



The Lost Stones

Paul Rimmash

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1600s Mexico- The Aztec Prince Ixtililxochitl writes that the first people to inhabit his land came from the Tower of Babel at the dividing of tongues...Scholars dismiss his writings as myth.

1800s Mid Western United States- Settlers dig into ancient burial mounds and discover thousands of slate tablets covered with a strange hieroglyphic writing and drawings depicting Jesus Christ...these artifacts are denounced as a hoax.

1909 Arizona-a newspaper runs a story describing how a cave containing metal artifacts and Egyptian-type hieroglyphics was discovered in the Grand Canyon by a group of Scientists from the Smithsonian Institute...the Smithsonian categorically denies the account.

These and other amazing facts make up the world of forbidden Book of Mormon Archaeology. It is a world BYU student and Iraqi War veteran Ammon Rogers never knew existed. He is thrust headlong into this world when he asks the enigmatic adventurer John Byrd a simple question. When John is kidnapped in Mexico, Ammon joins forces with John's beautiful daughter in a desperate attempt to not only save John, but to find his answer...an answer that will change the world...an answer one sinister foe will do anything to suppress.

The Lost Stones Details

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From Reader Review The Lost Stones for online ebook

Renetta DeBoer says

Not bad. The beginning was kind of slow because of all the history talk but once things got moving it really got moving. I was mostly impressed with the ending which make me cry just a little.

Meagan Myhren-bennett says

The Lost Stones
by Paul Rimmasch

"The latest news of the progress of the explorations of what is now regarded by scientists as not only the oldest archaeological discovery in the United States, but one of the most valuable in the world, which was mentioned some time ago in the Gazette, was brought to the city yesterday by G. E. Kinkaid..."

On Monday, April 5, 1909, the Phoenix Gazette ran a story detailing an important archaeological discovery deep within the walls of the Grand Canyon. A group of scientists from the Smithsonian Institute examined the site and found artifacts that challenged conventional notions of the pre-Columbian colonization of the New World. To this day, the Smithsonian officially denies it ever happened.

John Byrd has been trying to rediscover this lost treasure and when Ammon Rogers is introduced to this amazing explorer a series of events will draw them into a quest to discover the glowing stones given to the brother of Jared that guided the first to come to the Americas. But Ammon's interest in alternate energy sources has put Ammon, John, and John's daughter Sariah in harms way.

Can they get past the stranglehold created by the Powell Doctrine to discover this treasure of their faith? When seemingly random accidents keep occurring Ammon begins to suspect that some outside influence is actually the cause. But why would anyone want to stop them by killing them?

With a quest that takes them from BYU to Mexico to Michigan to the Grand Canyon - Ammon, John and Sariah are on the journey of a lifetime. Will they be able to prove the truth of their faith to the world or will their hope die with them?

The Lost Stones was an interesting look at both archaeology and the Mormon faith. You if are unfamiliar with both you can do some internet searches as you go along (which I did) to help you understand any areas that you may find difficult to follow.

This book is a modern day Indiana Jones adventure, but without the objectionable language or morals found in the movies (unless you have a Clearplay DVD Player).

I received a copy of this title from the author for the purpose of this review. All opinions expressed are my own.

Rebecca McKinnon says

This book was provided in exchange for an honest review.

This is a fun, quick read. Short chapters keep the story moving, and tons of research and true knowledge fill the pages. The characters are well-rounded and likeable

While the theme is LDS (Mormon), I think anyone interested in archaeology, history, or adventure would enjoy the story!

Some thoughts:

When I started the book, I was a little worried. Book openings can be tough to right, and I didn't really feel drawn into this one. *** Spoiler*** Well, I did until it turned out the opening was a dream. When I was snapped into a different world, things changed. I didn't really care for Ammon's daily life. That said, about 10% of the way in, I dropped that and enjoyed the story.

I really, really, really wanted there to be more of an "Indiana Jones" feeling to this book. There were moments here and there, but I would have loved to see it happen more!

There are a number of passages where long conversations take place in order to get a lot of information and history across. While I enjoyed it (and learned a few things from it), I'm not sure younger teens will appreciate it, as it means less action through those parts.

I find the topic of Book of Mormon Archaeology fascinating, and always have. I hope Mr. Rimmasch is considering sequels!

Krista (CubicleBlindness Reviews) says

This book contains a lot of references and delves into the beliefs of the LDS religion. I think that overall, for those that enjoy reading about the church and the Mormon history that this is a fun and very well put together adventure for adults to enjoy.

It's fast paced and a lot of history and discoveries, caves, museums, traveling.

It has a focus on the Lost Stones and the background of that story, it's history and a lot of the beliefs. So if you are not interested in the Church you'd want to pass on this one.

But for those readers that do enjoy learning more and have a fun filled adventure at the same time, this one is for you.

It's not something that you have to believe to enjoy, it is a fun story on it's own. But the fact is that it is a very religious heavy story so if you do not want to learn more about it, you should just take a pass.

Andrea says

Ammon Rodgers served two tours in Iraq and his experiences there made him realize that there is a God and that he should pursue an education in renewable energy. Unfortunately, those who get power and wealth from oil keep an eye on people that are making strides in renewable energy-and they have the "problem"

eliminated.

Ammon's journey is an exciting adventure in building his faith in God and His gospel, along with daring rescue missions, lost "treasure", and even romance.

Paul Rimmash did an excellent job with his debut novel. Aspects of the story drew me in like a Dan Brown novel. The conspiracy theories were presented in a way that you couldn't help but think that they must be true. But, I appreciated Rimmash's words in the Introduction about being careful about what you base your testimony on. There's one way to know if something is true, and if you go about it the right way, your faith won't be shaken.

A great book to add to your summer reading list.

*I received a copy of The Lost Stones in exchange for a review.

JoAnn says

"The Lost Stones" Written by Paul Rimmash

I didn't know what to expect when I started reading, "The Lost Stones." What I found was the amazing story in store for me. Once I began to read, it was difficult to put it down, which I only did once.

Not only was I captivated with the story but with the research Paul had done in order to bring this story alive. And, though the characters are fictional, the topic is not.

A young man named Ammon Rogers served his country in Iraq, giving him a great deal of experience in combat literacy which, by the way, he was very good at. In his experience with The Book of Mormon, however, his literacy was elementary.

After returning home from Iraq, he begins his education at BYU. Now, at BYU every student takes Institute. His attention in class is as elementary as his knowledge until one day his professor is talking about the brother of Jared and Ammon suddenly becomes curious, and he asks a question his professor can't answer. That question leads his professor to introduce Ammon to an Archaeologist by the name of John Byrd, a man who takes Ammon on a dangerous adventure of a life time to find the stones the brother of Jared had delivered to the Lord to give them light.

John shares his knowledge with Ammon, knowledge that had, for years, been hidden away. Quite by accident Ammon finds himself face to face with Sariah, the daughter of John, who decides to join them in their quest.

Unknown to the three there are those who don't want them to find anything of the sort. Enters the Accident Man.

Now, I will tell you no more because I want you to find out for yourself what happens. You won't be disappointed.

Kara-karina says

3.5/5

You know how long it took me to read this book? A very long time! Is it because it was bad? NO. The topic was simply so fascinating I kept spending a lot of time online researching it :D

That's the strong part of this book - it's unique topic, because let's face it: how often a blogger like me will read an archaeological conspiracy involving lost civilisations and their ancient technologies, The Book of Mormon and evil corporations covering up the research into alternative sources of energies? Not very often.

Although the theme of covering up the vital energy research and deliberate slowing down of progress is not new. Zeitgeist and The Age of Stupid certainly talked a lot about this topic.

Despite the great ideas, the book suffers from a lot of info dumps and weak characterisation, and unfortunately I could not connect with the main characters and believe in their attraction to each other. A lot of my questions about the characters themselves like John Byrd, for example, were not answered. Ammon was unevenly paced, making silly mistakes one moment and reaching insightful conclusions another moment. Sariah left me pretty puzzled as well.

Perhaps more time should have been given to the characters' backgrounds to make them feel more alive. There is more potential for a good movie akin to National Treasure in this book, than for an actual in debt novel. I'm sorry to say that I did not like it so much as I highly praised it for its very valuable footnotes. Does it make any sense?

Sugar says

Review:

Conspiracies, world changing secrets, historical mysteries, be it fact, fiction or a mixture of both, as long as presented in a fascinating truthful way, is always a success. In this sense The Lost Stones reminded me a lot of The DaVinci Code. They possessed a similar flow and build up with the choice of mystery and the reason for the plot driving search for answers being the part that sets them completely apart. And the book of Mormon genuinely was a pleasant surprise for the main topic since I, personally, have never even heard of it or don't remember hearing about it. This just made the introduction all the more intriguing. My curiosity is piques.

While the plot came across somewhat predictable, in such books the content and all the unanswered questions are the ones that get you hooked. And that is something the book achieved masterfully, there is plenty of actual historic detail to back up the storyline, but it does not become too fact based, encyclopedical or confusing. The execution of the events, however, needed some extra attention since the situations the characters found themselves in were at times solved too easily and, overall, despite there being some grave circumstance, things worked out too smoothly and without much effort, at least it did not feel as such. Also, I would have liked the book to be longer so that there would have been more time to divulge into and come to appreciate the characters and the historical mystery topic in question slightly more.

One more things: I'm really very careful with books that deal quite closely with the topic of religion but the exploring and realization of this theme didn't bother me in the least, it was handled at a close range while still keeping it at a comfortable distance.

Characters:

The characters were likeable and for the most part easy to relate to with details that gave them more color and personality (Ammon having been a soldier in Iraq, etc), despite this they still managed to seem somewhat generic. Which, honestly, isn't entirely negative for a book of this genre and purpose, and this I didn't mind in at all since the focus is somewhere else and not in immediate need of deep and thorough character development. This book to me is not so much about the inner world and traits of the characters but the journey and adventure, even though, there is nothing significant to complain about regarding the main players, and everything was satisfactory.

Our hero Ammon was somewhat lost in life and the quest he was thrust into gave him purpose and what he gained in the end was a lot more he might have lost. He didn't always grasp the seriousness of the situations and seemed at least to me to take things a little too lightly, but he came through when needed and was a steady support and aid for John and Sariah. He had a slight Indiana Jones-esque vibe going on, not nearly as experienced but on its way. His instinct that warned him about dangerous situations, however, I didn't see as necessary, it didn't really fit in and was one of the reasons many situations always managed to turn out well.

John was a great mentor with a complicated past and Sariah a brave and kind love interest. They didn't manage to shine as much as Ammon did, but were both decent and appealing characters. The Accident Man was, however, someone I was really curious about and his profession left me intrigued.

Overall:

An enjoyable adventure read with its strongest point being the historical topic it explores. Recommended to all who appreciate a good conspiracy mystery with realistic facts.

C.C. Thomas says

It's hard to decide if this book is mostly adventure or mostly an attempt to convert unbelievers to the Latter Day Saint Faith. Definitely a good mix of both.

Ammon is an ex-soldier and current college student who has never really been secure in his LDS faith. That changes when his new college professor tells him the story of some magical lost stones that are apparently important in Mormon history (I am guessing this might be part of the faith as I am not a believer in it.) Ammon enlists the help of another professor and his daughter, whom he promptly falls in love with. Together they try and recover the stones that somehow prove beyond a shadow of a doubt their faith's history.

What follows is a hardly believable adventure with a thinly veiled history lesson on Mormon doctrine. If this story had stuck to just the adventure, it would have been great and I would have liked it. As it is, I was mostly irritated by the constant reminders of LDS doctrine, especially since I knew nothing about it. If you're not part of the LDS faith, you probably won't enjoy this.

Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says

As you can tell from the blurb above, this is an LDS based book that centers around the teachings found in the Book of Mormon. Like the bible or any scriptural account of Jesus Christ, or any historical writing for that matter, there are always people looking for ways to prove and disprove that they actually happened. You can tell by reading this book that the author has done a ton of research into this subject. There is a passion there that was not lost on me. I admire people who find something they are interested in and really devote time and thought into it. Writing a book that incorporates your passion must be like a dream come true.

I will have to say that as a reader, it felt to me like this book was mostly a platform the author used to get his ideas and theories across to me and less like an actual work of fiction. Sometimes I felt really distracted by the long dialogue explaining why this theory or that theory could be true.

I liked a lot of the elements in this book. I think the premise of the book~ trying to find an alternate energy solution, studying it out, having the "bad guys" wanting to stop that, action and a bit of blooming love on the side~ is awesome. I'm not sure it all came together for me as a whole, but there were definitely parts where I was turning pages to find out what happened next. There were lots of great moments.

If you are even remotely interested in BOM archaeology you should probably give this book a whirl. I learned quite a few interesting things I hadn't heard before. My thanks to the author, Paul Rimmasch for letting me read his book. I wish him much success.

Jesse Kimmel-Freeman says

I really liked this book. It is filled with Mormon concepts. some of which I was completely unfamiliar with and had to ask my husband what it was talking about- which was frustrating. But I obviously liked the book enough to ask. Which says something by itself.

This book has a great character arc development. I love how they change throughout the entire thing. Ammon's constant questioning really adds to his character. He's a real character- one that could easily be that guy who sits in class and always seems to have a question that plays the Devil's Advocate. Sariah's devotion to her father is truly that of a child that has lost a parent. Paul writes real characters.

I didn't read the book for its religious aspect, which it has if you like that kinda thing, I read it because it connects to a subject I love- archaeology. I felt like the book had Indiana Jones elements thrown in. John Byrd seems to channel the fictional character.

Anyways, I loved the book. I recommend it to those that enjoy action/adventure books even if they have religion mixed in. If you don't like religion in your fictional writing, then you might need to look at a different book. It is still a great read.

Kristian says

This book reminds me a lot of Dan Brown's stories, even though it was a lot shorter and written from a completely different worldview - the author does obviously not try to hide the Mormon influences in the book, but what I really appreciated is that it was not as missionary as I was afraid it might be. Instead he focused on the story even though he seemingly did his research when it comes to the scientific and pseudo-scientific backgrounds of the story. I was well entertained and would definitely call the book a page-turner. And due to its relative shortness, it hardly had boring moments. One small criticism I have is that in a couple of situations (especially the one in the Mexican prison), the author takes a very easy way out of a situation where I was wondering "How are they gonna get out of this one?" - it was made more plausible at the end of the book, but still I was left a little wondering. And one personal comment (Rimmasch seems to like stereotypes, but not really in a bad way): Not every German likes the Hoff and even the most obnoxious German tourists would probably not wear a Hoff shirt for a vacation in Mexico! :)

(I received the book through a Goodreads First Reads giveaway)

MaryAnn Dennis says

The Lost Stones by Paul Rimmasch

This book was so much fun to read! It has everything--adventure, Book of Mormon archaeology, and a wee bit of romance.

Ammon's seemingly innocent question regarding the sixteen stones the Jaredites used leads him into the adventure of a lifetime. He gets to meet some very interesting people and some dangerous people. He is pushed beyond what he thinks his physical and spiritual limits are as he tries to keep up with his new friends, John, and his daughter Sariah. It turns out to be a good thing they had Ammon along for the ride.

I've always been fascinated with Book of Mormon archaeology--who isn't? I learned new things without feeling like an info dump. This book combines an exciting mix of real research, folklore, and a conspiracy theory (which I like to believe in myself). I sometimes wonder how much farther ahead mankind would be if it weren't for conspiring men.

I'm in total awe of all the research that went into this endeavor. Research is Eternal and the author has definitely done his homework. I can't wait to read the next in the series!

Misty says

I found The Lost Stones to be a fast-paced, enjoyable read. It contains sufficient amounts of humor, romance, action, suspense, mystery, and intrigue. Rimmasch effectively weaves his research of Ancient America into a fantastic fictional story.

But enough of the stuffy reviewer's voice. I loved reading this book! The story was fantastic, but I was torn between wanting the fiction to go away entirely so I could read it more like a research paper (I'm weird like

that) and wishing the story was way, way longer and more involved. The Lost Stones adventure bears a similarity to The Da Vinci Code with a distinctly Mormonesque interest. It worked for Brown, and it definitely works for Rimmesch.

One of my favorite stylistic details Rimmesch uses is dropping the reader off in the middle of the action. One minute you're flying through the air amid bits of trailer house debris with the main character Ammon, and the next you're on a plane following the next clue, seeking out the next part of his adventure. Rimmesch doesn't waste words dealing with the aftermath or the fallout of the adventure. It makes the story move along quickly, and it leaves room for him to spend more time developing the romance or speculating about the historical significance of the data--neither of which he does. This is something I appreciated because one, it's not a romance novel, and two, speculation is all it would be.

Rimmesch's character, the Book of Mormon archaeologist John Byrd, points out early in the novel that any so-called evidence they find can only provide plausibility for a certain theory. Rimmesch makes no claims he can't back up with plausible evidence. Also, one of the main themes of the book is that it doesn't matter where the events of the Book of Mormon took place--only that they did. Rimmesch points out that if we had the knowledge that these events actually happened, we would all be held accountable to that knowledge. I really loved that both this theme and this philosophy were very prevalent in his novel. Rimmesch's stylistic choice to leave some elements out reinforces his theme that there is some information we need and other information we just have to accept as having happened or being true.

I also loved the main character, Ammon. Part of me expected him to be completely strong and knowledgeable, but along with his strengths, he has his endearing and relatable insecurities. He is a tough Iraqi war veteran, and yet the Ammon we see is the one who struggles with his testimony and gets nervous around pretty, intelligent girls. It's an incongruity that could be really irritating, but it's not. I think so many of us are like that. We have our public persona, whatever it may be, and yet on the inside we are all struggling with something, be it faith, strength, anger, courage, fear, depression, acceptance, hurt, loneliness, etc. And so, for me, with Ammon, it just really works.

This is a great book by a first-time author who can only type with three fingers. It was a read I considered worth my time. It piqued my interest, and I am still mulling it over even after putting the book down.

Ryan Burt says

1) Rating: 4 out of 5 stars

2) Genre: Mystery

3) Synopsis: Ammon Rodgers is an Iraq War Veteran and college student. Expecting a relaxing Christmas break instead, he is pulled into a mystery that might bring him answers or even death.

4) Feelings: I bought this book not only because it sounded interesting and the author was in the bookstore signing the books. He talked about how much he liked the DaVinci Code but wished it had more references so you could know what was fact vs. what was fiction. That makes sense and this book has footnotes but they weren't at the foot of the page. I did find that a little hard because there were times I was too interested in the story to flip to the back of the book to read the footnote.

5) Final recommendation: I did enjoy the book and liked the LDS portions of this book and the mystery part. I did wish the footnotes were on the page that the note was on. I also found the watermark on the pages a little distracting. But those are just aesthetic changes. Fun read.

Ryan James Burt
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