

---

**“AN ORIGINAL, OVERWHELMING,  
NEAR-GREAT WORK OF LITERATURE”**

—*Washington Post Book World*

---

Kerewin Holmes lives alone in a tower by the New Zealand Sea. Part Maori, part European, she is a writer, a painter, and something of a hermit. One day Simon, a mute, bedraggled, silver-haired boy, enters her tower and her life. Soon Kerewin becomes tied, by bonds of love, and of brutality, to Simon and his Maori foster father, Joe.

As she relates the raw, gripping tale of this unorthodox trinity, Keri Hulme delves into the consciousness of her characters in a language that is at times slangy and crude, at times lyrical and poetic. Masterfully written, *The Bone People* is a compelling blend of dream, myth, and harsh reality.

“This novel is unforgettably rich and pungent.”

—*The New York Times Book Review*

“A novel that is mysterious and violent, gentle and unsettling, compassionate and honest.”

—*Los Angeles Times*

“The most rapturously new fictional experience imaginable, reminding us of things in heaven and earth we too often forget or provincially ignore.”

—*Houston Post*

**Selected by The Literary Guild**

Cover design by Neil Stuart  
Cover illustration by Jack Freize



A PENGUIN BOOK  
Fiction



£2.95