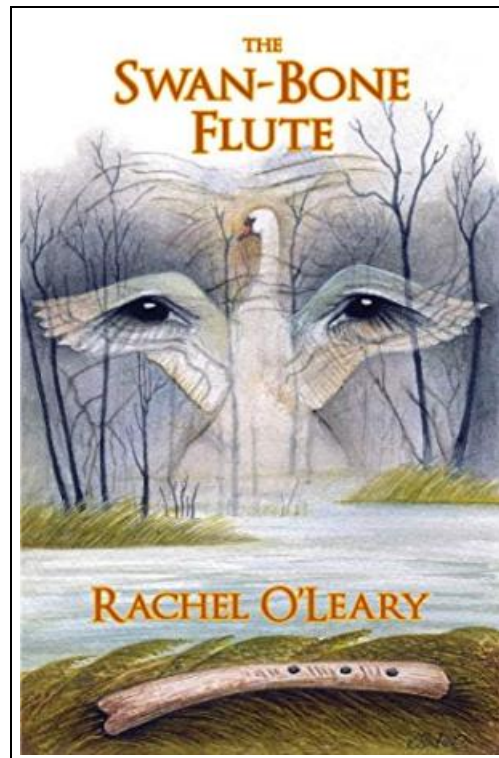


The Swan-Bone Flute (Paperback)



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Reviews

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(Alfreda Bradtke)

THE SWAN-BONE FLUTE (PAPERBACK)



Bog Oak Publishing, United States, 2019. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English. Brand new Book. In Dark Ages Britain, strong women struggle to protect the forest and their freedoms. Storytelling inspires them to stand up to the greed that's groping its way in .Ursel jumps down from an oak to scare a mother deer away from the hunters. Her uncle beats her with his spear-butt. How dare she defy him? He needs venison to impress his lord the Thane at the feast. She is defending life in the wildwood. Is he entitled to hit her, a free woman?Hilda the travelling storyteller walks into this fen-edge settlement. 'Do I carry trouble in my pack? You have plenty of your own! I bring tales to lift you. 'Elder Edith wants the settlement to resolve the conflict with talk, in the old way. To show how the new system keeps women in their place, the Thane leers and threatens rape.The women must work together - but culture divides them. Privileged Anglo-Saxon colonisers mistrust their Celtic British slaves. Meg longs to become a storyteller, but how can she, a slave, dare? Ploughing and planting give them blisters and backache. They bicker.As the women gut fish or weave cloth by the peat fire, Hilda tells stories to spark their imaginations. Once there was a place where queens ruled in peace. Invaders galloped into that valley and smashed their way of life . but one wise woman escaped to keep the old ways alive. Can the young queen find her in the mountains? What visions await her in the Cave of Dreams?Inspired by these tales, the Headman's wife must choose: lose her home and children, or her friends? Her husband talks of throwing her out if she sides with the Elder.Still the women argue. Hilda encourages them...



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