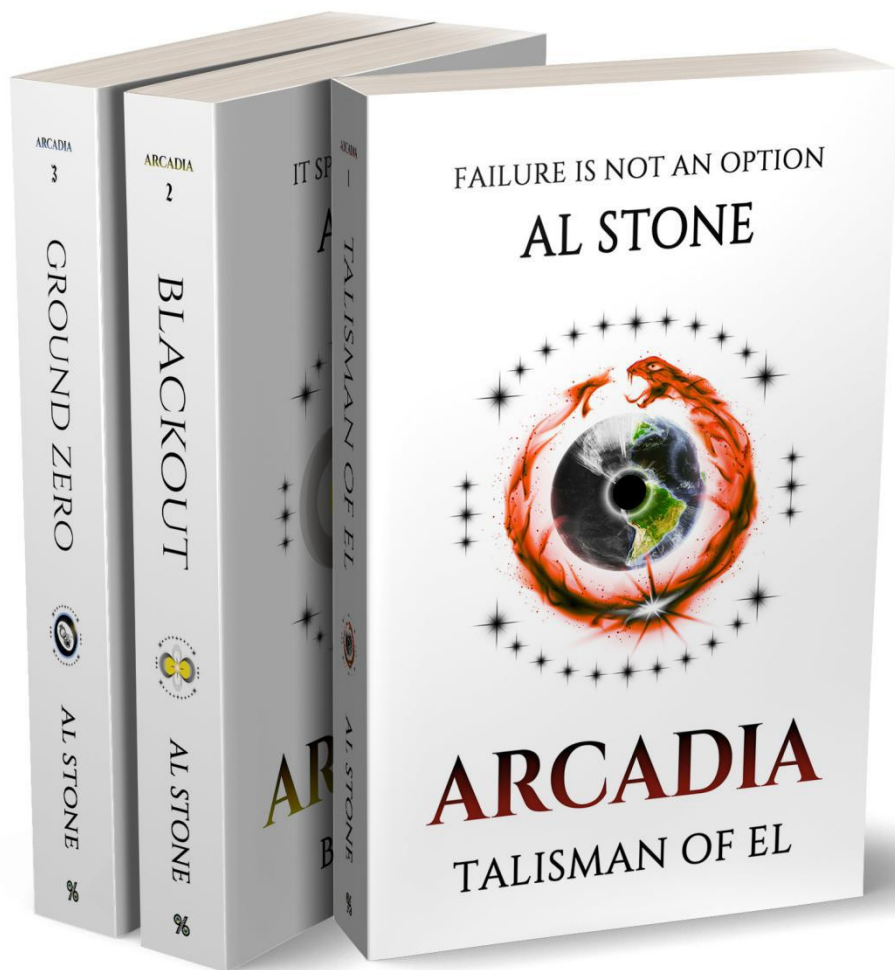


AL STONE

ARCADIA



They have always been here...
Watching in silence.
Now both worlds are about to collide.

Media Kit for Al Stone

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Al Stone is the author of the Arcadia Saga, a young adult fantasy series set in the United Kingdom. After graduating with a BA in Film & Television, Al worked in the television industry for a brief period as a production runner before a disabling injury led to a pursuit in storytelling. *Talisman Of El* is Al's debut novel. The sequels *Blackout* and *Ground Zero* are currently available for from Centrinian Publishing Ltd.

At present, Al lives in England, United Kingdom.

Contact Information

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Bookbub: <https://www.bookbub.com/profile/al-stone>

Join Al Stone's Mailing List: <https://thewritestone.com/ mailing-list>

Publication History

Novels

Talisman Of El (2012, Arcadia #1, Centrinian Publishing Ltd)

Blackout (2014, Arcadia #2, Centrinian Publishing Ltd)

Ground Zero (2016, Arcadia #3, Centrinian Publishing Ltd)

FAQ

What is your work schedule like when you're writing?

I don't have a schedule. I write whenever I feel the urge to. Due to ill health, I don't have the luxury of creating much less sticking with routines, so I live my life in the moment. Whenever an idea comes to mind or a scene materialises inside my head, I just start writing. My motto: "Just write."

How long did it take you to write the books?

I started writing *Talisman Of El* in January 2010, and it took me seven months to complete the book. *Blackout* took five weeks and *Ground Zero* took twenty-one days. All three books were written in 2010. Of course those were draft versions and needed a lot of crafting and fine-tuning to get them ready for publication.

When you were young, did you ever see writing as a career or full-time profession?

I never planned on becoming an author. I wanted to make movies, but, due to an accident, a new world opened up to me, and suddenly, I was on a different path. I chose to continue down that path and ended up with a YA fantasy trilogy. Writing as a career definitely wasn't on the cards for me. It was a beautiful accident, which I like to call fate.

What is your favourite book of all time?

I have two because I can't choose between them. The first is *Peter Pan* by J.M. Barrie and the second, which is also the book that inspired me to become a writer, is *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen.

When you're not writing and reading your own books, what are you reading?

I love YA fiction, so you'll always find me reading something of that genre. I particularly enjoy paranormal stories with a hint of romance – just a hint, mind you. I'm not too big on romance books. I like books that have something for me to unravel, books that allow me to expand my imagination. I'm also a big fan of the classics such as *The Great Gatsby*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and *Wuthering Heights*.

If you were to change your genre, which one would you choose?

I'm a huge fan of psychological thrillers and suspense and would love to write in this genre one day, so this is the genre I would choose if I had to change the current genre I write in. I love writing young adult fantasy novels, but sometimes, it's nice to change things up.

Is there going to be a *Talisman Of El* movie?

I can only hope, but as of now, I have not sold the movie rights.

What advice can you offer aspiring writers?

I have only one rule when it comes to writing. Just write. If you have a passion for storytelling and have an idea in mind, just get it out. You'll feel so much better. If you want to take your writing to the next level and you're thinking about getting it published, then you have to learn the craft. Read a lot, write a lot. The thing with writing is that you can only improve. It's a one way street. The more practice you get, the better. Worry about how the story sounds and looks when you get to the editing stage. First, just write.

Have you ever experienced "Writer's Block"? Any tips you would like to share to overcome it?

Fortunately, I haven't experienced writer's block just yet. Fingers crossed it stays that way. I would say just write whatever comes to mind. Even if the idea or scene sounds ridiculous, just write it down. You can always change it and edit it later. The important thing is to just get it out of your head. If nothing comes to mind, create. Let your imagination run wild. Put your life experience or your dreams and wishes into a bowl and mix and match. Start with a sentence a day, and then move on to a paragraph, and then a page ... You get the gist. Even if you write down ten words for the day, at least you wrote something. It's only writer's block if you don't write. Start with just a single word if you have to. The story you're going to write is already in your head, so you've done the hard part. You just have to get it out of your head.

If you're still stuck trying to get that story out of your head, write about the story you already know. You know your name, where you're from, what you want ... Until you find the story you're searching for, write the story you already know by heart. You'll probably get more than you bargained for.

Do you do school and/or library visits?

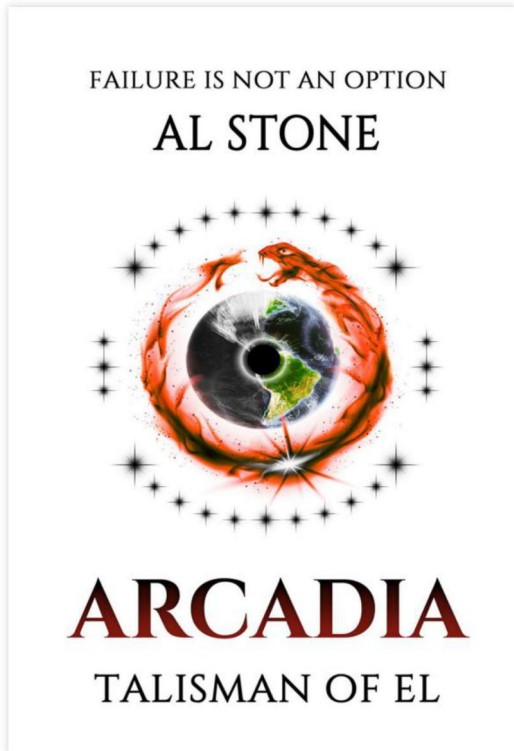
Yes, I do. I'm always happy to talk with groups of kids about books, writing and publishing. If you would like to arrange a visit, head over to my [contact page](#) and send me a message.

Lightning Round!!!

- ❖ **Texting or talking?** Talking for sure. I can barely use my fingers for writing.
- ❖ **If you couldn't be an author, you'd be...** A film-maker. Either that or a superhero.
- ❖ **Favourite Colour:** Navy Blue
- ❖ **Werewolves or vampires?** Werewolves. Sorry, Edward. Nothing personal.
- ❖ **Coffee or Tea?** I'm British. What do you think? (Oh, that's tea, by the way).
- ❖ **Virtue or sin?** A little bit of both. What can I say? I like a balanced scale.

Arcadia Saga

Books



Talisman Of El

Book 1, Arcadia

Author: Al Stone

Publisher: Centrinian

Genre: YA Fantasy

Trade Paperback / E-book

Publication Date: 12 August 2020 (first published 20 May 2012)

Publisher: Centrinian

ISBN: 978-0995494114, 368 pages

List Price: £8.99

Book Description:

WHAT IF YOUR WHOLE LIFE WAS A LIE?

One Planet.

Two Worlds.

Population: Human ... 7 billion.

Others ... unknown.

When 14-year-old Charlie Blake wakes up sweating and gasping for air in the middle of the night, he knows it is happening again. This time he witnesses a brutal murder. He's afraid to tell anyone. No one would believe him ... because it was a dream. Just like the one he had four years ago - the day before his dad died.

Charlie doesn't know why this is happening. He would give anything to have an ordinary life. The problem: he doesn't belong in the world he knows as home.

He belongs with the others.

Buy Links:

Amazon UK: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/0995494118>

Amazon US: <https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0995494118>

Barnes and Noble: <https://bit.ly/2UzrQFW>

Google Play: <https://bit.ly/38PRM8W>

Kobo: <https://bit.ly/2UuelHM>

Apple: <https://apple.co/3f7mQli>

Excerpt:

'I miss Mum too, but it's been five years. Give up before you end up killing yourself. Arcadia doesn't exist.'

His father looked at him. 'It's out there. I'm going to find it. I will bring her back.'

'Mum's dead,' Derkein snapped. 'When are you going to get that?'

'I have to go,' his father said in a calm voice. 'I'll call you when I get there.'

'Dad –'

'I'll be fine. I always am.'

'Dad, please –' An ear-piercing scream ripped through the building. Derkein froze, his eyes the only things that moved. His gaze fixed on his father, who was rummaging through his bag. He took out a black pistol and turned to Derkein, a tortured expression on his face as he placed the weapon in his son's trembling hand.

'Shoot anything that moves,' his father instructed. He placed the talisman around Derkein's neck, tucking it inside his shirt. 'Don't let it out of your sight.' Cupping Derkein's face in his hands, he made him meet his gaze. 'I'm so sorry I got you involved in this.' He grabbed another gun from the bag.

'What exactly have you got yourself into, Dad?'

His father looked at him with a solemn expression. 'If anything happens to me, you find Thomas. Tell him ... Tell him he was right.' He headed towards the door.

'Dad, wait.' Derkein went after him. 'Dad –'

The double doors burst open with a bang.

His father opened fire. 'Derkein, shoot!' he yelled.

Derkein glanced around the room in panic and confusion. He saw no one but his father. Then he felt a sharp pain in his arm, heard his shirt tear, and cried out. Something warm dribbled down his arm, and when he placed his hand on it, he saw blood. His father screamed, and he looked up and saw him flying across the room, crashing into a bookshelf that collapsed under him.

'Dad!' Derkein sprinted towards him but felt a powerful blow across his chest that sent him flying backwards, and he landed hard on the floor, his gun falling out of his hand. Staggering to his feet, he glanced around for whatever had attacked him but saw nothing. His gaze landed on his father, who was groaning ... and then he was gone. There were no bright lights or loud noise. He had just vanished.

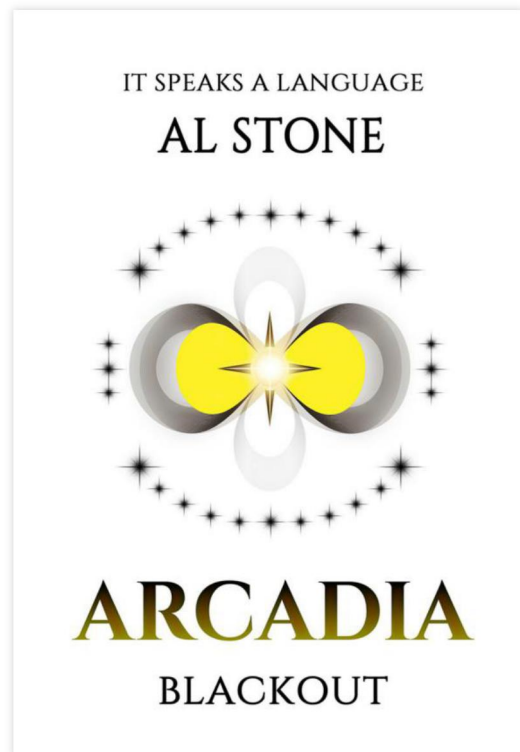
As Derkein stared wide-eyed at the spot where his father had been lying only moments before, something like a blast of electricity stunned him, and he felt an intense burning inside his chest. He let out a cry as his body lifted off the ground and hung in midair. Seconds later, he came crashing down ... (*Prologue, Talisman Of El*)

Reviews:

"Al Stone writes well and the plot has many characters and plot points. The worldbuilding is fantastically executed and the imaginative character of the story, exploring two worlds, offers an exciting adventure. Overall, *Talisman of El* is an enjoyable read, thanks to the author's handling of character and the impeccable worldbuilding." – *Ruffina Oserio, Readers' Favorite*

"All in all, if you're YA reader who likes your fantasy novel to be intricate with ingenious world-building and adventure, there should be a lot in *Talisman of El* to keep you engaged." – *Lit Amri, Readers' Favorite*

"The author explores the relationships between the protagonist and his friends and with the world around him so skillfully. *Talisman of El* is a good story; it is filled with adventure and features beautiful writing and likable characters. One of those books I will read again." – *Christian Sia, Readers' Favorite*



Blackout

Book 2, Arcadia

Author: Al Stone

Publisher: Centrinian

Genre: YA Fantasy

Trade Paperback / E-book

Publication Date: 12 August 2020 (first published 19 March 2014)

Publisher: Centrinian

ISBN: 978-0995494138, 498 pages

List Price: £11.99

Book Description:

**WHAT WAS SHALL NO LONGER BE.
WHAT WAS NOT SHALL NOW
BECOME.**

Despite having the protection of the talisman and the Legion, a reforming force of warrior angels and elementals, guarding his every move, things are not looking

good for Charlie Blake. Tasked with the responsibility of saving mankind, finding the four diamonds to restore the talisman is all he can think of, but when his prophetic visions start to invade his reality and he suddenly can't distinguish the dream world from the real world, the pending extinction of mankind becomes the least of his problems. Everyone assumes Charlie's dormant powers are activating, until he starts showing symptoms of a deadly disease.

With his nemesis, Gaddis, threatening the lives of his loved ones, he faces a race against time to locate the Stone of Raphael, the air diamond, before an imminent pandemic destroys civilization. As he ventures into dangerous lands once again, he unearths shocking revelations about his past life that forces him to question his allegiance. With no one to turn to for answers, he can't help but wonder if his purpose is truly to save mankind.

Buy Links

Amazon UK: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/0995494134>

Amazon US: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/0995494134>

Barnes and Noble: <https://bit.ly/3nvWMn3>

Google Play: <https://bit.ly/3nuHhf3>

Kobo: <https://bit.ly/36G8iFN>

Apple: <https://apple.co/2UzS4bn>

Excerpt:

'Talk to me,' Derkein said, studying Charlie with concern. 'What happened back there? What did you mean when you asked me where I was?'

Charlie hesitated, aware of Derkein's shallow breathing. 'You weren't here. I wasn't here.'

'I don't understand. When you say "here", are you referring to the forest?'

Charlie nodded. 'I was somewhere else.' He stepped away from the tree and glanced around the surroundings. 'None of this was here. I wasn't here.'

'Can you tell me where you were?'

Charlie shook his head. 'I don't know. I was in a field somewhere. There were all these people and ...' He took a breath and squeezed his eyes shut.

'And what?' When Charlie opened his eyes, he saw that Derkein's expression had turned to alarm. He sighed, not knowing if he should continue, though seeing the colour slowly draining from Derkein's face was never a good sign. Right away, he knew what Derkein was thinking, and he didn't have to tap into his abilities to figure it out. The truth was staring at him with sullen olive-green eyes.

'It felt real,' Charlie finally answered, his voice choked. 'I thought it was real.'

For a moment, neither of them said anything.

'Say it,' Charlie urged.

Derkein stepped forward. 'Charlie –'

'Don't patronise me,' Charlie snapped, backing away from Derkein. 'Don't tell me everything is going to be okay. This is not okay.'

'You're right.' Derkein's shoulders lifted and dropped as he sighed.

'Say it,' Charlie repeated. 'I know you're thinking it, so just say it.' He held his breath. He wasn't quite prepared for what he was about to hear. He knew the truth. He just wasn't ready to admit it.

When Candra had said he was going to experience drastic changes, he hadn't contemplated this one. He didn't think it was possible. It wasn't supposed to be possible. After all, he was wide awake. He wasn't dreaming.

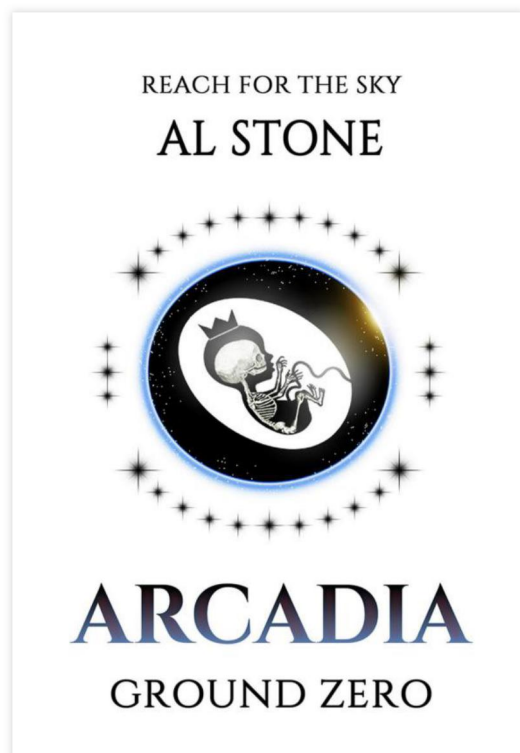
When Derkein approached him this time, he didn't back away. He couldn't move. The moment Derkein rested a hand on his shoulder, Charlie's heart raced. Every sound faded, and although he couldn't hear Derkein's voice, he could still read his lips.

'I think you had a vision, Charlie.' (*Chapter 1, Blackout*)

Reviews:

"What a great story! I couldn't put the book down! I loved the first book but this one was even better. I can't wait for book three!" – *Carol OToole, Amazon Reviewer*

"A much faster paced story line pitting Charlie and the Legion against their greatest foes. Charlie is rapidly becoming the leader he was born to be, and mixed between incredible battles with horrifying demons and dealing with antagonistic angels, he maintains his humor and finally develops a romantic relationship with Alex. Thoroughly entertaining and enjoyable, but be prepared for some sad news too." – *DGSANDERS49, Amazon Reviewer*



Ground Zero

Book 3, Arcadia

Author: Al Stone

Publisher: Centrinian

Genre: YA Fantasy

Trade Paperback / E-book

Publication Date: 12 August 2020 (first published 17 February 2016)

Publisher: Centrinian

ISBN: 978-0995494176, 656 pages

List Price: £14.99

Book Description:

IT HAPPENS EVERY 26,000 YEARS.

Only a few ever survive.

This time ...

No one will.

That is unless Charlie Blake can locate all four diamonds to restore the Talisman of El and receive his calling from the remaining three elements before the Annus Magnus strikes. With both Arcadia and the mortal world in a state of unrest, his life quickly spirals out of control as it seems everyone has put a bounty on his head. Maybe even his closest allies.

Not knowing who to trust, Charlie starts to dig up the past. When new revelations arise, he begins to question whether the Legion of Light really is what it claims to be and whether he's been fighting for the wrong side all along. The line between good and evil is no longer as clear-cut as it used to be, especially when it appears Charlie's destiny could very well be to destroy everything he loves.

Hero or villain? Charlie isn't so sure anymore.

Buy Links

Amazon UK: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/0995494177>

Amazon US: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/0995494177>

Barnes and Noble: <https://bit.ly/2H5cHcm>

Google Play: <https://bit.ly/36HC0Kn>

Kobo: <https://bit.ly/36GdLMP>

Apple: <https://apple.co/3lHcKu4>

Excerpt:

George brought his hand up to his face and touched his nose. 'You're bleeding.'

Panicked, Charlie touched his upper lip and felt the warm liquid. He pulled his hand back and saw blood on his fingers.

'Should I get someone -?' George began.

'No, it's fine,' Charlie cut in. 'It's nothing. It happens sometimes when I pass out. I'm good.' He grabbed the hem of his vest and brought it up to his nose, holding it

there. ‘No need to bother anyone. They’re used to it.’ He stared at George, waiting for him to leave the room. ‘Seriously, I’m fine.’

George didn’t budge.

Charlie was about to politely ask him to leave when he spotted someone walking past his room that made his blood run cold. Without a second thought, he dashed out of the room, halting in the passage a few seconds later, staring after the barefoot man in the bright blue shorts, who was heading away from him. Although the man had his back to him, Charlie would recognise him anywhere.

‘Dad?’ he muttered under his breath, his heart skipping a beat.

Joseph Blake shot a fleeting glance behind him, waving Charlie forward as he made his way along the corridor. In a dazed state, Charlie followed his dad. Before he knew it, he was standing in a different passage, staring at his dad, who was standing in front of a closed door.

Joseph looked at him. There was something in the way his dad was staring at him that made him nervous. He knew the look all too well. It took Charlie a few seconds to realise he was standing in water. He glanced down at his feet, spinning in a circle as he observed the running water that extended along the entire length of the passage. When he turned back around, his dad was gone.

He hurried along the passage, splashing through the ankle-deep water, and stopped at the door his dad had been standing in front of only moments ago. Water was pouring out from under the door. He grabbed hold of the handle and pushed the door open.

A wave of cool, fresh air hit him.

Charlie sucked in a shocked breath at the sight before him. He was staring at an endless body of water, the blinding sun high in the clear blue sky.

Feeling pressure around his legs, he looked down and saw that the water was now up to his knees. He looked left and right and saw a deserted shoreline behind him.

Charlie looked back at the ocean. While the watchtower held many rooms, he couldn’t recall ever stumbling upon a gateway that led to a beach. ‘This can’t be good,’ he muttered.

‘Be not afraid, my child,’ said a familiar voice behind him. The moment he felt a hand on his shoulder, arms wrapping around his torso, every muscle in his body tautened. (*Chapter 1, Ground Zero*)

Reviews:

“A great ending to this series of good versus evil. Overall I found *Ground Zero* enjoyable and feel those who love fantasy will enjoy it as well.” – *Sheri, Amazon Reviewer*

Arcadia Saga Links:

Website: <https://thearcadiasaga.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/thearcadiasaga>