



The Blessing Stone

Barbara Wood

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Millions of years ago, a meteorite fell to earth and a beautiful blue stone shattered from it. One hundred thousand years ago, a girl named Tall One found the crystal on the African plain---and it formed her destiny, as well as the destiny of generations to come. From ancient Israel to imperial Rome, medieval England, fifteenth-century Germany, the eighteenth-century Caribbean, and the nineteenth-century American West, the destiny of the stone and the history of the world unfold. Each story is full of the betrayals and obsessions of the human heart, and the quests of the human spirit. In *The Blessing Stone*, Barbara Wood has both told the intimate details of her characters' lives and created a sense of the epic sweep of human history.

The Blessing Stone Details

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Author : Barbara Wood

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Barbara says

Millions of years ago, a meteorite fell to earth and shattered, revealing a beautiful blue stone. One hundred thousand years ago, a girl named Tall One found the crystal on the African plain, and it formed her destiny--as well as the destiny of generations to come. From ancient Israel to Imperial Rome, medieval England to 15th Century Germany and so on to the present, the destiny of the stone and the history of the world unfold. The Blessing Stone tells the details of the characters' lives and creates a sense of the epic sweep of human history. Barbara Wood captured my imagination and kept me enthralled. I want to read more of her books!

Kate says

I thoroughly enjoyed this historical fiction that follows a piece of meteoric rock through 300,000 years of earth history, including a series of owners. Found it very interesting and hard to put down. Hated to see it end. I have discovered Barbara Wood as an author and am loving her style and inventive story-telling abilities.

Anastasia Riebs says

Having, against all good advise, judged this book by its cover, I was entirely unprepared for what I found inside The Blessing Stone. Mistakenly, I believed the book to be just another pretty face; a book that would look attractive on the shelf until I'd had my wicked way with it and disposed of its tawdry remains.

From the turning of the first page until the last, this book OWNED me. I was spellbound, throughout.

Barbara Wood's ability to seamlessly chronicle the evolution of human thought and conscious awareness combined with the unfolding of doctrine of early religion is cultivated in a style that is both palatable and captivating. The mystique of feminine power is a constant theme in this book, which reads almost as a collection of short stories connected by a beautiful blue stone borne from within a meteorite when it shattered upon the earth millions of years ago. The stone is regarded across the ages to be a sacred object of great power and highly desired for the the purpose of maintaining dominance and acts as a catalyst for impossible accomplishments throughout the span of history, and finally, ending in modern times.

Jenny January says

The Blessing Stone is a novel containing eight vignettes surrounding a blue stone that first made its way to earth 100,000 years ago in Africa as a fragment of a blue meteorite. It breaks off and becomes smoothed and polished by the earth and is found by a woman. It chronicles the existence of the blue stone as it makes its way through thousands of years and into the hands of many people and the significance it holds for each owner of the stone. I won't describe each book because it would take forever, but just know that each story is so incredibly imaginative and elaborate and beautiful. The stone holds a different significance for each owner but they are all interconnected to one another, and they all find inner strength and courage by possessing the stone. Each book was so incredibly amazing and Barbara Wood is such a great storyteller and

I just want to read every book she has ever written. I found it very interesting that in beginning 100,000 years ago it was a matriarchal society where women were revered and look to for guidance and made into goddesses for men and women to worship and then later women were pushed aside and held down while men took over and society became very patriarchal. The existence of religion slowly became prominent and it was interesting to see how many wars and bloodshed that was caused over religion when earlier when goddesses were worshipped and woman ruled there were no wars or bloodshed. Whenever I love something so much I find it so hard to describe it in any way that is the least bit coherent, so I will just paste a description of the book from a website.

Millions of years ago, a meteorite fell to earth and shattered, revealing a beautiful blue stone. One hundred thousand years ago, a girl named Tall One found the crystal on the African plain, and it formed her destiny—as well as the destiny of generations to come. From ancient Israel to Imperial Rome, medieval England to fifteenth-century Germany, the eighteenth-century Caribbean, and the nineteenth-century American West, the destiny of the stone and the history of the world unfold. Each story is full of the betrayals and obsessions of the human heart, and the quests of the human spirit. In *The Blessing Stone*, Barbara Wood has both told the intimate details of her characters' lives and created a sense of the epic sweep of human history.

Georgette says

Once upon a time, in the earliest of time as a matter of fact, a meteor fell to the earth. It contained a beautiful blue stone which was picked up on the African plains by a primitive human girl called Tall One (named for obvious reasons). [return][return]The stone granted her certain power over her tribe, and gave her the push she needed into following her instincts, thus setting into motion the evolution of the human race.[return][return]Tall One passed on, as did the stone. It played a significant role in the lives of various individuals, dividing this novel into eight stories linked by the one blue stone.[return][return]In the first three stories, women are still revered for their powers of being able to give birth. This changed rapidly as civilisation evolved. In the fourth story, a Roman officer presents it to his wife as his version of a scarlet letter. He forces her to wear it out and would tell everyone the story behind it - it was worn by an Egyptian queen who was put to death for adultery. [return][return]Amelia suffers this in silence. When her Jew friend Rachel invites her to join her home church, Amelia learns about Jesus the Jew who was crucified 30 years ago. She came to forgive her husband and make the best of her situation. But Cornelius is not a man to be denied the pleasure of tormenting his wife. [return][return]Amelia dies and is canonised as a saint. Her remains came into the possession of a church in England several centuries later, resting under the roof of the chapel of St. Amelia.[return][return]The focus moves on to Mother Winifred, the prioress of St. Amelia. The chapel is home to the scriptorium where illuminations are added to text. Winifred wants nothing more than to paint the altarpiece to honour St. Amelia but Father Abbot will not hear of it. He is on a quest to close the old chapel and move the sisters to the new one where they can teach younger nuns the art before they die.[return][return]The point of conflict is established, but Winifred is on the losing end. By accident, she discovers the stone and is presented with a new problem - sell the stone for pigments that the sisters so desperately need and the church refuses to fund, or hold on to it for the time being and rely on her resourcefulness for worldly matters. It is in this manner that the blue stone saved the lives of herself and her sisters.[return][return]The stone passed through many hands and many years, and the story continues in Germany where a young peasant woman named Katherina sets off to find her father, who was on a quest to find St. Amelia's Stone.[return][return]This is probably the longest and most elaborate story, charting her journey from Germany to Jerusalem and the many obstacles that cropped up in-between. Katherina found love and lost it, was captured and sold into slavery twice, gave birth and found a place for herself in the process. [return][return]Her father did find the stone but he died before he could return to Katherina. The

stone ended up in the French colony of Martinique, years after it was named the Star of Cathay. The tale here is short but surprising, and is my favourite of the lot because it shows the depth of deviousness women are capable of.[return][return]Eight epics in two sittings is the right way to a headache, which was exactly what happened to me. The Blessing Stone is a good choice for those wanting to try the author without committing to a full length single story. [return][return]Barbara Wood is my other guilty pleasure author, with a gift for engaging characters and attention to detail. It wasn't easy finding her novels here though, so good luck.[return][return](2006)

Alexandra says

What a great book! This book contains so many stories within, not just one, and they are all very intriguing(spell?!). I couldn't stop thinking about most of the characters and definitely didn't want to put it down....one of those ones!

Emily says

A novel of massive scope, following the journey of a piece of smooth, blue meteorite and those who temporarily possess it from the proto-human Tall One to a traveler on the Oregon Trail. In each story, the stone has a lesson to teach as humanity progresses. Much historical data is imparted while still reading like compelling fiction. Each protagonist is fully drawn and a genuine representative of his or her era. While I most enjoyed the story of Katharina and her journey, beginning in 1520, from Germany to Asia, there are no portions of the book that I would say I did not enjoy. It was also stunning to me how recently humanity had no concept of fatherhood, or the connection between the sex act and pregnancy. I found it so hard to believe that I actually had to look it up! I'm always impressed by fiction that both entertains and enlightens, and this book delivered both in spades!

Abigail says

This book is almost like a collection of short stories except they are all connected by the Blessing Stone which becomes a character itself. The stories are all interesting in their own way and Wood writes about fascinating people and times.

Jane says

This took a little while for me to get into and I wasn't sure I was going to like it. Each period of time has new characters and situations that you become familiar with, go on adventures with and then leave behind. But when looking back at the end of the book(or from the present time through the past) you can see how they all went through similar challenges and relationships and see how the blue stone affected each in a different way.

James Frost says

Great drama! I really love Barbara Wood's style of writing and it's so much fun following her characters through time. Highly, highly recommend.

Sandra Grauschopf says

I thought this book had an intriguing premise. A long time ago, a meteorite crashed to earth. In the heat of the atmosphere, an unusual crystal was formed -- deep blue with a diamond heart. This crystal shaped both individual lives and human history, and was viewed both as a blessing and a curse.

The book is made up of loosely-connected short stories. I'm not a huge fan of short stories, but these were pretty impressive. Each was interesting in its own way. Plus, the short story format made it a quick and easy read.

I'd definitely recommend it, especially for plane or beach reading.

GoldenjoyBazyll says

Ever stand outside of an old house and wonder if this building could talk I bet it would have amazing stories to tell? Well, this book is sort of like that. I loved traveling through time with this very special stone. If you love a good journey mixed with adventure and have a preference for the magical..... U will enjoy this read. I did!

Emily Decobert says

The Blessing Stone is a series of stories connected by a single factor, an amazing stone created by a meteorite millions of years ago. It begins with a Neandthral who finds the stone in the Rift Valley of Africa and the stone travels on and on, dropping out of history for many years only to emerge in the next short story. This book crosses time and country as easily as a stone can travel in a pocket, showing up in a variety of places, each time changing the people it touches who in some way affect the next generation.

Well written and compelling, it is hard to put down as you want to see where the stone will take you next.

Enik? says

I really did like this book very much, but it wasn't "the book for me" in the sense that I didn't like the shifts in time that took place between the various stories (Book One, Book Two, etc.) because I felt cut off from the characters I was just getting to know. Essentially, this book is like a lot of mini-novels combined. There were a few characters I would have stayed with for a little while longer.

Barbara Wood does write her stories well. I especially like Book One, about Tall One and her tribe, as well

as the story with the albino prince. The Blessing Stone is present in each of the tales, though not always called by that name, and means different things to the characters at each point in time, giving humanity a solid accessory through which to make intellectual and ideological leaps ahead.

An interesting read.

Alex says

This book arrived to my attention at the perfect moment. I was already in the depths of a Roman history self study, Netflixing as many documentaries on ancient Rome that I could find. How surprised I was to read a section on Roman life in Barbara Wood's "Blessing Stone." Now I'm finished gobbling up the Roman times, I am moving on to early civilization, thanks to this book perking my interest.

Most amazing to me is Ms. Wood's historical accuracy. She nails it. I really am a closeted history buff and this book gave me an excellent fix. From Neanderthals to emigrants moving westward in the California gold rush, I learned a lot more than I knew before this book. So interesting. I vaguely knew that international slave trading goes on frequently in the present world I live, but I was surprised that it's nothing new. In elementary school, a white person guilt emerged after I learned about the African slaves who were kidnapped from their homeland. I really thought Americans invented this. Not so. It's been a prevalent part of human experience since the beginning. And "The Blessing Stone" presents it in a way that allowed me to safely become part of the action.

Barbara's storytelling ability drew me in every time. There are eight snapshots in history all with differently defined tones, themes, and plots with the blessing stone as the common thread. Characters who came upon the stone saw different visions in its center, visions that fundamentally changed them and the choices they made. The reader soon realizes the blessing stone is not so much prophetic as it is reflective of the inner growth of the person holding it. This type plot may lend itself to formulaic patterns and predictable outcomes, but not with "The Blessing Stone." I never, ever knew what was to come. Partially because I didn't know the historical context and partially because Barbara Wood is a masterful storyteller, truly.

Although each story changes in ways mentioned, I did find a main theme throughout that may be more reflective of who I am right now than it is purposeful. The women in this book possess a great inner power and strength, all containing attributes of the goddess realized. It is my deepest core belief that women contain the values, knowledge, and guidance with which to orchestrate earthly civilized living. Women, when in their goddess state, have well tuned diplomacy skills, communication brilliance, and a gentle nurturance allowing those around them to ground and stabilize. It's hard to maintain this goddess state when the imbalance of aggressive male energy dominates the waves, but when we goddesses shine, we are brilliant and everyone takes notice. Ms. Wood's characters and vision validate my core belief. So refreshing!

Great book and the first of Barbara Wood's I've read. I will be putting more of her literature on my "to-read" list!
