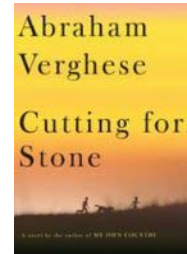


New and notable

Abraham Verghese, who lived for several years in El Paso and San Antonio before moving to California, made a big splash with the nonfiction *My Own Country* (a chronicle of his time as a doctor in Tennessee during the '80s AIDS crisis) and *The Tennis Partner* (the recounting of his time at the Texas Tech School of Medicine).

He turns to fiction for the first time with the sprawling, 541-page *Cutting for Stone*, though his medical background and personal backstory remain at its heart. It focuses on orphaned twin boys in Ethiopia (where Verghese was born) who overcome long odds to become doctors. The book is receiving rapturous reviews, with *Texas Monthly* saying: "Verghese has made a seamless transition from bestselling memoirist to novelist.



His plotting is subtle — clues planted in Chapter 1 blossom with meaning in Chapter 53 — and the *Stone* circle of characters is unforgettable. *Cutting for Stone* is as wise and worldly as it is gritty and unpretentious."

— Cary Darling