Dreaming of the Bones. The fifth book in the Duncan Kincaid / Gemma James series, 1997. This book is for TERRY, with gratitude for her voice, among many other things. Of the manuscript; to the members of the EOTNWG, for the same; and to my husband, Rick Wilson, for his patient and continuing technical support. PART I. There are four ways to write a woman’s life: the woman herself may tell it, in what she chooses to call an autobiography; she may tell it in what she chooses to call fiction; a biographer, woman or man, may write the woman’s life in what is called a biography; or the woman may write her own life, in advance of, living it, unconsciously, and without recognizing or naming the process.

CAROLYN HEILBRUN, from Writing a Woman’s Life. Her fifth novel, “Dreaming of the Bones” sat on the shelf for quite a while before I happened to run into Ms. Crombie at a book signing at Barnes & Noble. I chatted with her, got an autograph (feeling kind of bad that it was an old hardback I bought off the discount rack instead of her new novel, which I assume she was there to sell), then promptly went home and picked up where I’d left off in her now 12 book series. How was it? Quite good, actually. It's kind of uncanny. Anyway, “Dreaming of the Bones” managed to transcend my meager expectations, demonstrating that Crombie is not a one-trick pony. To begin with, this is easily the most densely plotted of her works thus far. She was still introducing new characters (and pretty well-rounded ones to boot!) halfway in to the page-count. Dreaming of the Bones is the fifth book in the Kincaid/James series. I have mixed thoughts about this addition to the series. The reason for that is the book is divided into part one and part two. Just finished Deborah Crombie's Dreaming of the Bones. I am very surprised at how long this took me to finish. It is an absolutely beautiful and lyrical mystery novel...seamlessly written. Perhaps I was taking my time because I didn't want the experience to be over? I found it amazing that Crombie adapted her writing style to the subject matter...the re-opening of a poet's death. The entire book read like a very long prose poem and the poetry she constructed to weave into the story of Lydia was Just finished Deborah Crombie's Dreaming of the Bones.