



# The Fruit of Stone

## by Mark Spragg

The story of a lifelong friendship between two men and their love for one woman who eludes them. When she leaves her husband for a new life, they follow her on a journey across the American West that forces truths and tests the extremes of desire and loyalty.

Vintage Contemporaries  
304 pages  
ISBN 978-0307739384

BookSense Top Ten  
Mountains & Plains Book Award Nominee  
Booklist Top Ten First Novels  
Mountains & Plains Independent bestseller  
Pacific Northwest Independent bestseller  
Denver Post bestseller

### reviews:

“A uniquely, movingly detailed road map of the human soul.”

*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*

“[An] ambitious debut... a Pandora’s box of desire and regret... filled with sudden revelations and flashes of violence.”

*Washington Post*

“Superb... [a] remarkable love story... 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 it.”

*Booklist* starred review

“*The Fruit of Stone* is a vivid and poetic debut novel that places Spragg firmly in the company of such Western writers as Cormac McCarthy and Wallace Stegner.”

*Rocky Mountain News*

“Spragg evokes these doomed characters and the land they inhabit with an aching beautiful lyricism.”

*Chicago Tribune*

“An unforgettable first novel...There’s not a word that needs changing.”

*Denver Post*

“A pick-up truck odyssey...Lyrical one moment, gritty the next.”

*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

### from readers:

“Spragg’s descriptions of the west are filled with lyrical prose while his dialogue is taut and spare. The contrast makes for a real, gut-wrenching story that is entirely believable.”

Garlan on *Good Reads*, 2010

“This book puts into words the scenes of landscapes I have come to know and love and does so with such passion and poetry it can literally make your heart ache...Definitely my favorite read in 2011 and spoiled me rotten for quite the while after.”

Desert Gypsy on *Amazon*, 2012

“The forces of geology were hard at work as Mark Spragg wrote his first novel, *The Fruit of Stone*... Everything reduced each sentence, each word into small, hard gems. There is great beauty pressed between these covers.”

Grouch on *Epinions*, 2002

“I’ve read this book twice, which with the amount of reading I do is a rarity. It’s simply one of the most touching, heartfelt books I’ve ever read.”

Yvette on *Bookbrowse*, 2002

“Spragg’s telling of the story forces the reader to slow down, to appreciate the minute details of the scenes he is painting.”

Kevin R. Kosar, 2009

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