



## For Young Readers

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*The Looking Glass Wars*, by Frank Beddor (Dial, \$16.99; ages 10-up). What do you get when a Hollywood film producer sinks his claws into *Alice in Wonderland*? The bloodiest rewrite in years. According to first-time novelist Beddor, whose film credits include "There's Something About Mary," Lewis Carroll got everything wrong, even Alice's name. *His* heroine, the "real" one, is Alyss Heart, and she didn't fall down a rabbit hole into Wonderland. She lived there -- in fact, she was a princess, the White Queen's heir -- but fled the "queendom" through the Pool of Tears after her exiled Aunt Redd staged a deadly coup. Alyss emerges via a puddle into Victorian England, where she meets the Rev. Charles Dodgson, the man who will mangle her story, and awaits the chance to retake her realm.

Beddor's violent, high-tech romp doesn't supplant the great original -- besides, if kids haven't read *Alice*, they'll miss all the allusions -- but it so meticulously imagined that it takes on a compelling life of its own: Dazzling Wondertropolis; the Chessboard Desert with its alternating acres of snow and lava; loyal, knife-sprouting Hatter Madigan; that twitchy albino tutor, Bibwit Harte; and everywhere, Redd's fearsome decks of card soldiers, "the scissor-sound of their stalking limbs" hissing through the pages. Next up in a planned trilogy: *Seeing Redd*.

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