



# My America: Our Strange New Land: Elizabeth's Jamestown Colony Diary, Book One

*By Patricia Hermes*

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## **My America: Our Strange New Land: Elizabeth's Jamestown Colony Diary, Book One** By Patricia Hermes

Award-winning author Pat Hermes tells the story of Elizabeth Barker, whose family sails from Plymouth, England, to Jamestown, Virginia, in 1609. This book helps to relaunch the My America series.

In May 1607, 3 ships sailed up the James River in Virginia. In the riverbank marshes, they made land and hung the flag--England's flag--establishing the first permanent English colony in Jamestown, Virginia. In 1609, the first ship carrying women and children arrived.

After 71 days at sea, nine-year-old Elizabeth Barker is thrilled to be on dry land. Lizzie keeps a journal for Caleb, her twin brother who stayed in England because of his weak lungs. In her buoyant entries, Lizzie tells of the abundant forests, trading with and learning from the Indians, and adventures with her new friends.

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### **Editorial Review**

Review

School Library Journal--August, 2,000

"Nine-year-old Elizabeth records her experiences as she, her family, and other colonists adjust to the harsh weather conditions, illness, endless hard work, and nascent social strata in the new land. In the course of three months, Elizabeth meets Captain John Smith, Pocahontas, Gabriel Archer, and George Percy. This is a quick, easy read. Hermes has created a sensitive main character and readers will empathize with her fears and emotions as she adjusts to her new life."

--Shawn Brommer, Souther Tier Library System, Painted Post, NY

About the Author

Patricia Hermes was born in 1936 in Brooklyn, New York. An avid reader, she had time to practice both reading and writing when she came down with rheumatic fever, which left her stuck in bed for months. Hermes majored in speech and English at St. John's University, and taught junior high school English and social studies before taking time off to raise her five children. Returning to teaching after a number of years, she found it less satisfying than she'd remembered, and decided to try her hand at writing for publication. She took a class in writing nonfiction for adults; the teacher, Russell Freedman, would go on to win the Newbery Medal.

After publishing some articles, Hermes found the niche she'd been looking for: her first novel for young readers, *What If They Knew?*, was published in 1980. Hermes gave the main character in the book epilepsy, a problem she had dealt with herself as a child. Readers responded well to the believable situation, and over the years Hermes has continued to write stories featuring youngsters in difficult situations, so that readers can turn to her books knowing they are not alone. She has written more than 20 books for children and young adults.

Patricia Hermes lives in Connecticut, where she spends four hours of the day writing and the rest editing her work and answering letters. When she is not writing, she enjoys reading, running, music, traveling, horseback riding, and playing the piano.

### **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Heather Goodson:**

Information is provisions for folks to get better life, information nowadays can get by anyone from everywhere. The information can be a understanding or any news even restricted. What people must be consider if those information which is from the former life are challenging to be find than now's taking seriously which one is acceptable to believe or which one often the resource are convinced. If you obtain the unstable resource then you buy it as your main information you will have huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen throughout you if you take *My America: Our Strange New Land: Elizabeth's Jamestown Colony Diary, Book One* as your daily resource information.

**Desmond Gorman:**

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them household or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. If you wish to try to find a new activity this is look different you can read a new book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spent all day every day to reading a book. The book My America: Our Strange New Land: Elizabeth's Jamestown Colony Diary, Book One it is very good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space to create this book you can buy the e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book possesses high quality.

**Deborah Ellefson:**

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**John Ashcraft:**

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