



Summary notes on Book 2
Beyond the Valley of the Thorns



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– Story Summary: Beyond the Valley of the Thorns –

A year has passed since Alexa's fateful adventure with the animals and Alexa has returned for another summer at Renny Lodge. Her father, James Daley, had taken away her silver key and her green Jocasta stone had lost its magical powers. But Yipes reached Alexa through the tunnel that leads to the secret door in the library. He delivered a letter from Thomas Warvold, who had faked his death, instructing Alexa (now 13) to travel over to the Dark Hills to the Valley of Thorns. He also had a second envelope with a message for her father (James Daley) that said Alexa needed to retrieve something from a cave in the Dark Hills.

Alexa and Yipes were joined on their journey by Odessa (the wolf), Squire (the red hawk), Murphy (the squirrel), and a former convict named John Christopher. Together they helped Alexa find the last Jocasta, which had a special orange glow. Along the way, they escaped a massive black swarm of bats and learned that Warvold's wife, Renny, had been carried off by Victor Grindall, the ruler of Castalia, who held her prisoner and demanded that she disclose the location of the last Jocasta. They also learned that Grindall and his army of Seraphs (giants) had fallen under the evil spell of Abbadon. And Abbadon had turned the giants into an army of vicious ogres to gain possession of the last Jocasta and control of The Land of Elyon.

The group also learned that only one of the Seraphs, Armon, had eluded Abbadon's infectious swarm of black bats. Armon, Elyon's appointed guardian of the Jocasta stones and the only remaining good giant would carry them across the deadly Valley of Thorns in his satchel, into the land of Castalia.



There they discovered two packs of dogs living in The City of Dogs, an old dumping ground. The two pack leaders, Piggott and Scroggs, agreed to help them fight Grindall and his army of ogres. With the help of a rebellious Castalian villager named Balmoral, they formed their own army and defeated all but a few of the ogres. Then, it was discovered that both Renny and Thomas Warvold were being kept in the dungeons of the Dark Tower.

When Murphy, Yipes and Alexa tried to save Renny, Grindall knocked Yipes to the ground and demanded that Alexa hand over the last Jocasta. As Alexa held the gemstone out to him, Murphy bit Grindall's leg and Squire snatched the Jocasta and flew out the window. As the Dark Tower began to shake and crumble, Grindall and a his ogres leaped into the water below taking Yipes as their prisoner. Grindall then threatened that if Alexa was not in Bridewell with the last Jocasta in three days, he would kill Yipes. Fortunately, Armon, Alexa and Murphy managed to free Renny and Thomas before the whole tower came crashing down.

Thomas then led Alexa to the edge of the cliff where she scaled down a rope that seemed to disappear into the thick clouds below. Powerful waves crashed against the rocks where a ship was hidden in a cave. The story ends as Roland Warvold, Thomas's brother, took the group (including Balmoral) on his ship, the *Warwick Beacon*, to sail The Lonely Sea to rescue Yipes.

– The main characters and locations in Beyond the Valley of the Thorns –

Alexa Daley –
Now 13 years old.

Thomas Warvold & Catherine (Renny) Warvold –
Thomas Warvold and his wife, the real parents of Nicholas Warvold and Alexa Daley. (Originally Catherine, she changed her name to Renny).

Yipes –
This mysterious mountain man is Alexa's loyal companion on her journey beyond the Bridewell walls. His connection to the magic of Elyon guides Alexa through her amazing adventure.

John Christopher –
A former convict who joins Alexa in her new quest in Beyond the Valley of The Thorns.

Balmoral –
Alexa's compatriot and leader of the rebellion against the ogres in Castalia. (His wife is Julia and they have a daughter).

Grindall –
The madman leader of Castalia, he is the leader of his vicious army of ogres.

James Daley & Laura Daley –
Alexa's foster parents, Laura is Catherine Warvold's sister.

Thomas Warvold –
A great explorer of The Land of Elyon and the visionary leader.

Renny Warvold/Catherine –
Thomas Warvold's wife, mother of Nicholas Warvold and Alexa. She changed her name to Catherine to protect her identity.

Abbadon & Swarm of Black Bats –
The Seraph (giant) who used his evil powers and his infected swarm of black bats to infect Castalia leader Grindall with evil and turn his army of 98 Seraphs into an vicious ogres.

Armon The Giant –
Elyon's designated guardian of the Jocasta stones and the only remaining good giant to escape Grindall's evil spell that turned all the Seraph (giants) into vicious ogres.

Piggott & Scroggs –
The two pack leaders in the City of Dogs who joined forces with John Christopher and Alexa to defeat the Grindall and his army ogres in Castalia.

Elyon –

The creator of The Land of Elyon and Alexa's guiding voice.

Other Characters:

Odessa (wolf, Darius' wife) • Murphy (squirrel) • Squire (red hawk) •

Locations:

Bridewell / Renny Lodge Library / Secret Tunnel / The Dark Hills / Valley of The Thorns /
Mt. Norwood / Mt. Lathem / The Clock Tower / Dark Tower / City of Dogs / Castalia