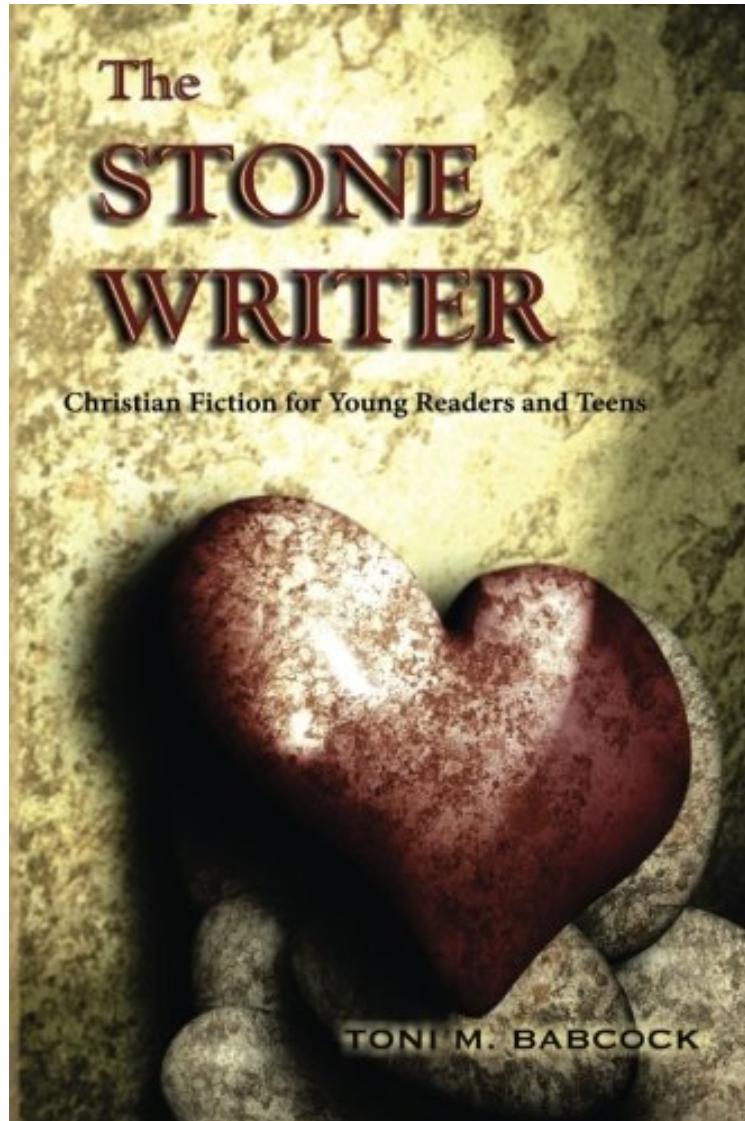


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The Stone Writer: Christian Fiction for Young Readers and Teens

Toni M Babcock

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Toni M Babcock : The Stone Writer: Christian Fiction for Young Readers and Teens before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Stone Writer: Christian Fiction for Young Readers and Teens:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful meaningful storiesBy DeeThe Stone Writer by Toni Babcock is a wonderful collection of stories with meaningful lessons. It is easy to read and the stories are not only well-thought but also easily relatable. Babcock's genuine love for children can be felt through her writing. She

communicates the gospel to children in an uncomplicated yet fascinating manner. I enjoyed all the stories and one of my favorites was 'The Storm and the Way of the Cross'. Kali is crying because her 'perfect picture' of Jesus hanging on the cross is ruined by dark blue crayon scribbled all over it and the author beautifully presents a Christian message here by how Kali's Mom responds; she writes, "You know what this reminds me of? It reminds me of how God must have felt after His creation got ruined. In the beginning He made everything perfect, and then sin came in and ruined it, so He knows exactly how you feel." This is an excellent book for story time with the kids. I love it! Review written by Dee Kyalo, author of *Looking Up: A Day-votional and Crushing Invisible Barriers: Onset of a Glorious Marital Destiny*

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Creatively communicating biblical truth By Joel The message of the gospel is pretty much known by everyone - even children. Sometimes, especially with children who grew up in church, the story of the gospel can become so familiar that it loses something. God has gifted many people with the ability to communicate the gospel message and biblical truth in creative ways that connect with people. Toni Babcock is one of those people. Through the stories in "The Stone Writer," she continually finds creative ways to preach the message of the cross to children in ways that are relevant, entertaining, and unique. This book would make a great resource as a supplement to children's Sunday School lessons, or for younger kids to read recreationally. When my own children are able to read at this level I intend to have them read these stories. Till then, these are stories I could read to them and they are short enough in order to engage their 3 and 5 year old imaginations. There's also a section of stories for older kids and teens that would be beyond younger readers, but continue to communicate biblical truths effectively and creatively. What I think I appreciate most about this book is that it appeals to parents as well as kids. These stories can serve as a model for parents as to how to bring biblical truths into everyday situations and conversations with children. See the title story, for example, or "The Storm and the Way of the Cross." This is something unique that you'll get with this book that you won't get in other Christian children's stories. Parents will be able to identify with the adult characters as much as children can identify with the characters that are similar to them, and can even mimic the ways that adult characters introduce and talk about biblical concept with the younger characters. Another very helpful tool is an appendix that lists scripture references that were used throughout the stories, allowing families the ability to get into the Bible together if desired. You can get a lot of use out of this book, and especially for the modest price. Whether it is for personal use or for educational uses, Toni's writing is effective and good.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Christian Bedtime Stories By Erin Garlock If you are looking for good reading material for your children, especially for children you read bed time stories to, "The Stone Writer" by Toni Babcock is a nice collection of quaint stories ideally suited to tucking in elementary school aged children. Each story is one a child can relate to and there is always a moral to the story, most of which obviously embrace Christian beliefs, though sometimes it is subtle. "The Gospel According to a Pirate" is excellently done, and was my favorite. For older children, "Shadow Man" has a great lesson on dealing with difficult choices. The title of the book says these stories are for teens, but I think teens might be willing to listen to some of the stories in a group or family setting, but beyond that I believe they will lose interest very quickly. I'd set the high end of the age limit at thirteen.

Christian Message: 5
Ease of Reading: 5
Age Appropriate: 4
Characters/Plot: 5
Overall Rating: 5

The Stone Writer, Christian Fiction for Young Readers and Teens by Toni M. Babcock

The Stone Writer is a collection of short stories written to convey biblical principles in a fun and thought provoking way. The collection was written in two parts: Short Stories for Young Readers, and Short Stories for Teens. Topics featured are as follows: Coping with loss (Jacob and the Stone Writer). Jacob loses his dog, and learns that sometimes when you think you've lost, you discover something wonderful you never knew you had. Handling criticism (The Finch and the Fiddle). Goldfinch learns the benefit of singing God's song far outweighs the cost. Understanding the Gospel (The Gospel According to a Pirate). The gospel is shared with an unusual twist. Living unselfishly (Kali and the Lady Slippers). Kali discovers God has a reason for everything, even an ugly pair of purple slippers. Being friends to hard-to-like people (Olivia and the New Girl). Olivia becomes emotionally trapped until help comes to her rescue in a welcome way. Learning from the elderly (Lucas and the Widow of Wicker Woods). Lucas develops a lasting friendship with an old woman named Frannie Wicker. God bears our sin and our sorrow (The Storm and the Way of the Cross). Kali is devastated to discover her creation has been marred, like God's was when His creation was marred by sin. Learning from a wayward horse (A Horse Called Trouble). Jacob, Lucas, and Peyton discover a wayward horse, and soon all havoc breaks loose. Not rushing to judgment (The Missing Piece). Jacob blames his cousins Joe and Nick for hiding his puzzle piece. Jacob learns a lesson about judging other's when the real culprit is revealed. Prayer changes things (The Wing Master). Once reticent to be friends with Serena Sweeney, Marianna has a change of heart and becomes friends with Serena during a neighborhood block party. What to do about bullies (The Bully of Buck Hill). Peyton, Joe, and Nick are bullied by a teenaged boy. He soon discovers the bully is moving next door! Peyton makes friends with the bully's little brother, and plays an important role in rescuing him from abuse. The grace of forgiveness (Fire Ants!). Deanna is convinced her little brother Benny has destroyed Grandpa's prized anthill. A surprising revelation turns her thoughts around when Grandpa reveals what really happened. Following God (The Promise Pearl). Ruby shares a loving attachment to her Great-Grandma Pearl, and learns important life lessons during the time they share

together. Overcoming regret (*The Ghosts of Green Lake*). Eddie becomes sullen and angry after the accidental drowning of his Grandpa. His principal at school, and his cousin Cassie help pull him back from the "Ghosts of Green Lake". Working toward a common goal (*The Best Live Nativity Ever*). Jade must think of a way to raise money as part of an assignment at school. Frustration turns into a bright idea as Jade rallies the help of her family to help put on a live nativity. Facing our true self (*Shadow Man - part one and two*). Tess, a new camp counselor, is thrown into turmoil when the director's son Gabe steals from the canteen. Tess and her sister Jenna go on a mission to rescue junior counselor Gabby from Gabe, and Tess learns a lesson about forgiveness. A story of conversion (*Sophia and the Sacred Places*). Sophia puts her faith in Christ a few weeks after an interesting conversation with Dex Davison on the banks of the Snake River during a white water trip in May. Facing death (*The Rest of Amos*). Colette learns to face death unafraid after an unusual dream and a meeting with a man named Amos. Spiritual warfare (*The Tale of Timorous and How He Found His New Name*). This allegory takes the reader through the trials and tribulations of Timorous, a double-minded little man who learns the importance of wearing his spiritual armor and claiming his new name.

About the Author Toni M. Babcock is a freelance Christian writer from South St. Paul, Minnesota. She enjoys writing short stories for children and young adults, as well as memoirs, poetry and spiritual essays. Toni cherishes time spent in the north woods and enjoys weaving her northland experiences into her short stories. Her stories of canoe travels have been featured in *The Boundary Waters Journal*. Her memoirs have also been featured in *Minnesota Memories*, an anthology of Minnesota writers. As a member of *Faithwriters.com*, Toni enjoys using the medium of spiritual essay to communicate faith in engaging ways. Her essays and devotionals have been posted on several Christian websites through the *Faithwriters.com* program. As a grandmother and former student of the Institute of Children's Literature, Toni has a special interest in creating short stories for children that communicate faith and hope in Jesus. Her story *Red Bird's Secret* was featured in *Aletheia*, an art and literary magazine for Christian teens. She hopes her current collection, *The Stone Writer*, will be a spiritual inspiration to children and teens worldwide and a source of reading pleasure for years to come.