

Pop Culture Madness!

Looking Glass Wars

by Frank Beddor

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About the Book:

A little girl named Alice tumbled down a rabbit hole and proceeded to have a charming adventure in the delightful, made-up world of Wonderland...Now discover the truth behind Alyss of Wonderland . . .

Alyss Heart, heir to the Wonderland throne, was forced to flee through the Pool of Tears after a bloody palace coup staged by the murderous Redd. Lost and alone in Victorian London, Alyss is befriended by an aspiring author to whom she tells the violent, heartbreaking story of her young life only to see it published as the nonsensical Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. Alyss had trusted Lewis Carroll to tell the truth so that someone, somewhere would find her and bring her home. But Carroll had gotten it all wrong. He even misspelled her name! If not for royal bodyguard Hatter Madigan's nonstop search to locate the lost princess, Alyss may have become just another society woman sipping tea in a too-tight corset instead of returning to Wonderland to fight Redd for her rightful place as the Queen of Hearts.

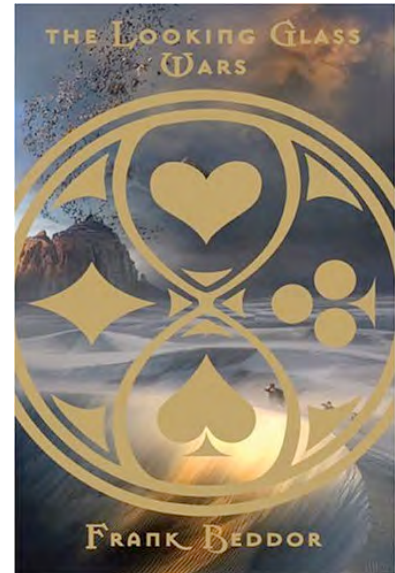
Meet the heroic, passionate, monstrous, vengeful denizens of this parallel world as they battle each other with AD-52's and orb generators, navigate the Crystal Continuum, bet on jabberwock fights and travel across the Chessboard Desert.

The Looking Glass Wars unabashedly challenges our Wonderland assumptions of mad tea parties, sleepy dormice, and a curious little blonde girl to reveal an epic battle in the endless war for Imagination.

**RELEASE OF LOOKING GLASS WARS SOUNDTRACK TO COMPLEMENT
SEPT. 26 U.S. PUBLICATION OF FRANK BEDDOR'S PROVOCATIVE,
BESTSELLING NOVEL**

**Automatic Records Album Boasts Songs From Julianna Raye Featuring
Ross Godfrey, Freeland, Hypnogaja, Phontaine, Kuba, Adham Shaikh,
Eccodek, Silence and 3xInfinity**

LOS ANGELES, Aug. X, 2006 - What would it sound like if the true story of "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" were finally told? The answer lies with the artists Frank Beddor convened to create The



Looking Glass Wars Soundtrack, the aural accompaniment to his like-titled novel (the first of a trilogy), which will be published in the U.S. Sept. 26, 2006, by Dial Books, a division of Penguin Group (USA) Inc. and Scholastic Audiobooks.

"The Looking Glass Wars" became a sensation in the U.K. when it debuted there in 2004. At long last, it revealed how Lewis Carroll, author of "Alice's Adventure in Wonderland," had willfully misrepresented the story of seven-year-old Alyss Heart, betraying the exiled princess of Wonderland by turning her painful history into a fairytale, when, in fact, it is a dark and dangerous depiction of familial treachery, thwarted love, and the despotic domination of imagination.

Issued by Automatic Records, the album incarnation of "The Looking Glass Wars" reflects both Carroll's 1865 fiction - as heard in "Burn the Clock (Burning in Wonderland Version)," from Freeland, fronted by Adam Freeland, who earned a 2006 Grammy nomination for Best Remix; "Looking Glass," by Hollywood rock outfit Hypnogaja; and the insinuating "Wonderland (Vocal Mix)," from 3xInfinity - as well as Beddor's acclaimed, bestselling "correction" of the facts.

Songs inspired by the latter include "To Another World," produced by the Audio Ninja and performed by Velvet frontman Kuba, who earned gold honors at the 2005 Canadian Music Week national songwriters competition; "Through the Looking Glass," from composer/producer/2006 Juno Award nominee (World Music Album of the Year) Adham Shaikh and vocalist/multi-instrumentalist/fire dancer Gemma Luna; "Puddles," by Phontaine featuring Gemma Luna; "Courier Heart," from Eccodek (brainchild of producer/songwriter/remixer Andrew McPherson) featuring the seductive vocals of Ambre McLean; "Mirror," courtesy of the smoldering Julianna Raye featuring Morcheeba's Ross Godfrey; Silence's grooving, glockenspiel-spiced "Deadly"; the lush guitar crunch of Hypnogaja's "Lullaby"; "Sea of Redd," rendered by Phontaine featuring the rare-groove croon of Nadia; and Silence's "Shattered," distinguished by a tense cello sample and the sneaking suspicion that we're hearing voices. Intrepid listeners may also discover an otherworldly "score" excerpt composed by Nick Young, leader of forward-looking Los Angeles rock combo A.i.

"Before I started writing 'The Looking Glass Wars,' I did a lot of research on the cultural impact of 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland,' explains Beddor, perhaps best known prior to "LGW" as a film producer whose credits include the blockbuster "Something About Mary." "I was struck by the depth and richness of the music I found. Artists from Jefferson Airplane and Bob Dylan to Tom Petty to Gwen Stefani have used imagery based on 'Alice' in their songs and videos. I wanted my Alyss to have her own music, and I wanted to expand the intellectual dimension of reading the book into a heightened sensory experience for the reader."

Beddor reached out to Canadian music supervisor Androo Mitchell, with whom he'd previously worked on a film, to help select and collaborate with the artists involved in the soundtrack project. "I was the 'live' conduit between two very creative forces, the writer of the novel and the people behind the music," Mitchell elaborates, "and did I ever get electrocuted!"

Of his primary directive to the artists, Beddor notes, "I said, 'This is what this character or this chapter means to me, but what I really want is for you to make it personal for you.'" The standout "Puddles," for instance - "This is no ordinary water/ Do not be fooled" - took shape after the author said to English electronic soundscaper Grant Baldwin (aka Phontaine) and Gemma Luna: "Imagine if everyone around you were jumping into puddles, desperately searching for the one that would take them somewhere meaningful," a reference to the Pool of Tears Alice must find if she is ever to return to Wonderland and claim her rightful place on the throne.

Comments Julianna Raye - whose music Entertainment Weekly critic Ken Tucker described as "languidly gorgeous," remarking, "[She] has the bruise of heartbreak in her blue voice": "My contribution to the soundtrack is called 'Mirror.' I was moved by Alyss' romance with [the guardsman] Dodge and began thinking about the things that separate us. We can cut ourselves off from our past and essentially become separate within ourselves. Loving someone can help you reconnect with your true, whole nature. Of course, what we believe is our 'true' self is forever changing. I thought 'The Looking Glass Wars' did a wonderful job of exploring those themes."

These songs present a kaleidoscopic view of those themes set against a sonic backdrop of trip-hop, modern rock and psychedelic sound collage. Yet, Beddor notes, "despite how diverse the songs are, the album is consistently a beautiful, haunting representation of Alyss' world and the narrative of the book."

Ultimately, though, Beddor was most concerned that each song evoke an emotional response, rather than adhere to any particular storyline. Likewise, listeners need not be familiar with "The Looking Glass Wars" to lose themselves in The Looking Glass Wars Soundtrack. Attests Beddor, "First and foremost, I told Androo that it had to work as an album, a work of art independent of the book." This is not surprising when one considers that the Beddor-penned comic series "Hatter M." - depicting the years-long search for Alyss by her indefatigable bodyguard Hatter Madigan - is popular among fans of graphic novels who have not read "The Looking Glass Wars." Beddor will concede, however, that "once people get into any part of 'The Looking Glass Wars,' they want to figure out how all the pieces fit together."

He says he was amazed during the germination of the soundtrack how the artists showed even him how some of the pieces fit together. "Music has the power to distill emotions and ideas and I saw that over and over during this process," he says. "The artists were constantly coming to me with their works-in-progress, and I'd hear a lyric or a fragment of melody that would make me feel something about one of the characters I hadn't felt before. I came to know these characters on a much deeper level, which frequently left me speechless."

Moreover, the author can't quite get over how fully the artists were able to take his creation and make it their own. "The connections they made with the book blew me away," he confirms. "There was extraordinary collaborative synchronicity. And the idea that they had taken a product of my imagination and articulated it into these magical songs is incredible." Mitchell ventures: "It's easy to be inspired by a story like this. After all, one of the book's most important ideas is about broadening the horizons of our imaginations."

Still, Beddor says he's been humbled by his good fortune in enlisting these creative souls to further cultivate his "Looking Glass Wars" vision. He quips: "I must have taken the right magic mushrooms."