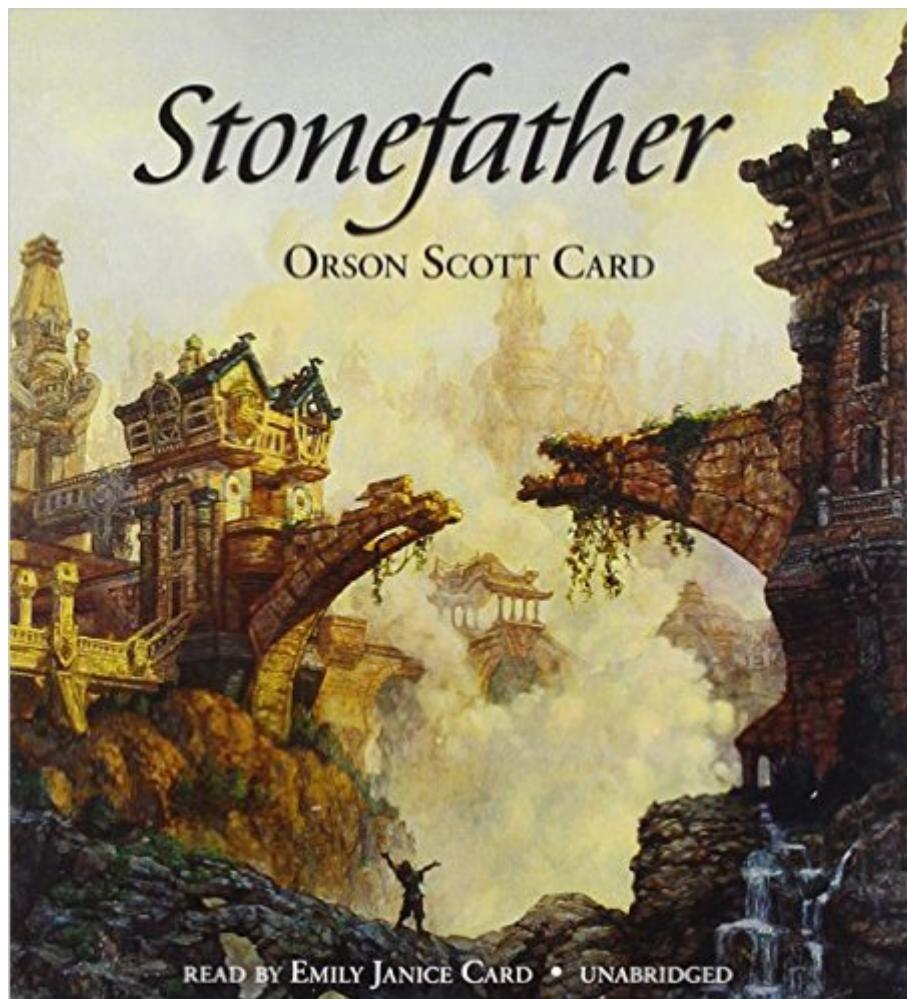


The book was found

Stonefather



Synopsis

When Runnel leaves his mountain valley to head for the great city of the water mages, he has no idea of his own magical talents. But soon, without meaning to, he complicates and endangers the lives of everyone he comes to know and care about, for when it comes to magic, there are rules and laws, and the untrained mage-to-be must be careful not to tap into deep forces and ancient enmities. Otherwise, other people might end up paying the price for his mistakes.

Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Blackstone Audiobooks; Unabridged edition (February 1, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1433259230

ISBN-13: 978-1433259234

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 5.5 x 6 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #5,497,721 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #43 inÂ Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > (C) > Card, Orson Scott #3742 inÂ Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction #4384 inÂ Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy

Customer Reviews

Runnel isn't appreciated by his family or his little village. His father abuses him, his siblings taunt him, and even his mother doesn't seem overly fond. So one day he walks to the edge of his village and just keeps going. He's never been outside of his village before, so everything is new. Eventually he comes to a city whose walls and bridges are crumbling. He's told that this is the city of the water mages, the magicians who cast out the stone mages that built the beautiful city. After the mage war, the victorious water mages will only allow one stone mage in the town. He lives in a grand house and is treated with respect, but he is spied upon and mistrusted because if he ever brings his colleagues back into the city, the water mages fear that they'll lose their ruling positions. After meeting a friendly girl at the city's well, Runnel follows her home and finds employment in the home of the stone mage. There he learns about the history and politics of this strange city, and he learns a lot about himself, too. It seems that Runnel may have an affinity for stone. *Stonefather* is a novella that introduces Orson Scott Card's *MOTHER MAGES* series, which is aimed at young adults. As I've

come to expect from Card, this story is beautifully written and contains deep and likable characters, a well-developed world with interesting magic, and an intriguing setting. This is a simpler, lighter and more relaxed read, though, than Card's ENDER series, which was full of drama, tension and, best of all, lots of ideas. Stonefather doesn't reach that level -- it's mostly a pleasant coming-of-age story -- but it did occur to me that the mage war may be an allegory for the Christian and Muslim conflict in Jerusalem. I have no idea if this is Orson Scott Card's intention, though.

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