

THE HOLE IN THE BONE



J. THOMAS BROWN

He opened his pouch and pulled out the bone, turning it over in his hand. How many times had he walked the earth before? What was the extent of its power? How many worlds were there yet to be explored? Being Tok Ma, he realized, was the key to understanding; thoughts just get in the way. - Chapter Five: Sorcerer

Fantasy filled with adventure along the Old Silk Road in the Land of Fruits and Melons.

Nick Taylor is caught in a sand storm in the Taklamakan Desert and stumbles upon the tomb of an ancient shaman who holds out to him a magic bone that transports those who look through to other lives and worlds. Nick looks through the hole and emerges in ancient Xinjiang, incarnated as Tok Ma, an elder of Shamadù. He endures physical hardships and fights mythological demons in the Kunlun Mountains to find Fenghuang, the all-knowing simurgh. The simurgh reveals that Lord Xie Pu will die and feast on the souls of his people for eternity in the hallows of the Kunlun. Tok Ma must save them but will fail in his mission. He will be given a second chance to succeed in another life as Nick Taylor.

Reviews

M. K. Mollman. Writer. Five stars. "... a very good read. The jumps through time and space were done well. Just a short explanation about how and then back to the story."

Nureyan Zunong. Native of Urumqi. "The book is very interesting, not your usual Xinjiang topic book. I like fantasy, time traveling sort of stories so I enjoyed it very much. Reading the story made me home sick."

John Maxwell. Author, chef, and Virginia television personality. "Good story. Wonderful characters and great scenery."

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About the Author

J. Thomas Brown's fiction has appeared in *The Zoo Fence*, *The Scarlet Leaf Review*, and *Everywhere Stories: Short Fiction From a Small Planet, Volume III*. He is a contributor to the *River City Poetry Anthology: Lingering in the Margins*. His novel, *The Land of Three Houses*, was released in March of 2018.