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Interview with Skye Griffith — December 2025

This month we are interviewing Skye Griffith, the author of *Bone Hash*. Archaeologist Aideen Connor uncovers prehistoric cannibalism at her Arizona dig, and a murder occurs on the Hopi Reservation. The two events seem linked, and when the prehistoric bones are stolen, her relationship with Native Americans starts unraveling. Aideen must uncover the dig's hidden secret or risk losing her life.

Yout main character in *Bone Hash* is Aideen Connor who works as an archaeologist in Arizona. What qualities does Aideen have that make her an excellent amateur sleuth?

When we first meet Aideen, she's still reeling from witnessing her husband's terrifying accidental death. She takes the lead job at a remote site in northern Arizona hoping to heal those memories. But instead of finding peace she's thrust into a dangerous conundrum, and to meet the challenge she must call upon all the training and skills that have made her a good archaeologist: analytical thinking, attention to details, and excellent communication ability. Her physical stamina and dexterity honed by morning runs with her dog will also serve her well when she encounters physical threats—just as these same traits are needed when she's excavating trenches in hot, dry conditions. Aideen's skills and professional training make her an excellent observer and eventually lead her to solving the mystery of who killed Tiponi.

***Bone Hash* blends an archaeological mystery—the actual bone hash that Aideen and her team uncover—with the other mysteries in the story—the murder of a local Hopi woman and someone who is stalking and harassing Aideen. What were the challenges you faced and overcame in weaving these two different storylines together in the book?**

As I was writing *Bone Hash* these stories began to weave together because of Aideen's pursuit of her work. According to my research, discovering a human bone hash is something that could definitely happen at a dig in the American Southwest. Although not something we necessarily feel comfortable discussing, prehistoric cannibalism has been scientifically proven to have occurred in the area. Its discovery in the story makes Aideen's job a lot more difficult. She must avoid allowing the media get wind of it, which could attract unwanted attention, and she must deal with potential fallout from local Native Americans she's just getting on her side who don't want their culture demeaned. The hidden forces against Aideen also fear the dig will end up attracting a lot more attention and their secret will be discovered—exactly what they don't want to happen. So they set out to get rid of her. And then there's Frank Nakai, the handsome BLM Special Agent whose attractiveness she wants to resist but whom she also must see in the course of her work. Both storylines fell into place as Aideen pursued her work.

You live in Colorado, but *Bone Hash* is set among the stark mesas and desert of eastern Arizona. Why did you choose this area as the setting for the story?

The setting is actually a character in the story, and basically, it chose me. *Bone Hash* is the product of my many years hiking and camping in the Colorado Plateau, of which eastern Arizona's desert is a major part. Visiting the areas where prehistoric people once lived and then learning about how they were able to thrive in a harsh but beautiful landscape until they experienced a debilitating and lengthy drought is what made me want to write this story. We live in a time when environmental devastation threatens our way of life. So did Ancestral Puebloan people, but the devastation they faced was not of their making. It's fascinating to me how prehistoric people dealt with this circumstance. The remains of their ancient villages have been found all over the Colorado Plateau, and I believe we all benefit from the cultural richness that resulted from their eventual migrations.

In your opinion, what is special about the American Southwest that makes it an ideal setting for mysteries, whether historical or contemporary?

The American Southwest is rife with intrigue and unsolved mysteries from lost mines to prehistoric civilizations that for many years we believed simply vanished. Add to that its stark, colorful beauty, the unusual slick rock formations like hoodoos, the delicate looking flowers that are tough-as-nails survivors, outlaw hideouts—think Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid—and the environmental extremes. There are times when I'm home in Colorado that I dream of past nights at a campsite in the Southwest where millions of stars blinked overhead, and the ghostly sounds of a coyote chorus haunted my dreams. What could be a better setting for an intriguing mystery?

What is something unique you would want librarians and booksellers to know about *Bone Hash* so they can promote the title to their patrons and customers?

Bone Hash is set in one of America's last wild places, a rich landscape that deserves protection for its environmental uniqueness and historic significance. The people who lived there and flourished had something important to teach us, and hopefully, my strong but vulnerable female protagonist demonstrates that.