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## The Looking Glass Wars Review

Posted By : Dan Strohschein, Monday Sep,04

When I first heard of The Looking Glass wars, I thought, Oh no, not another take on Alice in Wonderland. Then I saw that the author was a Hollywood producer with some big name movies under his belt. Part of me groaned about that as well – What does a Hollywood producer know about writing novels?

Quite a bit apparently. The Looking Glass Wars is the first book in a trilogy, and one that surprised me. Yes, it does concern the Alice in Wonderland world, but it's completely different. This isn't a cartoonish world full of soft – hearted lovable characters. No, this is a world built so well that it feels real. Wonderland is a fantasy world of people getting through their daily lives under the rule of a generous and wise Queen. Alice (spelled Alyss in this novel) is a seven year old girl celebrating her birthday. The girl has a powerful imagination – and that is the magical element of the story. Anything that is imagined comes to be.



We watch in horror though, as the sweet time is interrupted. Alyss's father, King Nolan, is returning home from a trip to see if a northernly neighbor would lend arms to fending off armies of the displaced Redd when he is attacked by Card soldiers (the bad guy goons) and killed by Redd. Redd is the good Queen Genevieve's sister, and a jealous evil woman bent on taking the throne for herself. And take it, she does. In a gripping battle scene, the Heart palace is attacked. The queen is killed, the army destroyed, and Alyss barely escapes with her life. Following the secret path out of the palace, Alyss and her would be protector, Hatter Madigan, come to the Pool of Tears. They take a leap and .... Alyss winds up in our world, popping out of a puddle. Confused and dazed during the early 1800s of England, Alice winds up in an orphanage.

There, she meets a family who takes her in, and try their best to rid Alice (spelled that way while she is in our world) of these ghastly fantasies. Frustrated, Alice obeys, and tries to put Wonderland out of her mind. She starts to attend school, and there meets a quiet man from the church, who coerces Alice into speaking of Wonderland again. Writing under the pen name of Lewis Carroll, the reverend revised Alice's story and showed it to her. Alice was enraged by the falsifications made to the story, and refused to speak to Carroll ever again.

Alice stayed in our world for thirteen years, before Hatter Madigan, whom also had come through the pool of tears into our world, found her. In another explosive battle scene, Alyss is brought back to Wonderland, where she sees the destruction and horrid ruin of her beloved home. She decides to take up the queendom again, by facing Redd and removing her from power. In order to do so, Alyss trains her imagination back into full power. The book ends in a huge climatic scene where Alyss and Redd go head to head in an all out fight for the throne.

This book is beautifully written. The action is non-stop, making the reader not ever want to put the book down. The characters are painted with a brush of life made from words that are spun tenderly from the writer's fingers. The plot is deeply engaging, and readers will find themselves on the emotional roller coaster of anger, fear, sadness and joy as they follow Alyss through her childhood into adulthood and to her battle with Redd. This is definitely a book worth buying, and something that no fantasy fan should be without. I highly recommend giving this a read, while we wait impatiently for the next installment of the 3 part series. This producer turned author is a rising star in the genre. Move over Harry Potter – Alyss is in town!