



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:

Lori Roth:

This *The Garden of Stones* (Echoes of Empire Book 1) are generally reliable for you who want to certainly

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Joe North:

A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read a book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent all day long to reading a reserve. The book The Garden of Stones (Echoes of Empire Book 1) it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book offers high quality.

Evelyn Wiley:

This The Garden of Stones (Echoes of Empire Book 1) is great book for you because the content which is full of information for you who also always deal with world and have to make decision every minute. This particular book reveal it facts accurately using great organize word or we can state no rambling sentences within it. So if you are read that hurriedly you can have whole facts in it. Doesn't mean it only offers you straight forward sentences but tough core information with splendid delivering sentences. Having The Garden of Stones (Echoes of Empire Book 1) in your hand like finding the world in your arm, information in it is not ridiculous 1. We can say that no reserve that offer you world within ten or fifteen moment right but this guide already do that. So , this can be good reading book. Hi Mr. and Mrs. stressful do you still doubt that will?

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