

Cutting for Stone

By Abraham Verghese

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Marion and Shiva Stone are twin brothers born of a secret union between a beautiful Indian nun and a brash British surgeon. Orphaned by their mother's death 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.

Moving from Addis Ababa to New York City and back again, *Cutting for Stone* is an unforgettable story of love and betrayal, medicine and ordinary miracles--and two brothers whose fates are forever intertwined.

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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:

Robert Jones:

Do you have favorite book? If you have, what is your favorite's book? Publication is very important thing for us to learn everything in the world. Each e-book has different aim or even goal; it means that publication has different type. Some people really feel enjoy to spend their time to read a book. These are reading whatever they take because their hobby is usually reading a book. How about the person who don't like reading through a book? Sometime, person feel need book when they found difficult problem or even exercise. Well, probably you should have this Cutting for Stone.

Daniel McCullough:

What do you think about book? It is just for students since they are still students or the item for all people in the world, what the best subject for that? Merely you can be answered for that concern above. Every person has several personality and hobby for each other. Don't to be forced someone or something that they don't want do that. You must know how great and also important the book Cutting for Stone. All type of book is it possible to see on many solutions. You can look for the internet sources or other social media.

Robert Watts:

Reading a publication tends to be new life style with this era globalization. With reading you can get a lot of information that will give you benefit in your life. Having book everyone in this world can share their idea. Textbooks can also inspire a lot of people. Plenty of author can inspire all their reader with their story as well as their experience. Not only the story that share in the guides. But also they write about the information about something that you need example of this. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your young ones, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors on earth always try to improve their expertise in writing, they also doing some exploration before they write for their book. One of them is this Cutting for Stone.

Benjamin Herrera:

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