

KATIE'S FAVORITE BOOKS
BOOK REVIEWS FOR MY CHILDREN'S LITERATURE CLASS



Princess Alyss



Beddor, F. (2007). *Princess Alyss of Wonderland*. New York, NY: Dial Books for Young Readers.

Gender Appeal / “Chick Lit” Ages 6-8 Did you realize that the girl you know as “Alice” from Lewis Carrol’s popular book *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* was really Alyss, the princess of Wonderland? Agnes MacKenzie, Historian Emeritus, has gathered letters and diary entries that Princess Alyss herself wrote while she was stuck on the wrong side of the looking glass in Oxford, England.

Frank Beddor (the real “historian”) put together a very imaginative tale of a girl named Alyss who is convinced

that she belongs in another world. Alyss meets Charles Dodgson (a.k.a. Lewis Carrol) and tells him of all the wonderful things that happen in her world, only to be betrayed by the lies he passes off as her story in *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*.

This beautifully engineered and perfectly pink “scrapbook” serves as a supplement to Frank Beddor’s novels *The Looking-Glass Wars* and *Seeing Redd* in which he imagines Lewis Carrol’s Alice as a real person in our world, on a continuous quest to get back to Wonderland to become queen. Any young girl will be excited by the prospect of a real-life Wonderland

and marvel at the letters and “handmade” deck of cards tucked in pockets throughout the book. Beddor even included a few facts about Lewis Carrol and a map of Oxford to help the reader learn something while their imagination runs wild. Though, if Wonderland is real, who knows what is fact and fiction anymore?