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# Stones From The River Ursula Hegi

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Motherland  
 The Vision of Emma Blau  
 A Novel  
 Two Rivers  
 NOVELS FOR STUDENTS  
 A Study Guide for Ursula Hegi's "Stones from the River"  
 Tearing the Silence  
 Stones from the River  
 Hotel of the Saints  
 Jewel  
 The Left Hand of Darkness  
 A Novel  
 A Novel  
 Children and Fire  
 Floating in My Mother's Palm, Stones from the River, The Vision of Emma Blau. Children and Fire  
 Stones from the River  
 The Patron Saint of Pregnant Girls  
 The Silent Angel  
 A Gesture Life  
 Ursula Hegi The Burgdorf Cycle Boxed Set  
 A German Reckons with History and Home  
 North River  
 Ghosts and Monsters of the Anthropocene  
 Stones from the River  
 Short Stories  
 A Novel  
 A Novel  
 A Novel  
 Black Bottom Saints  
 A Novel  
 City Of Illusions  
 Every Last One  
 Sacred Time  
 Trudi & Pia  
 Their Journey from Public Curiosity Toward Social Liberation  
 Restitution  
 A Study Guide for Ursula Hegi's "stones from the River."  
 A Novel  
 Always Coming Home

*Stones From The River  
Ursula Hegi*

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## MARISA CAREY

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**Motherland** Atheneum/Anne Schwartz Books  
 Communication—or the lack thereof—is the subject of this sly update of the picaresque. No One Writes Back is the story of a young man who leaves home with only his blind dog, an MP3 player, and a book, traveling aimlessly for three years, from motel to motel, meeting people on the road. Rather than learn the names of his fellow travelers—or invent nicknames for them—he assigns them numbers. There's 239, for example, who once dreamed of being a poet, but who now only reads her poems to a friend in a coma; there's 109, who rides trains endlessly because of a broken heart; and 32, who's already decided to commit

suicide. The narrator writes letters to these men and women in the hope that he can console them in their various miseries, as well as keep a record of his own experiences: "A letter is like a journal entry for me, except that it gets sent to other people." No one writes back, of course, but that doesn't mean that there isn't some hope that one of them will, someday . . .

**The Vision of Emma Blau** Deep Vellum Publishing  
 Recreating 1930s New York with the vibrancy and rich detail that are his trademarks, Pete Hamill weaves a story of honor, family, and one man's simple courage that no reader will soon forget. It is 1934, and New York City is in the icy grip of the Great Depression. With enormous compassion, Dr. James Delaney tends to his hurt, sick, and poor neighbors, who include gangsters, day laborers,

prostitutes, and housewives. If they can't pay, he treats them anyway. But in his own life, Delaney is emotionally numb, haunted by the slaughters of the Great War. His only daughter has left for Mexico, and his wife Molly vanished months before, leaving him to wonder if she is alive or dead. Then, on a snowy New Year's Day, the doctor returns home to find his three-year-old grandson on his doorstep, left by his mother in Delaney's care. Coping with this unexpected arrival, Delaney hires Rose, a tough, decent Sicilian woman with a secret in her past. Slowly, as Rose and the boy begin to care for the good doctor, the numbness in Delaney begins to melt.

**A Novel** Hachette UK  
 Living on a damaged planet challenges who we are and where we live. This timely anthology calls on twenty eminent humanists and scientists to revitalize

curiosity, observation, and transdisciplinary conversation about life on earth. As human-induced environmental change threatens multispecies livability, *Arts of Living on a Damaged Planet* puts forward a bold proposal: entangled histories, situated narratives, and thick descriptions offer urgent “arts of living.” Included are essays by scholars in anthropology, ecology, science studies, art, literature, and bioinformatics who posit critical and creative tools for collaborative survival in a more-than-human Anthropocene. The essays are organized around two key figures that also serve as the publication’s two openings: *Ghosts*, or landscapes haunted by the violences of modernity; and *Monsters*, or interspecies and intraspecies sociality. *Ghosts* and *Monsters* are tentacular, windy, and arboreal arts that invite readers to encounter ants, lichen, rocks, electrons, flying foxes, salmon, chestnut trees, mud volcanoes, border zones, graves, radioactive waste—in short, the wonders and terrors of an unintended epoch. Contributors: Karen Barad, U of California, Santa Cruz; Kate Brown, U of Maryland, Baltimore; Carla Freccero, U of California, Santa Cruz; Peter Funch, Aarhus U; Scott F. Gilbert, Swarthmore College; Deborah M. Gordon, Stanford U; Donna J. Haraway, U of California, Santa Cruz; Andreas Hejnol, U of Bergen, Norway; Ursula K. Le Guin; Marianne Elisabeth Lien, U of Oslo; Andrew Mathews, U of California, Santa Cruz; Margaret McFall-Ngai, U of Hawaii, Manoa; Ingrid M. Parker, U of California, Santa Cruz; Mary Louise Pratt, NYU; Anne Pringle, U of Wisconsin, Madison; Deborah Bird Rose, U of New South Wales, Sydney; Dorion Sagan; Lesley Stern, U of California, San Diego; Jens-Christian Svenning, Aarhus U.

*Two Rivers* Simon and Schuster

A Study Guide for Ursula Hegi's "Stones from the River," excerpted from Gale's acclaimed *Novels for Students*. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust *Novels for Students* for all of your research needs.

**NOVELS FOR STUDENTS** Rutgers University Press

Friends since childhood, Annie, Jake and Mason had a special bond that transcended all other relationships. When Annie's parents die on her and Mason's wedding night, the three friends decide to raise Annie's infant sister, Opal, together. Entangled relationships ensue between them and Annie struggles to be both a

sister and a mother to Opal. And then, on one fateful night, the friends step over a line that has shocking, unforeseen consequences. Beautifully written and brilliantly vivid, this truth-telling and engaging novel of friendship, love and death and -- ultimately -- of resilience and understanding, will resonate long after each character tells their story.

A Study Guide for Ursula Hegi's "Stones from the River" Celadon Books

The Burgdorf Cycle Boxed Set by Ursula Hegi brings together her four novels set in Burgdorf, Germany that explore the consequences of Hitler's reign and the ramifications of World War II.

*Tearing the Silence* Hawthorne Books

Mary Beth Latham has built her life around her family, around caring for her three teenage children and preserving the rituals of their daily life. When one of her sons becomes depressed, Mary Beth focuses on him, only to be blindsided by a shocking act of violence. What happens afterward is a testament to the power of a woman's love and determination, and to the invisible lines of hope and healing that connect one human being to another. Ultimately, as rendered in Anna Quindlen's mesmerizing prose, *Every Last One* is a novel about facing every last one of the things we fear the most, about finding ways to navigate a road we never intended to travel.

*Stones from the River* Random House Trade Paperbacks

An enthralling literary tour-de-force that pays tribute to Detroit's legendary neighborhood, a mecca for jazz, sports, and politics, *Black Bottom Saints* is a powerful blend of fact and imagination reminiscent of E.L. Doctorow's classic novel *Ragtime* and Marlon James' Man Booker Award-winning masterpiece, *A Brief History of Seven Killings*. From the Great Depression through the post-World War II years, Joseph “Ziggy” Johnson, has been the pulse of Detroit's famous Black Bottom. A celebrated gossip columnist for the city's African-American newspaper, the *Michigan Chronicle*, he is also the emcee of one of the hottest night clubs, where he's rubbed elbows with the legendary black artists of the era, including Ethel Waters, Billy Eckstein, and Count Basie. Ziggy is also the founder and dean of the Ziggy Johnson School of Theater. But now the doyen of Black Bottom is ready to hang up his many dapper hats. As he lays dying in the black-owned-and-operated Kirkwood Hospital, Ziggy reflects on his life, the community that was the center of his world, and the remarkable people who helped shape it. Inspired by the Catholic Saints Day Books, Ziggy curates his own

list of Black Bottom's venerable "52 Saints." Among them are a vulnerable Dinah Washington, a defiant Joe Louis, and a raucous Bricktop. Randall balances the stories of these larger-than-life "Saints" with local heroes who became household names, enthralling men and women whose unstoppable ambition, love of style, and faith in community made this black Midwestern neighborhood the rival of New York City's Harlem. Accompanying these “tributes” are thoughtfully paired cocktails—special drinks that capture the essence of each of Ziggy's saints—libations as strong and satisfying as Alice Randall's wholly original view of a place and time unlike any other.

Hotel of the Saints Hachette UK

A USA TODAY BESTSELLER! A historical novel inspired by true events, Kelli Estes's brilliant and atmospheric debut is a poignant tale of two women determined to do the right thing and the power of our own stories. The smallest items can hold centuries of secrets... Inara Erickson is exploring her deceased aunt's island estate when she finds an elaborately stitched piece of fabric hidden in the house. As she peels back layer upon layer of the secrets it holds, Inara's life becomes interwoven with that of Mei Lein, a young Chinese girl mysteriously driven from her home a century before. Through the stories Mei Lein tells in silk, Inara uncovers a tragic truth that will shake her family to its core—and force her to make an impossible choice. A touching and tender book for fans of Marie Benedict, Susanna Kearsley, and Duncan Jepson.

Jewel Simon and Schuster

A dwarf girl goes to the circus where she meets another dwarf and realizes that she is not alone.

*The Left Hand of Darkness* Simon and Schuster

*Stones from the River* Simon and Schuster

*A Novel* Simon and Schuster

“Ripe with surprising twists and heart-breakingly real characters . . . a remarkable and complex look at race and forgiveness in small-town America.”

—Michelle Richmond, New York Times-bestselling author

In *Two Rivers*, Vermont, Harper Montgomery is living a life overshadowed by grief and guilt. Since the death of his wife Betsy, Harper has narrowed his world to working at the local railroad and raising his daughter Shelly the best way he knows how. Still wracked with sorrow over the loss of his life-long love and plagued by his role in a brutal, long-ago crime, he wants only to make amends for his past mistakes. Then one fall day, a train derailed in *Two Rivers*, and amid the wreckage Harper finds an

unexpected chance for atonement. One of the survivors, a pregnant fifteen-year-old girl with mismatched eyes and skin the color of blackberries, needs a place to stay. Though filled with misgivings, Harper offers to take Maggie in. But it isn't long before he begins to suspect that Maggie's appearance in *Two Rivers* is not the simple case of happenstance it first appeared to be. "A stark, haunting story of redemption and salvation . . . the story of a man who learns the true meaning of family."

—Garth Stein, *New York Times*-bestselling author "A dark and lovely elegy, filled with heartbreak that turns itself into hope and forgiveness. I felt so moved by this luminous novel." —Luanne Rice, *New York Times*-bestselling author "Greenwood is a writer of subtle strength, evoking small-town life beautifully while spreading out the map of Harper's life, finding light in the darkest of stories." —Publishers Weekly

*A Novel* Penguin

An "ethnographic" novel that portrays life in California's Napa Valley as it might be a very long time from now, imagined not as a high tech future but as a time of people once again living close to the land.

*Stones from the River*

*Floating in My Mother's Palm* is the compelling and mystical story of Hanna Malter, a young girl growing up in 1950's Burgdorf, the small German town Ursula Hegi so brilliantly brought to life in her bestselling novel *Stones from the River*. Hanna's courageous voice evokes her unconventional mother, who swims during thunderstorms; the illegitimate son of an American GI, who learns from Hanna about his father; and the librarian, Trudi Montag, who lets Hanna see her hometown from a dwarf's extraordinary point of view. Although Ursula Hegi wrote *Floating in My Mother's Palm* first, it can be read as a sequel to *Stones from the River*.

**Children and Fire** Simon and Schuster The award-winning *More*, by one of Turkey's leading underground writers, is the world's first novel about the refugee crisis. "The illegals climbed into the truck, and, after a journey of two hundred miles, they boarded ships and were lost in the night." Gaza lives on the shores of the Aegean Sea. At the age of nine he becomes a human trafficker, like his father. Together with his father and local boat owners Gaza helps smuggle desperate "illegals," by giving them shelter, food, and water before they attempt the crossing to Greece. One night everything changes and Gaza is suddenly

faced with the challenge of how he himself is going to survive. This is a heartbreaking work that examines the lives of refugees struggling to flee their homeland and the human traffickers who help them reach Europe—for a price. In this timely and important book, one of the first novels to document the refugee crisis in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East, we see firsthand how the realities of war, violence, and migration affect the daily lives of the people who live there. This is a powerful exploration of the unfolding crisis by one of Turkey's most exciting and critically acclaimed young writers who writes unflinchingly about social issues.

*Floating in My Mother's Palm, Stones from the River, The Vision of Emma Blau. Children and Fire* Sourcebooks, Inc.

'A rich and complex story of friendship and love' GUARDIAN 'It's a giant thought experiment that's also a cracking good read about gender' Neil Gaiman 'Love doesn't just sit there, like a stone, it has to be made, like bread; remade all the time, made new' Two people, until recently strangers, find themselves on a long, tortuous and dangerous journey across the ice. One is an outcast, forced to leave his beloved homeland; the other is fleeing from a different kind of persecution. What they have in common is curiosity, about others and themselves, and an almost unshakeable belief that the world can be a better place. As they journey for over 800 miles, across the harshest, most inhospitable landscape, they discover the true meaning of friendship, and of love.

*Stones from the River* Scribner

'She is unique. She is legend' THE TIMES 'A tour de force' EVENING STANDARD 'A wonderfully mordant analyst of human weakness' Martin Amis Earth, like the rest of the Known Worlds, has fallen to the Shing. Scattered here and there, small groups of humans live in a state of semi-barbarism. They have lost the skills, science and knowledge that had been Earth's in the golden age of the League of Worlds, and whenever a colony of humans tries to rekindle the embers of a half-forgotten technology, the Shing, with their strange, mindly power, crush them out. There is one man who can stand against the malign Shing, but he is an alien with amber eyes and must first prove to paranoid humanity that he himself is not a creature of the Shing.

*The Patron Saint of Pregnant Girls* Gale, Cengage Learning

Protecting her beloved students from the

devastating world outside of their 1934 Berlin classroom, Thekla Jansen sacrifices some of her personal freedoms to retain her teaching position until activities within Hitler's early regime test her moral courage.

*The Silent Angel* U of Minnesota Press

Trudi Montag a dwarf, living in a small German town, through both world wars, learns to find acceptance, because she learns that all humans are different.

*A Gesture Life* Simon and Schuster

A "haunting . . . searing and honest" (People) family saga inspired by Maria Hummel's own extended family and their status as Mitläufer, Germans who "went along" with Nazism, reaping its benefits and later paying the consequences. Inspired by the stories told by her father about his German childhood and letters between her grandparents that were hidden in an attic wall for fifty years, *Motherland* is a novel that attempts to reckon with the paradox of the author's father—a product of her grandparents' fiercely protective love—and their status as passive Nazi-sympathizers known as Mitläufer. At the center of *Motherland* lies the Kappus family: Frank is a reconstructive surgeon who lost his beloved wife in childbirth. Two months later, just before being drafted into medical military service, Frank marries a young woman charged with looking after the surviving baby and his two grieving sons. Alone in the house, Liesl attempts to keep the children fed with dwindling food supplies, safe from the constant Allied air attacks and the tides of desperate refugees flooding their town. When one child begins to mentally unravel, Liesl must discover the source of the boy's infirmity or lose him forever to Hadamar, the infamous hospital for "unfit" children. Bearing witness to the shame and courage of Third Reich families during the devastating final days of the war, each family member's fateful choice leads the reader deeper into questions of complicity and innocence, and to the novel's heartbreaking and unforgettable conclusion. "Hummel's haunting novel is set in the ravaged landscape of German just before the country's collapse at the end of World War . . . Searing and honest, her book illuminates the reality of war away from the front lines—betrayal and compromise, neighbor turning on neighbor, the unexpected heroism of ordinary people—with a compassion and depth of understanding that will touch your heart." —People, four stars

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