



The Land of Elyon #1: The Dark Hills Divide

By Patrick Carman

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An extraordinary debut weaving magic and heroism into a classic tale of good and evil, featuring a heroine you'll never forget. Inquisitive twelve-year-old Alexa Daley is spending another summer in the walled town of Bridewell. This year, she is set on solving the mystery of what lies beyond the walls. Legend says the walls were built to keep out an unnamed evil that lurks in the forests and The Dark Hills. But what exactly is it that the townspeople are so afraid of? As Alexa begins to unravel the truth, pushing beyond the protective barrier she's lived behind all her life, she discovers a strange and ancient enchantment -- and exposes a danger that could destroy everything she holds dear.

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The Land of Elyon #1: The Dark Hills Divide By Patrick Carman Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Elyon is a land of dark hills, enchanted forests, and great walls that connect and encircle the cities of Lathbury, Turlock, Lunenburg, and Bridewell like spokes in a wagon wheel. On her annual summer trips to Bridewell with her father, the mayor of Lathbury, Alexa Daley spends much of her time dreaming of escape. Having lived within the walls all of her 12 years, she wants nothing more than to explore the uncharted wilderness beyond. But, the walls are heavily guarded, and frightening legends suggest that forests and hills are no place for a child--especially a young girl. When a mysterious conversation and an unfortunate accident put Alexa within reach of a way outside the wall, she must decide--heed the warnings of her elders, or satisfy her curiosity and unravel the mysteries of Elyon.

Told from the perspective of its smart, brave, and adventurous heroine, *The Dark Hills Divide* invites readers on a spectacular and mysterious quest that will appeal to boys, girls, and fans of both fiction and fantasy. Patrick Carman is a natural storyteller, and his delightful debut is full of mysterious plots, hidden passageways, and all manner of dastardly, hilarious, and noble characters. Perfect for fans of J.K. Rowling, Philip Pullman, and Cornelia Funke, *The Dark Hills Divide* is so compulsively readable that kids (and their parents) will be clamoring for the second book in the proposed trilogy, *Beyond the Valley of Thorns*, due in 2005. --Daphne Durham

Amazon.com Exclusive Content

Welcome to the Land of Elyon: Meet the Characters

Alexa Daley



The daughter of the mayor of Lathbury, Alexa is a curious, strong-willed, courageous twelve-year-old who acquires a stone of great power, and investigates and uncovers a terrible secret.

Yipes



The mysterious little man (not more than 2 feet tall) of the old mountain who befriends Alexa Daley on her journey outside the wall. Yipes introduces her to Darius, setting her on an amazing adventure.

Darius



An enormous wolf with a mysterious past, Darius is tasked with escorting Alexa to a meeting in the forest, and taking her to the dark tunnel where a secret is revealed.

Pervis Kotcher



Pervis, the crafty head of the guards in Bridewell, protects the city from the evil dangers he is convinced lurk outside the walls. He is a man with many secrets, great ambition, and a strong dislike for Alexa.

Sam and Pepper



Sam and Pepper live in the library, and curl up with Alexa while she reads and naps in her favorite chair. Alexa soon learns that these cuddly cats are not what they seem--they hide secrets of their own.

Thomas Warvold



The architect and founder of the walled cities, Warvold was an adventurous wanderer who traveled far and wide in the Land of Elyon.

From School Library Journal

Grade 6-9—A mythical kingdom consisting of several walled cities and their access roads forms the backdrop for this initial title in a series by Patrick Carman. Alexa Daley, age 12, is visiting one of the towns with her father for a summer conclave of leaders. While walking with one of the eldest leaders, famous for erecting the walls to protect the region from outside threats, he dies mysteriously. Curious about what lies beyond the walls and unsatisfied with the explanations of why the wall is needed, Alexa takes a silver key from his hand, feeling sure he intended her to find it. Narrator Aasne Vigesaa clearly portrays Alexa's thoughtful, inquisitive nature and unsettled feelings that all is not well in her enclave. The fantasy develops as Alexa meets and learns to communicate with intelligent animals and a tiny man. The threats to her community's way of life develop dramatically as she must find the traitor in their midst and guard against the outside forces. Vigesaa's excellent use of pace, pitch, and tone help differentiate each character, including the talking animals. The

CDs use a disk number and musical starting cue as well as a repetition of the last line from the previous disk to help listeners keep track of their place. This fantasy will appeal to middle school students and fans of Tamora Pierce's *Circle of Magic* series.—*Jane P. Fenn, Corning-Painted Post West High School, NY*
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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 4-6. In the first book of the Land of Elyon trilogy, which was originally self-published in 2003 and became a sensation in the Pacific Northwest, 12-year-old Alexa Daley makes the annual trip with her father, the mayor of Lathbury, to Bridewell. She has always longed to see outside the wall surrounding the town, which had been built years earlier to keep out an unnamed evil. Indeed, Alexa does unravel mysteries outside the wall, which include a destructive threat to her world, as she discovers the magical power that is part of her destiny. Readers will easily identify with intrepid Alex, who tells her own story, and her tale is simple and exciting enough to appeal to both the usual fantasy crowd and children who may not otherwise be genre readers. *Sally Estes*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Alex Jose:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important take action, like looking for your favorite e-book and reading a guide. Beside you can solve your trouble; you can add your knowledge by the e-book entitled The Land of Elyon #1: The Dark Hills Divide. Try to make book The Land of Elyon #1: The Dark Hills Divide as your friend. It means that it can for being your friend when you really feel alone and beside regarding course make you smarter than previously. Yeah, it is very fortuned for you. The book makes you considerably more confidence because you can know every little thing by the book. So , let us make new experience and also knowledge with this book.

Latashia Bartlett:

This book untitled The Land of Elyon #1: The Dark Hills Divide to be one of several books that will best seller in this year, honestly, that is because when you read this e-book you can get a lot of benefit in it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book retail store or you can order it through online. The publisher in this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more easily to read this book, since you can read this book in your Touch screen phone. So there is no reason to you personally to past this guide from your list.

Solange Smith:

Reading a book tends to be new life style in this particular era globalization. With reading you can get a lot of information that will give you benefit in your life. Along with book everyone in this world can share their idea. Books can also inspire a lot of people. Many author can inspire their reader with their story or their experience. Not only the story that share in the guides. But also they write about the ability about something that you need example. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your young ones, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors on earth always try to improve their ability in writing, they also doing some analysis before they write with their book. One of them is this The Land of Elyon #1: The

Dark Hills Divide.

Terry McConnell:

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