



## Second Stone

*Kelly Walker*

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You are only a pawn if you don't know the game you are playing.

In the second installment in Souls of the Stones, the stakes are higher, the romance is hotter, and Emariya's power as a Cornerstone is growing.

DETERMINED TO MAKE SENSE OF THE BETRAYALS, lies, and her undeniable attraction to Torian, Emariya and her prince begin the journey to Sheas to confront her uncle and bring her father home.

Only days after leaving the castle, devastating news threatens to tear Torian and Emariya apart. Overcome by guilt, Emariya wants to repair the rift between them but first she must answer one important question: why can't she wake up?

A DEADLY FORCE HAS COME FROM THE SEA to claim its daughter, and if Torian wants to save Emariya, he'll first have to find a way to forgive her...and himself. That's easier said than done when both his sister and Emariya are counting on him at two separate ends of their world and the only people who might know how to help him are hiding in exile.

TO WIN THE BATTLE FOR THEIR LIVES, they will first have to win the battle for Emariya's mind. Only then can she rise up strong enough to face what she has to do.

## Second Stone Details

Date : Published by Kelly Walker (first published February 1st 2013)

ISBN :

Author : Kelly Walker

Format :

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Magic, Romance

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## From Reader Review Second Stone for online ebook

### Elisabeth Wheatley says

So, Cornerstone was a bit of a long and winding road in the beginning, but I really wanted to know what would happen, hence I downloaded the next two books. And I had a blast! The world needs more Epic Fantasy Romances. It just does.

The plot:

These books are marked as Romance and this one does more living up to that label. Still, there are plenty of dangers, battles, political considerations, and magical entanglements that keep it true fantasy. There is more exploration here of the Stones and what they can do and Emariya's gifts, as well as an unexpected twist as to who Reeve's accomplice is. This plot moved along faster than the previous book's and I dove straight into the final installment after I finished.

The characters:

I liked Emariya. I honestly did. But at the same time she drove me nuts. I don't expect her to be a warrior princess, but she kept getting into fixes because she was headstrong and then had to be rescued. I really wished she had been quicker to realize that, just maybe, she should listen to Torian and Garith. But oh well.

Torian is reeling from the loss of his sister and understandably angry at Emariya. All the same, he still protects and watches out for her and is willing to do whatever it takes to save her when she falls into a magical illness.

Garith—oh, the poor lovable guy. I can't get over his selfless devotion to Emariya. It's just so damn sweet and a tad masochistic. I was passionately hoping he'd get his HEA in the end, even if it didn't involve Emariya.

The full scope of Reeve's treachery comes to light here as well as the fickleness of the Warren's Rest nobles. We also get to see an interestingly different side of Reeve when he meets Terin.

This is a series I am very fond of and, despite knowing that the novellas will end in tragedy, I do mean to read them. This series is perfect for people with a passion for high fantasy and romance!

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### Mommasaysread says

After finishing Cornerstone I immediately moved on to Second Stone. I read it end to end in a day and was rather negligent in my everyday duties to do it. That's right; I cancelled two meetings to finish it. The pace was amazing, the love story sweet and heartening, the battles fierce and the politics cut throat.

This is the hard part about the no-spoiler reviews because I really want to say so much more about the emotions that the story evoked in me but it would give away too much. This story really touches so strongly on family and loyalty in ways that no one should ever be tested.

When I turned the final page I had to really control myself and not jump on my computer and contact the author immediately to beg for a preview copy of the next installment due May of 2013.

I have already recommended Cornerstone & Second Stone to friends and family to read because the story is that good. There are so many elements that are fresh. The magic, while presence isn't overwhelming in the story and the characters primarily make their way through the trials and travels without amazing super powers or super strength, there's just the right amount of magic.

If you like fantasy with sweet romance do not miss out on this series. Stick out the first book it is totally worth it

What does Momma Think?

Momma gives Second Stone Souls of the Stones (Volume 2) 4 cookies!

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## Lori says

In the second book of the Souls of the Stones we pick up right where we left the first book. Emariya has agreed to an engagement to Prince Torian despite the prophecy of the stones. The alliance is one to convince the people of Torian's kingdom to support the search and retrieval of Emariya's father, who is still missing. The opening scene's of this book are scary. Princess Terin is kidnapped and Emariya is trapped in some sort of black void. Both are a product of heartbreaking betrayal from people close to Emariya.

Kelly Walker really has a knack for writing fantasy. Her wording and storytelling just flows. It seems effortless. Reading her words is like floating. That's the only way I can describe the feeling I get while reading about Emariya. Writers of fantasy usually are verbose, however, often times I find myself bogged down by the words. Walker walks the line between wordy and light perfectly.

For all intents, it was as if the world around her had ceased to exist, leaving her alone in the quiet nothingness.

That's just the tip of the iceberg, as you get deeper in the book the better it gets.

This book is another book where Emariya travels a lot. It's not the same though. Nothing on her trip to her Mother's homeland smacks of a repeat of book one. Even when they pass familiar landmarks it's still fresh and new. This time she has Torain with her for the whole journey. I cannot tell you how delighted I was about that. Torain is still his beautiful self, and I still love him. He seems a bit lighter in this book than he was in the first book, but that is probably because he is no longer a suspect in any wrong doings. The build up and tension of their relationship is killing me. Things get hot, but it's not a done deal yet. If you catch my drift. Which I kind of found refreshing. Also, considering Emariya spent a good portion of this book unconscious I'm kinda happy that Torian can keep his hands to himself. She's got a lot to deal with, without the man in her life, being all pushy.

Reeve, Emariya's brother is still the gross betrayer that he turned out to be in the first book, but then again we see a different side when he is dealing with his own pull of the stones. That's all I can say about that without spoiling part of the book.

I'm an action girl. I like there to be some action in the books that I read. There is plenty of action here and Emariya proves herself to be useful, resourceful heroine that we all love to read about. People die, and it's heartbreaking. Kelly is not afraid to kill people. Did I cry, well of course. But don't tell anyone. It will ruin my tough girl rep.

Overall, this book is a great second installment to the series. It's not just filler, there are significant things that happen in the book that need to happen. Honestly, I wish I could talk about them, but if I did I would spoil the book. There is so much good stuff here. Just go read it, please. You won't be sorry.

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## Lyle Appleyard says

I got a copy of this book as part of the GoodReads FirstReads Giveaway contest.

I was a little apprehensive about reading the second novel of this trilogy. The second book in a trilogy is usually a filler book that just keeps the story going until the third book comes out.

This book breaks that mold. There were many things that happened. I was very surprised when a major foe of the heroes is killed. I was expecting him and his army to be part of the story until the end. There was a hint of intrigue that will throw a wrench into the plans of heroes.

I believe that the target audience of this book is the Young Adult Readers. The character development is enough for us to get emotionally invested in the main characters. What drives the story are the actions. The story is always moving, This would be appealing to the younger audience. The romance element will appeal to the young female reader. The strong lead female character will be popular with the female reader.

One thing I would like to see in a future edition of the books in the trilogy is a map. The main characters travel through the three kingdoms/countries, crossing rivers, mountains, plains, etc. A map would help in giving a sense of where things are.

There was one part that I found a little corny. "The moment their skin touched, desire burned through her, searing its path through her flesh from her fingers, along her spine, and spiraling downward. Her knees buckled, .." This was one of the few places I was a little disappointed in the writing.

I enjoyed the novel. I am looking forward to the third book of the trilogy.

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## Inna says

Reviewed by Inna @ Inna's Little Bookshelves

Before I start my review I would just like to thank Kelly Walker the author of this amazing novel for providing me with a copy in exchange for my honest, unbiased review.

Okay, so after how the last book ended I just had to get my hands on this and lucky for me I didn't have to wait long at all.

In this book the action is more intense and the stakes are so much higher. I felt so bad for Emariya in this book. Not only is she still hurt by her brother's betrayal but a new betrayal from someone she always loved and held in high regard threatens to destroy Emariya and everything she was working towards. Can I just say when this little tidbit was revealed my jaw dropped. I felt so bad for Riya, I just wanted to give her a hug. Speaking of Riya, she really matures in this novel. She is still the same sweet girl, but she has lost some of her naivete and is more aware of how evil some people are. She realizes who she is and who she must be to bring her people together and that transformation was really great to see.

Torian [insert dreamy sigh here] Words cannot describe him. He is always there for Riya and it's so obvious how much he loves her. He also grew to be a calculated and intelligent general and it was good to see his people looking up to him and realizing what a great leader he could be. I could go on and on about Torian but I'm summing it up to this. Torian is god, he is like hotness, sweetness, intelligence and awesomeness compacted into one very attractive package.

This book kept me on my toes the entire time and the bitter sweet ending left me wanting so much more. Can't wait for the next book.

## **Shalen Harper says**

### **WAAY Better than the First**

Second Stone is amazing! In this book two there are more shocks and deaths(not major characters) and twists/turns. Riya learns more about her gifts and how to use them as she grows closer to Torian and finds herself doing things she never thought she would or could. The whole cast is here with a couple new players and you get to see more POVs including Terin's. Awesome second-to-last chapter for reasons I won't say. Plus you also see more emotions from characters. Read and love, I doubt you'll be disappointed.

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## **Soma Rostam "IOB" says**

I am always weary about the second books in series. New Moon (Twilight #2) was too depressing, Torment (Fallen #2) didn't capture me at all. So, you can guess my doubts about this. Fortunately, Second Stone was as intriguing and as lovely as the first book.

Emariya and Torian have tested the saying "love conquers all" a lot of times but their hearts are still in conflict. But suddenly, Emariya finds herself lost in darkness, in emptiness and she cannot seem to wake up. Will love truly conquer all or will their enemies finally be able to tear them apart?

In this book, we are familiar with the characters. They have grown on us, so now, we can be able to tell them apart and root for them more. The character development of Emariya and Torian was inevitable. They got to taste the power of true love. But what really set this apart from me, was the secondary characters. They are unique and add so much to the story.

Although this book was a little predictable at times, it's still very enjoyable. I loved what I felt through it, and I cannot wait to see what Kelly Walker is going to do for the rest of this series....

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## **Antoinette Lewis says**

I am saddened by what happend to her father but she was there for him. I loved that she is growing in her powers and that she thwarted her brother plans.

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## **Lauren says**

I got bored really quickly as I started reading this story. I really wanted to know what happened with Riya but getting into the story was hard. I was not as engaged as I was in the first book and I lost interest pretty quickly once I started reading this one. I also lost interest in finding out what actually would happen to the characters.

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## **Randa says**

### **Hard work, but worth it**

I found this second instalment of the Souls of the Stones series very difficult to engage with, but I think pushing through that is entirely worthwhile.

The first part of this book is spent on worldbuilding, giving us a better context of the landscape, the people, & the changes in our main characters.

Once you get through that, however, a real gem pops up.

Our heroes do a pretty good job despite a lot of opportunities to fall off the bandwagon. There's a good mix of vulnerability, fear, growth & learning.

It's rare to find a male character who will admit to being unsure how to deal with a situation. That impressed me.

I also really loved seeing the bond between all the characters (the women in particular) change through circumstance & experience. There's a really clear difference between how these young adults handle familiar situations & different/new ones. The difference between knowing the theory & understanding the practical also comes in. These things are all used to great effect to grow the characters.

Wonderful stuff.

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### **Constance Roberts says**

I absolutely adore Emariya Warren. Her strength, her compassion, and her composure are all traits young women should admire. She reminds me of that girl you know that seems so perfect. You really want to just hate her, but you can't because you know you'd be missing out on an amazing friendship. She's not someone who drops everything to stay with the guy she's fatefully glued too. She has her priorities straight and her friends and family are at the top of that list. I cannot stress how much I appreciate this in a protagonist. It's one of the things that brought me back to this series.

Her friends, Jessa and Garith, have also started to come into their own in this sequel. They are crafted so well that I care almost as much about them as I do about Riya. I love their devotion to her, but also that they are dealing with issues of their own and their stories are growing as well. I have to admit, I am hoping a little romance sparks between the two...it just makes sense! But, that's probably why it won't happen. Oh well. We'll see.

Second Stone has all the magic of the first book and more. As Emariya and Torian explore the depth of their feelings for each other, (sidenote: so far, this is a clean series.) the romance intoxicates the reader. What's more, is that Torian's sister gets a forbidden love interest of her own! All the things that make the hopeless romantic in me "squee!"

The only down fall with this sequel, is that I almost felt like a different author wrote it. Cornerstone's prose seriously left me breathless, wishing I had just an ounce of that kind of talent. I won't say Second Stone is poorly written, not by a long shot. But I kept waiting for an amazing line that wouldn't leave my head for days, but nothing like that happened. I can't really pinpoint what's different about it, except that it just lacks the enthusiastic drive of an author being published for the first time. At least, I think that was Kelly Walker's first book. She has a popular contemporary series too, but I think Souls of the Stones came first.

Anyway, I'll be reading the next book, Broken Stone, sometime soon because I bought the trilogy pack when it was on sale. If you enjoyed Cornerstone at all, follow Kelly Walker on Facebook. She will occasionally post about giveaways, but most of all, sales on her books.

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### **Anthony says**

What I like about Second Stone is the pacing of the plot, the personality shifts in characters and the action and romance of this book. Each character shows his/her personality and soon those personalities shift as new characters join the story and the power hangs between Emariya and Torian. I like the climax of this book which leaves the reader waiting for the next book. In all I'd rate this book 5 stars.

the plot of Second Stone revolves around Torian and Emariya as they soon begin to search for Terin and free Emariya's father. as the plot takes a twisted turn new light sheds upon Reeve's part in the plot. the book also keeps telling more of characters' sides of the story and plot. In all the plot along with it's climax, keeps readers engaged in the series and wanting to read more.

Characterization of Torian and Emariya as they progress through the story starts as they are distraught at what Reeve has done with Terin and travels to search for Emariya's father. As the book progresses Emariya's personality as well as Torian's slowly change. Emariya and Torian become much like their parents but with the power and knowledge of the stones, they shed light on their lands. Emariya's personality changes for the most turning her into a proper princess

The impact of setting in Second Stone takes place in a medieval land split into three kingdoms by love and magic. the story takes place centuries after that split and involves Emariya turning on her brother at the thought of him binding the kingdoms himself. Emariya is affected by seeing each kingdom and sees how each kingdom has it's weakness and strength as she ventures through each of the three lands. Emariya is also affected by the setting of castle Alhen and it's struggle to get food.

I'd recommend Second Stone to young adults/adults because of the action and romance of the book. another reason why I'd recommend this book is because it has a sense of suspense and tragedy as well as a great plot and awesome characters. In all this book is a really awesome book.

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### **Sandra (LadyGrey Reads) says**

(sorry I didn't post a review any time sooner, been busy prepping for a feast)

Overall this second installment of this trilogy was rather boring. Nothing ever really happened until they got to Sheas and met Rees Hendel and figured out some stuff that you, as a reader, already knew about. I did love the chapters written from Terin's point of view, though, and I like the idea of Jessa getting a love interest - although I think they almost became friendly with one another too quickly, considering the circumstances. And the ending did make me want to at least try find time to read the final installment during the summer. So my overall opinion of this grew during the last 100-something pages, not before that.

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## **Sarah says**

(Source: I received a digital copy of this book for free on a read-to-review basis. Thanks to Kelly Walker, All Night Reads, and Netgalley.)

This is the second book in the 'Souls of the Stones' series, and kicks off where book 1 'Cornerstone' left off. \*\*Warning – some unavoidable spoilers for book 1 – 'Cornerstone'.\*\*

Emariya and Torian have admitted their feelings for one another, and have decided to wed, but only if uniting the stones will not cause death and destruction the way the prophecy says it will.

There is also another proviso on their union though, Emariya wants to find her father Oren so that he may be at the wedding ceremony, and Torian agrees with this.

A spanner is thrown in the works when it seems that Emariya's brother has tired of waiting for her to bind the stones, and has kidnapped Torian's sister, planning to do it himself. And even more worrying is the fact that Emariya has fallen into a sleep that she won't waken from.

Where is Emariya's father being held? Can they rescue him without bloodshed? Why is Torian suddenly experiencing visions? Why has Emariya fallen into a sleep that she can't be woken from? Does Emariya's brother mean to harm Torian's sister? And on whose side are the people of Warren?

This was a great second instalment in the series, and while it was a fairly typical middle book, with a lot of travelling and not much action, the finale more than made up for it.

Emariya continued in her quest to rescue her father in this book, and I loved how she was accompanied by Torian, and how very much in love they were. Emariya continued to be strong in the face of adversity, and continued to do what she felt was best for her people, and the people of Thalmas, even when that meant going against her own brother.

I liked the storyline in this book, although on reflection it was what I would call quite typical of a middle book in a series. There were some skirmishes, and quite a lot of discussions over the prophecies and tactics, but most of this book was spent travelling with Emariya and Torian as they attempted to rescue Emariya's father, Oren, from wherever he was being held. We did learn more about Emariya and her gifts though, and more about Emariya's family, and there was also a development with regards to Torian's sister.

While this was as fairly typical middle book, I did enjoy it. I love the way that the author writes, the prose is just so flowing and beautiful, and the sweet glimpses of romance that we got in this one were lovely. I also have to say that the author did a brilliant job of keeping this one easy to understand and keep track of. It's so easy for these fantasy books to become so complex that I get lost, but I didn't get that with this book at all.

I also really liked the ending to this one. While things were far from wrapped up, we got a beautiful ending to this part of the story, and were left with a feeling of hope more than anything, which was a really great way to end this second book in the trilogy.

Overall; a beautiful second instalment in this fantasy trilogy.

8 out of 10.

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## **Jeanette says**

I want to start by apologizing for how long it took me to post this review. Feb/March was a super busy time for me...and I will stop making excuses and just get on with the review.

I received this arc from the author in exchange for an honest review.

I'll start by saying how much I LOVED the first book in this series-from the world this story is set in to the magic system. The setting is so well thought out, and the characters were well developed and likable.

I was really excited to read the sequel and, let me tell you, this it did not disappoint. We learn more about the people in the book, travel to new locations, and are thrown for a bit of a loop there at the end. (Spoilers, Sweetie!)

And the characters! They may be the most likable characters in the history of literature. This comes with good and bad, however. I really liked seeing how Tristan and Riya's relationship progressed. What really strikes me is that they work as a team, and (for the most part) trust one other-with both their words and their actions. It is pretty refreshing to see a positive relationship in romantic literature these days. That being said, all the characters were a bit too perfect Is that possible?. I mean, I love Garrick as much as the next girl, but all of a sudden he is a perfect commander without any slip ups? That automatically gets the respect of all the soldiers, who are also all honorable fighters? As much as I as a reader hurt when characters have tough times, I find that it makes me like them and believe in them more. I want to see them struggle with new challenges and become better for it. I do like how the character development continues from where it left off in the last book-after finding out about her brother, Riya is less trusting and even more passionate as she gets closer to finding out the truth of her father. And I also liked the development of the character's relationships with each other. Riya and Tristan fighting (as every relationship does), but getting past that and moving forward together from it.

We also learn a bit more about the world it is set in-but not too much (that is clearly being saved for the next book!).

(view spoiler)

All in all, this was a really entertaining book and a quick, easy read. As per the last book, I loved the setting and character development and was definitely thrown for a loop at the end! (Both times!! Kelly Walker, you are good!) I am very excited to see where the story progresses from here and I can't wait to read the next book in the series!

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