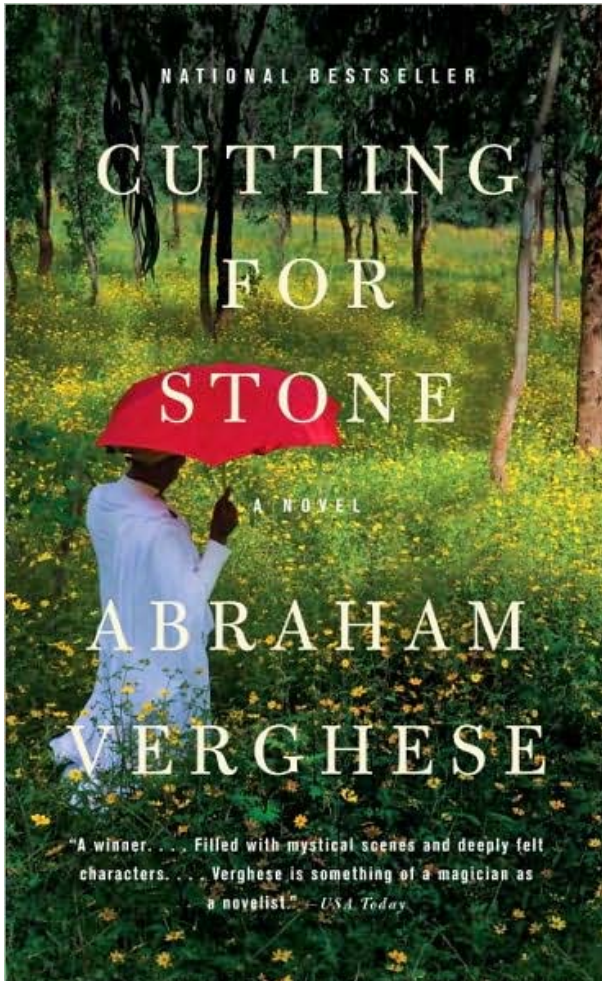


Cutting for Stone

by Abraham Verghese

Reviewed by Ann Behan - 1/21/2010



This semi-autobiographical novel is set in Ethiopia and the United States, with frequent references to India, the country of origin of several of the main characters. The author, Abraham Verghese, is a doctor by profession, but also a skillful writer. *Cutting for Stone* is his first novel.

It is an exquisitely written, absorbing tale which explores the meaning of family – and so much more. I learned a lot in the reading: about Ethiopian history and culture; Eritrea's battle for independence from Ethiopia; and about MEDICINE. Five of the book's main characters are surgeons, and the author invites his readers to participate in a myriad of surgical procedures. He makes the incision, then beckons you to follow -- right into the blood and guts of the patient. Literally. This is not a turn-off. On the

contrary, it's fascinating. There is occasional humor; I particularly enjoyed the protagonist's initial impressions of America on his first trip to our country.

I've read a lot of fiction. This is without a doubt one of the most memorable titles I have ever encountered; both the story and the characters will stay with me for a long, long time.

The library has both print and audio copies. I'd recommend the audio, which is 18 hours.

~ Ann Behan

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