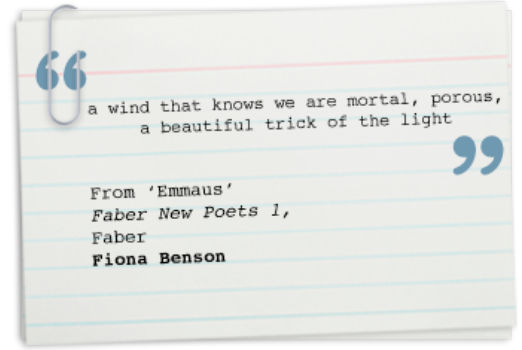




Good Morning! It's Tuesday on August 02, 2011.

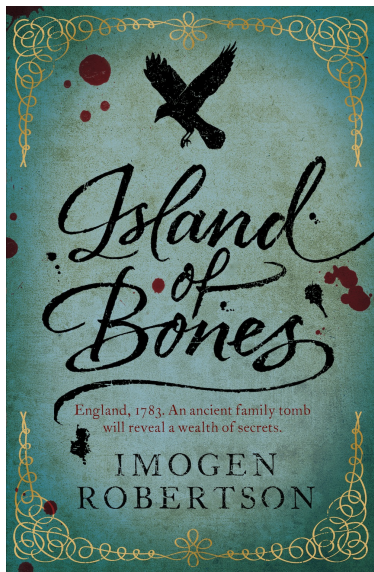
Literature for everyone in the South West



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# book of the month

*Island of Bones*  
by Imogen Robertson



**Imogen Robertson** vividly brings to life the eighteenth century in her detective novels featuring curmudgeonly anatomist Gabriel Crowther and forthright gentlewoman Harriet Westerman. Combining brilliantly observed historical details with compelling characters and a gripping narrative, Imogen is an up and coming talent in crime fiction

**Cumbria 1782:**

Since Gabriel Crowther's elder brother was hanged for the murder of his father, Baron of Keswick, he has sought to avoid all mention of his past life in the Lake District. But when an extra body is discovered in the tomb of Cumbrian aristocrat the first Earl of Greta on the Island of Bones on Crowther's family land the call of the mystery brings him home at last.

Harriet Westerman accompanies Crowther to investigate the Northern mystery, desperate to escape her own tragedy. As they begin to look further into the small town, they discover a town caught between the folklore of the past and the arrival of a modern world. As they dig further it seems, like the mysterious corpse in the tomb, it seems that Crowther's past will not remain buried.

*Island of Bones* is Imogen Robertson's third book. The Lake District setting was inspired by childhood holidays to the area. These trips coincided with an introduction to Lord of the Rings, so it was easy for Imogen to imagine herself battling goblins and searching for treasure. It also sparked an interest in the fascinating history and folk-lore of the area which she has used in *Island of Bones*. As Imogen describes, 'I came across witches that could turn into hares, boggles who assumed the likeness of the dead, and every corner has the story of a knight a giant or some lost treasure.' The late eighteenth century era of Crowther and Westerman is intriguing as it marked the point when the tourist trade was beginning to bring rational, outside influences to the mysterious folklore, ideas which Imogen explores.



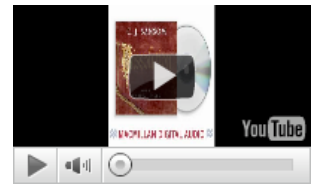
**Book of the Month Clips**

**The Redeemed** by M.R. Hall



**Dissolution** by C.J. Sansom

[Pan Macmillan](#)



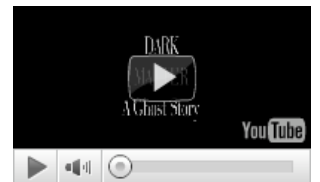
**Innocent** by Scott Turow

[Hachette Book Group](#)



**Dark Matter** by Michelle Paver

[Pan Macmillan](#)



**The Death of King Arthur** by Peter Ackroyd

[Penguin](#)



Although a rational empiricist like Crowther, Imogen has an intriguing story about her early research into the book, 'I was at the British Library and ordered up from the stacks a guide book to the area published about a year or so before *Island* takes place. I opened it and saw the signature of the original owner on the flyleaf. In beautiful copperplate it read 'H. Crowther.'

**Praise for Imogen Robertson:**

'Every so often I encounter a book that makes me think with envy: "How I wish I could have written this story!" *Instruments of Darkness* is just that book -- poetic, enchanting, and chillingly memorable. Imogen Robertson is an exquisite writer, and this is an extraordinary novel' **Tess Gerritsen**

Tremendous fun...the doings of her characters may be darker than pitch but my lady's craftsmanship is beyond doubt' **Time Out**

'Makes you want to read every word...the plot is serpentine and satisfying, with enough false trails and distractions to create a genuine mystery' **Telegraph**

'An irresistible debut – stylish, enigmatic and wonderfully atmospheric. It's a story of secrecy and shame, reason and passion, that resonates long after you reach the final page.'

**Francis Wheen**

'Wit and energy...an enjoyable read' **Literary Review**

'The pleasure lies in the steady unfurling of a period crime series (1871) that doesn't rely on declamatory villains and rhuarbing local colour. Robertson's language is spry and digestible, her scene-setting broad and detailed, her prose gracefully pressed into the service of a serpentine plot that still allows room for personal passions, particularly music and the theatre' **Financial Times**

'Exuberantly original' **The Independent**




[Island of Bones](#)  
Imogen Robertson  
**Best Price £7.60**  
or Buy New £7.66

Buy from [amazon.co.uk](#)

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**Book of the Month Archive**

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July 2010 Scott Turow: *Innocent*

August 2010: Julia Green: *Drawing With Light*

September 2010: C J Sansom: *Heartstone*

October 2010: *Of Love and Hope*

November 2010: Michelle Paver *Dark Matter*  
December 2010 Peter Ackroyd *The Death of King Arthur*  
January 2011 Andrew Taylor *The Anatomy Of Ghosts*  
February 2011 Jill Mansell *To The Moon And Back*  
March 2011 Aminatta Forna *The Memory of Love*  
April 2011 M.R. Hall *The Redeemed*  
May 2011 Jussi Adler-Olsen *Mercy*  
June 2011 Philip Marsden *The Levelling Sea*

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