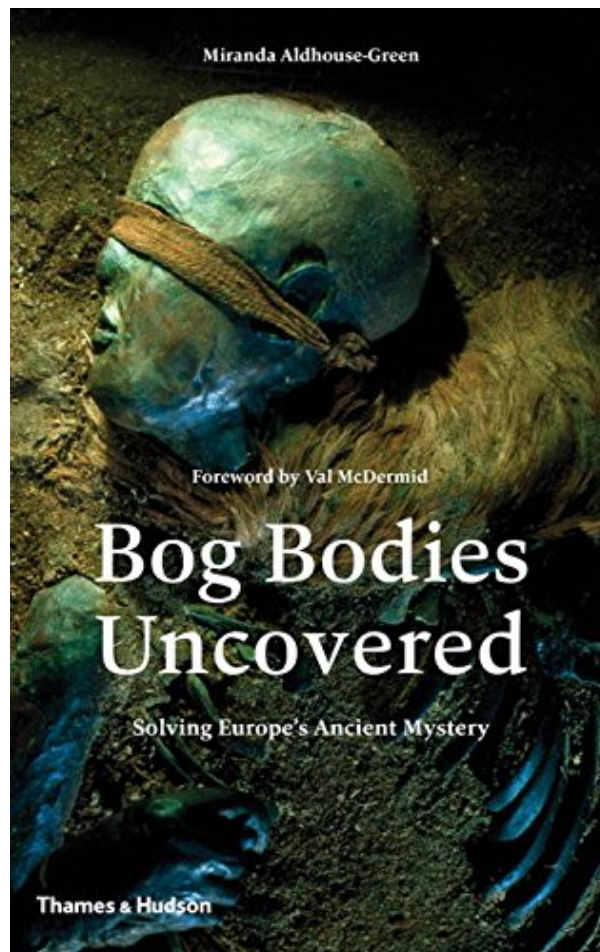
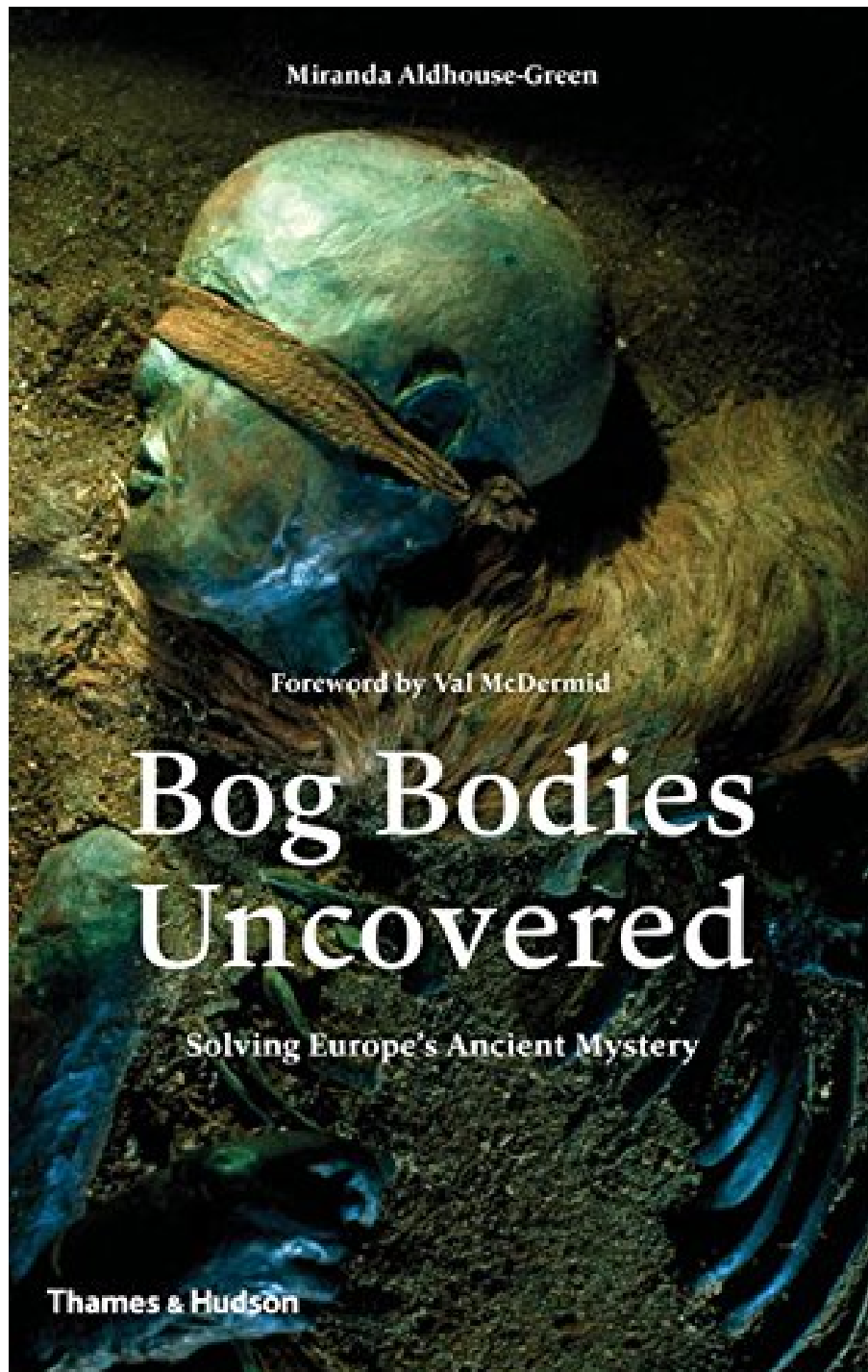


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## Review

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## About the Author

Miranda Aldhouse-Green is Professor of Archaeology at Cardiff University. She has published widely on the Celts, including for Dictionary of Celtic Myth and Legend, Exploring the World of the Druids, and The Celtic Myths.

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The grisly story of the bog bodies, updated via details of archaeological discovery and crime-scene techniques

Some 2,000 years ago, certain unfortunate individuals were violently killed and buried not in graves but in bogs. What was a tragedy for the victims has proved an archaeologist's dream, for the peculiar and acidic properties of the bog have preserved the bodies so that their skin, hair, soft tissue, and internal organs—even their brains—survive. Most of these ancient swamp victims have been discovered in regions with large areas of raised bog: Ireland, northwest England, Denmark, the Netherlands, and northern Germany. They were almost certainly murder victims and, as such, their bodies and their burial places can be treated as crime scenes. The cases are cold, but this book explores the extraordinary information they reveal about our prehistoric past.

Bog Bodies Uncovered updates Professor P. V. Glob's seminal publication *The Bog People*, published in 1969, in the light of vastly improved scientific techniques and newly found bodies. Approached in a radically different style akin to a criminal investigation, here the bog victims appear, uncannily well-preserved, in full-page images that let the reader get up close and personal with the ancient past. 78 illustrations, 15 in color

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##### Giving a Voice to the Dead

By Paul Moskowitz

Over the last two centuries, peat cutters in Northern Europe have been uncovering bodies that are in such good condition that it was first thought that the people found were the victims of recent crimes. Actually, the bodies were preserved by natural bog processes. Radioactive carbon dating has shown that the bodies are two thousand years old. In this work, the bog bodies are explained in all of their sometimes gruesome details. The book is illustrated with many photos.

The bog bodies were immediately seen to be murder victims, but who were they and why were they killed? The author, Miranda Aldhouse-Green, who is an archaeologist, presents us with the facts surrounding the bodies. Modern forensic techniques have revealed how the people lived, what they ate over their lives, what they ate in the days before their deaths, and how they were killed. We learn that they were not the victims of common crime, but were deliberately put to death.

The author presents some interesting theories and conclusions about the deaths. This book dispels any thoughts that I may have had about ideal pre-industrial society. However, as civilized as today's Northern European descendents may seem, I am not sure about how far the world has progressed.

P.S. This review is based on a pre-publication copy of the book, which was obtained at the New York BookExpo in May.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

##### Worthwhile treatise

By A. Brockhaus

A strangely circular book in that the author constantly circles around the topics, touching on a topic then deferring it to later, then referring back to it. She may touch upon a subject in chapter one, but defer the full conversation about it to chapter 8, and then in chapter 8 refers back to chapter one. Part of the issue is that in reality, it's not possible to solve "Europe's Ancient Mystery" as the title optimistically proclaims since there's simply not enough evidence from that time period to do more than provide some educated guesses. But Aldhouse-Green provides some fine educated guesses, focusing on a variety of topics to help provide context and insight into the mystery of why these bog bodies were often brutally murdered and buried in a bog to preserve them. From examining why the bog preserves bodies to considering their last meals, the author covers a lot of ground in this book. At times topics feel a bit repetitive because of her focus on nuances and her willingness to circle back to topics, but she does just enough to persuade the reader to persist to the end of this book.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Great book!

By Lindsey

Excellent book for one who is obsessed with Bog Bodies (like I am). I love the information about the Iron Age. This book really brings to life the cultural setting in which the bog bodies lived and died.

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