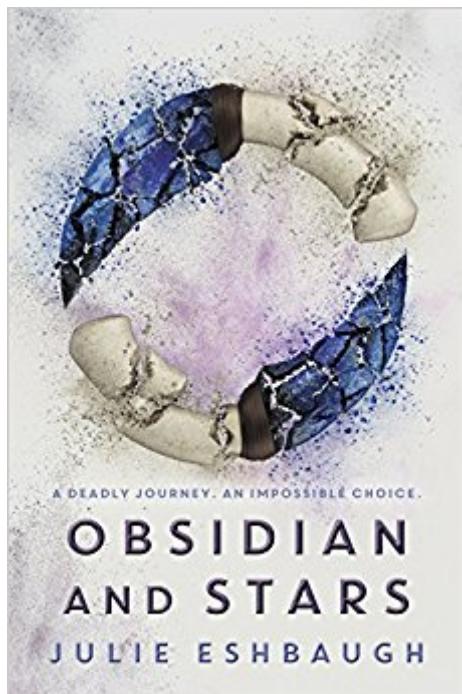


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# **Obsidian And Stars**



## Synopsis

In the riveting sequel to *Ivory and Bone* — the YA fantasy novel that New York Times bestselling author Amie Kaufman described as having a “richly crafted world of life-and-death stakes” — the story shifts to Mya’s viewpoint as vengeful adversaries force her to flee the life she once knew. After surviving the battle that erupted after Lo and the Bosha clan attacked, now Mya is looking ahead to her future with Kol. All the things that once felt so uncertain to her are finally falling into place. But the same night as Kol and Mya’s betrothal announcement, Mya’s brother Chev reveals his plan to marry their youngest sister, Lees, to his friend Morsk. The only way to avoid this terrible turn of events, Morsk informs Mya when he corners her later, is for Mya to take Lees’s place and marry him herself. Rejecting Morsk’s offer, and in an effort to protect her sister, Mya whisks Lees away to a secret island until things back home blow over. Mya soon realizes she’s been followed, however. Even worse, lurking deep in the recesses of this dangerous place are rivals from Mya’s past whose thirst for revenge exceeds all reason. With the lives of her loved ones resting on her shoulders, Mya must make a move before the enemies of her past become the undoing of her future.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Stark poetry. Eshbaugh has clearly done her research.” (Kirkus Reviews) Eshbaugh is good at building tension. Readers looking for a fresh setting will appreciate this survival story, which also incorporates romance and weaponry. (Booklist)

Online) "The characters are compellingly formed and the setting is beautifully detailed. A strong choice." (School Library Journal) "Julie Eshbaugh is a unique new voice with talent enough for a whole team of writers. *Ivory* and *Bone* transported me to a richly crafted world of life-and-death stakes, and I'm still under the spell of her storytelling." (Amie Kaufman, New York Times bestselling co-author of *Illuminae* and *These Broken Stars* (on *Ivory* and *Bone*)) "Exquisitely written, ferocious, and haunting--what a breath of fresh air! *Ivory* and *Bone* is unlike anything I've ever read. Don't miss this one!" (Sarah J. Maas, New York Times bestselling author of the *Throne of Glass* series (on *Ivory* and *Bone*)) "Debut author Eshbaugh portrays Neolithic culture with grace and authenticity. This is an involving story solidly told, doing credit to its inspiration and sources." (Kirkus Reviews (on *Ivory* and *Bone*)) "Eshbaugh debuts with an exciting and unusual adventure with emphasis on the power of storytelling." (Publishers Weekly (on *Ivory* and *Bone*)) "Eshbaugh creates a spare yet memorable account of the interpersonal and interclan politics. There is much to value here." (ALA Booklist (on *Ivory* and *Bone*)) "The Ice Age setting is richly described, and the sometimes desperate struggle for food and survival is palpable. Highly recommended; readers will be anxiously awaiting the next book in the series." (Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) (on *Ivory* and *Bone*)) "There is clear authenticity in the descriptions, and they evoke the desperation, loyalty, and determination that a small group like this would have likely felt." (Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books (on *Ivory* and *Bone*)) "Hands down the most unique debut YA novel of the year." (PasteMagazine.com (on *Ivory* and *Bone*))

In this sequel to *Ivory* and *Bone* told from Mya's point of view, the battle against Lo and the Boshan clan is over, and Mya is looking ahead to a life with Kol. However, when Mya arrives at Kol's camp to begin the betrothal festivities, Mya's brother, Chev, announces his plan to marry his youngest sister, Lees, to his friend Morsk. After losing Mya to Kol's clan, Chev hopes that marrying Lees to a fellow Olen member will help ensure the future strength of their tribe. Mya is horrified, and to protect her sister from a life of unhappiness, Mya runs away with Lees to a secret island. They can run, but they can't hide for long. Chev and Kol arrive soon after. Morsk is in tow. Just when it seems things couldn't get worse, lurking deep in the recesses of this dangerous place are coconspirators of Lo, looking to avenge her death and the

deaths of all the fallen Bosha people. They want Mya dead and they'll kill anyone who gets in their way. With her family and her betrothed's lives on the line, Mya must make a move before the enemies of her past become the undoing of her future. A

It's not often I say this but this sequel was way way way better than the first book. It's based in Mya's pov and it made literally all the difference. There was so much more character depth in this one than in the first, I found myself understanding why the characters were acting a certain way and why it mattered. I loved the relationships between Mya and her sisters, and brother and felt it was more fleshed out. Though I liked the relationship I didn't like her brother Chev, he kept talking of putting the clan first and sure that sounds great as long as it doesn't make you a horrible person. Also his friend, enemy at the beginning, I never felt he was actually redeemed from his actions because...jerk! The romantic moments were super cute though and I'm ended up happy with the ending overall. Kol spent most of the book sickly but I didn't really care, compared to Mya he's dull. I will say there were a whole lot of deaths in this book and I won't spoil them I will say I didn't care. I know that sounds awful especially when you read it and find out who died I just wasn't attached to the characters and didn't like some of them. Mostly it was a fun book, I liked the story, easy to read through without emotional attachments that make some books to heavy. I still like the prehistoric elements and find it different looking at like before civilization and guns, making due with the ability of your own hands.

## Book 2

So what is Obsidian and Stars? Effortlessly resonating with timeless themes and harrowing action cinematics sure to freeze the blood and jelly the spine against the backdrop of an imaginatively ancient, magnificently beautiful and immutably deadly stage, Obsidian and Stars from Julie Eshbaugh is a sequel so incredible it's like getting your favorite band's follow up album and going...wow. Wow! WOW! Then you end up wondering if you like the first or second book better, because they're so good...so different...but still...so harmonious. Two halves of one whole. The sun and the moon. The right and left hand...Wait, am I talking about the books? Or am I talking about Kol and Mya? From the first word, the narrative belongs to Mya. Strong, dynamic, self-contained, tragically conflicted Mya. Lightning in a bottle Mya. Beautiful, passionate, perfectly flawed Mya, ready to begin a brand new life with the one she loves, only to find, all too soon, it is that very life-changing decision she has

made which will ignite the fuse of destiny and push her down a dark and dangerous path, fraught with enough life and death drama to steal the sleep of every reader who dares tread alongside Mya and her many tests and trials under the thumb of The Divine and the frozen cauldron of prehistoric betrothal and familial betrayal. Bridezillas, eat your heart out. This is drama. Mya shocked me in all the best ways, because in Ivory and Bone, she is a puzzle of near mystical locks and keys. I didn't know who she was as much as I knew how much Kol loved her. The nebulous beauty of her soul was like a swathe of stars in the sky, but...obscured by clouds. Covered. Hidden. But listening to her talk, and walking her walk, and feeling the immense burden placed upon her and sifting through her emotions and her senses, seeing with her eyes, I was struck with how much I could relate to her, and how much I knew her down to the depths of her darkest night. How much she was a lot like me. And maybe even a lot like you. Whoever you may be, it's very easy to like Obsidian and Stars. Especially if you spent the time with Ivory and Bone, as Julie Eshbaugh's skillfully sense-driven prose is as sure-handed, perfectly balanced and as razor sharp as a hunting spear, with act two of Mya and Kol and the Clans thrilling and satisfying and romantic to the very end. My deepest gratitude and heart-felt thanks to Julie Eshbaugh and HarperTeen for this fantastic signed paperback ARC which makes me feel like...well, like a member of the family, pulling up a mat under the rippling bigtop of the communal mammoth-hide tent to share the marvelous magic of an amazing story. Recommended for everyone.

I was actually wondering what direction Obsidian and Stars would take after Ivory and Bone. I enjoyed the first book because it reminded me of a reverse Pride and Prejudice. Obsidian and Stars reminds me a little of Battle Royale...really only because they are fighting for their lives on an island. I really liked the story and thought it's a great sequel to the first story. We are now experiencing the story completely from the POV of Mya. She returns to the Manu clan now as a future bride instead of the very angry girl who visited the clan the first time around. As much as Mya can be cold, I love that she is also very clever and can be calm in a frantic situation. She also has a bigger heart than she lets on. I liked being in her point of view as she struggles to find footing in her new world. I still love Kol. There is just something about him. I think it's really his confidence and his kindness. He is a very gentle leader who listens to the people around him. He also has a very open mind and sees things differently and new. He's willing to embrace change. The plot is actually really about survival against each other. Circumstances land the brothers and sisters of the Manu and Olen clans on an island beyond the horizon. While they

there they meet someone new who belongs to the Tama clan and is escaping for their own reasons. When old and new enemies seek the characters on this island this where it becomes a little battle royale. They are fighting to survive and get off the island back to the safety of their clans. It's really intense at time and there is definitely a lot of action as far as fighting goes. I really like the direction the story takes and I definitely enjoyed the ending. However complicated things might be, all seem to find their place whether good or bad. I thought this was a well done sequel and companion for the Ivory and Bone.

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