**The Stone Necklace**

* A Novel

Carla Damron

Foreword by Patti Callahan Henry

Clawing chest pains and a fiery car crash take one life and change the destiny of four others. *The Stone Necklace* braids together the stories of a grieving widow, a struggling nurse, a young mother, and a troubled homeless man, reminding us of the empowering and surprising ways our lives touch one another and how, together, we can recover from even the greatest of losses.

Carla Damron relates the stories of four people in Columbia, South Carolina, whose seemingly disparate existences intersect through tragedies realized and tragedies averted. Lena Hastings survived breast cancer and marital infidelity but now faces an uncertain future and crises with her teenaged daughter Becca without the support of the one person she has always counted on. Intensive care nurse Sandy Albright, newly released from drug rehab, confronts temptations from her past and false accusations threatening her career, leaving her to wonder if a drug-free life is really living. Tonya Ladson, a mother whose child is injured in thereck, must decide if her domineering husband is right and a lawsuit will solve their financial problems. Joe Booker, a homeless man who sleeps in a graveyard, loses his gentle benefactor and must either succumb to the real and imagined evils of his world or find the heretofore-untapped courage to care for himself and for others as a stranger once cared for him. Weighted down by their respective pasts, the characters must make life-altering choices that reverberate in the fates of the others, ultimately bringing them together in unexpected but healing acts of compassion, forgiveness, and redemption.

*The Stone Necklace* includes a foreword from former nurse turned *New York Times* best-selling novelist Patti Callahan Henry.

*Story River Books • Pat Conroy, editor at large*

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