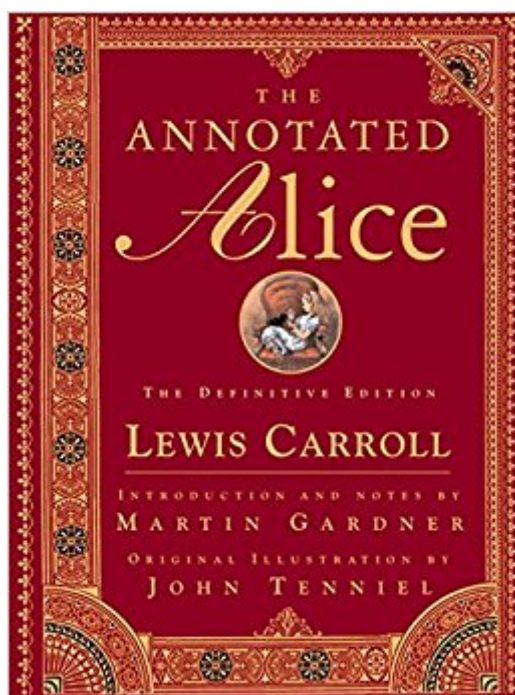


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The Annotated Alice: The Definitive Edition



Synopsis

The culmination of a lifetime of scholarship, *The Annotated Alice* is a landmark event in the rich history of Lewis Carroll and cause to celebrate the remarkable career of Martin Gardner. For over half a century, Martin Gardner has established himself as one of the world's leading authorities on Lewis Carroll. His *Annotated Alice*, first published in 1959, has over half a million copies in print around the world and is beloved by both families and scholars—because it was Gardner who first decoded many of the mathematical riddles and wordplay that lay ingeniously embedded in Carroll's two classic stories, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass*. Forty years after this groundbreaking publication, Norton is proud to publish the Definitive Edition of *The Annotated Alice*, a work that combines the notes of Gardner's 1959 edition with his 1990 volume, *More Annotated Alice*, as well as additional discoveries drawn from Gardner's encyclopedic knowledge of the texts. Illustrated with John Tenniel's classic, beloved art—along with many recently discovered Tenniel pencil sketches—*The Annotated Alice* will be Gardner's most beautiful and enduring tribute to Carroll's masterpieces yet. Color, two-tone, and black-and-white photos and illustrations throughout

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"What is the use of a book," thought Alice, "without pictures or conversations!" Readers who share Alice's taste in books will be more than satisfied with *The Annotated Alice*, a volume that includes not only pictures and conversations, but a thorough gloss on the text as well. There may be some,

like G.K. Chesterton, who abhor the notion of putting Lewis Carroll's masterpiece under a microscope and analyzing it within an inch of its whimsical life. But as Martin Gardner points out in his introduction, so much of *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass* is composed of private jokes and details of Victorian manners and mores that modern audiences are not likely to catch. Yes, *Alice* can be enjoyed on its own merits, but *The Annotated Alice* appeals to the nosy parker in all of us. Thus we learn, for example, that the source of the mouse's tale may have been Alfred Lord Tennyson who "once told Carroll that he had dreamed a lengthy poem about fairies, which began with very long lines, then the lines got shorter and shorter until the poem ended with fifty or sixty lines of two syllables each." And that, contrary to popular belief, the Mad Hatter character was not a parody of then Prime Minister Gladstone, but rather was based on an Oxford furniture dealer named Theophilus Carter. Gardner's annotations run the gamut from the factual and historical to the speculative and are, in their own way, quite as fascinating as the text they refer to. Occasionally, he even comments on himself, as when he quotes a fellow annotator of *Alice*, James Kincaid: "The historical context does not call for a gloss but the passage provides an opportunity to point out the ambivalence that may attend the central figure and her desire to grow up." And then follows with a charming riposte: "I thank Mr. Kincaid for supporting my own rambling." There's a lot of information in the margins (indeed, the page is pretty evenly divided between Carroll's text and Gardner's), but the ramblings turn out to be well worth the time. So hand over your old copy of Lewis Carroll's classic to the kids--this *Alice in Wonderland* is intended entirely for adults. --Alix Wilber

Clarkson Potter published *The Annotated Alice* in 1960, and Gardner published the sequel *More Annotated Alice* in 1990. Here, Gardner combines and expands both to produce *The Definitive Edition*. This presents the full texts of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *Through the Looking-Glass*, and "The Wasp in a Wig," a "suppressed" chapter of *Looking-Glass*. Each of these texts is accompanied by a lengthy marginal commentary that identifies historical and literary references and allusions, explains Carroll's logical and mathematical puzzles, and interprets colloquialisms and idiomatic expressions. Gardner's commentary is sufficiently detailed to be informative without burdening *Alice* with excessive pedantic baggage. *The Definitive Edition* also includes Tenniel's original illustrations and an exhaustive annotated list by David Shaefer of *Alice* on the screen. This is a happy contribution to those who appreciate Lewis Carroll.-Thomas L. Cooksey, Armstrong State Coll., Savannah, GA Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I didn't know what to make of this book. The pomes are there because someone in the story is repeating them giving the narrative a disjointed feel, and of course there's the "It was all a dream" ending is as soul crushing as it is for any fantasy story. But it made me think. Alice doesn't DO much, the main focus is on her intellectual ability, and when she does hold the baby/pig is in her dream. Alice does appear to have a disability, I have Cerebral Palsy, and I spend time daydreaming about doing stuff abled-bodied people are able to do. and am very smart. Lewis Corral didn't have the opportunity to think about his story this way, and if you didn't you're NOT a horrible person, you just made the same assumption I made when I saw the (incomplete) Disney version when I was a kid. The paradox is she has physical abilities, but we don't KNOW if Alice REALLY has them because she's dreaming for all but 2 and 1/2 pages. It gives the ending meaning, anyway.

I took a gamble on buying this edition when no one had reviewed it yet. I tried several other Kindle editions available and had found them truly appalling in terms of formatting. This however, is significantly better, featuring well structured chapter breaks and all the original illustrations, which enhance the story a lot. Furthermore, considering it contains both books, plus the excellent Hunting of the Snark, it is a fantastic price. However, there are still some glaring mistakes, such as some formatting bugs in a few of the poems and spelling errors in places (such as at the start of Looking Glass, where some of the Ls are replaced with 1s - I guess a scanner did the 'writing here'). 5 stars for the great price and superior formatting over the other options. -1 star for the glaring lack of proof reading from the publisher.

I'm not sure if it is possible to review this particular edition (Bantam Classics with an Introduction by Morton Cohen), but that's what I'm doing. Of course the content of these books stands alone. The best thing about this edition is that it's a steal. You get both *Adventures* and *Looking Glass* in one edition for \$4. As for this edition, it's very light-weight, almost newspaper stock. It does include illustrations, I'm not sure how complete they are, but they seem to compare well to those included in the Simon & Shuster Enriched Classic edition. When I bought this I was looking for reviews that compared editions, but couldn't find any. I had the S&S from the library and it was recalled. That edition has end notes, which are quite useful. This edition does not, which is disappointing.

Loved this book. It is completely different than *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. I really enjoyed all of the poems and songs integrated into the story. I also like that the story went from reality, to an alternative reality than completely onto a different world. This is unique to *Alice's Adventures* in

Wonderland where Alice went from reality straight to Wonderland. I also like the dynamic characters in Through the Looking Glass. I highly recommend this book to children and adults alike.

Although this book cost 20 bucks, it was worth every penny. If you're thinking about sitting down and reading a book with your child or grandchild, you will not go wrong with this spectacular item. I hesitate to call it a book because I have seen many pop up books and this one, and the Wizard of Oz I also purchased, were two experiences a child will not soon forget. It is not something you would hand to a child under the age of 8 and say 'Here, check this out' or it will be so easily mucked up in fairly short order. It is just a bit delicate but with some reasonable care, I think it should last for years. This book was a gift for a Second Grade teacher and she could not have been more pleased and is very eager to take it to class when school starts back after the holiday.

This is a masterpiece! I know it is too early for my 6 month old, but I just couldn't help myself to get it, because I am so afraid it will be discontinued, leaving me regretting not getting it while I can. Lol. I read it myself when I received it and then put it on my bookshelf instead of baby's. I will give it to my daughter years later when she grows up. It is worth years of waiting.

John Tenniel's illustrations are reproduced so exquisitely in this coloring book. They bring back fond childhood memories of reading the novel. The pages are thick and good quality, and the drawings are so beautiful that I am just going to have to admire them for a while before I even think of getting out the colored pencils!

I have a small collection of editions of Alice. One can say I am a fan. The reproductions of Dali's works are small and not well printed. The introduction is too long and focusses on the authors and their reputations, NOT on Dali and Carroll. If I had found the book in a bookstore, rather than buying it blind, I would not have bought it.

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