

Stone and a Hard Place (Alastair Stone Chronicles, #1) By R.L. King **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** I've read worse books 9780692394670 It's hard enough for Alastair Stone to keep his two lives—powerful mage and mundane Occult Studies professor—separate without an old friend asking him to take on a new apprentice. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** The story was like rolling a giant boulder up a slight incline only to have it reach the apex of the hill and then have it leave you behind as it roared down the decline on the otherside. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** You'll need to practice to build up your magic strength is about as in depth as it goes despite the main character taking on an apprentice a trope that is generally used to explain how magic works in the author's world. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** He's a little out of practice with combat skills as one rarely needs them in modern times but when he discovers an unknown demonic force trapped in the basement of an old woman's mansion he has to brush up on them quickly. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** Do these not-classically-trained mages have the power and knowledge to control such a powerful entity though or will their overconfidence and inexperience let the beast out and endanger the whole world? And will Stone find out what his apprentice is up to before it's too late? The novel is a little different to many in the genre because though it never drags it starts fairly slowly in terms of action. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** Craft wise the story was well-structured and handled expertly the character's vulnerabilities making it always unsure of the outcome and the relationship between stone and his girlfriend added another layer of interest. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** Though these things picked up by an editor would not be noticed by most readers that and the fact that the story didn't quite make the leap to 'awesome' for me prevented me from giving it 5 stars. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** I was predicting the story would end the way I thought it would about a third of the way in and lo and behold so it was written! The characters are your stock standard stereotypes with little to define them. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** Granted his actions don't kickstart the villain's plot but they sure as hell help that bastard along! Ethan is the character we always see in horror movies who does all the dumb shit we yell at the screen for. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** You could make the argument that he is hormonal emotional and not in his right mind but given that every step of the way his actions propel the plot forward it literally falls on his shoulders to be the dumbarse. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** I'm not looking for something to set the world on fire but can we please at least get something to doesn't aim for mediocre and hits that hurdle with aplomb? 9780692394670 Stone and a Hard Place (Alastair Stone Chronicles Book One) by R. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** During one of their recent rituals the spirit/demon from the aunt's house is able to contact them to help him escape from the spell that has kept him bound to the aunt's house for many years. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** From there the story is basically a rush to the finish -- who will prevail? What will happen to the elderly aunt and her housekeeper the friend the apprentice The Three and Stone? Who else will be affected by the ordeal? Lots of action subplots twists and turns on the way to the end. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** In the beginning I felt the author did more telling and not enough showing but as I said earlier I evidently either got used to it or he got better at showing because I became thoroughly invested in the book the characters and the storyline. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** Did it smell like a decomposing body? Did it smell like offal? Did it smell like spoiled food? What does foul-smelling mean? I mean foul-smelling is different things to different people. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** So were these nicks deep enough to bleed (as blood is often used in rituals)? Were they in a specific pattern? How many were there? I wanted to see them in my mind and there just wasn't enough information. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** He has a nice knack for description when he wants to use it and a flair for language as is shown at 2219 in describing a mage historian who had a strong interest in the black arts: . **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** She also freelances for Catalyst Game Labs publisher of the popular roleplaying game Shadowrun where shes contributed fiction and game material to numerous sourcebooks and one full length adventure On the Run which was included as part of the 2012 Origins Award winning Runners Toolkit. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** She also freelances for Catalyst Game

Labs publisher of the popular roleplaying game Shadowrun where she's contributed fiction and game material to numerous sourcebooks and one full length adventure On the Run which was included as part of the 2012 Origins Award winning Runners' Toolkit. I will not be getting any of the others in the series: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** The characters were annoying and weak and predictable Wasn't impressed 9780692394670 3. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** Especially after a university colleague wants him to investigate a massive old house for things that go bump in the night. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** Still.

## **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf**

Professor Alistair Stone is a powerful mage teaching occult studies to mundane (non magical folk) students: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** When he takes on Ethan a young mage as a favour to one of his mage colleagues and friends Dr Stone embarks on a journey of self discovery as much as Ethan, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** The character of Alistair Stone was reasonable I liked his personality and methodical approach to teaching. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** He was suitably eccentric enough to keep things interesting but stable enough to appear reliable: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** Ethan is meant to be 18 but the way he conducts himself especially in relation to women is more fitting for a 15 or 16 year old boy, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** Bordering on TSTL (Too Stupid To Live) his character was so flimsy he almost doubled as a tool the real characters used to advance the plot. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** All his internal debating with himself over what to tell Dr Stone and what not to was quite boring and rather immature and annoying, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** The start of the story spent a lot time introducing the world and magic rules: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** It was done by way of educating Ethan but it allowed for the reader to get a solid understanding. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** It felt a little longer and a little slower than I'd have liked but I could see it served a purpose: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** The ending of the story was a completely different matter all together: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** The ending scenes were fast almost too fast and considering the light style of writing quite dark and sinister: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** The ending left me feeling like it was more of an anti-climax than a climax: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** The unanswered plot threads left to dangle in the smoke and haze intending to lure you onto reading the next book, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** While the main story plot was completed these smaller threads were left unanswered almost like a tiny little hook: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** The story was interesting and engaging the writing style mostly light and extremely easy to read: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** has a solid grasp on good English and uses those skills to keep the reader interested in the story. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** If you'd like to try an urban fantasy story with some sinister dark elements give this book a try, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** I will be reading book #2 at some point in the future for sure: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** **\*\*Note: I was provided an electronic copy of the book in return for an honest review\*\*** 9780692394670 This book is awful, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** I bought it because it was only \$2 on Amazon and I want a refund, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** If you're looking for a cool new urban fantasy world to explore with an intriguing magic system then you won't find it here: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** The magic is bland and vague Imagine this complex symbol i drew on a chalkboard then put your will into it. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** The narrative also jumps between four points of view in the first two chapters and not in a good way: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** 9780692394670 Awesome Indies Book Awards is pleased to include STONE AND A HARD PLACE (Alastair Stone Chronicles #1) by R: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** KING in the library of Awesome Indies' Badge of Approvalrecipients: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** Original Awesome Indies' Assessment (4 stars):King has written a quality book here one worthy of any publisher and it deserves to do well, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** Those who like urban fantasy will probably enjoy it

because it delivers everything one comes to expect from the genre. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** Alastair Stone is an Occult Studies professor and unknown to the mundane world also a powerful mage, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** His new teenage apprentice complicates matters when he's seduced by a selfish dark mage who with her team of two men wants the 'demon' for their own use: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** However taking its time allows a greater depth of character development than is usually seen in the genre, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** By the time things start to hot up I was fully invested in Dr Stone who I related to as a very real person: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** I had a good idea of his weaknesses and his strengths and I liked the guy: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** The warring factions of the boy's desires and conscience made an interesting tension, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** ' But in fiction the easy way does not make the best story and this is undoubtedly a good story, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** The prose flowed well and was generally well constructed however a few too many very bland sentences spoiled it for me. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** Most of these began with 'It was' or 'He was' or something similar. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** Given the quality of the rest of the prose these seemed somewhat lazy: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** This is because having read a great deal of urban fantasy I would have liked to have seen it stretch the boundaries of that genre more. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** Perhaps the author will be a little more adventurous with the next book. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** I'd be very interested in reading it and I have no qualms about recommending this one to fans of the genre or anyone interested in dipping into it: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** I stuck with it Stone figures it's an easy job: just turn up put on a little show and announce that the house is clean, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** A malevolent spirit is reawakening in the basement imprisoned between dimensions and intent on escape. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** Worse a trio of dark mages want to help it break free so they can control it for their own sinister purposes, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** They'll do whatever it takes—including seducing Stone's young apprentice and using him against his master—to get what they're after, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** With time running out Stone has to stay alive long enough to uncover the spirit's secrets: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** But even if he does he fears that his own power won't be enough to send it back. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** Stone and a Hard Place (Alastair Stone Chronicles #1) Rounding up from 2, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** Harry Dresden was my intro to Urban Fantasy and this was no Dresden, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** Lately have been looking for filler until the next Dresden novel so I gave this a try: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** The main character Alastair Stone was an interesting character who I hope develops more in future books: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** The story itself was a good intro to a new series and I am starting the next right now, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** The reviews for the follow up books get better so looking forward to the next installment: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** 9780692394670 Alternate Title: Hormonal Teenager Fucks Everything Up Ok to be fair this book is not bad, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** It hits all the right notes of your typical Urban Fantasy book and what it does it accomplishes okay, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** L King is trying to create although I have to wonder if the magic system was cribbed wholesale from Star Wars: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** Seriously White Magic/Black Magic is described almost word for word like Light/Dark side force powers work, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** The story itself is your typical haunted house shtick with the protagonist investigating what is effectively a haunting by a trapped entity somewhere in the house: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** Along the way Stone has to contend with a coven of Black Mages who want to fuck shit up simply because they're prats: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** It has all the usual highs and lows of a book of this caliber with nothing that really stands out about it: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** Stone himself is kind of a bland character with nothing really that defines him other than being British pip-pip tally ho tea and crumpets and all that shit, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** It's actually kind of silly when you've got characters

describing him as eccentric only for him never act eccentric: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** In fact a lot of the narrative is built around the King telling us what's going on in Stone's head not actually having him say it, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** The villains meanwhile are your typical pretty arrogant douchebags who treat magic like drugs addicts treat coke and I never really gave two shits about them, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** Given the type of short sighted morons they were of course it was going to fail. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** For starters this kid has got to be the DUMBEST character I've seen in a story for quite some time. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** We never see him interact much with his mother so there's no emotional connection when she inevitably snuffs it from plot-related illness: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** On top of that his entire arc feels like the episodes from Season 6 of Buffy when Willow gets addicted to magic: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** Replace the word magic with Cocaine and you've got a Very Special Episode about the dangers of addiction. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** KingFirst let me say that I received this book free for my Kindle not from Amazon but from the author through a service called I think BookFunnel, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** It seemed an interesting idea and the author was also offering a novella in the series free with it, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** Never one to turn down a deal I jumped at both the opportunity to get a free book and novella and the opportunity to learn a new way to load books onto my Kindle: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** I will admit to having some early concerns which I'll set out in a bit: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** However either I got used to the style or it improved -- I'm really not sure which -- as about 1/3 of the way through the book I was fully invested in the story: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** So here we go!Alastair Stone is a mage who works as professor of occult studies at Stanford University in California, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** He is English having come to America to take the Stanford position. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** He is described in the book as one of the most powerful practicing mages: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** I don't remember if his age is given specifically in the book but he seems to be 30-something, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** A friend of his from back home in England has asked him to take on an apprentice a young man of 18 who lost his father also a mage at a young age. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** His mother not magic in any way is terminally ill with cancer: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** The friend had agreed to take the young man as an apprentice in England when he came of age but the young man Ethan is reluctant to leave his mother: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** Almost none of Stone's friends know that he is a mage and in fact often tease him about his spooky area of study, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** One of those friends has an elderly aunt who lives in a mansion in the area and has recently been feeling a bit uneasy about things going on in the house: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** The friend asks Stone if he won't visit the aunt do a bogus search of the house and assure the aunt that there is no ghost or evil spirit lurking around. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** Stone agrees but when he goes to the house taking Ethan along as part of his magical studies he finds that there is indeed something supernatural stirring in the house, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** The plot is complicated by three young self-trained mages who have banded together to increase their power and who practice black magic. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** They agree but plan to then imprison the demon and use his power to fuel their own exploits, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** The demon asks them for information on both Stone and Ethan, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** One of The Three as they refer to themselves is a girl and she sets out to seduce Ethan and gain his cooperation in learning what Stone plans to do. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** I didn't really see any accidental misspellings or grammar or syntax errors, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** For instance at 994 there are about three instances where I would have liked more information so that I could smell the smells hear the sounds see the wounds:: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** When the circle was complete the candles were lit and the foul-smelling incense was burning: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** I would have like to know why the incense was foul smelling,

**Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** I love the smell of patchouli but I have a friend that hates it, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** Again what exactly is an eerie instrumental metal tune? I wanted to hear it in my mind not wonder what it might be. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** Oliver pulled a small knife from his pocket and waved it over the brazier then used it to make small nicks in both of his palms: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** Another thing that bothered me was the author's use of the abbreviation p'raps for perhaps when Stone is speaking. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** I think he may have done this in an attempt to lend an English accent to the character but if so he failed miserably, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** I never read anything Stone said as anything other than straight California American, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** So those are the things that irked me and they did cost the author a star. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** Believable circumstances whether one already believes in magic or even if one does not: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** A solid plot that unrolls itself seamlessly leading you ever onward into the story. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** as far as Stone could tell content to merely collect information and hoard it like a dragon sitting on a pile of gold: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** So the bottom line is that once I got past the first 1/3 of the book I became thoroughly enchanted with the world of Alastair Stone, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** I'll probably read the novella next as it is already on my Kindle but I'll check out the other three novels in the series too, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** 9780692394670 I enjoyed this book and was pleasantly surprised by some of the plot decisions the author made. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** The main character is interesting and flawed in a good way. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** It's gritty and dark and the author takes risks that pay off: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** For a first book in a series it does a great job of introducing the characters the world and the magical paradigm, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** Czarnecki was excellent able to do a variety of male and female voices so well that I wasn't thrown out of the story: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** 9780692394670 I did not like this book perhaps if I enjoyed Lovecraft and more things on the horror spectrum I would, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** It started bleak and dreary and ended a bit bleaker and a bit drearier. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** King is the author of the bestselling urban fantasy series The Alastair Stone Chronicles, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** When not doing her best to make life difficult for her characters she works as a software technical writer for a large Silicon Valley database company, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** Her first novel in the Shadowrun universe Borrowed Time was published in Spring 2015: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** Shes working on her second Shadowrun novel Veiled Extraction which will be released in late 2016 or early R: **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** King is the author of the bestselling urban fantasy series The Alastair Stone Chronicles, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** When not doing her best to make life difficult for her characters she works as a software technical writer for a large Silicon Valley database company, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** Her first novel in the Shadowrun universe Borrowed Time was published in Spring 2015. **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** She's working on her second Shadowrun novel Veiled Extraction which will be released in late 2016 or early 2017, **Deadlands stone and a hard place pdf** When not writing or working she enjoys hanging out with her very understanding spouse and her small herd of cats and watching way too much Doctor Who[1]

Hoping it would get better.5 □ Not bad but the magic system needs work. it was a bit predictable too but it was a fun read.Ethan is a completely different matter. Daring the reader to take a bite out of book #2. R.L. The writing is subpar and the content bland. Don't bother with this one.L.Dr.Ethan the apprentice was also well portrayed. I found myself saying 'No no don't do it. 4 stars. 9780692394670 Very difficult to finish. It was a struggle and aggravating. Only it isn't. If it succeeds countless people will die.5 stars (somewhere between was ok and liked it). His apprentice Ethan I really disliked. Too dependent and just did not fit into the story well. There's nothing overly creative about the universe R.In fact so much of this story is boilerplate. Miss King please remember show don't

tell. Of course their plan was going to fail. And then we come to Ethan our protagonist's erstwhile apprentice. OH ETHAN!!! Have I got some words to say about you. As it is his sidestory is not even that interesting. They are written that hamfistedly it's not bloody funny. Now like I said the book isn't bad. L. Not married but with a steady girlfriend. They live in the Stanford area. Stone reluctantly agrees. Good editing and proofing. So it's sweet-smelling to me; foul-smelling to her. Let me smell the incense!. An eerie instrumental metal tune wafted over the attic. And in the next paragraph:. He hand it to Miguel who did the same thing. Show don't tell. However there was a lot to like. Good characters that developed well as the book went on. The author obviously has done his magical research. Also the author's grammar and vocabulary are strong. I listened to the audiobook. The narrator Kevin R. He brought the story to life for me. I won't be continuing this series.

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