



Afternoon of the Elves (Novel)

By Janet Taylor Lisle

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Will Hillary uncover the secret of the elf village in Sara-Kate's backyard?

No fourth grader trusts Sara-Kate Connolly. Her boots are dirty, her clothes are weird, and she's so maladjusted that the school had to hold her back a grade. But Hillary is her next-door neighbor, and can't say no when the unusual loner invites her over to play. In Sara-Kate's overgrown backyard, Hillary will find proof of a world of magic—the kind that can only blossom between true friends.

Among the rusted car parts and wild plants, a miniature village has sprung up. It has tiny houses made from string, sticks, and maple leaves; a well with a bottlecap for a bucket; and even a little playground with a Popsicle-stick Ferris wheel. But there's absolutely no sign of who built this miniature world. To Sara-Kate, the answer is clear—only elves could be responsible for something so enchanted. As she and Hillary watch for their elusive new friends, they learn that friendship, like magic, springs up where you least expect it.

This ebook features a personal history by Janet Taylor Lisle including rare images and never-before-seen documents from the author's own collection.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

This enchanting story about friendship reveals the beauty, wonder and mystery that lies within the imagination. With rare talent, Lisle (*Sirens and Spies* , *The Great Dimpole Oak*) conveys a girl's vision of magic and truth through a montage of surreal images. Sara-Kate, the poorest, least reputable girl in school, invites Hillary home to see what the village elves have built in her yard. Among the overgrown weeds and piles of rubbish, Hillary discovers an incredible landscape filled with miniature houses. During the next few weeks, the girls work together to create their own additions to the village. Hoping to catch a glimpse of the tiny inhabitants, Hillary becomes more aware of her surroundings and eventually gains insight about her new friend. Then Hillary's mother learns about Sara-Kate's decrepit house and the girl's ailing mother, who lives upstairs. Sara-Kate is sent away to relatives in Kansas, her mother is placed in an institution, and only the village remains. Ultimately, the book suggests that friendship is as eternal as magic--even after Sara-Kate has left, her presence is still felt. Ages 9-11.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 4-6-- A fascinating portrayal of a manipulative yet touching friendship. Nine-year-old Hillary lives in comfortable suburbia with her parents. In the house behind lives tough, independent Sara-Kate. Her father's gone, her sick mother hides, she dresses like an urchin, and is despised and mocked at school. However, Hillary stumbles on Sara-Kate's secret; she tends a tiny village in her weed-filled back yard, a village where she says elves live. Hillary is fascinated, and in helping her neighbor maintain the village, gradually becomes closer to Sara-Kate despite her school friends' disdain and parental disapproval. She starts not only to believe in elves, but also to wonder if Sara-Kate is not one herself. The ambiguous clues as to whether Sara-Kate is really an elf or just a disturbed child are so well wrought that readers will be as uncertain as Hillary. The children's emotions and behavior are believable and authentic, depicted clearly without over-explaining, especially Hillary's inner conflict. Lisle captures the subtlety of childhood feelings and perceptions, while maintaining a language and style accessible to average readers. Hillary grows from a bland follower to someone who knows that it is she, ultimately, who must make up her mind, despite the opinions of those around her, and perhaps become a little like all that was good in Sara-Kate herself. --Annette Curtis Klause, Montgomery County Department of Public Libraries, MD

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Review

"This enchanting story about friendship reveals the beauty, wonder and mystery that lies within the imagination." —*Publishers Weekly*

"A fascinating portrayal of a manipulative yet touching friendship." —*School Library Journal*

"A remarkable, perceptive book to share aloud or savor alone." —*Kirkus Reviews*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Terrance Hutchins:

What do you think about book? It is just for students as they are still students or the idea for all people in the world, what best subject for that? Merely you can be answered for that question above. Every person has diverse personality and hobby for every single other. Don't to be pushed someone or something that they don't wish do that. You must know how great in addition to important the book Afternoon of the Elves (Novel). All type of book are you able to see on many solutions. You can look for the internet solutions or other social media.

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