

Discovering the Fascinating Myths and Legends Behind the World's Most Famous Stones

Top 10 World's Rarest Gems

- **1 Tanzanite**

Found only in the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro, in Northern Tanzania, this blue-purple stone is a highly prized color-shifting gem.
- **2 Taaffeite**

It is named for Australian gemologist Richard Taaffe, who discovered a cut and polished specimen of the stone in 1945. Only a handful of these precious stones have ever been found, making them a true collector's gem.
- **3 Black Opal**

The rarest type of Opal, the national gemstone of Australia. Black Opal is also the most valuable gem of its kind.
- **4 Benitoite**

Found near the San Benito River in California, Benitoite is a blue to purple gemstone first discovered in 1907. Under UV lights, it glows a brilliant chalky blue.
- **5 Red Beryl**

Also called Scarlet Emerald or bixbite, Red Beryl has only been found in Utah and New Mexico and has been described as 1,000 times more valuable than gold.
- **6 Alexandrite**

It is named for Tsar Alexander II of Russia and exceedingly rare gemstone. It is a color-changing gemstone, it's hue shifts from red to green depending on the light it's exposed to.
- **7 Jadeite**

Jadeite may sound like the various semi-precious stones known informally as "jade," but this incredibly rare gem is many times more valuable. Prized most when it is colored a deep, translucent green.
- **8 Musgravite**

Another precious stone in the same family as Taaffeite, this stone's color ranges from a brilliant greenish gray to purple. Musgravite was discovered in 1967 in the Musgrave Range of Southern Australia, and for many years there were only eight known specimens.
- **9 Painite**

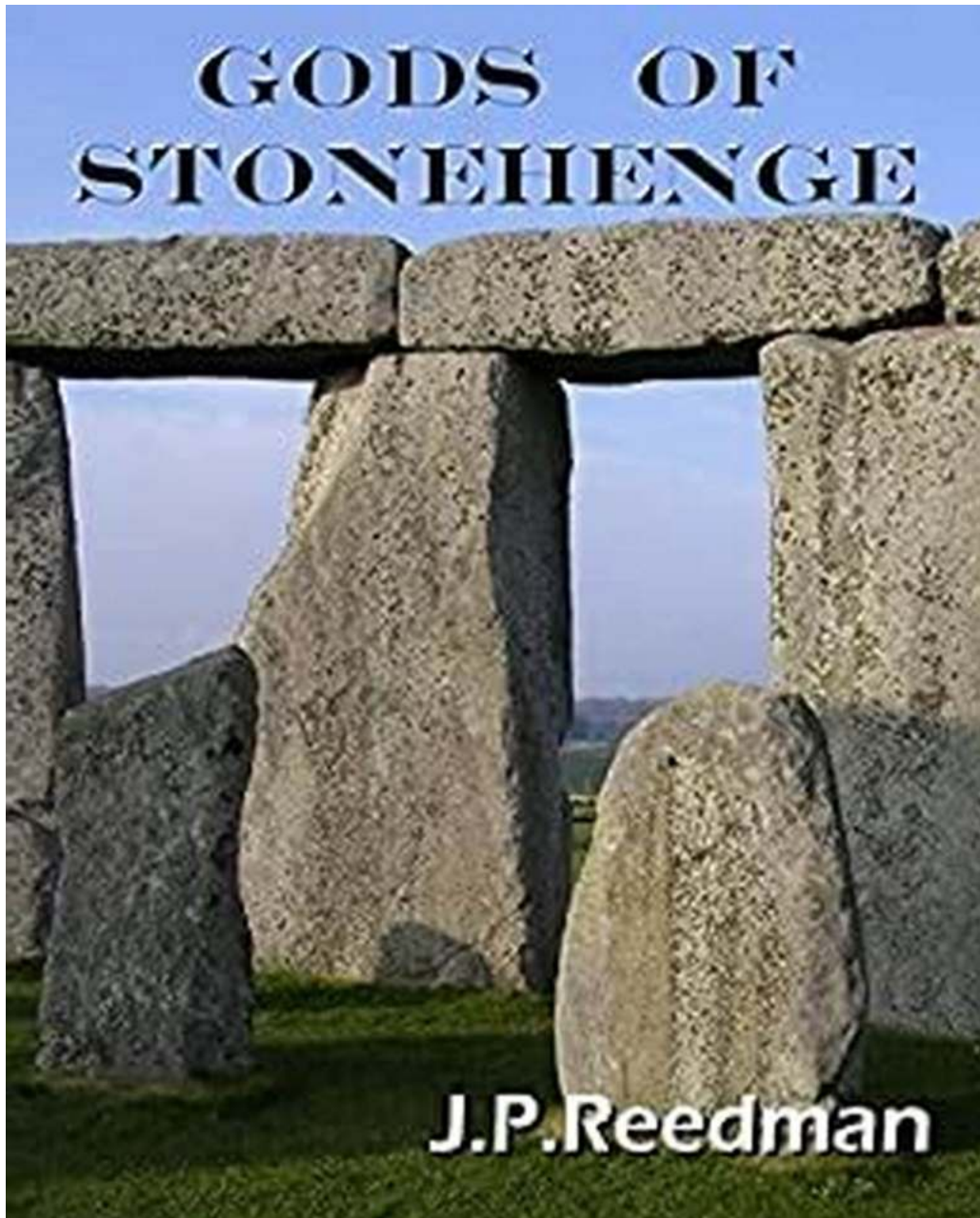
In the 1950s, mineralogist Arthur C.D. Paine encountered an unusual brownish stone in Myanmar (Burma) that turned out to be one of the planet's rarest gems. For decades, only two cut specimens were known to exist, causing the jewel to be more or less "priceless."
- **10 Pink Star Diamond**

The Pink Star Diamond is a "Fancy Vivid Pink" diamond that was mined in 1999 in South Africa. Weighing in at 59.6 carats, this gem was sold by Sotheby's for a record \$83 million: more than any other diamond - or any gem - ever sold.

Throughout history, certain stones have captured our imagination and become synonymous with mysterious tales, mythological figures, and legendary events.

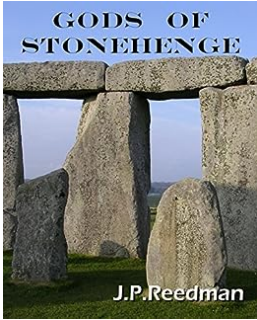
From ancient folklore to modern-day beliefs, these stones hold a special place in our cultural heritage and continue to fascinate people from all walks of life.

1. Stonehenge: A Megalithic Wonder Steeped in Mythology



Gods of Stonehenge: Myth and Legend at the World's Most Famous Stones

by J.P. Reedman (Kindle Edition)



★ ★ ★ ★ ☆	4.4 out of 5
Language	: English
File size	: 819 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 36 pages
Lending	: Enabled



Located in Wiltshire, England, Stonehenge is perhaps the most iconic megalithic structure in the world. Its mystifying construction, with giant stones placed carefully in a circular pattern, has sparked numerous theories and legends over the centuries.

One prevalent myth surrounding Stonehenge suggests that it was built by the wizard Merlin using magic. According to this legend, the stones were brought to the site from Ireland and Wales, transported by giants and placed with precision to align with the stars and the solstices. Some even believe that Stonehenge was built with the help of extraterrestrials.

Archaeological evidence suggests that Stonehenge was used for various purposes throughout the ages, including as a burial ground and a place of religious ceremonies. The exact purpose of its construction, however, remains a topic of debate and speculation.

2. The Blarney Stone: Bestowing the Gift of Eloquence

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Pink Star Diamond



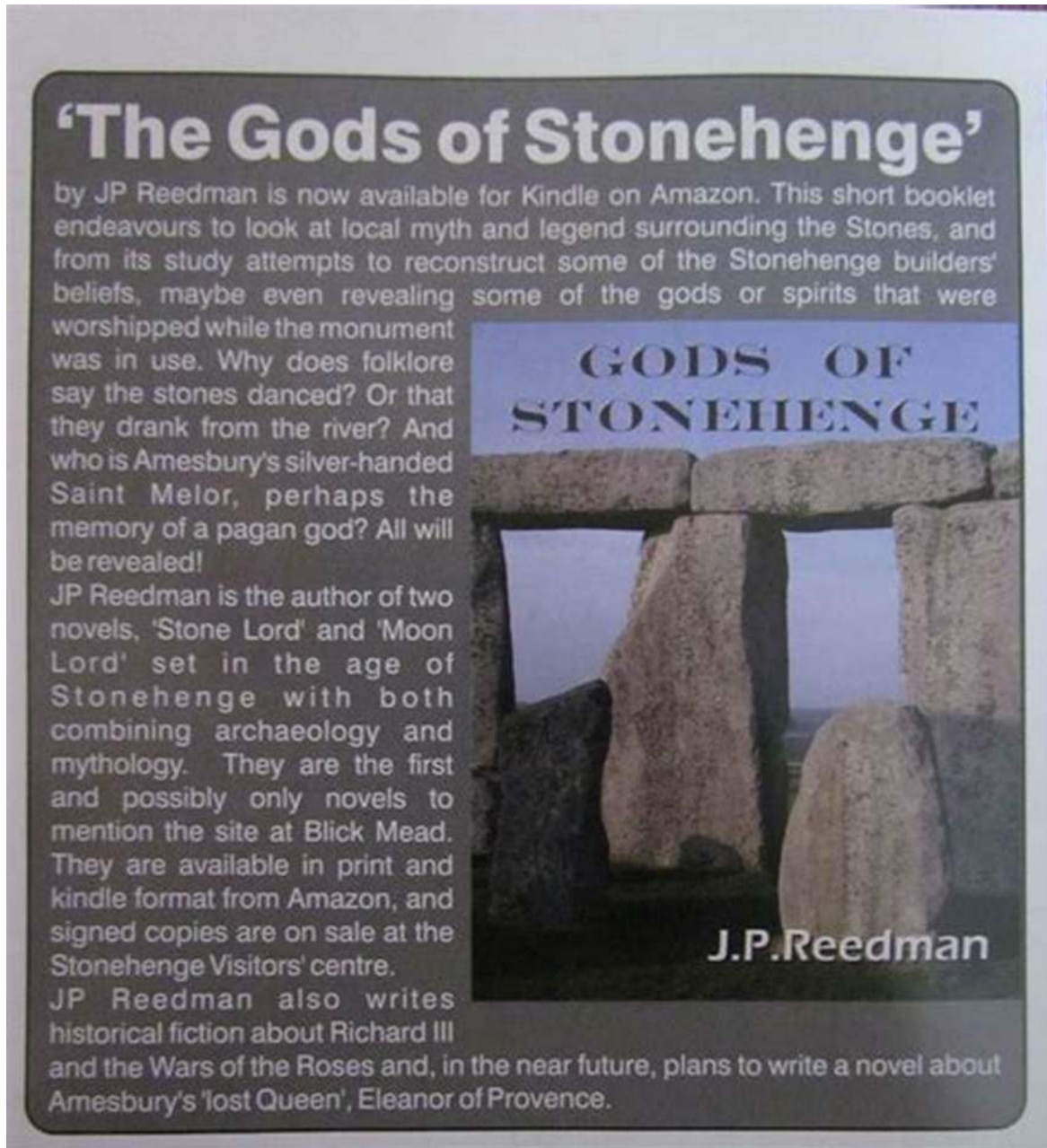
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In the picturesque village of Blarney, Ireland, lies the famous Blarney Castle, known for its legendary stone. The Blarney Stone is a block of limestone built into the castle's battlements, which attracts millions of visitors each year.

According to local folklore, kissing the Blarney Stone grants the gift of eloquence. Legends suggest that those who lean over backward and kiss the stone will be bestowed with the ability to speak with persuasive charm and wit. This tradition

has attracted countless visitors throughout history, including world leaders, celebrities, and ordinary people seeking the "gift of gab."

3. The Hope Diamond: A Cursed Jewel Shrouded in Mystery



'The Gods of Stonehenge'

by JP Reedman is now available for Kindle on Amazon. This short booklet endeavours to look at local myth and legend surrounding the Stones, and from its study attempts to reconstruct some of the Stonehenge builders' beliefs, maybe even revealing some of the gods or spirits that were worshipped while the monument was in use. Why does folklore say the stones danced? Or that they drank from the river? And who is Amesbury's silver-handed Saint Melor, perhaps the memory of a pagan god? All will be revealed!

JP Reedman is the author of two novels, 'Stone Lord' and 'Moon Lord' set in the age of Stonehenge with both combining archaeology and mythology. They are the first and possibly only novels to mention the site at Blick Mead. They are available in print and kindle format from Amazon, and signed copies are on sale at the Stonehenge Visitors' centre.

JP Reedman also writes historical fiction about Richard III and the Wars of the Roses and, in the near future, plans to write a novel about Amesbury's 'lost Queen', Eleanor of Provence.

**GODS OF
STONEHENGE**

J.P. Reedman

The Hope Diamond, an exquisite blue diamond on display at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, has earned a reputation as one of the most

famous cursed gemstones in the world. Legend has it that whoever possesses this diamond will face untold misfortune.

Various tales surround the Hope Diamond, including stories of its origin in India and its involvement in the French Revolution. One fascinating aspect is its alleged curse, which has been associated with the ill-fated fate of its owners. From mysterious deaths to financial ruin, the Hope Diamond's tales have intrigued gem enthusiasts and curious minds for centuries.

4. The Rosetta Stone: Unlocking Ancient Mysteries

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The Rosetta Stone, currently housed in the British Museum, is an ancient artifact that played a pivotal role in deciphering Egyptian hieroglyphs. This black basalt slab, with inscriptions in three different scripts, led to a breakthrough in understanding ancient Egyptian history and culture.

The Rosetta Stone's discovery and subsequent translation by Jean-François Champollion in 1822 opened the door to understanding the intricate symbols of

the pharaohs and their civilization. This groundbreaking achievement captivated the world and marked an important milestone in archaeology and linguistics.

5. The Ring of Gyges: A Mythical Ring of Invisibility



In Greek mythology, the Ring of Gyges was a magical artifact that granted its wearer complete invisibility. According to the story in Plato's Republic, Gyges, a shepherd turned king, discovered the ring's powers and used it to his advantage, committing various acts with impunity.

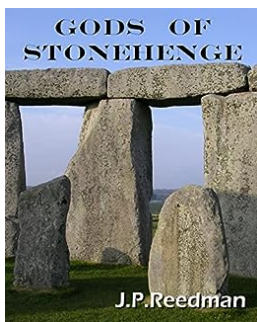
The concept of a ring that bestowed invisibility has captured the imagination of many throughout history, inspiring countless fictional works like J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings." The Ring of Gyges symbolizes the temptations and

moral dilemmas that come with absolute power and the ability to escape consequences.

The world's most famous stones, such as Stonehenge, the Blarney Stone, the Hope Diamond, the Rosetta Stone, and the Ring of Gyges, hold a significant place in human culture. They are steeped in myth and legend, inspiring curiosity, wonder, and imagination.

Whether it's the mysterious construction of Stonehenge, the desire for eloquence bestowed by the Blarney Stone, the cursed history of the Hope Diamond, the breakthrough insights brought by the Rosetta Stone, or the mythical powers of the Ring of Gyges, these stones evoke a sense of awe and capture our collective fascination.

Exploring and understanding the stories and legends behind these stones allows us to connect with our ancient past, delve into the realms of fantasy and mythology, and appreciate the ingenuity and imagination of our ancestors.



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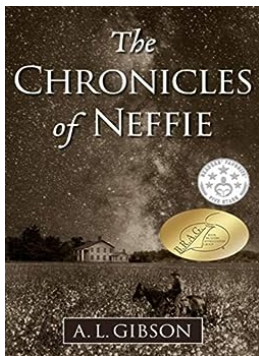


A short look at mythology and folklore connected with Stonehenge, the world's most famous stone circle, and with other megalithic monuments.

Who is the sinister 'Bowed One' and what relationship do the bones of a silver-handed saint have to an Irish deity of healing, mist and dogs? Did a Man in the Moon stare down at Stonehenge, and a female sun ride across the skies in a chariot with spoked wheels...or was it the reverse?

Howling blue hags with single eyes bleary as the setting Midwinter Solstice sun; dancing stones drinking at the river; petrified women, wedding guests and hurlers; spirits out of mounds, benign or malign; healing bluestones and Merlin the Wizard with his stones from the West, deconstructed by 'ingenious devices' before being brought to Salisbury Plain.

All Folklore mixed with potential folk memory...in which there may be an existing grain of truth about the gods and spirits of ancient Stonehenge.



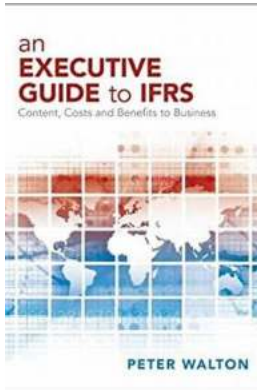
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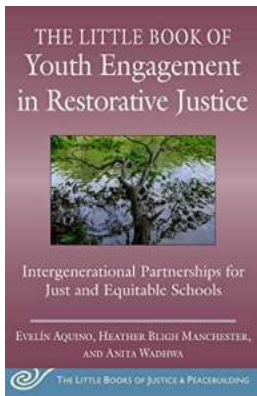
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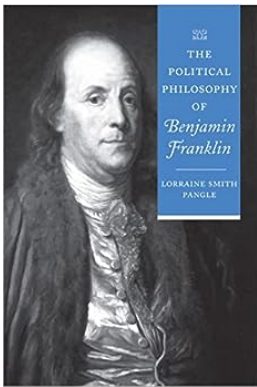
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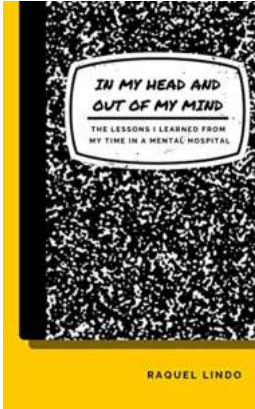
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