



Stones

William Bell

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Garnet Havelock was always a bit different from other guys. He never quite fit in and he was okay with that. Now, in his final year of high school, he's just marking time, waiting to get out into the real world.

When a mysterious girl transfers to his school Garnet thinks he might have found the girl of his dreams, if only he could get her to talk to him.

As Garnet struggles to win over one girl, another girl is trying to get his attention – unfortunately she lived over 150 years ago. Garnet becomes fascinated by her history and that of the black community she belonged to. As he draws closer to the truth, he uncovers a horrifying chapter in his town's history, and discovers the ways in which deep-seated prejudices and persecution from the past can still reverberate in the present.

From the Trade Paperback edition.

Stones Details

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From Reader Review Stones for online ebook

Sydney says

I did not like this book. I feel like it was a waste of time. I didn't like Garnet, Raphaella or anyone else for that matter. I feel like their empathy for the characters was very staged and their romance was too awkward to like. Then the 'ghosts' and the soldiers... It was just too weird.

I didn't like how both of the relationships were female dominant. Not that I'm against that, but it was because these relationships were just awkward. I've read books where the female is dominant in the relationship, but these relationships were too awkward.

Very short review, but I didn't take much from this book except that I'm not going to read more books by this author.

Rating: 1/10

Parental Rating: 13+

Todd Ferguson says

Meh.

Peter says

A young adult fiction involving mystery, history, an unsettled old murder, and a teen aged boy growing up in Orillia. Garnet Havelock is 18 and in the last year of high school and on the threshold of his adult life. What to do? The pressures of family, society, his own desires combine with a mysterious new girl in school and some ghosts from early settlement of Oro Township are buffeting Garnet. It is a sensitive look at a confusing time in the transition from youth to adult, from school to career, mixed in with family and love.

A young adult book, but with a lot to offer us older adults.

Bernie Li says

This was a pretty interesting book but it think it ended a bit too fast.

Malieka says

The novel Stones by William Bell was an interesting read. When first diving into the book, it was hard to put down as it was very intriguing. The book starts off with some funny situations about the main character, Garnet's love life. The funniest predicament he'd put himself in was kicking a girl he'd liked in the shin. He described his beautiful crush turning into a monster as she howled in pain. That is one way to get your crush to notice you. Asides from the comedy, and romance aspect of the book, the book was interesting until the falling action. The book is quite interesting up till the falling action as the end seems to be quite rushed. The

end to this story left me with many unanswered questions. Overall, the book was a good read, but the ending was very abrupt.

Nate says

Absolutely atrocious book. The plot was entirely out of order, Garnet is a complete fucking weirdo that can't talk to people. his mom even fucking hates him. He hates him so much she goes to the middle east so she can join ISIS just to not put up with his autistic shit. AND DON'T EVEN GET ME STARTED ON RAPHAELLA. This dumb fucking broad can't even comprehend what a normal life is. She's the creepiest fucking girl on this planet. This dumb bitch spent a WHOLE NIGHT with another dude in a cabin ALONE and didn't even let him smash. You already know that she has fire pussy but won't share it. She's a right bitch that deserves to be cunt punted out of this book. ALSO they live in fucking ORILLIA. The most boring place in Canada. Fuck this book.

Jackie says

[Raphaella Skye and Garnet's relationship is not as smooth as they want it to be. They do encounter conflict

Neeraja says

Honestly, I really enjoyed this book. To start off, I found the overall plot and main characters extremely intriguing and fascinating. The mystery that the author decided to add to Raphaella and the town kept me wanting more from the book. However, I felt that the author rushed the relationship between the two main characters, Raphaella and Garnet.

<*/spoiler*>

After all, he forcibly kissed her and declared his love for her after only meeting her a couple of times. On the other hand, instead of getting upset due to the forced kiss, Raphaella accepts his kiss and proposal after only interacting with him for about an hour. As a result, I felt that their relationship felt too rushed and abrupt. Moreover, it almost felt like the author put Raphaella in the book simply so that Garnet could have someone to join in his adventure. In my opinion, it would have been nice to see some more character development, and to see the relationship of the two grow as the story goes. Similarly, I would have liked to see more interactions between the ghost and Garnet. Moreover, I wanted to know why exactly the village's men remained as ghosts until the end of the book. For example, the female ghost roamed the earth because she couldn't find peace within herself, however what reason do the men have for remaining as ghosts? In the end, they achieved their goal of burying, 'the witch' and believed that she was gone, so why did their souls not pass on? Was it because of their guilt? Or did they also die shortly after the death of Hannah?

<*/spoiler*>

On the other hand, I liked how the author decided to address the issue of racism without having the entire book revolve around racism. For instance, he still added in bits of romance and humour to keep the book interesting while addressing an important issue. Speaking of humour, I found the author's humour enjoyable, and sometimes even found myself laughing along with the characters! Overall, this was a great book that kept my attention from the beginning to the end.

Hinano says

The book *Stones* by William Bell, took place at the old church in Orillia called the African Methodist church. The main character in the book is Garnet, he is a very shy and polite. He was almost finished high school, but then he dropped out. He is a type of boy who doesn't have a lot of friends. And he is not really smart. The girl from this book named Rapahella. Garnet thought he found the girl of his dreams. He wanted to date with her. As they got closer they were in a relationship. Because of Garnet wasn't going to school anymore his parents wanted him to have a job, so he started house sitting. The woman who owns that house, she lived over 150 years ago. She told Garnet and Rapahella about the problem of town where they live and about church it related with ghost. Meanwhile they solved the problem and helped that woman.

William Bell wanted to make the story happen reality, so he chosen the actual place so we can visualize it. He did a great job at developing the suspense, the mystery surrounding the haunting and some genuinely spooky scenes.

I'd recommend this book for teens who doesn't like going to school. This book was interesting the ghost part, I couldn't expect what's going to happen next.

Overall, it was okay, but I'm glad that he became like to go to school and Rapahella changed him.

Sasquatch says

There are two ways to read this book (and any book really, I suppose): with the knowledge of everything you know about the world and with an open mind.

This is one you really need to stretch your mind for. I had trouble with this at first. It's one that really gets you thinking and questioning, way beyond what most books do. Not just questioning right and wrong. Questioning knowledge and spirituality and science, and everything assumed to be true.

If you can get past this barrier of "knowledge though, this book can be quite interesting and thought-provoking. The characters were all very well-developed.

Some loose ends and contradictions did present themselves which was troubling but all in all, a good read for those who don't mind realistic fiction that may seem a bit, unrealistic.

Alex says

Please remember these are solely my ideas on the book. You don't need to agree. Everyone has their own opinion.

Reading books for school can be a bummer. Especially when you get this book. Okay, so it wasn't all bad. You did get to learn some history about Canada that may or may not be true...

I felt this story lagged in its writing style and in character development. Garnet seemed fully developed the first two chapters. And Raphaella, please don't get me started. At the end of the novel when she tells Garnet her "big secret" that's really nothing, she keeps insisting that if Garnet knew the truth about her he'd "break-up with her". Which isn't true. 'Cause Garnet knew about the secret the entire time just didn't know that was the "big secret".

The story was contemporary then took a big veer to the left (or right) and turned paranormal. I only knew it was paranormal because someone told me about the ghost you see in the novel. Now, why oh why would there be ghosts? (Yes, there are more than one). This was the universal question for me when I finished this book. Nothing was explained in the end of this book. It didn't tell you why the ghosts continued to haunt that area in the forest. This book was too unsupported, I believe. Then William Bell started to throw in some romance on the side. I just found too many stories in the book to actually focus on the main one. Which is... yeah, still working on that.

Rating: 1.2/10

Parental Rating: 14+

Karen says

This read very much like the first in a pair or series of books. I didn't realize it WAS that until just now when I see "#1" as part of the title. But, not realizing it until now, I had a couple of issues with it. It seemed odd to have two supernatural elements...the ghost story AND Raphaella's "gift". It was especially strange to wait to announce the "gift" until the very very end, by which point it wasn't even necessary to say. (Except, that it's the first in a group, so it makes sense because presumably it will be more important in future books.) Unrelated to this, I found it strange (and left unexplained) that Raphaella only went to school a day or two a week.

Abdullah Hasan says

Stones is a very interesting book and I would recommend it for a pastime reading. Stones follows senior year Garnet Havelock as he trudges along his last year of high school, waiting to get out and go in the real world. Garnet is a genius and doesn't believe in love at first sight. Well, that is until he meets Raphaella Skyla. He immediately falls in love with her after their first debate. Overall, this story is mostly based around historic facts about northern Ontario. There is a lot of ghosts, spirits and myths which the main plot is based on. Stones also has some romance drama for those secret romantic people. Ultimately, this is a good book and I would recommend that people read it.

Hafsah says

The novel Stones by William Bell was a very interesting read. When I first started reading the novel was so intrigued by it I couldn't put it down. Reading the novel felt so real as if I was watching everything happen in front of me. I loved how Bell had clashed modern with a historic twist. The story starts off with Garnet just trying to get through his senior year of high school before he can finally leave and "get into the real world." His plans are cut short when this intriguing girl catches his eye and he desperately tried to get in contact with her. When they had met Garnet had automatically fell in love, love at first sight, though he doesn't believe he in it he assumed he had fallen in love with her as soon as he saw her in class. The historic part of novel was something I didn't really understand. The way they had described the history of what was happening and how it happened was great because even though I had no knowledge of the Canadian history. William Bell has explained it in an awesome way. Which means that whether or not you know about the Canadian history you can read and enjoy the novel. What I didn't like was the way Garnet and Raphaella had solved the mystery I

felt as though it had ended way too quickly. Other than that I felt the book was really good and I would recommend reading this book as it is very interesting!

Faseeha Moolla says

The novel Stones by William Bell was a very interesting read. Stones is about a senior year student, Garnet Havelock who has no interest in school and cannot wait to move on. During a debate in class he had fallen in love with Raphaella Skyla. Most of it is based on Northern Ontario history and touches points like ghosts, myths and spirits to involve old facts and beliefs. However, the book did have many things going on at the same time so it was hard to keep track on the actual plot as a lot of it was trying to keep Raphaella a mystery. I liked the overall mystery as it was very enticing and interesting. I thought the ending came quite quickly because I was left with many unanswered questions. Overall, I really recommend reading this book as it is a very interesting mystery and pastime read!

Yuhang says

plot is messed up

Suthashan Tharmarajah says

In my Opinion, The novel Stones by William Bell is an unique book since the theme of the book is black magic, spirits and dark history, which a lot of writers tend to not write about. Basically Stones is about a teenager who wants to get a job and work in the business world instead of reading textbooks and memorizing useless information he wouldn't need in real life. Through the book the protagonist meets his soulmate during an intense debate which was unusual and funny because he liked a girl who argued against him. Together they discover the dark history of the town past and how it is affecting the present. One major flaw about this book is that it gets off topic from the plot which leads the readers into confusion. I felt if the author explained more about Raphaella instead of keeping everything a mystery it would have been easier for the reader to follow through the story and make personal connections. However the author ties everything together like clues to solve the mystery of the haunted church. Overall, i recommend this book if you are interested in black magic or like reading about history.

Bailey says

[She said that spirits cannot harm someone physically and only emotionally and because they let off Phermones they leave their soul behind. When the stones were thrown at the trailer I felt that the author didn't explain why it happened and that spirits as you say cannot

Rebecca McNutt says

I honestly don't understand how on earth this book won an award, or how any teen reader could focus on its story. It seems like the author was trying so hard to make Raphaella mysterious that he lost touch with the original plot. This book has topics flying everywhere, from a mom who's out helping refugees across the world, to a new-age, stuck-up girl with an overbearing mom, to a ghost story taking place in an abandoned church. It tries to focus on all these topics at once, yet fails miserably. Lines like, "when I kissed her, I'm surprised she didn't scream 'RAPE!'" are everywhere in this book, the author's sorry attempt at being funny. Garret is boring and annoying, and Raphaella is full of herself. There really isn't much to like about *Stones* at all.

Dynamic Pickle says

I had trouble deciding what to rate this book. On one hand, I enjoyed Garnet's voice. It wasn't quite like the other books with a first-speaker perspective I'd come to hate with a burning passion *ahem* *Twilight* *ahem* And it was amusing being inside Garnet's head, seeing what he sees.

But, on the other, I hated how the part where everything was revealed seemed... so... unbelievable. It was rushed. When Raphaella explained to Garnet her life, her father, her "gift," it felt like it was scripted. A whole chapter of monotonous dialogue. Same, unchanging tone. I couldn't "see" Raphaella's expressions; I couldn't sympathize with her.

And so, my conclusion: 3 stars.

The author could've gone on further. I still had some unsatisfied questions hanging. Like, How, when Raphaella herself said that ghosts---*spirits* couldn't touch them physically (or anything, for that matter), did those men, who killed Hannah Duvalier, able to *throw* stones at them? and why did Garnet not think of that at all?

I've had a lot of expectations with this one. But now I find my hope cracked like glass.

sigh

But! On the bright side, there's a sequel! Hoorah!
