

The  
Portal's Choice



The Gatekeepers of Empyrean  
Book One

K. D. Pryor

# The Portal's Choice

**Book One of “The Gatekeepers of Em’pyrean” Series**

**by**

**K.D. Pryor**

## Table of Contents

Target Market .....	3
Book Summary.....	5
The Portal's Choice - Synopsis.....	6
About K.D. Pryor.....	8
Images for The Portal's Choice.....	9
Contact Information .....	10
Q & A with Author K.D. Pryor .....	11
Reader Testimonials.....	15

## Target Market

- a. Age 13 to 17 female audiences. More easily relate to Tallis as protagonist.
- b. Young Adult Fiction, Teen fiction, Young Adult Paranormal, YA fiction, YA paranormal
- c. Definite spillover into older women and men who read Young adult fiction. Also spillover into male young adult readers. Have had favorable responses from male beta readers.
- d. Print, Kindle, Nook, iBooks, Google Play
- e. Similar books:

- i. “The Mediator Series” by Meg Cabot. Book One, “Shadowlands”

**Paperback:** 304 pages

**Publisher:** HarperTeen (December 28, 2004)

**Language:** English

**ISBN-10:** 0060725117

**ISBN-13:** 978-0060725112

**Average Customer Review:** 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews \(149 customer reviews\)](#)

**Amazon Best Sellers Rank:** #342,680 in Books

**Kindle Price:** \$6.51

**Library Binding Price:** \$14.75

**Paperback Price:** \$6.85

**Audible Book Price:** \$19.95

**List Price:** \$7.99

- ii. “The Mediator Series” by Meg Cabot. Book Two, “Ninth Key”

**Paperback:** 304 pages

**Publisher:** HarperTeen (December 28, 2004)

**Language:** English

**ISBN-10:** 0060725125

**ISBN-13:** 978-0060725129

**Amazon Best Sellers Rank:** #321,526 in Books

**Kindle Price:** \$7.59

iii. "The Mediator Series" by Meg Cabot. Book Six, "Twilight"

**Mass Market Paperback:** 336 pages

**Publisher:** HarperTeen (December 27, 2005)

**Language:** English

**ISBN-10:** 0060724692

**ISBN-13:** 978-0060724696

**Amazon Best Sellers Rank:** #175,990 in Books

**List Price:** \$7.99

**Mass Market Paperback:** \$6.91

**Kindle Price:** \$6.56

**Library Binding:** \$18.40

## Book Summary

<b>Title:</b>	<b>The Portal's Choice</b>
<b>Series:</b>	Book One in <b>The Gatekeepers of Em'pyrean</b> series
<b>ISBN:</b>	978-0-9892514-0-2
<b>Author:</b>	K.D. Pryor
<b>Formats:</b>	Print and electronic (mobi, epub, PDF)
<b>Pricing:</b>	\$15.99 to \$17.99 print, \$5.99 to \$7.99 electronic
<b>Availability:</b>	Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Google Play, iBookstore
<b>Publisher:</b>	Madaket Lane Publishers
<b>Publication date:</b>	May 6, 2013
<b>Genre:</b>	Young adult
<b>Amazon Browse Categories:</b>	Young adult, Young adult fiction, Teen fiction, Young adult paranormal
<b>Barnes &amp; Noble Browse Categories:</b>	Must read for teens, fantasy and adventure

## The Portal's Choice - Synopsis

*Journal entry, just in case . . .*

*I didn't ask to meet ghosts. Shoot, I was fine without them in my life. Uncle Craig and Hannah were nasty to me, but at least I knew how to handle living pains in the butt. Now I have to figure out how to open and close a portal between the human and spirit worlds. And, I have to find and return a bunch of angry ghosts through the gateway and lock them on their side. I don't know why the portal chose me to do this, a fifteen-year-old kid with no ghost-busting experience. But it did. And if I want a ghost-free night's sleep anytime soon, I'd better figure out how to get the job done. Because I've about had it with murderous ghouls and their unpleasant agendas.*

*- Tallis Challinor*

After the death of her parents, Tallis Challinor and her brother Wyatt must move to the Midwest to live with their mother's sister and her family. When Aunt Sandra dies three-and-a-half years later, Tallis and Wyatt find themselves moving yet again, this time to New Hampshire to live with their father's sister, Aunt Gabbie, and her husband Noreis. Gabbie is young, pretty and fun. Tallis remembers being a little girl and playing with her aunt at the family home in California, before her parents died. So Tallis is excited to re-locate and reconnect with Gabbie. But what should have been a happy reunion, is plagued with problems when Noreis opens a basement portal between the spirit and human worlds.

Tallis is a practical kid. She doesn't believe that ghosts exist. But, she can't deny what she sees with her own eyes, and the two ghosts she meets at Thanksgiving in the basement of her aunt's house are definitely not figments of her imagination, although she wishes they were. Tallis is unwittingly drawn to the portal's energy when one of the ghosts fixates on her and forces her to assist in the release of three particularly nasty spirits. As a final blow, the portal chooses Tallis

as a temporary gatekeeper and she finds herself charged with the duty of returning the very ghouls she's set free, plus a few of their buddies, back to the spirit realm.

As Tallis learns the secrets of the portal and begins to understand her newly acquired power, she formulates a plan to return the ghosts. Along the way, she receives help from many new friends who fill in the details about the identities of the escaped spirits, providing a possible motive for their outrageous actions. Tallis must learn to trust herself and others as she taps into her inner courage to get the job done and save her town from the angry and restless dead set.

## About K.D. Pryor



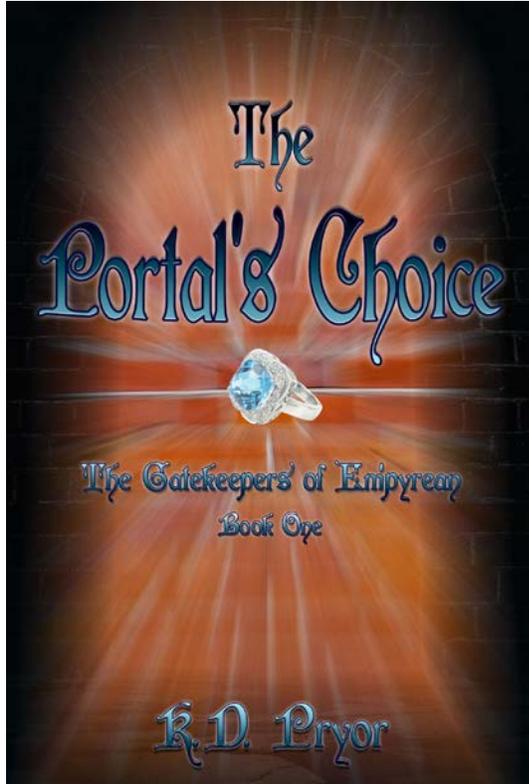
K.D. Pryor  
300 dpi



K.D. Pryor  
72 dpi

KD Pryor started life in Missouri, where she read lots of books, even sneaking them into baseball games to the irritation of her father. After college in Texas, marriage to a great guy, law school in Kansas, and the arrival of three kids, she and her family jumped on the opportunity to move to India. They lived in Bangalore, now Bengaluru, for four wonderfully chaotic years, traveling all over Asia, Australia and Europe. Now, settled in New Hampshire with her family and herd of cats (only three), she can often be found in her office, working on the next installment of *The Gatekeepers of Em'pyrean* series and dreaming of her future travel destinations.

## Images for The Portal's Choice



Bancofa

Tallis Challinor is faced with a problem that goes way beyond anything she's ever encountered. And that's saying something when you're a teenage girl in a new town. Coping with the death of her parents was hard. Surviving life with her crabby uncle Craig was horrendous. But dealing with pissed-off spirits who appear in her basement determined to make her life miserable, well that's way beyond creepy. It's even deadly.

When Porteur, the head gatekeeper for the spirit world, tells Tallis that she has been chosen to round up the spirits who escaped through the portal and send them back through the gate, she is shocked, frightened, and ultimately determined to see the task through. But chasing down angry spirits isn't a task to be taken lightly, and Tallis knows that if she fails, the consequences to the living beings she loves will be dire.

With the help of her hot neighbor, Aiden, his sister Bailey, Tallis' brother, Wyatt, and two guiding spirits, Phoebe and Sohrab, Tallis sets in motion a scheme to bring the wayward ghouls back to the gateway between the worlds. But can she get the spirits back to Bancofa before they destroy the town of Landry and all the people living in it?



K.D. PRYOR started life in Missouri, where she read lots of books, even sneaking them into baseball games, much to the irritation of her father. After college in Texas, marriage to a great guy, law school in Kansas, and the arrival of three kids, she and her family jumped at the opportunity to move to India. They lived in Bangalore, now Bengaluru, for four wonderfully chaotic years, traveling all over Asia, Australia and Europe. Now, settled in New Hampshire with her family and herd of cats (only three), she can often be found in her office, working on the next installment of The Gatekeepers of Emipyrean series and dreaming of her future travel destinations.

Madaket Lane  
Publishers



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## Q & A with Author K.D. Pryor

***Q. Tell me about yourself.***

**A.** I am a Midwestern girl who has moved a fair amount. My family now lives in New Hampshire. While I love the beauty of the mountains and the forests, I don't care for snow and cold weather. The best climate I have ever lived in was in Bangalore, India, now Bengaluru. The experience of living overseas was amazing for me, my husband, and our three kids. We experienced such diverse cultures in our daily lives and our travels. We also adopted two cats who came home with us and remain our living souvenirs of our time spent abroad. My dad often asks if the cats speak Kanada, the language of Karnataka state where we lived, or English. I think they have adapted to the American way of life, but they do have a slight accent when they meow.

***Q. Give a brief description of your book.***

**A.** The idea for my book was born on a late afternoon in June when I drove by an older house located next to an even older graveyard. For some reason, this sight caught my imagination and I knew that some kind of interaction happened between the basement of that house and the graveyard next door. At home, I brainstormed the initial idea with my husband and kids until I was fairly certain I had a young adult novel about a portal between the spirit realm and our human world. From there, the book took off. Some days, I feel that it wrote itself and I was present only as the typist.

***Q. Why did you write this book?***

**A.** I love to write. I've played with the idea of writing a novel for a decade and have two books partially completed. I finished this particular book because the story spoke to me the strongest. I named my protagonist Tallis, which in French is pronounced *Tally* with an accent at the end, on the 'i' sound. Once I had Tallis named, she was my constant companion and as she grew, so did I. It's funny, but I didn't have the book outlined completely and, in fact, many aspects of the story changed as I wrote. Ultimately, I realized that I was going to learn the next part of the story when Tallis learned what she had to do next and I, as the author, simply had to be patient.

***Q. What is your professional background?***

**A.** I graduated from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, with a degree in International and Comparative Studies. After school, I worked in the banking industry for four years in the Midwest. At that point, I decided to go to law school and attended the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas. During my last semester of law school I discovered that I was pregnant, a

wonderful realization, although it changed my plans a bit. Rather than heading to work right after graduation, I had my son Andrew. Over the next seven years, I had two more children, my daughter Shannon and one more son, Jonathon. I finally realized I wasn't going to practice law. I did earn my certification as a Yoga teacher in India, and spent a good deal of my time in workshops and with my yoga master, learning about the yogic tradition. I think that my years as a mom listening to my kids and their friends, coupled with my experiences with yoga in India and back home in the U.S., informed the writing of this book.

***Q. What did you like to read to your kids as they grew up?***

**A.** Andrew is now 20 years old, Shannon is 17, and Jonathon is 13. I loved reading children's books to them when they were small. My husband and I read to them from many different children's books as they were growing. Those days are over now. Happily, all three remain great readers and often can be found lost in a good book.

***Q. What do you like the best about your book?***

**A.** I love the essence of courage that pervades the book. I think that Tallis grows in her own self-courage as she faces many challenges, some typical for a teenager, and others quite unexpected.

***Q. How did you publish your book?***

**A.** I am very blessed to have worked with Katherine Mariaca-Sullivan at Madaket Lane Publishers to publish *The Portal's Choice*, Book One of *The Gatekeepers of Em'pyrean* series.

***Q. What do you hope readers will take away from your book?***

**A.** Again, I think this book is about courage, which, to me, is all about life. I hope my readers take away the realization that everyone has the innate courage to create the life they want. Tallis found her courage despite many obstacles and discovered that what she thought she never wanted was actually the destiny she desired. And she used her courage and the grace that she generated to take command of her life and her situation.

***Q. What kinds of books have inspired you over the years?***

Growing up, I discovered *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott. When I was 12, my family visited Boston and my parents took me to her childhood home. That was such a treat. I read *Little Women* over and over again. Talk about a book that examines the concept of courage. I also love Agatha Christie books and am fascinated by the complex puzzles she weaves into her stories. I've always enjoyed a good ghost story and Edith Wharton does those beautifully, as do many

writers from all over the world. I spent many an evening reading the *Harry Potter* series to my children. Again, the complexity of the stories and J.K. Rowling's ability to weave all the plotlines into a coherent whole fills me with wonder and appreciation. Overall, I love a novel that keeps me guessing, that isn't too pat or easy to figure out. I like suspense, some magic or otherworldly aspect, and strong characters.

***Q. What vision do you have for your book and where do you want it to take you?***

**A.** I foresee that *The Gatekeepers of Em'pyrean* series will be complete at three trilogies taking the readers and me to many different portals and displaying the courageous actions of three different gatekeepers. Right now, I'm focused on Tallis Challinor and what she is doing in the next book, *The Forgotten Gate*. I enjoy the journey of discovery with Tallis, and I look forward to solving many more ghostly problems with her and the next two gatekeepers.

***Q. What appeals to you most about your genre?***

**A.** I love the Young Adult genre because young people have so many options before them and they aren't afraid to explore. So fiction written for young adults can be adventuresome, whimsical, horrific, sweet, unexpected, otherworldly, even fantastic. I can allow my imagination to run wild and know that there will be a young adult audience that will run with me.

***Q. Books that gain popularity can often translate into other products. What potential do you see in the future of your book?***

**A.** I think *The Gatekeepers of Em'pyrean* series could easily translate into a series of movies. I also think the books could be wonderful as video games with Tallis and her cohorts working together to return unruly spirits to the Spirit Realm. Since there are many levels to the spirit realm, who knows if those spirits would go to Bancofa, or a level or two above, or would end up in Perditas or Dardanos, the realm of the lost spirits?

***Q. On a more personal note, what is your favorite dessert?***

**A.** I absolutely love Crème Brulee, although I must admit that I love chocolate from Switzerland, Germany, Belgium or France almost as much. When my husband and I had been married for about 7 years, we left our oldest son with my parents and took a trip to London. We returned with bars of chocolate from all over Europe. My husband, Jim, isn't nearly the chocolate fanatic that I am. He forgot the chocolate, but I did not. And I ate it. When the day came that Jim wanted a piece of chocolate from our trip, I had to admit that the candy was gone. He's never forgotten. Yet, he still forgets that chocolate isn't safe around me and if he wants some, he'd better get it fast.

***Q. Tell me about your ideal day.***

**A.** My ideal day would be waking up to sunshine in a totally new place and exploring my new surroundings. I love to travel, and there is almost no place on earth I wouldn't visit. On my ideal day I would sample the food, meet the people, and take a long walk in the beauty of wherever I happened to be. Some of my favorite places where I have had ideal days include Sydney, Australia, Beziers, France, London, Paris, Saint Briac sur Mer, Brittany, France, and Dunedin, on the South Island of New Zealand. I think my next ideal day should be in South America. I must plan the trip.

***Q. Tell me about the best thing to ever happen to you.***

**A.** I've had so many wonderful blessings come into my life, including meeting my husband and having my kids. But the absolute best thing that ever happened to me happened on a July evening when I typed the words "The End" at the end of *The Portal's Choice*. Finishing my first novel was my very own personal act of creation and something about which I am immensely proud.

***Q. Please provide a brief bio.***

**A.** I was born in North Kansas City, Missouri but haven't lived in the Midwest in many years. I went to college in Texas and law school in Kansas. My family consists of three kids, one husband and three cats. When I'm not writing, I love to embarrass my kids in cahoots with my husband, ride bikes with my husband when we plan how we'll pester our children, read a wonderful book (there are so many out there), and travel.

***Q. What are the titles of your next books?***

**A.** *The Portal's Choice* is the first book in a series of what will be three trilogies. I am working on the second book in *The Gatekeepers of Em'pyrean* series, which is called *The Forgotten Gate*.

## Reader Testimonials

“I felt from the beginning Tallis was a competent and caring young gal. She was likeable for her spunk and wit. . . This is a book that will open you to new ideas about the power we all have to command our lives. K.D. affirms the unique and valuable way, through focus that we are capable of more than we might believe!”

*-Lisa Jones, Adult reader*

“Tallis’ challenges and revelations added to her character and personality throughout the book. . . Tallis changed from annoying teenager to someone I liked and could relate to in the book. She asked the same questions I sometimes ask and had definite opinions and views that I loved to see change. . .I liked the battles with the ghosts and Tallis’ trips to the graveyard because they had lots of action, were interesting, and were pleasantly creepy.”

*-Ellie, Eighth Grade*

“Tallis finally realized that she wasn’t just ‘that girl with the peanut M&M’s. . .’ She was a good person who had to deal with bad things that she didn’t want. Tallis is a believable character and I did connect with her.”

*-Noah, Eighth Grade*

“I loved the book and couldn’t put it down. I also have to tell you that I didn’t read the last 5 pages first either. That is a first.”

*-Alice, Adult reader*

“I can’t say enough . . . **The Portal’s Choice** is an absolutely fantastic book! The prologue drew me right in, and the rest of the book kept my attention throughout. . . I can’t wait for the next book in the series.”

*-Diane Breton, Adult reader*