

DANDERON

By: Kimberly B.

There's a place I know of that my dear friend Alan and I created together out of the power of imagination and our knowledge of pure fantasy. It lies in the forest beyond all the fear and regret that make up the shadows of former souls. Alan is not with me anymore, he passed away from cancer and I envy him, for he left me alone in this world. Alan named the land Danderon, and I owe it to him to still visit our place.

I woke early and started for the forest "I'm going for a walk mom!" I call as the screen door shuts behind me. I don't wait for an answer, I know I have a place to be. It's a wonderland of trees above my head, creating shaped beams of light in the darkness. I walked forever, or so it seemed, until my blisters had blisters.

I arrived at Danderon just as the sky was changing from morning to early afternoon. I closed my eyes and pictured our place and it became real. I heard the music in the distance of the citizens celebrating...it seems they do every day. I could almost feel Alan's spirit with me as I stood at the beautifully crafted bridge that leads into our great kingdom, feeling his presence made my heart sink. "Alan..i wish you could see Danderon now, you'd be so proud," I whisper up to the sky.

The city consisted of ancient stone walls with weeds growing up the sides. There are several small cottages where the

citizens live surrounding a large castle, decorated with the crest of Danderon: A white rose.

The land that Danderon exists on is extraordinary, It's in the middle of a lush, green meadow with ponds fed by springs and waterfalls in the four corners of the land. Colorful wildflowers seem to explode across the meadow in vibrant colors, giving the area that "spark."

"Alex!" I heard a voice call my name and turned to find Trevor, he's a talking wolf that Alan created to protect Danderon and its citizens. We've grown much closer since Alan's death."Hey Trevor!" I try to sound as enthusiastic as him, "Come on I've got loads to show you!" he has that puppy grin of his that makes you want to melt no matter how often you see it. I can't help but smile "Okay, lead the way," but he's already scampering off before I finish my sentence.

He led me to a stable on the edge of town, by the back gates. Right away I recognize the smell of horses and it feels homey. "Wanna ride one?" Trevor asks me, "Yes!" I say quickly and he makes a laughing noise...I think, it's hard to tell with wolves.

I stroll through the stables and stop at a stall, inside stands the most beautiful creature I've ever seen, a golden stallion with a mane as white as snow and a coat like the sun. "That one" I say without hesitation.

Trevor smiles "That's Gabrielle, he's one of our best battle horses..AND he flies.." he says. "No way..." I whisper as I comb my fingers through the horse's mane.

I lead him outside and climb on bareback immediately, it feels more free that way. I grip a handful of his mane and squeeze my legs to his sides and he takes off. "Ahhaha!" my startled scream turns into a laugh that I just can't control. We soar through the skies and see God I swear to you. We fly until both our hearts are about to burst. When we hit the ground again I can't stop smiling and Trevor still has more to show me.

We walk across a bridge that goes over a crystal blue lake fed by a waterfall so perfect it's like looking in the mirror. "Where are we going?" I ask. "A secret place" Trevor says simply. When we arrive I find myself at a small spring with crisp, clear water and waterlilies surrounding the edges of the shore. There are trees shading the spring from the white sun over head, and multicolor flowers drifting on the surface of the water, one of the most simple sights I've ever seen, yet one of the best.

As the sun began to set I sit on the edge of the waterfall next to Trevor, "It was all so beautiful.." I gush. "Yeah! I can't wait until you come back next time" I wasn't looking at him but I could hear the smile in his voice. "There wont be a next time Trevor.." I finally say. "What? Why?!" he questions.

"Its just too painful to be here since Alan died.." I can feel tears forming in the back of my eyes. "Alex...Alan's spirit lives here and you guys created this place TOGETHER...do you really want to throw that away?"

He had a good point. I thought about this for a moment. Destroying Danderon is not what Alan would have wanted, he left the citizen's lives in my hands, along with the kingdom and magnificent land.

I look down into the stone walls around the city at the dots of citizens, all humanoid but mystical, gentle creatures with different colored skin from purple to light green. They are all so innocent and kind. "I guess not" I say finally.

"You guessed right Alex...now go home and get some rest, I'll see you soon" he says warily. I rise and turn towards the woods, I run my fingers through Trevor's fur as I pass, he may be silly...but he's the wisest creature I know. I close my eyes and catch a whiff of Alan's scent as Danderon fades into the sunset, hiding it from the world until next we meet. As I walk home under the orange sun, I think of Alan's last words to me: "Don't give up on them."

The end.