

## **Vergheese's "Cutting for Stone" is the pick for the March meeting**

By Lynn Carey  
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We are following the fantastical adventure stories of our last book with another sweeping family saga in "Cutting for Stone" by Abraham Verghese (Vintage, \$15.95, 667 pages). After hearing it praised by so many of our favorite independent booksellers, we decided to try it for ourselves.

This time we start in Ethiopia, where the twin sons of an Indian nun and a British doctor are born in 1954. After their mother dies and their father leaves, they grow up sharing a passion for medicine, then the same woman. One flees to New York City, but eventually returns home when his past comes back to haunt him.

There are secrets. There is a murder. There is distrust and betrayal. There is no doubt this is a page-turner. It is a beautifully written literary tale by Verghese, a doctor and a professor at the Stanford University School of Medicine. His 1994 memoir, "My Own Country," tells of being an "outsider" doctor in eastern Tennessee specializing in infectious diseases, including an astounding number of AIDS cases in both males and females.

"Cutting for Stone" promises to be equally engrossing and a wonderful book to talk about. Please join us at one of two bookstore discussions, one at a brand-new independent bookstore at Blackhawk Plaza in Danville.

Bookstore discussions: 7 p.m. March 2 at Book Passage, 51 Tamal Vista Blvd., Corte Madera, 415-927-0960; 7 p.m. March 10 at Read Book Store, 3480 Blackhawk Plaza Circle,

Danville, 925-736-9090. Park near Draeger's Supermarket, and go up the walkway near their coffee patio area. Walk toward the water, and Read is on your right.

Send comments: Please e-mail your comments by March 24 (and get a chance to win a new book; see details in the comment section on this page) to Lynn Carey at [timesbookclub@yahoo.com](mailto:timesbookclub@yahoo.com) or mail c/o Book Club at P.O. Box 8099, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-8099. Please remember to put your full name and the city in which you live.

Next Book Club "meeting": April 4 in the A&E section of the newspaper.

*Lynn Carey runs the Times Book Club. Reach her at [timesbookclub@yahoo.com](mailto:timesbookclub@yahoo.com).*