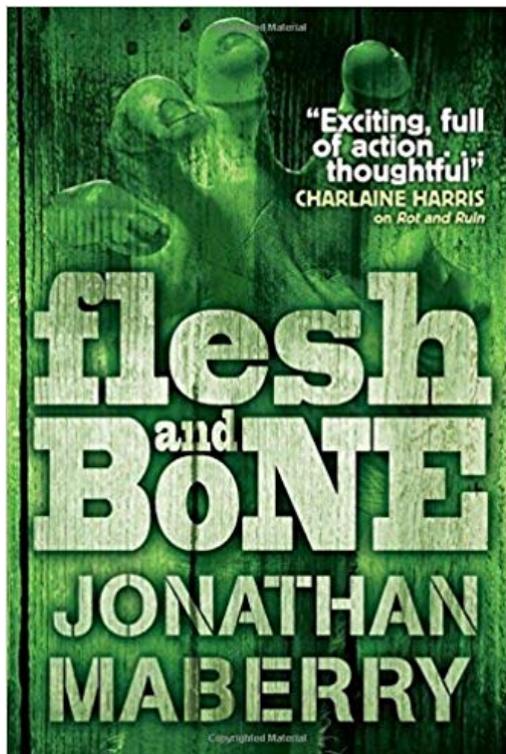


## Flesh and Bone (ROT AND RUIN) by Jonathan Maberry



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**Author:** Jonathan Maberry

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Reeling from the devastation of Dust & Decay, Benny Imura and his friends plunge deep into the zombie-infested wastelands of the great Rot & Ruin. Benny, Nix, Lilah and Chong journey through a fierce wilderness that was once America, searching for the jet they saw in the skies months ago. If that jet exists then humanity itself must have survived ... somewhere. Finding it is their best hope for having a future and a life worth living. But the Ruin is far more dangerous than any of them can imagine. Fierce animals hunt them. They come face to face with a death cult. And then there's the zombies—swarms of them coming from the east, devouring everything in their paths. And these zoms are different. Faster, smarter, and infinitely more dangerous. Has the zombie plague mutated, or is there something far more sinister behind this new invasion of the living dead? One thing Benny and his companions can't afford to forget: In the great Rot & Ruin, everything wants to kill you.



## Reviews of the **Flesh and Bone (ROT AND RUIN)** by Jonathan Maberry

### Modigas

I'm a big fan of the previous two books in this quartet. The first, Rot and Ruin, was probably my

favorite read of the year. The second, was almost as strong, and ended with heartbreak that I had to deal with for a few weeks before picking up the third. This installment is my least favorite of the three for a few reasons, but definitely worth reading, and thoughtful in its own way.

Flesh and Bone is the third out of four books by Jonathan Maberry about the zombie apocalypse that has fallen on the world. Benny, Chong, the Lost Girl, and Nix are struggling to survive in the Rot and Ruin after still reeling from deaths of loved ones. They encounter more evil than they thought possible-- a group of Reapers whose sole purpose is to have everyone join the Gray Walkers that abound the earth. New characters are introduced (including a terrifying Big Bad), and the mystery of the plane is solved.

What I Loved: The development of Chong was probably my favorite part of the book. He's come so far and his relationship with the Lost Girl is very sweet. This makes the ending that much more poignant. Also, we get the introduction of a new cult, which is terrifying in its sway in this awful world. I can imagine people giving up and joining a cult to end the human race. We see this kind of depression in medicine all the time-- and I can't imagine if the world was actually as bad as people saw it, what that would do to the human psyche. Maberry is terrific at coming up with new ethical dilemmas, and he is very thoughtful in his dealings with them.

What I wasn't as thrilled about: I know my reaction to this book is a little bit like my reaction to Harry Potter book 5. It was a must read, but because of how annoying adolescent Harry was, it was my least favorite. I had the same reaction to Nix-- so many times in the book, I just wanted to shake her. She exhibited all the worst characteristics of female communication (i.e. men need to just know what we are thinking), and was a complete brat to Benny for most of the book. Also, the first half of the book was more of the characters just wandering around in the Rot and Ruin, and seemed like just filler for the last 25%, which was non-stop action and intrigue to the end.

That said, there is no doubt that I'm following this to the end and cannot wait to pick up the fourth and final installment of this series, which is probably the best set of books I've read this year.

### **FailCrew**

They start out strong, and just get better and better with every book. Watch Benny continue to grow through tough times, horrible people, and great friends. In this book you start to see a difference in the not so ordinary monsters. What will Benny and the gang do? How will they continue after the tragedies they have just faced? You NEED to read this series. You will not regret it.

### **Heraly**

Read/Listened for Fun (Hardcover/Audible)

Overall Rating: 4.25

Story Rating: 4.50

Character Rating: 4.00

Audio Rating: 4.00 (not part of the overall rating)

First Thought when Finished: Dang that epilogue--Flesh and Bone by Jonathan Maberry made me cry---AGAIN!

Overall Thoughts:Jonathan Maberry is one of those writers that I adore. He writes stories that make you scream, laugh, and cry. Even though this is a YA series, the teenagers seem to have a better world view than the adults. There is a little angst but overall this is a world where you have people to root for. I would never survive the Zombie Apocalypse.

Audio Thoughts:

Narrated By Brian Hutchinson / Length: 10 hrs and 46 mins

I really enjoy Brian's narration of this series. He is great at hitting all the different emotions and character moments.

Part of my Read It, Rate It, File It, DONE!

### **Malann**

Even though the Rot & Ruin books are for young adults, I love them and I am past 60! I can't seem to get enough of them and can't wait until the next and last of the series comes out.

Mr. Maberry deals with grief, loss and feelings in such a subtle way that you don't even realize what the subject matter is of this book until the end. A friend asked me what the book was about and I stopped and thought, it's about loss, grief and hope and about not giving up no matter how bleak life may seem. What Benny, Nix, Chong and Lilah have done in the past and the present has greatly affected their relationships to each other. These young teens are the hope of the future but at what cost? There are hundreds of thousands of zoms (zombies) and there are so few of them to fight them. And to add to their dilemma, they have to deal with adults and their way of dealing with the way the new world is.

Ahhhh, but I don't want to give too much away, so you have to read the book whether you be a young adult or an adult, like myself. If you have not read Rot & Ruin (book #1) or Dust & Decay (book #2), read them first. The whole series so far is excellent and you will not be disappointed!

### **Galubel**

After the ending of book two, I didn't know that I wanted to continue the series. Two days later I still couldn't stop wondering and worrying about what was happening out on the Ruin... Without me! I gave in and devoured the book in just a few hours and was so glad I did. Jonathan Maberry is my favorite writer, he puts so much into each character, I half way expect to meet these people one day. To see a cross over of my favorite Maberry character from another series gave me some much needed closure in regards to the end of book two.

Maberry can write a book so enthralling I can only compare him to a zombie writing JK Rowling. His books are adventure, grief, love, agonizing (you can hardly wait to turn the page) and a lot of heart... if you haven't read this series start at one, you won't look back. If you were like me and unsure if you could take more punishment, read it. You will be glad you did.

Now when does Book 4 come out?!

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