of the Southwest is as compelling as it ever was, and many familiar characters from the other 18 novels in this prize-winning series appear here, notably Sergeant Jim Chee and border patrol officer Bernie Manuelito, the woman Chee hopes to marry. Joe Leaphorn remains his most fully-realized protagonist; his perspective on life, destiny, and the sometimes uneasy truce between Native Americans and whites gives this series a unique place in the genre. But as evidenced by his latest, Hillerman's hero needs more than a retired duffer's memories to keep him vital and alive, even for his most dedicated fans. --Jane Adams.com Joe Leaphorn, former Navajo tribal police lieutenant, is not a happy retiree. So when his successor asks him to look into how a young Hopi named Billy Tuve came by a valuable diamond the boy tried to pawn for a fraction of its worth, Joe finds himself involved in a five decade old mystery. It dates back to a plane crash in the Grand Canyon, one that took the life of a man whose putative daughter also has an interest in the diamond; it could lead her to her father's remains, from which she hopes to extract enough DNA to establish her birthright. For good measure, Hillerman adds a couple of villains determined to beat her to the site of the crash, a cache of other

diamonds long since given up for lost in the Canyon's watery depths, and a Hopi ritual that's kept the site secret for years. It's a good yarn, well but twice told; Hillerman sets it up in a chronologically confusing opening chapter, in which Joe spins the story for a couple of former law-enforcement colleagues--not just to entertain or enlighten them but to demonstrate what he calls his "Navajo belief in universal connections. The cause leads to inevitable effect. The entire cosmos being an infinitely complicated machine all working together." Hillerman is a name-brand writer with a huge and well deserved following. His evocation of the landscape of the Southwest is as compelling as it ever was, and many familiar characters from the other 18 novels in this prize-winning series appear here, notably Sergeant Jim Chee and border patrol officer Bernie Manuelito, the woman Chee hopes to marry. Joe Leaphorn remains his most fully-realized protagonist; his perspective on life, destiny, and the sometimes uneasy truce between Native Americans and whites gives this series a unique place in the genre. But as evidenced by his latest, Hillerman's hero needs more than a retired duffer's memories to keep him vital and alive, even for his most dedicated fans. --Jane Adams