



Lightning

Bonnie S. Calhoun

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After she found her real father, life for Selah should have felt settled. But the horrors have just begun. In her broken world of toxic earth and tribal clashes, Selah must battle the forces of nature alongside those in the Mountain who are calling for her blood. Haunted by the pain of mounting losses, she forges on, seeking her lost family and uncovering new mysteries. But the ultimate betrayal of her own body may soon make her quest impossible as it becomes apparent that what has made her new could also drive her to a life of madness.

Bonnie Calhoun whisks readers back into an otherworldly struggle as Selah continues her quest for answers-and freedom.

Lightning Details

Date : Published September 24th 2015 by Revell

ISBN :

Author : Bonnie S. Calhoun

Format : Kindle Edition 416 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Science Fiction, Dystopia, Christian Fiction, Fiction, Young Adult, Christian

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From Reader Review Lightning for online ebook

kerrycat says

This intense science fiction thriller is almost too fast-paced to follow, as Selah throws herself physically, mentally and emotionally into her quest to discover and fulfill her destiny. Her romance with Bodhi is a sweet respite from the action and a reminder that she is, after all, still a teenager — one with the weight of the world on her shoulders.

Selah's role as a novarium becomes clearer and more complicated as she searches for her family, while Bodhi and Glade work toward traveling west to find the Third Protocol. Bethany, however, has plans for Selah and Selah's blood, which Bethany believes holds the key to immortality. There are those who would protect her and those who would kill her, but how can Selah be sure who she can trust? (REVELL, Oct., 416 pp., \$12.99)

Reviewed by:

Kerry Sutherland

- See more at: <http://www.rtbookreviews.com/book-rev...>

Carol Keen says

We are back with the second book in this series! It just adds so much more and if you want some fun free extras, Tremors and Aftershock are free on Amazon. The order goes Tremors (A prequel), Thunder (Book #1) Aftershock (in-between Thunder and Lightning, and Lightning (Book #2). It would be best to read at least Thunder first, but why would you want to miss out on the others would be beyond me!

We left Selah having found her birth Father, Glade, and being rather confused. She is the novarium, whatever that means. After what Selah has already been through, she is just getting started! If you recall, Selah was rather astonished to become a Lander, one of the people who shows up from the sea for reasons that aren't explained yet. Glade has secrets too, and they are about to not be so secret anymore.

Now there is an added issue. Selah is fractured. They have to find The Third Protocol or Selah is going to die, as in not exist! Before The Sorrows, there was a place called Atlantic City. Now it is TicCity, and maybe it holds answers for them. To farther complicate matters, not everyone is glad of Selah's powers and "bloodlines". Can her blood caused immortality? Can she trust the people she has met, her new family by genetics, some of her family that raised her? What about her friends, and her protector, Bodie?

Selah is really strong in this book, and I can't wait to read the next one!

My copy came from Christian Fiction Blog Alliance in exchange for my honest review and nothing more.

Joan says

This is the second book in Calhoun's dystopian Stone Braide Chronicles.

At the end of Thunder, Selah had finally found her real father. She and the others had escaped from the Mountain but still had work to do. Selah wants to be reunited with her mother and younger brother. When evidence is found that they have been taken to the Mountain, Selah wants to go back there and rescue them. To add to the drama, Selah's father indicates that something terrible will happen to Selah in nine months if they cannot find The Third Protocol. Unless Glade can find a way west through the mountains, Selah will fragment – her brain and physical functions will fall apart.

We learn a bit more about the post-apocalyptic world Selah inhabits. The native Landers were once ordinary humans who had left the Mountain before the great disaster. They changed afterward, somehow taking on incredible powers. We also find out that Selah, as the novarium, has elements in her blood that some think might heal or produce immortality.

Traveling back to the Mountain is dangerous. There are splinter groups that would like to capture Selah and sell her to the highest bidder. Even some who appear to want to protect Selah are traitors. We meet some interesting people too, such as those who live in trees. I felt this part of the novel was a bit slow and did not move the plot forward well.

Much of the action in this novel takes place back in the Mountain. I found that lack of description frequently detracted from my appreciation of the action. There is plenty of action but I had difficulty visualizing it. The group travels within the Mountain to cities with different color designations but I was unclear what made them different. Even within the Mountain there are many factions and people warring against each other.

One aspect of the plot that I got tired of was the animosity between Glade and Bodhi. It just seemed they would argue, come to terms, repeat.

Selah is an interesting heroine. There were times when she was amazingly effective while other times she was nearly overwhelmed. I had to keep reminding myself she was an eighteen year old developing superhuman powers and then her actions generally made sense and are appropriate for this young adult fiction.

I enjoyed this book in the series. I am still looking for some “Christian” or otherwise redemptive aspect to the book. There is mention of future good and evil so I trust it is coming in the sequel.

I received a complimentary egalley of this book from the publisher for the purpose of an independent and honest review.

Dawn says

This one was just as interesting as the first. I read it rather quickly as I needed to finish it so that I could get to book 3, a review book. I definitely recommend reading book 1 first as this one picks up right after it.

Lisa Johnson says

Title: Lightning

Author: Bonnie S. Calhoun

Pages: 416

Year: 2015

Publisher: Revell, a division of Baker Publishing Group

Bonnie S. Calhoun's Lightning picks up where Thunder left off. Selah Rishon has transformed into a novarium or enhanced human. She grows in power and skill as she continues to find out more about her biological father and his people. In the meantime, Selah discovers that her mother, little brother, and step-father have disappeared, and she embarks on a journey back to the mountain to find her family and to find out all she can about what she is becoming. The evil that is in the mountain threatens to destroy Selah and her family, but she must do all that she can to rescue them before it may be too late. At great personal cost, she survives to begin a new journey to the west where she must find the Third Protocol that will complete her transformation.

With action and peril throughout, Bonnie Calhoun delivers a story that includes what makes her happy as a writer: body count, blood, and blowing things up. It all appears in this action-packed story along with well-written characters that convey bravery as well as fear, conflict as well as strength, darkness as well as light. Although the story takes place a few hundred years in the future in the ruins of what was once America before a super volcanic eruption wiped out most of the country, hope still survives in the midst of treachery and turmoil. These characters are believable and portray both the best and worst of human beings. Even those who are on the "right" side are shown as flawed, which adds to the realism of the story along with providing for an interesting plot.

Those who read this novel will certainly look forward to book three of the Stone Braide Chronicles—coming fall 2016!

My rating is 5.

Guest review by Cleve Johnson

Note: I received a complimentary copy for an honest review of this book. The opinions shared in this review are solely my responsibility. Other reviews can be read at <http://seekingwithallyurheart.blogspot.com>... Also follow me on Twitter@lcjohnson1988, FaceBook at <https://www.facebook.com/lisa.johnson...>

Jalynn Patterson says

My Review:

Selah Rishon found her father and believed she could live a happy normal life once more, but all is not what it seems. Her father, Glade has a few secrets he's been hiding and now wishes to involve the ever so handsome Bodhi. The only problem is Glade despises Bodhi, and Bodhi has begun to loose his powers, do to the fact he begun Selah's transition.

With Selah trying desperately to find her mom and younger brother, she finds herself with the question of what to do. Her dear friend and her brother plan to travel to the Mountain to unveil whats going on. They wish for her to go along, but what would Bodhi and Glade have to say. But then again they had just left for the Mountain themselves earlier that morning.

Soon both Selah and Bodhi along with friends, find danger in the craziest of ways. With some much going on around them, how will they ever save the people Selah holds most dear? And will it cost them everything even Selah's life?

Lightening is book two in the Stone Braide Chronicles. This book was an amazing sequel to Thunder (book

one). I have to say this series is one of my favorites. I love the action and adventure. This book shows what it truly means to have girl power. And boy do I have to say Selah sure has it. I want to see what happens, next cause I don't know about you but I want to see what happens to Selah and Bodhi.

Disclosure This book was sent to me free of charge for my honest review from CFBA.

Alyssa says

I love the cover! Especially the red and orange colours!

Elaina says

I think that out of all of the books in the Stone Braide Chronicles I've read, I enjoyed this one the most :) Some of the things that go on in these books can definitely be a little confusing though. It is kind of hard to explain so I'm not even going to try lol, but I guess just keep that in mind if you are considering reading the series. Some things actually did start to make more sense in the second book however, especially about Glade, Selah's father.

I loved how even though Glade and Bodhi pretty much could not stand each other in the beginning, as the story progressed, they were able to at least appreciate one another and grow to like the other person more in time. It was a little funny to see Glade also be that tough and protective father figure and not wanting Bodhi to date Selah :P Even though Glade has only known Selah for about three months XD, I still liked that he was trying to watch out for her and keep her safe :)

This book started off a little slow and took a little while for me to get invested into it, but, whew, then it started to pick up and I never wanted to put it down! I definitely liked it more than *Thunder* I think because I understood stuff a little more... There were some things I didn't necessarily like, and some things that made me so mad/sad, but some of that was kind of in a good way, if that's even possible XD

A couple of my favorite characters were not in this book, like Amaryllis. And other characters--things just happen to them that make me really sad... hoping that it will somehow change in the next book, and it ends up just being some cruel ploy to trick you... because it's not fun when authors mess with your favorite characters, you know haha :P I can't say too much about that, but just know—I'm really upset about the situation lol (I know that's very vague, but I can't get too in detail about it because of spoilers :p)

Even though I wouldn't describe this book as Christian Fiction, (It's more Dystopian) I still enjoyed it as a book overall and I'm glad I continued on with the rest of the series because THIS BOOK... this book surprised me by how much it made me *feel*... I almost cried so many times while reading it—I don't know if that's a good or bad thing necessarily :P But I'm really happy to have book three, *Storm*, with me on my bookshelf because for certain things I.NEED.ANSWERS!!! XD

**Thank you Revell and Baker Publishing Group for providing me a copy in exchange for an honest review*

Marie -The Reading Otter says

Review:

I received this book from NetGalley for review

It took me a few chapters to get back into this world, as I forgot a lot of what happened in the previous book. But once I got back into the world and remembered enough to follow what was happening in relation to the events in the last book, I could barely put this book down. During many of the beginning chapters I was curious if I needed to read the sequel novella (Aftershock) before reading this book, to just bridge some of the facts and maybe remember somethings just a little bit better.

Selah was way more likable earlier in this book than I remember her being in the first book. While she still makes really rash decisions without thinking things through. She is desperate for answers and when her Mother and younger brother go missing along with her step-father, she takes a chance and goes to try and find them.

The suspense was subtle enough that it didn't overpower the other plot of Selah being a novarium, and what that means for her future. Not remembering a lot of the first book was where this hurt me when reading this book. I didn't remember that happening to her. I found that a little more interesting about the character than the rest of the plot lines. Selah trying to get Bodhi's abilities back and her missing family members didn't capture my attention as much as finding out more about the Landers who they are and what they can do.

This book was really engaging and I loved every minute reading it. I look forward to reading the next book and where these characters are headed.

Valli says

[The ending was really sad! Calhoun did a great job at getting readers emotionally attached to the characters. I thought I was going to cry! (hide spoiler)]

Meagan Myhren-bennett says

Lightning

Stone Braide Chronicles #2

By Bonnie S. Calhoun

Selah has been reunited with the father she never knew about, but Glade is so focused on his quest to reach the West and the Third Protocol of Landers that Selah seldom spends much time with him. And since they arrived in Tic City Selah hasn't seen much of Bodhi. The bond between them seems broken, but Selah still feels it.

Having become a novarium has left Selah with more questions than answers and there is no one she can ask. There are no other living novarium that she can ask and the information she has is limited and vague. Even more unsettling are the symptoms that she is experiencing - flashes of power and visions of destruction.

As Selah tries to adjust to the changes she is undergoing, she is being drawn into a situation that could very well leave her imprisoned with the Mountain. Time is running out as Selah must find her family and save them from the coming disaster. A disaster which Selah fears she may be the cause of. Little does she realize just what she is about to bring about and the sacrifice that she will be called upon to make.

Fans of Thunder will definitely want to check-out the newest addition to the Stone Braide chronicles. And, yes, you need to read the first book first, and if it has been a few months since you closed the cover pick it and give yourself a refresher.

This book has more action in it and less "romance" which should please those who were a bit put off by the romance in the previous book. Also be prepared to possibly shed a tear or two as there are a few scenes that are a bit heartbreaking. Have a tissue handy.

I was provided a copy of this book by the publisher Revell in exchange for my honest review.

Amanda says

Review: Imaginations are a fabulous thing, and Bonne Calhoun has ample of that. The world she has created for this series is developed and intriguing. The world as we know it has been destroyed by massive tsunamis, earthquakes, and other natural disasters set off by nuclear war. Many species, including humans, have been altered by the catastrophic events. Animals that were previous edible are no longer and humans no longer come in the normal varieties. A breed of human, called "Landers" seem to be at the centre of it all.

Selah discovered in the last book that she wasn't who she thought she was. *Spoiler Alert* Raised as the daughter of a scavenger with a loving mother, brothers, and an unaffectionate father, Selah has done what she needs to do to survive. When a stranger washes up on a shore near her home, her entire life changes. She discovers that the father she was raised with is not her true father, and that she is actually part of the marked race called the Landers. She sets out to free her real father, who is a Lander held captive in the dreaded Mountain, and eventually lands up in the Lander city with her father. Oh, and along the way she becomes the novarium, some sort of prophesied being that is going to change the world.

Enter book two...

The only problem? Being novarium means that she only has months to live before her body begins to fracture... No one seems to know very much... about anything... and Selah believes that even her father is keeping secrets from her. Frustrated and lost, Selah fights to figure out who she is and how she is going to survive this curse... or blessing?

"Book has been provided courtesy of Baker Publishing Group and Graf-Martin Communications, Inc."

Joan Mitchell says

I loved this book! Wish I had read the first one and I definitely will. A lot of action and suspense. The heroine isn't really a heroine but by the end everyone is working with her. Some sad moments when you realize some of the characters won't be going on, but that is the way of war and life. I would recommend this

book to anyone. I received this book from Goodreads for free.

Carol Lee says

This is an interesting book that is the second book in the series. It is helpful, but not absolutely necessary to have read the first book or the novellas that are a part of the series.

It tells the story of Selah and her re-connection with her real father and how this affects her previous family. She is having issues with him as well as with her own body. She is having trouble handling everything that is going on around her.

This is a great book for those who like science fiction books and you will find yourself wanting to see what will happen next.

I received this book free to review from the publisher.

Brandi (Rambles of a SAHM) says

If you've been in the teen section of your local book store or library you already know that dystopian fiction is all the rage. We're not talking old school dystopian like Orwell's '1984' or Huxley's 'Brave New World'. I'm talking about things like 'The Hunger Games' and 'Divergent' series.

I don't want to take issue with those books but let's just say that I want something better for my teens to read. I believe I've found it in Bonnie S. Calhoun's 'Stone Braide Chronicles' series. The first book in the series was entitled 'Thunder'. There are also two ebooks 'Tremors' and 'Aftershock' that fill in some of the background. (I've not read either of the ebooks.) I was pleasantly surprised by this series because it isn't my usual go to genre. 'Lightning' has solidified my love for this author's writing.

'Lightning' picks up where we left off with Selah and the rest of the characters. Because of that I would characterize this as a series that needs to be read in order. (I still think the eBooks are optional but they would enhance the story.) The story line is complex and without the background material I think you would be a bit lost.

The story is intense and fast-paced. Perfect to keep the attention of a young adult reader. As I've said before I'm not a young adult and I don't normally care for dystopian fiction but Bonnie Calhoun's writing style is absolutely riveting. There is very little fluff involved in these stories but they are chock-full of moral dilemmas that cause the reader to ponder their own response.

While the ending was quite satisfying it also leaves open the need for more books in this series. I can't wait to read them and see how this futuristic society will survive. Thanks Bonnie Calhoun for changing my mind about a genre and providing hours of reading enjoyment.

I received a copy of this book to facilitate my review.
