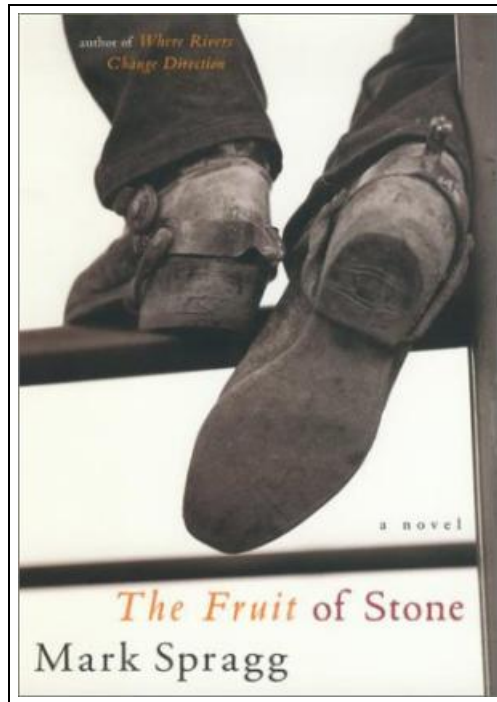


The Fruit of Stone



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Reviews

An extremely wonderful publication with lucid and perfect reasons. It typically will not expense too much. You are going to like the way the blogger compose this publication.

(Prof. Maya Hand)

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New York, New York, U.S.A.: Riverhead Books, New York, New York, U.S.A., 2002. Hardcover. Condition: New. Dust Jacket Condition: New. From Booklist: *Starred Review* The Wyoming high country has been well served in recent fiction. First there was Allen Morris Jones' debut *Last Year's River* [BKL S 15 01], about a transplanted New Yorker who falls in love with a shell-shocked vet in the years after World War I, and now we have another superb first novel, the story of a recalcitrant Wyoming rancher who understands the land but struggles to master the tricky terrain of the heart. Spragg, the author of the much-acclaimed memoir, *Where Rivers Change Direction* (1999), upsets our expectations from the outset of this remarkable love story. McEban, a hard-bitten rancher drifting into middle age, has been in love with Gretchen all his life. The affair they began in high school ended suddenly, however, when she married McEban's best friend, Bennett, leaving McEban to vent his frustration by working the land, following in the footsteps of his father, "a man who put his shoulder against the life God gave him and went to work." Spragg begins with McEban and Gretchen in bed, having suddenly resumed their affair. But before McEban can make sense of what has happened, Gretchen has vanished, leaving both her husband and her lover, apparently for a third man, but instructing them to follow her. So begins a most peculiar road novel. McEban and Bennett trail Gretchen across the West, chasing the past as well as the future and accumulating eccentric companions in the process, including a pregnant teenager who talks to the dead. As in much of western fiction, Spragg finds poetry (and humor) in silence, revealing his characters' depth of feeling in what they don't say and how they don't say...



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