



The Stones Cry Out

Sibella Giorello

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Moments after FBI agent Raleigh Harmon arrives at a large rally on Richmond, Virginia's Southside neighborhood, two men plummet from a factory rooftop and lie dead on the sidewalk below. Though over 500 people are at the rally, no one saw what happened. Or are they just not talking?

The Stones Cry Out Details

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From Reader Review The Stones Cry Out for online ebook

C.J. Darlington says

I've read this novel three times now (both the print version and the expanded Kindle version), and I loved it all three times. Do pick up the Kindle version if you can as there's more depth and Sibella has tightened up parts too. One of my favorite authors!

Special agent Raleigh Harmon has just been assigned a civil rights case her supervisor wants closed yesterday. A white male police detective and a black man with a shady past died when they fell off a factory roof during a "Parade for the People" rally two days prior. The city of Richmond has become divided by color before the facts are even known. The police stand by their man, the African American community by theirs. And if there were witnesses, they're not talking. Especially to the FBI. What really happened on that factory roof? Why were the men together in the first place? Is it really an open and shut case? Raleigh isn't sure. Despite the surmounting odds, she's determined to dig down to the truth, because to a forensic geologist the stones do indeed cry out.

Nominated twice for a Pulitzer Prize, Sibella Giorello has already proven she's a gifted non-fiction writer. But with the publication of The Stones Cry Out, Giorello can now add "gifted novelist" to her resume. Her skillful use of language has created a unique novel that smacks of quality. More than once I found myself awed by her vivid word pictures.

Falling somewhere between plot-driven and character-driven, Stones mixes the sparse writing style of a beat reporter with the attention to detail you'd expect from an artist. Take this description for example: "Her sleeveless housedress exposes large black arms, where deltas of stretch marks flow like sandy estuaries to her elbows." I could literally "see" this character, and Giorello wields this astute word crafting ability throughout the book.

Set in Richmond, Virginia, the city is accurately portrayed, even down to the murder statistics. Life and death's gritty realities aren't glossed over either. Rather than spoil the situation, let's just say I found one scene startlingly frank. But Giorello is never gratuitous. The Stones Cry Out is about real-life. Her prose reflects that. And since its spiritual message is more subtle than overt, it's a great crossover candidate.

Raleigh Harmon is a refreshing addition to Christian fiction's leading ladies. She's strong and independent, but not Wonder Woman--the type of person who could chat with you over coffee one minute, and protect your back the next. Her struggles become your struggles, her keen observations drive you to read on. And while the novel could have been a third longer (I felt cheated a few times when a new chapter skipped ahead in time), its lean storyline is complete and satisfying.

Every once in awhile a book comes along that you want to share with everyone you know. The Stones Cry Out is one of those. With three-dimensional characters who could be your neighbors, fascinating forensic geology tidbits, and a rich attention to details, The Stones Cry Out is easily one of 2007's most compelling novels.

Jill says

I'm totally hooked on this mystery/suspense series. Raleigh Harmon is a complex and interesting character, and her struggle to find her way through life with all its complexities and challenges is fascinating. I read the YA series first, and now I'm discovering Raleigh as a young adult, an FBI agent who specializes in geology, using her skills to solve difficult crimes.

Great stuff!

Kellyflower says

I'm not big into Mystery or Suspense, but this book was just right for me. I never felt overwhelmed with too many details. The characters were likeable and it makes me want to keep reading about them in the following books.

The bible passages and message the author used were subtle and I didn't feel like it was preachy at all.

Nice light Mystery

Amy says

Meh. It was just okay. I read through the whole book without forming a connection with any of the characters. It was supposed to be Christian fiction, but I really found no Christian focus in the book at all, besides the main character professing that she sort of believed in God a few times. The "mystery" that is solved within the book is a bit confusing, and when the truth finally does come out, it's definitely not an "aha" moment. It was fairly boring. I was not impressed.

Katie says

Why did I wait so long to read this???

Shirley223 says

I like the characters and the geology forensics. Not being a Christian I had no idea it was supposed to be Christian fiction. I thought the Pentecosts were treated fairly respectfully and did not feel this has had any more to do with religion than many books.

Grace says

If you like detective novels, writing that is crisp yet rich, suspense that won't let up, unexpected funny quips and an engrossing story then you will love this book. I was hooked from the first chapter and put my Kindle down only when I was forced to, by daily life that couldn't be ignored. This is a detective story so expect some gruesome and really tense parts. I read that it took her 8 years to write this. I am not surprised as the technical information she had about geology and forensics was astounding. The author is Christian so

weaves this theme throughout by its various characters, in a skillful way. I will definitely read more from this author.

Here were two quotes that I found amusing.

"I sighed heavily. My sister's politics were so far to the left Karl Marx couldn't catch her in a bullet train."

"But the storm didn't last long. Richmond's summer rains were Napoleonic - short and furious..."

Melissa says

2.5 stars--Debut Christian mystery. Not entirely cohesive story, but good forensics.

Tracy Wainwright says

All around great book

I was swept up in Raleigh's story from the beginning. The author does a great job of moving the reader along with the characters and plot. She also has a mastery of metaphor usage and imagery that's rarely seen today. Being from a small town near Richmond, also added a fun element to the story, as I know many of the places mentioned.

Darcie Gudger says

One of my favorite mystery authors

Sarah Monzon says

This was a really interesting mystery and I kind of found the lack of quirky characters refreshing (don't get me wrong, I like quirky characters. It just seems like a lot of mysteries have them). I loved that it got me thinking and considering the evidence to try and figure out who did it. And I loved how brave the author was to tackle such a sensitive subject of unnecessary force, Black Lives Matter, and the race issue in the south. My only negative about the book is that I found it rather slow so I ended up skimming some parts.

Jackie says

I liked this book. There really wasn't anything particularly extraordinary about it. But I thoroughly enjoyed the reading experience. I really liked Raleigh. And of course, that meant that I wanted to read about her case. I enjoyed watching her sort through all the clues and resolve the question of "who done it."

How refreshing it is to read a book without cringing at all the offensive language. This was a regular mystery, and an enjoyable one at that.

A couple favorite passages:

"In my mourning, I realized the most painful place on earth is sometimes the church you attended with the person you loved."

"But I believe we're called to live beyond our fears."

"The truth is, all the competencies we hold so dear eventually turn into our obstacles...At some point, we all feel naked and alone, and the longer we've relied on our competencies the harder it is to surrender."

"...before long she takes out the worn red Bible. The binding is broken from so much use, from her long fingers absorbing the wisdom. And rubber bands stretch across the leather cover, holding all that good news in place."

Becky says

Lady FBI agent Raleigh has to deal with a myriad of opposing forces as she takes on a case with seemingly racial issues. The author filled this story with vivid characters and surrounds the reader with a sense of the Deep South. Raleigh's faith and tenacity are rare and beautiful.

Teri de matteo says

I enjoyed this book. There were a few grammatical errors... pet peeve for me but the story was well developed with an ending I didn't see coming. Giorello has a unique way of describing things such as the city of Richmond being a horrible overachiever when it came to killings, Raleigh viewing her work cubicle as a cattle stall and rain so intense that it could beat a city into submission. If you like detective mysteries, I'm confident you will like this book! I'm looking forward to reading more of her books!

Sharon says

First book I have read by Sibella Giorello and I thoroughly enjoyed. FBI Agent Raleigh Harmon is a strong female character struggling to make her life work in two very different worlds: FBI agent and daughter trying to keep her aging mom with emotional difficulties in her own home. This is a VERY relevant subject to many in today's world!! I didn't figure out the ending....so hats off to this author who could keep me guessing to the end with little side plots, twists, and turns. I will be back for more of Agent Harmon's adventures!!
