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REVIEW: Healing Stones: A Sullivan Crisp Novel

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FICTION

Healing Stones: A Sullivan Crisp

Novel by Nancy Rue and Stephen Arterburn (Thomas Nelson, 2008; ISBN 978-0-8499-1890-2, \$14.99).

This was my first foray into the world of Christian fiction, and I had no idea what to expect. I admit that I anticipated some preaching, at least a little bit, but I was happy to discover that this was not the case. *Healing*

Stones is the story the Costanas family as they deal with the aftermath of infidelity. Demitria Costanas, a theology professor, is married to Rich, a New York firefighter who was caught up in the hell of 9/11, and they have two teenage children. To try to help Rich heal from the emotional trauma of the World Trade Center disaster, Demitria moves the family to Washington state and takes a job as a theology professor at a Christian college. She begins an affair with a colleague, and when a hidden photographer snaps photos of them together, her world falls apart. Fired by her college and rejected by her family, she becomes a modern-day Hester Prynne, wearing the badge of adultery. At the request of a friend, she agrees to meet with Sullivan Crisp, an unorthodox psychologist who comes with his own set of emotional baggage. They work together as Sully helps Demitria sort through all the issues in her life, leading her to an understanding of why she behaved as she did and a realization that God loves her and wants her to have a fulfilling life. *Healing Stones* is a story of redemption with a bit of mystery thrown in. It



grabs you from page one and doesn't let up, with two subplots woven in throughout the story. The characters are real and believable, and the situations don't feel contrived. The authors deal with difficult issues of sin, forgiveness and healing, and all without coming off as preachy. This is the first novel in the Sullivan Crisp series, and I look forward to future installments. Recommended for public libraries. ▶▶

— Reviewed by **Pat Borck**
Macon State College Library

JUVENILE

Dad, Jackie, and Me

by Myron Uhlberg; illustrated by Colin Bootman (Peachtree Publishers, 2005; ISBN 1-56145-329-3, \$16.95).

Baseball figures prominently in this multilayered book set in 1947 in New York City, the year Jackie Robinson, the grandson of a slave and the first black man to play in Major League Baseball, begins his Brooklyn Dodger career. However, this story is just as much the sentimental and insightful story of a boy and his relationship with his deaf father, with whom he learns about discrimination and tolerance within the framework of a shared love of baseball. While the story is fictional, much of it is based in truth, as the author's father was deaf, and the story is

