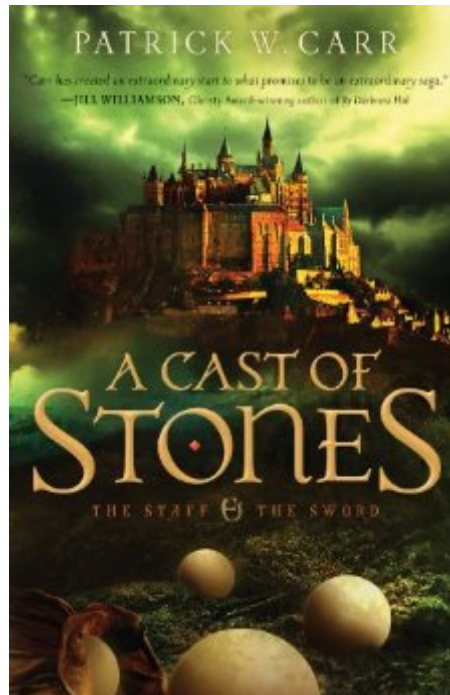


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A Cast Of Stones (The Staff And The Sword Book #1)



Synopsis

2014 Carol Award Winner for Speculative
The Fate of the Kingdom Awaits the Cast of Stones
In the backwater village of Callowford, roustabout Errol Stone is enlisted by a church messenger arriving with urgent missives for the hermit priest in the hills. Eager for coin, Errol agrees to what he thinks will be an easy task, but soon finds himself hunted by deadly assassins. Forced to flee with the priest and a small band of travelers, Errol soon learns he's joined a quest that could change the fate of his kingdom. Protected for millennia by the heirs of the first king, the kingdom's dynasty nears its end and the selection of the new king begins--but in secret and shadow. As danger mounts, Errol must leave behind the stains and griefs of the past, learn to fight, and discover who is hunting him and his companions and how far they will go to stop the reading of the stones. "With an engaging, imaginative world that bristles with danger, characters that keep you guessing, and a story that sticks with you, *A Cast of Stones* will keep you devouring pages until the very end. I highly recommend it!" --John W. Otte, author of *Failstate*
"Carr's debut, the first in a series, is assured and up-tempo, with much to enjoy in characterization and description--not least the homely, life-as-lived details." -Publishers Weekly
This fast-paced fantasy debut set in a medieval world is a winner. Both main and secondary characters are fully drawn and endearing, and Errol's transformation from drunkard to hero is well plotted. Carr is a promising CF author to watch. Fans of epic Christian fantasies will enjoy discovering a new voice. "Like the preceding series title, *Inescapable*, this tale of suspense offers a colorful cast of characters, small-town drama, and a hint of romance. A sure bet for fans of Hannah Alexander." --Library Journal
"[Good fantasy books] have to be excellent. Good storytelling and exceptional characters with circumstances that are easy enough to follow and wrap your brain around but keep you entertained and guessing... *Cast of Stones* has found itself firmly in that list of books. I absolutely, one hundred percent loved this book." --Radiant Lit

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Customer Reviews

When it comes to fiction, especially in the realm of Fantasy, I think that it isn't always the easiest to come by. Marcher Lord Press produces some of the best, while seasoned writers such as George R.R. Martin continue to make impressive marks, always impressing readers. I was quite intrigued to see that there was a new man in town by the name of Patrick W. Carr. But I wondered if he would be impressive. Well, he's impressed the likes of Jill Williamson and John Otte, 2 Marcher Lord Press masterminds praise this man's work, and I was extremely eager to see what Carr had to offer. I wasn't disappointed in the least! Stumbling drunk, barely able to function, is how we meet the boy, Errol Stone, as he is kicked out of a tavern. Not the most of impressive introductions, is it? Well, Errol probably doesn't think himself so impressive either. But he is sent on a mission, with the promise of payment, as long as he delivers a message to a priest, because he knows how to reach this priest, and he's proved that he's rather quick through the woods and paths. It isn't too long before Errol finds himself being followed, hunted, and wanted. Why? The answer is soon discovered! This boy, who doubts his own self-worth, discovers talents that he never knew existed, and from those talents, royalty will be addressed. Errol quickly learns how to fight, and while easily challenged, never forgotten by those who oppose him. And with the ability to exceed all expectations, it seems that this boy, who only in the beginning, wanted a drink, is learning a thing or two about himself. This past Summer, I happened to read "The Word and the Void" trilogy by Terry Brooks, and as experienced as Brooks may be, he isn't nearly as impressive as Patrick W. Carr.

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