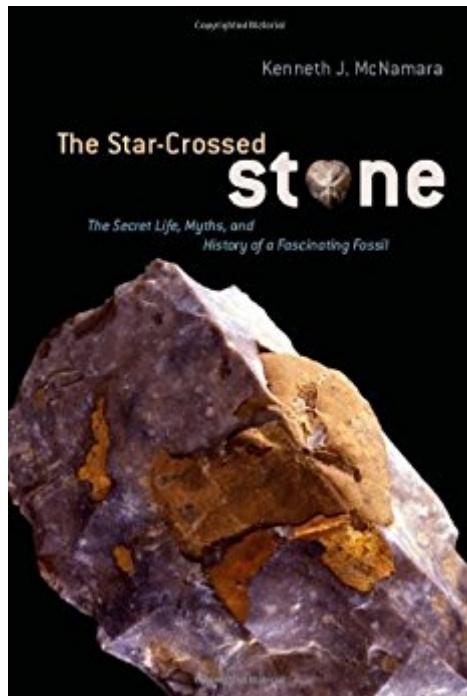


The book was found

# The Star-Crossed Stone: The Secret Life, Myths, And History Of A Fascinating Fossil



## **Synopsis**

Throughout the four hundred thousand years that humanity has been collecting fossils, sea urchin fossils, or echinoids, have continually been among the most prized, from the Paleolithic era, when they decorated flint axes, to today, when paleobiologists study them for clues to the earth's history. In *The Star-Crossed Stone*, Kenneth J. McNamara, an expert on fossil echinoids, takes readers on an incredible fossil hunt, with stops in history, paleontology, folklore, mythology, art, religion, and much more. Beginning with prehistoric times, when urchin fossils were used as jewelry, McNamara reveals how the fossil crept into the religious and cultural lives of societies around the world—the roots of the familiar five-pointed star, for example, can be traced to the pattern found on urchins. But McNamara's vision is even broader than that: using our knowledge of early habits of fossil collecting, he explores the evolution of the human mind itself, drawing striking conclusions about humanity's earliest appreciation of beauty and the first stirrings of artistic expression. Along the way, the fossil becomes a nexus through which we meet brilliant eccentrics and visionary archaeologists and develop new insights into topics as seemingly disparate as hieroglyphics, Beowulf, and even church organs. An idiosyncratic celebration of science, nature, and human ingenuity, *The Star-Crossed Stone* is as charming and unforgettable as the fossil at its heart.

## **Book Information**

File Size: 3578 KB

Print Length: 280 pages

Publisher: University of Chicago Press (November 15, 2010)

Publication Date: November 15, 2010

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B004EBOUZM

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #2,179,535 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #48 in Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Paleontology > Paleozoology #128 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Science > Biological Sciences > Animals > Fossils #316

## Customer Reviews

Fascinating book...at first I thought it would focus on the fossil echinoid, but it draws in archaeology, history of religions and more to make a compelling read. The visual image for star, a five pointed shape, isn't really what a "real" star looks like, and the argument for the origins lying with echinoderms is interesting. Also uncanny how many fossils were buried with young women and children, more than a little eerie thinking about what it all meant to people then. I would highly recommend!

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Star-Crossed Stone: The Secret Life, Myths, and History of a Fascinating Fossil GREEK MYTHOLOGY: Greek Gods Of Ancient Greece And Other Greek Myths - Discovering Greek History & Mythology - 3rd Edition - With Pics (Greece, Greek, Egyptian ... Greek History, Mythology, Myths Book 1) Written in Stone: Evolution, the Fossil Record, and Our Place in Nature Star Trek: Voyages of Imagination: The Star Trek Fiction Companion: The "Star Trek" Fiction Companion Star Wars: Star Wars Character Description Guide (A New Hope) (Star Wars Character Encyclopedia Book 1) Star Wars Galaxy Tiles: A Star Wars Supplement (Star Wars Accessory) Star Wars Miniatures Ultimate Missions: Clone Strike: A Star Wars Miniatures Game Product (Star Wars Miniatures Product) Star Wars Jedi Academy: A Star Wars Miniatures Booster Expansion (Star Wars Miniatures Product) The Myths and Religion of the Incas: An illustrated encyclopedia of the gods, myths and legends of the Incas, Paracas, Nasca, Moche, Wari, Chimu and ... 240 fine art illustrations and photographs It Began with a Stone: A History of Geology from the Stone Age to the Age of Plate Tectonics Primal Myths: Creation Myths Around the World I Have Crossed an Ocean: Selected Poems Boundary Crossed (Boundary Magic Book 1) Alex Crossed Must Die!: A Parody of the Alex Cross Novels by James Patterson Crossed (Matched) Crossed (Matched, Book 2) Building Fences of Wood, Stone, Metal, & Plants: Making Fence with Wood, Metal, Stone and Living Plants Blood and Stone (The Alastair Stone Chronicles Book 6) F. G. A. Stone: Leaving No Stone Unturned: Pathways in Organometallic Chemistry (Profiles, Pathways, and Dreams) Designing From The Stone: Design Techniques for Bezel Setting in Metal Clay Using the Stone as Inspiration

[Dmca](#)