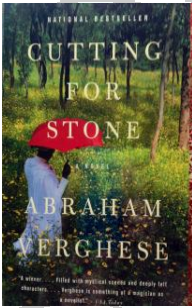




Fr. Michael Goetz Library Learning Commons Teacher's Book Review



Cutting for Stone, Abraham Verghese Reviewed by Ms. Chudolinski, April 24th, 2013.

I love reading books that offer a window into another culture and country, one that can paint a picture of the relationships between characters, and also of the connection they have to the land to which they are tied. In this week's novel, we meet an eclectic family thrown together by the choices they made, and the choices of others.

Wonderful characters emerge in this book about the practice of medicine among the needy. There is Matron who tries to keep the Missing Hospital running despite there being no money in the bank. Ghosh and Hema are two doctors, who work tirelessly to care for their patients despite the limited facilities, and take on the mantle of being parents to the two main characters. Rosina, Almaz, and Gebrew care for the staff at Missing Hospital. Genet, the daughter of Rosina, is the unattainable love of one of the lead characters. Marion and Shiva Stone are the two twin brothers born at Missing Hospital, around which this story centers. They are the product of a secret union between Sister Mary Joseph Praise and Dr. Thomas Stone. It is their life stories in which you become entwined.

You are a quiet observer who watches as these young boys grow up and develop their own identities. In the midst of political coos and the dangers of living in Ethiopia during the 1950's – 70's, you are invited to observe how people learn to lean on each other and find the beauty in life. I love how this story unfolds. It speaks to the legacy we feel we are born into and the destiny we make our own, the relationships that go beyond blood connections.

One of my favourite quotes is, "Not only our actions, but also our omissions, become our destiny." It is a story of finding oneself, and embracing where we come from and the people who have influenced us – for better or worse. I highly recommend this book. You won't regret reading it.