



The Hero's Lot

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With the King Near Death, Will the Kingdom Fall?

When Sarin Valon, the corrupt and dangerous church leader, flees the city of Erinon and the kingdom, Errol Stone believes his troubles have at last ended. But he and his friends still have dangerous enemies working against them in secrets and whispers.

In a bid to keep them from the axe, Archbenefice Canon sends Martin and Luis to Errol's home village, Callowford, to discover what makes him so important to the kingdom, and in that journey they discover amazing new secrets about the workings of Aurae.

Back in Erinon, Errol is unjustly accused of consorting with spirits. Convicted, his punishment is a journey to the enemy kingdom of Merakh, where he must find Sarin Valon and kill him. To enforce their sentence, the church leaders place Errol under a compulsion--he must complete his task, or die trying.

The Hero's Lot Details

Date : Published July 1st 2013 by Bethany House Publishers

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Author : Patrick W. Carr

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From Reader Review The Hero's Lot for online ebook

Lisa Johnson says

Title: The Hero's Lot

Author: Patrick W. Carr

Pages: 448

Year: 2013

Publisher: Bethany House

A few months ago, I read and reviewed Patrick W. Carr's debut novel, A Cast of Stones, and I wrote, "[I]f the sequels are as good as the first book, then Carr is on his way to an outstanding writing career." Well, I just finished reading an advanced reading copy of Carr's second book in the series, and I can honestly say that I have not changed my mind.

The Hero's Lot picks up where A Cast of Stones ends. Errol Stone, now a trained fighter and a member of the nobility, is compelled to go on a quest to find and kill a dangerous enemy to the kingdom—Sarin Valon—a traitor possessed by evil. The problem of fulfilling his mission is that the traitor is deep within a neighboring land that plans to invade the kingdom upon the impending death of the king. Earl Stone must face many dangers along his journey, but he is not alone as his companions vow to protect and aid him on his quest. To complicate matters, Errol's true love—Princess Adora—has followed him after running away from the arrogant lord that her uncle, the king, promised her to in marriage.

Errol and his some of his companions find themselves followed by domestic enemies as well as thwarted by Valon's agents throughout the journey. Errol must learn who he can trust and who his friends are, some of whom he finds in unlikely places. He learns that he plays an essential role in the kingdom's survival, but he realizes that either he or the young man that seems destined to be the next king will die. He assumes that it is he who must die and resigns himself to that fate, but renewed hope and the will to live, for the woman he loves, gives him the strength needed to survive and escape captivity and death at the hands of the enemies that fear him.

Errol fulfills his mission and escapes, but on the way home, he and his friends realize that the king is dead. The story ends leaving readers wondering what is next in store for Errol and the kingdom as war is about to commence. Can he live up to his destiny? Will the rightful successor be placed on the throne? Or will enemies from within and from outside the kingdom prevail?

Patrick W. Carr's second novel is even more exciting than the first as Errol's story continues to unfold. The characters are interesting and believable as more of who they are is revealed. They are flawed, but they grow into better people as they make the nearly impossible journey. The settings are reminiscent of the real world of historical cultural although Carr's novel takes place in kingdoms and lands of his creation. Carr uses his characters and the world that he has created to allegorically explore the world we live in from historical and spiritual aspects as well as similarities in what is happening in the current timeline. The human condition is shown from introspective viewpoints along with the realization that individuals all have a part to play in the important events that affect thousands, even millions, of lives. I look forward to the third novel in the series. My rating is 5 stars.

Note: I received a complimentary copy for an honest review of this book. The opinions shared in this review are solely my responsibility. Other reviews can be read at <http://seekingwithallyurheart.blogspot.com>.... Also follow me on Twitter @lcjohnson1988

rodger reece says

I was whisked off my feet by this book!

Jeff says

This series has come out of nowhere to be a big favorite of mine. It continues to be a fairly traditional fantasy story, with a few twists. As I've said before, being 'traditional' is not a negative for me. I love a good story done well, and that is exactly what Carr has done here. If you thought Errol was put through the ringer (i.e. met with a lot of bad circumstances) in book 1, just wait until you read this second book. His character continues to grow and evolve, despite the continued bad circumstances. How he deals with these situations, and grows with them is one of my favorite parts of the book. Errol is quickly becoming one of my favorite characters in the last several years, in any book/series. He is that good.

Overall, this was another emotionally draining, excellent addition to The Staff & The Sword series. If you are a fan of the Riyria series by Michael Sullivan, you NEED to read these. Just about everything you liked about those books, you will find here. This series truly deserves a wider audience.

Terri Rochenski says

I've been dying for this book since I gobbled up the first, A Cast of Stones, back in January. You can find my 5 star review [HERE](#).

In book one we were introduced to Errol Stone, a young village drunk, who as typically in fantasy stories goes on to be some one of great importance to the kingdom. I'm not a fan of giving plot points away in reviews, so I'll just say that Mr. Carr wove the story in a fresh, new way that had me clicking away on my kindle until 'The End'. Couldn't get enough of his character, of the young man's plight, and his flight across the country.

In The Hero's Lot, Mr. Carr once again takes the reader into a well thought out world, one full of intrigue and details to create and roll a movie though the mind. Without fluff or purple prose, Errol's country comes alive. The characters are consistent and more than one tugs on the heart strings.

On occasion, fantasy sequels bring about one problem after another in order to make up a series, often feeling forced. Not so with The Staff and the Sword! Book two is a perfect continuation of the conflict from book one. There is a natural progression that is pleasing and comfortable for someone as nitpicky as I am.

In The Hero's Lot, the focus is on two journeys, and I have to be honest and say that Errol's took a back seat to Martin's, the priest, for me. The emotions Martin deals with, the choices he is confronted with moved me much more than Errol's. Yes, our MC is once more facing danger and death, but *spoiler alert is a must here* an element of romance is brought in that fell flat and felt forced for me. There is zero emotional development between the two – nix that. There is some on the female's side, but we're not given enough insight into Errol's thoughts concerning her beyond his confusion. I've never met a male as clueless as our Errol, and for me that's a big believability issue, which you all know I'm a total stickler for.

For that reason, book two started out slow for me. Yes, I was interested, but I had no problem putting down my kindle when I got tired. Just wasn't as compelling as book one until about the $\frac{3}{4}$ mark. THEN we got rolling. The problem is, is that once that climactic moment hit, there were a lot of scenes that were summed up – told in a way that lowered the tension. When a group of people are escaping death, I want to taste and feel their fear for as long as possible.

Now it could be that some scenes were skimmed over in order to keep the word count at a decent number, but I would have enjoyed this book much more had the first half been skimmed and what should have been heart-pounding ending drawn out until I sweated.

All that being said (can we tell I was woken up early this morning and only had $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of coffee??) I really did enjoy this book. It is complex, well thought out, and well worth the read.

Will I read book three? I heard Mr. Carr has finished writing it, but it won't be available soon enough in my opinion. Can't wait.

Allison says

The Hero's Lot is a case of the second book in the trilogy exceeding the first. From page one, the action is non-stop and the pacing is just right. The learning and growth of the characters are sprinkled in just enough to keep me invested where pure action wouldn't.

I don't know why there's a big focus on this being a Christian Fantasy. I actually think it would be appreciated by a wider audience, and I'm glad I stumbled on the first book through NetGalley.

It's not a very obvious or simple allegory as some in this category are, and is hardly recognizable as our Medieval Christian past. I feel as if I'm reading about another, well-developed world with its own history and religion. Other than the priests and a sort of Trinity, one of whom is a son who saved humanity at some point, it's not recognizably Christian either. (Well, it's more obvious now that I think about it, but it wasn't while I was reading.) I would say the worldview has its inspiration there, but the story is a great adventure with some thoughtful and noble characters who really know what they're doing with a sword or a staff.

The first book set up the world, the magic of lots, and the characters, and now they begin to live. Corruption in the church has the upper hand for now, but in spite of the odds being against him, Errol's hopeless journey is one of discovery. Beliefs are challenged, what is known is proven false, and even the priests question their own prejudices and assumptions.

Beyond that, there are sword fights and whirling staffs, and demon-possessed monsters giving chase. This was solidly an adventure more than political or religious intrigue. As a second book, it increased the complexity and tension of the conflict that's coming instead of getting bogged down. The ending left me eager to find out what happens next. All hell is going to break loose - literally, I think. I can't wait to see how it plays out.

Melanie says

The Hero's Lot is the second installment in The Staff and The Sword trilogy by Patrick W. Carr. After being pleasantly surprised by the first book, A Cast of Stones, I was looking forward to starting this one and am glad to say it was also good.

I liked how we learned a lot more about Errol in this story and some of it was surprising. I liked the fighting scenes, as they were intense and grabbed your attention. There were a few sections that I didn't find as interesting (basically the ones that didn't involve Errol), but the ending made up for that as I LOVED the way it ended. It was a great ending and one that leaves me anxious to finish the trilogy as soon as I can.

If you like fantasy novels I think you will enjoy The Hero's Lot.

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Aj Hult says

What can I say that hasn't already been said?

I loved, and I mean loved, this book.

Lately there have been too many sequels that have fallen flat in their storytelling because of the rush to create a trilogy. Trilogy's are wonderful things when there is a story to tell...especially when non stop action and character development fill those books.

Mr. Carr's second book, Hero's Lot, in no way fell short in this trilogy. In fact, it took this trilogy to a new level in both action, character development and reader emotion. (I add reader emotions because I found myself slamming my kindle down and shouting "WHAT?!?! NO!!!!" at a certain and specific scene. Those of you who read it...well...you should know of which I speak.)

I forced myself to read this book as slowly as possible, but half way through gave up and read to simply enjoy the journey. To say that when I found out the third book doesn't come out until Feb, broke my heart...well...that really was not an understatement. (I am now in the process of appealing to this author to let me have a sneak peak before I die of anticipation!)

PS...I also want to just quickly say how impressed I am with this author and his writing style. To think that Cast of Stones was this Authors first novel is mind blowing to me.

Well...Tootles!

Kristin says

This is book #2 in the Staff and the Sword series by Patrick Carr.

I really enjoyed A Cast of Stones and I had such high hopes for this book but I just wasn't feeling it.

I hate saying that because the author is such a friendly and cool guy—participating on facebook and interacting with fans. I still admire that and I will still be picking up book three when it comes out!

I have to be honest though and say that I just didn't connect with this book. I felt it hit a lull in parts and the story didn't pick up until the last six chapters or so. Once the story picked up I felt that it was a bit rushed. I just felt a little bored and I have to be honest no matter how much I appreciate and enjoy the author. Truth is, you're not going to like every single book by any author. So please don't let my review scare you off from this fantastic writer.

Errol is under a compulsion and is off on his next adventure. At this point in time he's went from a sorry drunk to the hero in the grand scheme of things—that doesn't mean that people like him or trust him.

I have to admit, I skimmed a good bit because I felt bored but there's a love interest for Errol and I thought she was a bit—dull. I'm not sure why I found the love interest to be so boring but I literally had to yawn whenever he fawned and drooled over her so I won't spend much time hitting on that aspect of the story.

Martin is off having an adventure of his own—I have to admit that jumping between the story lines was another bit of contention for me. I wanted to read about one or the other and just as I started to be interested it would change views. I don't remember multiple views in the first book but it just annoyed me in this one.

Overall—it's a solid three star. I would like to have seen a rich development on Errol and a bit of the intensity and drama that was apparent in the last chapters of the book.

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Christian Fiction Addiction says

Patrick W. Carr returns in fine form with the second book in "The Staff and The Sword" series. The pages are alive with action-packed scenes, stirring drama, and a splash of romance too! Carr has done a masterful job at continuing to develop the character of Errol, a character that inspires loyalty with his painful past and the manner in which he continues to grow and succeed over insurmountable odds. "The Hero's Lot" adds a lot to the series, providing many answers to what is going on in the Kingdom, and hinting at who Errol really is and the future role he will play in determining the fate of the kingdom. The supporting cast of characters continue to be fantastic as well, and I am eager to find out how they will all fare in the third book in the series. The book is quite lengthy, but I felt that the overall pace of the story kept moving along quite well. I do wish that the book included a map of all of the different locations that the characters visit as I would like to clearly visualize who was going where in the story. However, the book is filled with vivid descriptions that allowed me to create the world in my mind...and perhaps that's how the author prefers it!

I continue to enjoy how the story captures the essence of faith, and the parallels to the Holy Spirit and his interaction in the lives of the people in the story particularly interested me. Despite being a fantasy fiction novel, the scenes that I read stirred my faith as well, and I am confident that readers will find a lot to relate to in the midst of this imaginative story.

I strongly recommend this fine addition to the fantasy fiction genre, and award it 4 out of 5 stars.

Book has been provided courtesy of Baker Publishing Group and Graf-Martin Communications, Inc. Available at your favourite bookseller from Bethany, a division of Baker Publishing Group.

Janelle says

Even better than book one. So glad I have a copy of the third book so I can continue with this story.

Pam Funke says

I received a complimentary copy of this book from NetGalley for the purpose of review. The review is my honest opinion and I was not paid for this service.

The author gives us another great story with the continuation of Errol's journey in *The Hero's Lot*. The author continues to entertain the reader and draw them into the world of Errol. I was definitely not disappointed with this next book in Carr's *The Staff* and *The Sword* series. Carr is a wonderful storyteller with a creative imagination. This story is full of action and twists and turns to keep the reader glued to the book. This is one series that is hard to put down.

I recommend this book for anyone who wants to read a good medieval times story.

Jane says

The Hero's Lot is the second book in Patrick W. Carr's *The Staff & The Sword* series. I enjoyed *A Cast of Stones*, the first book in the series. I found it engaging.

The Hero's Lot was not as good. I struggled to finish it. It was much less interesting than the first. The characters were not very distinct, and new ones were introduced, and I had a hard time keeping them apart. (It doesn't help that they sometimes have more than one name, like Rale/Elar Indomiel.) I also found the vocabulary of the fantasy world getting in the way as there were words whose meaning I just couldn't remember. I could have used both a glossary and a cast of characters in the back of the book.

I also felt that the book became much more religious. This series is published by Bethany House, a Christian publisher, but I didn't find the religion heavy handed in the first book. Occasional plot twists were quite eye-rolling, and the narrative lost focus at times. The romance between main character Errol and Princess Adora felt utterly unoriginal.

The last 75 pages or so returned to the level of the first book, but it was a long slog to get to them (the book is 437 pages long). Still, those final pages renewed my interest enough that I will try the third book, *A Draw of Kings*.

Ariana Pedigo says

I've said it once- to the author in fact- this book is simply scrumdiddlyumptious! My previous experience with the first novel in the Staff and the Sword series, A Cast of Stones, left me breathless from excitement, not to mention praising Deas for Patrick W. Carr and his adventurous series. (Read my full review for "A Cast of Stones" Here):<http://www.goodreads.com/review/show/...>

The Hero's Lot, starts off just as mysterious as "A Cast of Stones", each chapter is filled with such exuberance, and the characters, are just as fantastic as before! (view spoiler) One of the lines I particularly enjoyed, was- "Her mouth set. "I've already lost one man I loved tonight. I will not lose the other." She glared at him. "And curse you, you stone head, for making me say it first."

With a book like "The Hero's Lot" on your bookshelf you will not be bored.

We begin with Earl Errol Stone, is summoned before the Judica, and is put under compulsion to go and (view spoiler) While Marten, Luis and Cruke head in the opposite direction, returning their attentions to Callowford. On their journey there, they meet a new character Karele who probably is my new favorite, he is a horsemaster. Errol teams up with an enemy from the first book, and we are rejoined by the defrocked priest Conger. We are delighted once more with Rohka's presence, and Rale's...(Rale who was a fantastic character in the first book is even cooler in the second book.) Though, not as fascinating as Marten in this novel, I think Marten had a lot more interesting characteristics in this book than the first.

While each party is sent in different directions they are destined to meet once more to finish in the second novel, together. From there I really don't have to continue...the summoning just paralyzes the heart, and suddenly your own mind cannot translate the words on the page fast enough for the brain, because you want to know how the story ends as quickly as possible! Our heroes go from one dangerous spot to another, so close to the brink of war, with Rodran in declining health. This book will take you on a crazy and wild ride, the plot twists and is filled with unexpected surprises! I would say this novel is an absolute and profoundly delighting gyre!

(view spoiler)

There is a really, really, amazing scene in this book which will blow you away! When Marten is in the Shadow Lands, I was terrified, and I did have nails at one time or another but sadly they're all gone now. The Blood Rose, is a very emotional and beautiful part in the book, "To die before marrying anyone else", is a beautiful and very poetic thing for Patrick W. Carr to add to this series.

This book is a brilliant anywhere and everywhere book to read, you don't actually think about sitting down and reading the book, your mind just guides you to the chair and your hands know where you last stopped, and you never notice how time slips away, or that you lost feeling to your feet two hours past. There is a good mixture of laughs, love, and adventure.

The Hero's Lot, is a must read for any fantasy lover, and like I said before, if you aren't a lover of Christian Fiction that is no problem, the Biblical messages are strong, but not overbearing. The action, adventure and romance is fantastic, it is superb for most any age to enjoy. It does include some violence, but with books they are only as gruesome as our imaginations make them. This book, is destined to please.

Athelas Hale says

I knew when I started this book last night that I wouldn't sleep. I stayed up way too late reading, and then started again as soon as I could in the morning; the highest praise I can give a book.

Lydia Redwine says

My actual rating for this book is 4.5, but I've rounded it up to 5 because *consistency*. It makes my eyeballs feel good.

This rating means I have more issues with this second installment of *The Staff and Sword* trilogy, but it is also the second book in my favorite trilogy of all time so obviously I loved it for plenty of reasons!

Some issues though:

- I'm going to try not to *scream* but this book seriously **100000%** needs a map. **A MAP**. There are soooo many places in this book and a map representing where they are in relation to each other as well as with details of mountains and water sources would make the reading experience far better. *sighs deeply*
- I've said before that I appreciate this series for having adult characters for reasons other than to just killing them off, making them utter idiots, or making them evil, and this installment has one of these characters with his own pov. Which I really really liked except for the fact that **I don't really like the guy**. So yes, **Martin**. He's an interesting, realistic character, yes, but I don't care for him much or relate to him. More on that below...
- There are **ALOT of inconsistencies** with the magic of casting lots and the compulsions which I won't go into much. I didn't really notice them until they were blatantly pointed out to me but now leaves me feeling rather irked. The compulsions I may be able to understand because perhaps it works different with different people but even this is never mentioned on the book.
- Although my love for Rokah is infinite, there is one aspect about her character in this book that I disliked. Rokah's idea of how women should be treated is rather twisted. She advocates mind games to Errol when he's pursuing Adora by claiming that Adora won't want him if she believes Errol doesn't want her while Errol believes at first that if you want someone you're suppose to honor and respect them. So yes, I love that Errol believes that and doesn't follow Rokah's advice but **STILL**. Rokah may enjoy mind games herself (which is fine), but her pushing them onto Errol rather annoyed me. It all plays up to the "nice guys finish last" persona that I quite frankly despise and the fact that the author has implemented the idea from the **FEMALE** character irks me. Had a male character in competition with Errol for Adora been the one I would have better accepted it even if it were extremely cliche.
- The **romance is very much based on infatuation** and not *real* love between Errol and Adora. Yes, the kissing scenes are great (ya'll know about my love for a well written kiss) BUT Adora seems to get angry with Errol too quickly, and Errol at many times seems completely unconcerned for her welfare. So do I ship it? In this book, not really.

- There is absolutely **no diversity** when it comes to religion. Zero. Okay...there are some minor characters who are more diverse but...

Every single one of the main characters acknowledges that God exists etc. etc. which I like EXCEPT for the fact that there are very very few main/supporting atheist characters. And the only reason I have an issue with this is because in real life, in a real world with many places, there are differences in religion. Yes, some religious differences are seen in this book, but there aren't any apparent characters who are straight up atheist. Even the frickin Morgols worship their horses! As for the "Christian" (except they aren't called Christians) don't really have much of a spiritual depth themselves or with Deas (God) which bugs me because why is religion so important to people but not something that the main characters actually think deeply about?? Martin has more of a relationship with Deas but I mean, he has to if he's a priest right?? I kinda feel like religion is just thrown into the story when actually it's far more prevalent in a deeper manner in the real world to even those who don't practice religion. Most people understand that religion is important, even if it isn't important to them, but that it is for others. Most people don't acknowledge religion as "simply being there" as most of the characters in this book do.

- The **writing style** while still beautiful in word choice and flow drops significantly in this book. There is **sooooo much telling and far to little showing** with scenes consisting of "this happened" and then "this happened" and the characters hardly give any reaction! This makes everyone in the story look like **a piece of cardboard** when in reality they could be so much more!

Yes, I just called my favorite characters cardboard...help (book 3 is so much better!)

As for why this book has stolen my heart...

•Imma take a moment to go back to Martin because even while I don't love him his part of the story had a lot going to for it. It had **fantastic world building**/history behind certain things in the world. It had more clarity on the religious structure of his nation. It had dangerous missions with a BIG reveal (okay...a few big reveals), and held a very exciting part of the story. Plus his lack of physical strength left a comical aspect to the story. He's a smart, loyal character who could be a favorite if I could actually relate to him.

- The character growth is wonderful, and nearly everyone has it.

Let's talk about my girls first:

•**Adora** appeared at the end of *A Cast of Stones*, and because she wasn't a huge part of the first installment I skipped over her in that review BUT HERE she plays a larger role. Adora is at first a rash, somewhat stupid, spoiled princess who makes decisions based on her infatuation for Errol rather than **ya know THE GOOD OF HER PEOPLE**. But she has some things going for her. She's independent minded, knows what she wants and is determined to get it, and is fierce and loyal. By the end of *The Hero's Lot*, we already glimpse her development and will see much more in book 3! So if you're extremely annoyed with her in this book, it will actually make you love her all the more later on!

•**Rokah is baaaaack** and that's about all of have to say since I've previously established my love for her character. I would, however, like to mention that we do see a more vulnerable side to her in this book as well as her talents in healing which weren't a huge part of book one. In this installment Rokah (and can we talk about how much I love her name???) becomes a far more vital piece of the story.

•And now for my previously mentioned darling **Errol** (Earl now) **Stone**. Still my favorite of ever even if he is kinda like cardboard in this book. We learn so much about him here!!

•Some other characters I really like come back like Cruk, Rale, and Naaman Ru whose development from to-hell-with-that-bastard to OK-You're-actually-loyal-and-awesome-now is pretty much one of my favorite things.

Some other things I liked:

•The **Compulsions**. Even with its inconsistencies, this aspect of the story turns the church from "perfect" to "it's actually kinda horrible cuz ya know...its run by HUMANS." When the church wants to force someone to do something they lay a compulsion on them which means if they do not fulfill the task set before time in a timely manner they will lose their mind and die. This is a horrible thing but makes the story interesting. And ultimately drives the plot since Errol is under compulsion to go kill Sarin Valon. Aka the evil dude.

•**Sarin Valon** is perhaps the best villain name I've ever heard of.

•Actually all the names in this book are great. People and places.

•The **ENDING** (the lasts 6 chapters or so) is the best part of the story. Hands down. The action and plot accelerates to a point that nearly saves the story from its cardboard characters. It's a really really good ending and one of the best I've read!

•**World Building** is this book's best aspect. In *A Cast of Stones*, the world building is minimal (no thanks to the absence of a map) and quite frankly, left me wanting more...which is usually good but not in that case. In THIS BOOK, however, we learn more about a kingdom threat known as the **Morgols** (if I'm even spelling that right) who live in the mountains. (It's kinda got a *Game of Thrones* vibe which IM LIVING FOR.) We also learn more of people called the **Basquons** (again idk about the spelling because I'm too lazy to go back to the book and figure it out) who have err...interesting wedding ceremonies. And finally, FINALLY we enter **Merakh** (I think spelled it right??) and boy is it interesting!

If only I had a map to show me where all of IT IS.

So all in all I have issues with the book but also a great amount of love. I would tell first time readers of this book that the read is worth it if you liked book 1. And book 3 is so much better!! (I CANT WAIT TO REVIEW IT.)

"I say bad things happen. Sometimes it's because of the choices we make, and sometimes it's because of the choices other people make, and sometimes it's just happens."