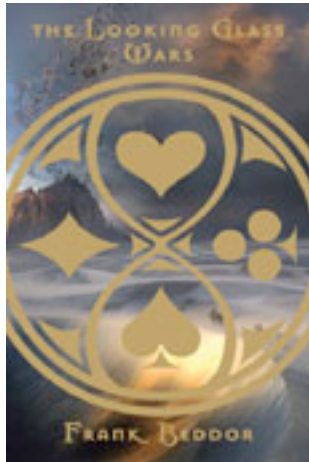


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The Looking Glass Wars

by Frank Beddor.

"Fantasy just declared war on reality." Thus declares the Internet site created to market this book, and the most effective way to learn about the book is to go to the Web site <http://lookingglasswars.com/home.html>, where you can see the "novel trailer," read review quotes from British media (where it was published a year ago), and check out the amazing graphics that appear bound for a movie. Beddor tells an alternative tale of "Alyss Heart," whose story he claims was terribly mangled by Lewis Carroll. The "truth" is that Alyss was heiress to the kingdom of Wonderland until her royal parents are murdered by her cruel Aunt Redd in a horrendous coup. Alyss is whisked away to another world where she is raised by a kindly family as a high society belle and is betrothed to marry a pleasant nobleman who loves her madly. But she struggles to rescue herself from the stifling existence, and one day finds her chance to return to Wonderland, which is now a horrifying place filled with brutality and robot spies. The mechanical monsters that Beddor has created for Redd to use in her bid for power are reminiscent of action figures, but retain some traits of Carroll's characters--cards, chess pieces, and so on. Fascinating and gripping, this first in a trilogy will hook a lot of readers ages 10 and up. Get ready.