



Cutting for Stone: A novel

By Abraham Verghese

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Cutting for Stone: A novel By Abraham Verghese

A sweeping, emotionally riveting first novel—an enthralling family saga of Africa and America, doctors and patients, exile and home.

Marion and Shiva Stone are twin brothers born of a secret union between a beautiful Indian nun and a brash British surgeon at a mission hospital in Addis Ababa. Orphaned by their mother's death in childbirth and their father's disappearance, bound together by a preternatural connection and a shared fascination with medicine, the twins come of age as Ethiopia hovers on the brink of revolution. Yet it will be love, not politics—their passion for the same woman—that will tear them apart and force Marion, fresh out of medical school, to flee his homeland. He makes his way to America, finding refuge in his work as an intern at an underfunded, overcrowded New York City hospital. When the past catches up to him—nearly destroying him—Marion must entrust his life to the two men he thought he trusted least in the world: the surgeon father who abandoned him and the brother who betrayed him.

An unforgettable journey into one man's remarkable life, and an epic story about the power, intimacy, and curious beauty of the work of healing others.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Amazon Exclusive: John Irving Reviews *Cutting for Stone*

John Irving has been nominated for a National Book Award three times--winning once, in 1980, for the novel *The World According to Garp*. In 1992, Irving was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in Stillwater, Oklahoma. In 2000, he won the Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay for *The Cider House Rules*--a film with seven Academy Award nominations. Read his exclusive Amazon guest review of *Cutting for Stone*:



That Abraham Verghese is a doctor and a writer is already established; the miracle of this novel is how organically the two are entwined. I've not read a novel wherein medicine, the practice of it, is made as germane to the storytelling process, to the overall narrative, as the author manages to make it happen here. The medical detail is stunning, but it never overwhelms the humane and narrative aspects of this moving and ambitious novel. This is a first-person narration where the first-person voice appears to disappear, but never entirely; only in the beginning are we aware that the voice addressing us is speaking from the womb! And what terrific characters--even the most minor players are given a full history. There is also a sense of great foreboding; by the midpoint of the story, one dreads what will further befall these characters. The foreshadowing is present in the chapter titles, too--'The School of Suffering' not least among them! *Cutting for Stone* is a remarkable achievement.--*John Irving*

(Photo © Maki Galimberti)

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Lauded for his sensitive memoir (*My Own Country*) about his time as a doctor in eastern Tennessee at the onset of the AIDS epidemic in the 80s, Verghese turns his formidable talents to fiction, mining his own life and experiences in a magnificent, sweeping novel that moves from India to Ethiopia to an inner-city hospital in New York City over decades and generations. Sister Mary Joseph Praise, a devout young nun, leaves the south Indian state of Kerala in 1947 for a missionary post in Yemen. During the arduous sea voyage, she saves the life of an English doctor bound for Ethiopia, Thomas Stone, who becomes a key player in her destiny when they meet up again at Missing Hospital in Addis Ababa. Seven years later, Sister Praise dies birthing twin boys: Shiva and Marion, the latter narrating his own and his brothers long, dramatic, biblical story set against the backdrop of political turmoil in Ethiopia, the life of the hospital compound in which they grow up and the love story of their adopted parents, both doctors at Missing. The boys become doctors as well and Vergheses weaving of the practice of medicine into the narrative is

fascinating even as the story bobs and weaves with the power and coincidences of the best 19th-century novel. (*Feb.*)

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

One might envy Abraham Verghese, who makes the transition from essayist to novelist look easier than it should be. *Cutting for Stone* will remind readers of the fiction of Salman Rushdie, John Irving (*The Cider House Rules*), and Ha Jin (*A Free Life*); it seems likely that the author knows the work of doctor and essayist Richard Selzer (*Letters to a Young Doctor*) as well. Verghese's first novel is an expansive story well told. If he has a weakness as a novelist, though, as the *New York Times Book Review* points out, it is a surplus of passion for his characters and an unwillingness to let the smallest detail go unremarked. ("Only the telling can heal the rift that separates my brother and me," Marion writes, and that single sentence justifies Verghese's motivation.) Would that all writers suffered for paying the same attention to their craft. Copyright 2009 Bookmarks Publishing LLC

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Patrick Perkins:

This Cutting for Stone: A novel book is not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you have by reading this book is information inside this book incredible fresh, you will get info which is getting deeper you actually read a lot of information you will get. This kind of Cutting for Stone: A novel without we understand teach the one who reading through it become critical in considering and analyzing. Don't always be worry Cutting for Stone: A novel can bring when you are and not make your tote space or bookshelves' come to be full because you can have it in the lovely laptop even cellphone. This Cutting for Stone: A novel having excellent arrangement in word and layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.

Dolores Young:

Are you kind of hectic person, only have 10 or maybe 15 minute in your day time to upgrading your mind expertise or thinking skill also analytical thinking? Then you are receiving problem with the book as compared to can satisfy your short period of time to read it because pretty much everything time you only find reserve that need more time to be study. Cutting for Stone: A novel can be your answer given it can be read by you actually who have those short free time problems.

Lashunda McCloud:

As we know that book is vital thing to add our information for everything. By a guide we can know everything we want. A book is a group of written, printed, illustrated or maybe blank sheet. Every year ended up being exactly added. This reserve Cutting for Stone: A novel was filled concerning science. Spend your spare time to add your knowledge about your scientific research competence. Some people has several feel when they reading a book. If you know how big good thing about a book, you can feel enjoy to read a guide. In the modern era like today, many ways to get book which you wanted.

Abigail Shelton:

That guide can make you to feel relax. This particular book Cutting for Stone: A novel was vibrant and of course has pictures around. As we know that book Cutting for Stone: A novel has many kinds or variety. Start from kids until adolescents. For example Naruto or Private investigator Conan you can read and believe you are the character on there. Therefore not at all of book usually are make you bored, any it can make you feel happy, fun and rest. Try to choose the best book to suit your needs and try to like reading that will.

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