



Made of Stone

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There's bad stuff out there. Folks reckon things like vampires don't exist, but they does - Jock from the burger van told me. Plus I found an actual one of 'em, sleeping at the time in the back of a hearse I nicked that first morning. That's how me and Jock got to setting out freeing the world of 'em, using his bag o' wooden stakes and special bottles of whisky. Course, I knowed that vampires didn't exist, not when I stopped and done some thinking. And I knowed Jock were going through a bad patch, what with his son falling off that roof and him reckoning them immigrants pushed him. It's just that I didn't get much time for thinking, not with the coppers on our arse. Jock were off... and me with him.

Made of Stone Details

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Author : Charlie Williams

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From Reader Review Made of Stone for online ebook

Derrick says

Guess who just got back
that wild-eyed boy that had been away
haven't changed...

...and that's great news. Blakey is back and better than ever. What does this novel offer you ask? Something for everyone:

Vampires...check

Zombies...check

Vampire and zombie hunters...check

Strong romantic leading male...check (well at least in his mind)

Rambo and Rocky references...up the wazoo

Sheena Easton and Margret Thatcher references...just enough to make you squirm

This book is pitch-perfect. More laugh-out-loud parts than a book has a right to have. Blakey has met a friend who is on par mentally in the swede with our hero. Jock is a perfect mate for Blakey and their adventures belong in the same breath as when you discuss Huck and Finn.

Blakey sets his mind to make the world a safe place for you, me and Little Royston (if he could only locate the little bugger) and he won't let anything stop him. He is a determined do-gooder who tromps through swamps, gulleys and any other obstacle that come his way. He channels Rambo, Rocky, Sean Connery, golems and moles to complete his mission. The book ended way too soon...but I am hoping the adventure will continue soon (that's an order Williams)

I have read that writers should write what they know. If Williams is doing that when he pens the thoughts and adventures of Blakey, he must be a crazy SOB. This is the best series being written today, bar none. This is what a book should be. Even Blakey knows the score and to quote the man..."Royston Blake were back, weren't he? They can come, the pretenders can, but they ain't getting shet of old Blakey" Here is hoping that the next Mangel book is already being penned!

Keith Nixon says

I'm a huge fan of Charlie Williams' writing, in particular the Mangel series. The protagonist, Royston Blake, is like no other lead character you'll ever meet. In fact neither are the supporting characters. Royston looks at the world at an angle, everything's slightly off balance, including his sanity (he's never quite recovered from a stay in a mental institution). Sometimes in Made of Stone it can be a little difficult to keep up with the story because of this skewed perspective (being written in the first person), however that is also part of the fun.

In this outing Royston is hunting supposed vampires with a mad, permanently drunk Scot. Of course nothing is what it seems to Royston and his hugely inflated ego pulls him through many a scrape.

The Mangel books are well worth picking up. The prose and dialogue are unique. Be warned though, there's plenty of swearing. I loved it, others may not.

Sean Robinson says

Royston Blake is one of my favourite literary characters. I love the skewed, naive, savage way he sees all around him - Charlie has created a sort of whodunnit genre all of his own. What did Royston really see? What really happened? Putting together the pieces is all part of the fun. In this fifth chaotic outing, Blake gets caught up with a deranged, local burger van owner in a hunt for vampires. The mad out-madding the mad?

Meran says

Deadfolk #5 (or Mangel #5)

WARNING: Graphic depictions of Murder, Mayhem, "Bad Language", and Very Black (Noir) Humor

This being the last book about Royston Blake, just beginning it makes me sad. It's been a rough ride, for sure, since I had all 5 books in a very short time so I didn't have to wait some time between books. That means I didn't have any recovery time from all the angst and violence...

Hah! I think this book may have the earliest (in the book) personal injury (done by Blake) yet! He has the idea he wants a vacation: to do that, he needs a caravan: to pull the caravan, he needs a big car, like a hearse. He knows where to "borrow" one, but a man stops him. So, he punches him (on pg. 7). (I've been keeping track since Book 3.) Though maybe it doesn't really count.. Blake 'KNOWS' the man (the funeral director he punched out) is a VAMPIRE. He fees, with the hearse; he doesn't get far... Running into the Burger Van causes damage to the hearse, where it's also discovered that there's a coffin in the back, broken open now, with a leg from the occupant showing. Again, this may not count, because Blake recognizes ANOTHER Vampire inside that coffin!

Now, through no fault of his own, he's forced to abandon the hearse...

In an earlier book, it's revealed that, because of an accidental drug overdose, Blake had brain surgery. (The scar is horrendous, extending from ear to ear across his forehead!) For a while, he had been non-violent and reclusive. He apparently has reverted to his previous behavior: blackouts, violence, theft, magical thinking, memory loss, unintended bulling, and just general mayhem. The Town Fool, the Scapegoat, is back!

At the urging of local Jock the Burger Man, who's been doing this for some time, Blake is recruited into the nighttime world of vampire hunting in small town Mangel. According to Jock, 5% of the town population is Vampire: no, wait, Blake says that means 50%, which is a full 1/4 of the folks! (Later, he tells the coppers 75%. I don't think he's good at Math ;))

Vampires, a Highlander (because there can be only one), ghosts, golems, werewolves who eat the zombies in the Woods, giant scorpions, and witches all are on his target list.

In between chapters are news articles -- very funny! The whole book is full of Black Humor: when you're not crying in outrage, you're laughing AT not WITH most of the characters.

Man, I do NOT want to visit Mangel, let me twll you...

I don't think the book will end in "an expensive Caravan Vacation" for poor, mis-led, delusional, homicidal, but well-meaning, romantic, optimistic, anti-hero, Royston Blake.

The cover art on 4 of the 5 books is so appropriate! They're inkblots, LOL, simple and wonderful.

How I arrive at my starred ratings: When a book does what it's supposed to do and I enjoyed it, it couldn't be any better, then it's a 5 star book.

Lacey says

I liked this one a little better than the last one but it's still not as great as the first few books were. As time goes on it seems like Royston is getting more delusional, and before, where it was humorous because it seemed like a functional avoidance of what he didn't like in his live. Now he is completely unbalanced to the point where he doesn't even know what is going on and since he is our narrator it makes the whole story confusing. There are parts where you can see the old Blake shine through and I did enjoy the new character Jock, but I'm starting to find the new Blake to be a rather lost and lonely character.

Kelly says

Won this book from Goodreads, never received it.
