



THE INDEPENDENT

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The Looking Glass Wars by Frank Beddor
(EGMONT £12.99)

When Lewis Carroll sat down to write the Alice books all those years ago, he can't have foreseen a version in 2004. Yet to say Beddor's revolutionary novel is an adaptation of Lewis Carroll's original would do justice to neither author. It's far more than a meager attempt at reworking Alice, the White Rabbit and the Mad Hatter to fit into a modern-day distortion of the tale; rather, Beddor has created his own version of the story, one where the characters have small hints of their counterparts, but are much more defined and complex individuals, with feelings and clear identities.

The Looking Glass Wars sees Princess "Alyss" on the run from her corrupt aunt, full of black imagination that caused the death of both of the former's parents, and a miserable reign over Wonderland. Any further elaboration of the ingenious plot might spoil the story for potential readers; suffice to say that the magic with which Beddor has imbued each character really and truly brings them to life.