



## The Land of Elyon #1: The Dark Hills Divide

By Patrick Carman

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

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:

#### **Luke Palmieri:**

Throughout other case, little men and women like to read book The Land of Elyon #1: The Dark Hills Divide. You can choose the best book if you love reading a book. Provided that we know about how is important the book The Land of Elyon #1: The Dark Hills Divide. You can add expertise and of course you can around the world by way of a book. Absolutely right, due to the fact from book you can learn everything! From your country until eventually foreign or abroad you will be known. About simple matter until wonderful thing you can know that. In this era, we can easily open a book or even searching by internet gadget. It is called e-book. You should use it when you feel weary to go to the library. Let's read.

#### **Tracy Laflamme:**

Book is definitely written, printed, or outlined for everything. You can realize everything you want by a guide. Book has a different type. As we know that book is important thing to bring us around the world. Adjacent to that you can your reading proficiency was fluently. A e-book The Land of Elyon #1: The Dark Hills Divide will make you to end up being smarter. You can feel more confidence if you can know about every thing. But some of you think in which open or reading a new book make you bored. It's not make you fun. Why they could be thought like that? Have you looking for best book or suited book with you?

#### **Preston Garza:**

The Land of Elyon #1: The Dark Hills Divide can be one of your nice books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this e-book has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort to get every word into delight arrangement in writing The Land of Elyon #1: The Dark Hills Divide but doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource information that maybe you can be considered one of it. This great information may drawn you into brand-

new stage of crucial contemplating.

**Rebecca Farley:**

What is your hobby? Have you heard that question when you got learners? We believe that that issue was given by teacher to the students. Many kinds of hobby, Everyone has different hobby. Therefore you know that little person like reading or as reading become their hobby. You need to know that reading is very important in addition to book as to be the thing. Book is important thing to add you knowledge, except your own personal teacher or lecturer. You discover good news or update concerning something by book. Amount types of books that can you go onto be your object. One of them is this The Land of Elyon #1: The Dark Hills Divide.

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