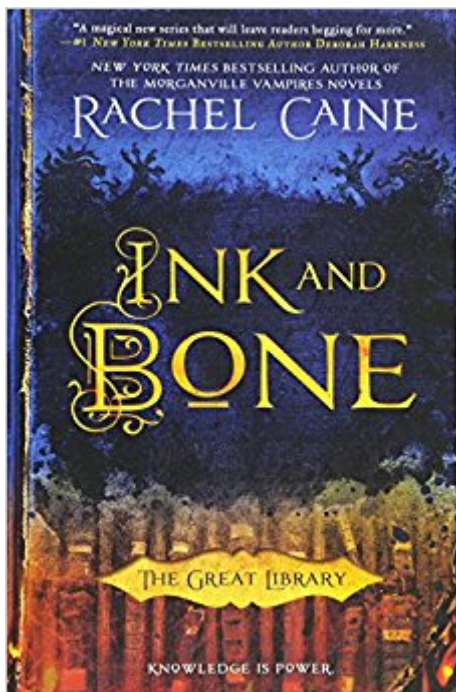


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# Ink And Bone (The Great Library)



## Synopsis

In an exhilarating new series, New York Times bestselling author Rachel Caine rewrites history, creating a dangerous world where the Great Library of Alexandria has survived the test of time. Ruthless and supremely powerful, the Great Library is now a presence in every major city, governing the flow of knowledge to the masses. Alchemy allows the Library to deliver the content of the greatest works of history instantly—but the personal ownership of books is expressly forbidden. Jess Brightwell believes in the value of the Library, but the majority of his knowledge comes from illegal books obtained by his family. Jess has been sent to be his family's spy, but his loyalties are tested in the final months of his training to enter the Library's service. When his friend inadvertently commits heresy by creating a device that could change the world, Jess discovers that those who control the Great Library believe knowledge is more valuable than any human life—and soon both heretics and books will burn.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up • In an alternate reality, the Great Library of Alexandria is a powerful governing force that controls the dissemination of information. With strategically located branches around the world, it enforces its rules via a highly trained military and deadly automatons. Possession of a book in its original form is illegal, but copies can be requested and are transferred temporarily to readers. For the majority of people who follow its edicts, the library seems like a benevolent authority, but as the

delivery boy for his father's black market operation in original books, Jess Brightwell lives in constant fear of being caught by the High Garda. When his father announces that he's enrolled Jess as a postulant to train for a coveted library position, Jess is intrigued and resentful. Constant exposure to books has him hungering for access to the library's vast archives, but he has no wish to continue risking his life for his father's business. His illegal activities have imbued him with the skills necessary to place among the top contenders for the few available positions. But the further Jess gets into the training, the greater the risk of being found out and the more he realizes that the library will stop at nothing to maintain control over its collection. Caine has created a Dickensian future with an odd mix of technologies and elements of sorcery. A strong cast of characters and nail-biting intensity make for a promising start to this new series. VERDICT Teens and librarians alike will be anxiously awaiting the next installment.

—Cary Frostick, formerly at Mary Riley Styles Public Library, Falls Church, VA --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

“Rachel Caine transports the reader to an imaginary future world where a Great Library controls all knowledge and the private ownership of printed books is a radical, dangerous practice.” —Deborah Harkness, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *A Discovery of Witches* “Dark, riveting, heart-in-the-throat storytelling, with characters who caught me up and hold me even now. A don't-miss read!” —New York Times Bestselling Author Tamora Pierce “Caine has always given readers entertaining and interesting books.” Fans will fall in love with Jess and want the next book out immediately. —USA Today “Caine's elegantly detailed descriptions bring Jess's world to vivid life in a fast-paced, action-oriented plot that will leave readers breathlessly anticipating not just the next page but the next book in the Great Library Series.” —Publishers Weekly (starred review) “A thrill-a-minute adventure.” This first entry into the Great Library series has pieces that mirror the excitement and bitterness of the *Hunger Games* series and contains some of the psychological elements of the *Harry Potter* books. —Booklist (starred review) “A strong cast of characters and nail-biting intensity make for a promising start to this series.” —School Library Journal “A modern masterpiece.” Fellow bibliophiles, expect to be some variation on struck —awestruck, dumbstruck, starstruck, maybe even thunderstruck. A new series to thrill every bookworm's heart! —Christian Science Monitor “Caine's world where books and libraries dominate is not for the faint of heart...What's not to love? Imagine *Harry Potter* where the real magic is found within the pages of ancient texts. This

book proves the adage that knowledge is power." RT Book Reviews (4 stars, top pick) "Reminds me of Jim C. Hines's librismancy series|An intriguing world." Locus

I have actually never read one of Rachel Caine's books before, but this book's cover lured me in and then the description of the book lured me in even more, and I am glad it did because I loved this book! Even though it does not end in a cliff hanger, I desperately want to read more about the characters and what will happen to them next. This book is based in the future, 2031 to be exact. But it is very much set in the past. The great library of Alexandria still exists and has firm hold of the world and controls everything. The ability to reproduce text does not exist, the Great Library made sure of that. Made sure no progress was made to harm the library in any way, and that includes people's rights to own and produce their own books. Everyone has blanks, where they can have access to a book temporary before it fades away. Because books are rare there is an underground blackmarket for them, and Jess's family, the Brightwell's, runs one of the best smugglers of books. But Jess isn't really cut out for this life so his father gets him in to work for the Library. Jess must go through class and test to learn how to work for the Library and it is much harder than he ever imagined. Along the way, Jess sees that the Library wasn't everything he always thought it was and finds out more about the dirty underside of the library and all the secrets that were held to preserve the library's rule. This book is very dark. There is a lot of death and despair. But there is also friendship and love as well. There is no romance scene, it is very much action packed on the edge of your seat pulling for the characters. This book really pulls at your emotions, it has this raw quality to it. The characters are all very much fleshed out and you really get to see each character's personality, no two are alike. I would definitely recommend this book!

Jess has been told by his family that it is time for him to make his own way in the world. And the way they have picked for him is by entering the Great Library. Any book lover will immediately identify with the main character Jess. And they will also understand quickly just what danger the Great Library represents. A world where it's illegal to own a book? The horror! (no I am not being sarcastic. that world is basically my biggest nightmare). This is a very good first book to what I believe will be an enjoyable series. The reader is introduced to a world that is complex and peopled with well-rounded characters. The Great Library is a great villain, in that in a way it doesn't seem completely evil. So there's subtleties present in the characters as well, which you don't always find in fantasy stories. I would for sure highly recommend this book and am looking forward to reading

the next in the series.

Ink and Bone A Great Library novel by Rachel Caine The year is 2025, and the Great Library of Alexandria is a colossus that bestrides the world. "Tota est scientia" is its motto: Knowledge is all. The Library has tailored every scientific, intellectual and technological development to meet its ends. To design, build, or even know of a device that might circumvent the Library's power is to risk your life. It matters little what your motives are. Even nations know that to challenge the orthodoxy is to become an enemy of the greatest power on Earth. To ensure its supremacy, the Library delivers books directly to the citizenry, on a worldwide basis. The caveat is that the ownership of original books is forbidden, to be caught in possession of one is a death sentence. But, where prohibitions exist there will be those who desire that which is denied them and black marketers to supply that desire. Additionally, there is organized, and deadly opposition to the dictates of the Great Library from a group called the "Burners." These terrorists don't merely want to circumvent the Library's rules; they want to destroy it utterly and do not care if innocents stand in their way. Into this dangerous, arcane world Jess Brightwell was born. His father, and indeed the whole Brightwell clan, are sellers of illicit books. At ten he is running books across London to satisfy a buyer's perverted taste. At sixteen he is packed off to be his father's spy within the Library's bureaucracy. To accomplish that mission, all he has to do is complete a course of dangerous, challenging training and best his fellow postulants in the bargain. Simple, right? Well, not if you take into account a war, the "Burner" terrorists, and the power mad actions of the Great Library's hierarchy. Easy? Not in the least. The ever present bloodshed, terrorism and scenes of horrific violence are leavened with competition, camaraderie, bravery, selfless loyalty and sweet teen romance among the postulants. Stalwart Glain, bonhomie Thomas, snarky Dario, brilliant Khalifa, vulnerable Morgan, daring Jess, instructor Wolfe and Captain Santi all become round and lively in the course of Ink and Bone. These characters and the world of the Great Alexandrian Library, so finely crafted by Rachel Caine, is a world that you will leave reluctantly. Hopefully, the wait for the next book in the series won't be a long one. Highly recommended for Steampunk aficionados.

Ink and Bone by Rachel Caine Terrifying for a reader. Printed books are under strict control by the daughter libraries. People are not allowed to own original printed books other than their own journal.

There is no such thing as the printing press although inventors are not remiss. It's a control issue. Slightly steam punk in that there is a lot of automation in protecting the sanctity and scarcity of books. Possibly young adult but a lot of violence although it's not graphic. I enjoyed this unusual world but am wholeheartedly glad it is not our world. What would I do without the escape that books give me? It would be a dreary place. Book 1 in a new series. I'm looking forward to how these new young Librarians change their world.

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