



The Garden of Stones (Echoes of Empire Book 1)

By Mark T. Barnes



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Shortlisted for the 2014 Gemmell Morningstar Award - Best Debut Novel

When the Shr?anese Empire explodes into civil war, fighters of all kinds flock to the banners of their lords. Indris, a skilled swordsman and brilliant sorcerer, seeks to end the bloodshed once and for all. He knows this war is simply a ruse—a power play by a ruling Family desperate to take control of the Empire by any means necessary. Indris cares little for the politics except to see that justice is upheld. But even he can't see the terrible price his opponents are willing to pay to secure their legacy.

A true epic, the first book in the Echoes of Empire series creates a spellbinding new world. With its twisted politics, new races, compelling heroes and villains, and unique magic, *The Garden of Stones* is a lyrical fantasy on the grandest scale.

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Editorial Review

Review

"From the very first page of [*The Garden of Stones*], Mr. Barnes immerses his first-time reader in a world filled with vivid cultures, unusual species, ancient mysteries, and complex characters. Through beautifully worded descriptions, he unveils an original fantasy landscape, filled with amazing details."

—Bookwraiths.com

"Barnes drops his readers into a complex world that makes for an immersive experience for lovers of epic fantasy. The political machinations and constant familial betrayals are reminiscent of Jacqueline Carey's "*Kushiel*" series ... the female characters on both sides are every bit as strong as the males, a refreshing change in epic fantasy. Highly recommended." —Library Journal

"The Garden of Stones was an immersive fantasy. It felt like being in the eye of a storm ... When I finished, I simply did not want to leave this world..." —Reading Reality

"You know that feeling when you finish a really good book and you don't want to leave the world it's set in? That any book you pick up after just isn't right because it's not the book you were just reading? Well that just happened to me ... I loved this world and the characters." —Marktimmony.com

"If you're looking for something different, something to strike that vein of Eastern Fantasy with a twinge of weird, this is what you need to go with. Barnes has crafted a great debut with plot twists galore, exactly what speculative fiction needs." —Acerbic Writing

"This is an incredible read ... It is a rich and lyrical style [that] flows. Tantalising all the senses. The world is detailed and tactile, with an almost awe-inspiring depth to it ... Mark T Barnes is going to be huge, once the world gets up to speed!" —*Galaxy Bookshop*

"[I] quite enjoyed this world that Barnes has created. It's full of wonder and imagination, tons of creatures, and races that were well-crafted and constantly interesting." —SFFaudio

About the Author

Mark Barnes was born in Sydney, Australia, in September of 1966. A strong athlete, he was also drawn to the arts at a young age, penning his first short story as a seven-year-old. He worked in finance and advertising and eventually landed satisfying work in information technology, where he continues to manage a freelance organizational change consultancy. In 2005, when Mark was selected to attend the Clarion South residential short story workshop, he began to write with the intention of making it more than a hobby. Since that time Mark has published a number of short stories, worked as a freelance script editor, and has driven creative consultancy for a television series. *The Garden of Stones* is his first novel.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Richard Twombly:

The book *The Garden of Stones* (Echoes of Empire Book 1) make one feel enjoy for your spare time. You

can use to make your capable far more increase. Book can to be your best friend when you getting tension or having big problem together with your subject. If you can make looking at a book The Garden of Stones (Echoes of Empire Book 1) for being your habit, you can get a lot more advantages, like add your current capable, increase your knowledge about a few or all subjects. You may know everything if you like start and read a guide The Garden of Stones (Echoes of Empire Book 1). Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science publication or encyclopedia or other people. So , how do you think about this reserve?

Scott Lowe:

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Eric Green:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read a new book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a publication. The book The Garden of Stones (Echoes of Empire Book 1) it is quite good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space to create this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore easily to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book features high quality.

Thomas Towne:

That reserve can make you to feel relax. This book The Garden of Stones (Echoes of Empire Book 1) was colorful and of course has pictures on there. As we know that book The Garden of Stones (Echoes of Empire Book 1) has many kinds or category. Start from kids until young adults. For example Naruto or Private investigator Conan you can read and think you are the character on there. So , not at all of book usually are make you bored, any it makes you feel happy, fun and relax. Try to choose the best book for you and try to like reading that will.

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