



The Importance of Being Alice

Katie MacAlister

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First in a new series!

From *New York Times* bestselling author Katie MacAlister comes a series about finding your own wonderland—through one roadblock at a time...

Nothing about Alice Wood's life is normal right now. Her fiancé, Patrick, called off their wedding and relationship only days before their nonrefundable wedding trip. And though a luxurious European river cruise for one is just what she needs, it's not what she gets...

Due to a horrible misunderstanding, Alice is now cramped in her "romantic" suite with one of Patrick's friends. Instead of cruising along the Rhine, Main, and Danube rivers sipping champagne with the love of her life, she's navigating the waters with a strange—yet mysteriously handsome—British aristocrat.

An author, Elliot is just looking for some alone time to write. But his stodgy, serious self is about to be sidetracked by a woman who seems to have jumped out of the pages of a fairy tale, one who is determined to shake up his life...and include him in her own happily ever after.

The Importance of Being Alice Details

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From Reader Review The Importance of Being Alice for online ebook

Sophia says

DNF

I was very excited to read this book because the blurb sounded cute, but by about forty pages in, I lost my excitement. At fifty pages after a particularly annoying scene where the heroine shows an exaggerated ignorant American, I pulled the plug. It's meant to be fun and funny, but it didn't find my funny bone.

Alice is enamored by the fact that she is sharing space with a specimen of the British aristocracy. She's not processing it well and gets down right silly about her assumptions and questions. The quote is probably just her teasing Elliott, but I'm not sure since she displayed other evidences of ignorance that I was pretty sure weren't teases.

"Do you get to do that droit thing?"

"What droit thing?"...

"That thing where the lord of the land gets to sleep with all the newly married women." I eyed him. I could just imagine all those lusty brides ogling him and hopping into his bed in order to get their motor's started. So to speak.

He gave me a look that spoke volumes. "Droit du seigneur is a myth, Alice. It didn't really exist."

"It was in Braveheart!"

"As were a great many other events that bore no resemblance to what actually took place during William Wallace's life..." p. 42 Alice and Elliott from The Importance of Being Alice

I know its meant to be funny- even slapstick funny, but I just...no, can't do it any longer. Elliott seems cute and sweet while very put upon by his family. Alice has my sympathies for the way Patrick treated her. However, Alice's comedic character isn't doing it for me and she's just grating on my nerves so I'm going to give this a pass at least for now. Maybe later I'll try and see if this was just my mood.

I didn't get far enough along to feel comfortable offering a recommendation or a non-recommendation. Just be prepared for more a mad-cap humor style and a book that begs for the reader to laugh with it and at it. I'm not that reader it seems though I do like some madcap-style humor, but others might be.

Anna's Herding Cats says

Sweet, cheeky and charmingly quirky. *The Importance of Bring Alice* is just what I love about MacAlister--a fun lighthearted read full of romance, humor and endless heart. It was a fun time as Elliott and Alice land themselves on a cruise and...sharing a cabin despite being total strangers. See. She's determined to take the trip she planned with her ex. And her ex...gave his ticket to Elliott who is just trying to find some peace and quiet to finish writing his book. And so...the adventure begins.

These two were adorable together. Alice is very, herm, spirited? She's lively and jumps into things often without thinking, is full of life and curiosity and just a sweet woman who is trying to find herself again. And Elliot, well, he's a little more reserved. Likes plans and structure and can get a little flustered by his lively shipmate. One that no matter how hard he tries to resist he's just drawn to. They were great as a pair.

Balanced out each others foibles in a nice way and still got into some entertaining scenarios--hello German sex club and parrot nipple clamps! heh I really couldn't help smiling over these two and so many of their moments together.

"You are such a stick-in-the-mud sometimes, you know that?" My annoyance faded. Elliott, poor man, truly believe what he was saying. He thought life was better when it was organized and structured until all the fun had been squeezed out of it. "Look, one of the things I've learned from life is that you have to grab what you can take, because you never know if it'll be there later. I'm here right now. So are you. And I just bet you if I stick my hands down your pants, you'll be ready for a little fun in no time."

His nostrils flared, and his voice took on that haughty lord-of-the-manor tone that made me want to giggle. "I assure you, madam, that I am in full control of my libido. If I did not wish to become aroused by you, I wouldn't."

I put my hand on his fly. Just that, no caressing, no stroking, just my palm on his zipper. I could feel him getting hard within seconds. I cocked an eyebrow at him.

"As it happens, I want to be aroused," he said with an attempt at dignity. "I have decided that I will, just this once, bend my inviolable rule about not stopping until I am done with my daily quota of writing."

Romance-wise things move crazy fast. But somehow for these two it kinda works. They really just were meant for each other. Though their speedy courtship did come with some pitfalls and some misunderstandings--nothing awful just surprises along the way for them (and that could be dang funny) Things heat up too and though they get at some good loving they're pretty funny scenes just like the rest of the book and tended to be more gigglesnort than fan yourself ;)

With a wee little bit of mystery and a pretty good twist at the end that had me going 'well damn. did not see that coming'!, Elliott's many siblings and a gregarious mother, a falling down castle, spies, those German sex clubs and hussies out for Alice's man... yeah...*The Importance of Being Alice* was a laugh out loud riot that had me smiling, gigglesnorting and just enjoying the fluffy fun that was Alice and Elliott as they found love, laughter and what their hearts truly needed.

? Kimberly says

Caffeinated Aspects:

A ten day European River Cruise and a mix up with tickets got this tale off to a fun start. Alice Wood has just been dumped by her fiancé and decides to go on their nonrefundable cruise **alone**. Patrick gives his ticket away to a London friend. Do you see where this is going?

Alice is quirky, and a talker. She talks all the time and at times, it was hilarious. She is one of those characters who makes goals and does not quite keep them. However, she always has the best intentions. She has a vivid imagination and Wonderland type quality. I image her as that friend who gets you to dance on a table during karaoke night.

A castle, dueling, siblings, the ex-fiancé and talk of spies added interest to the tale. There were moments that were while ridiculous made me gigglesnort with laughter.

We learn just enough about the other Ainslie brothers to peak my interest. Their home life is quite unique and certainly far from any stereotype.

Decaffeinated Aspects

Awkwardness abounds. As I said, Alice is a talker and she never stops even during moments that are more ahem... intimate. Which would be fine except it is about other topics. I laughed and rolled my eyes. Do not expect to feel the heat between these two.

Insta-love and a fluffy romance never allowed me to connect with Alice and Elliot despite the fact that I liked them. To be honest insta-love does not always bother me. Sometimes I am more than willing to swallow the little red pill and go with it. The storyline and character development have to feel genuine and I need to connect to them as a couple. Sadly, for me I did not feel the chemistry.

Wavering uncertainty and low self-esteem coming from our heroine made me a tad nuts. *He wants me? He doesn't want me. He loves me, he hates me.* Of course, you feel uncertain Alice, you do not really know the man.

I struggled with the plot twists. The believability just was not there for me.

Copy provided by publisherThis review was originally posted at Caffeinated Book Reviewer

Mandy says

Alice is dumped by her kind-of fiance, Patrick, right before they are taking a European river cruise. Patrick gives his ticket to his friend Elliot to use since he and his ex won't be going. What Patrick doesn't realize is that Alice paid too much money to let her ticket go to waste and she shows up at her cabin and meets Elliot. My favorite thing about this book was how humorous it was. It is really funny and there were some situations that really had me laughing out loud. The thing I didn't like was that it was almost over the top funny and it took away from the romance and the storyline. I liked the characters but didn't really feel any chemistry between them because of all the craziness. Still, if you are looking for a book that is fun and lighthearted, this would be a good pick.

****ARC provided in exchange for an honest review****

Judy says

Katie McAlister was one of my first introductions to the Vampire Romance Genre, way back in the day with *A Girl's Guide to Vampires*, the first book in her Dark Ones series. Those led me to her contemporary and historical romance. I quickly discovered that I enjoyed her witty dialogue and the way each of her characters has a quirky piece that makes them unique and very relatable no matter the genre. So whenever I see that Ms. McAlister has a new book, it is an auto add to my TBR pile.

The book starts with the introduction of Elliot, and some of his - let's call them - "interesting" extended family. Including his mother, the Baroness Ainslie. He is trying to manage his family, falling down castle and it's repairs around his writing schedule. You know, the thing that pays for everything else, when Elliot gets a call from an old pal Patrick offering him his ticket on a European River Cruise. Patrick tells Elliot that he wasn't going to be using it since he had broken it off with Alice after his 2 year relationship limit had

expired. He assured Elliot that Alice wouldn't be going, so he could use the quiet to get some writing done.

True, Alice hadn't planned on using the tickets after Patrick dumped her. And by dumped, she meant firing her from her job as his assistant, kicking her out of the condo they shared and telling her they would not longer be needing the information about getting married in Budapest at the end of the river cruise. So there she is - jobless, in a cramped rundown apartment feeling sorry for her self, when her best friend convinces her to go ahead and use the non-refundable ticket that she had already paid for. Both Alice and Elliot get a surprise when neither one will back down. Enforced proximity and an unwanted attraction get the best of both of them.

I really liked that the characters had some great communication going. Plus, the romantic side of things had some incredibly funny, yet realistic moments. They were self aware about how they each complimented the other, and though they hadn't known each other long, they just seemed to click. There were several times I was pleasantly surprised with the direction the book would go.

I'm not normally a fan of multiple voices. But as each chapter was alternately told by Alice and Elliot, having different narrator's really helped to get me in the correct person's headspace. Both narrator's did a good job with the emotional side of things and really bringing their character to life.

Overall, this was an easy listen. I found myself smiling and laughing, even wiping away a few tears during some particularly emotionally scary moments. I will be adding book 2, A Midsummer's Night Romp to my TBR pile and hope the same narrators return. This was a 4 star read.

Thanks to Audiobook Jukebox and Recorded Books for the opportunity to read and review this book.

♥Rachel♥ says

2.5 Stars

The Importance of Being Alice was an unlikely romance between opposites, full of madcap fun, spies, and crazy family.

Alice has just been dumped right before taking a European river cruise that she thought would end in marriage. At first she plans on forgetting her travel plans, but then decides to go on the cruise alone, not knowing that her dirt-bag ex, Patrick, gave his ticket to a college friend, Elliot.

Elliot has many responsibilities being the Lord of Ainslie Castle and those responsibilities are making it impossible to write finish his book and meet his deadline. Something that's imperative because the castle is sucking him dry financially and he needs that money for repairs. With a loving, but dramatic mother and many siblings it seems interruptions are endless. When his old college mate offers his river cruise ticket, Elliot jumps at the chance for some peace and quiet not knowing that he'll be sharing the cabin with hurricane Alice. She's spontaneous, boisterous and proves to be a significant distraction. But she's also irresistible and fun, coaxing Elliot off the ship and into embracing and living life. Their mutual attraction makes it impossible to keep their hands off each other and soon their having a lusty affair.

Alice was a free spirit and having just come off a long time relationship with Patrick, you'd think she'd be more upset, but it seems she was more upset at losing the idea of marriage and Patrick and not really the man himself. So she falls easily and quickly for the sweet and serious Elliot. Opposites really do attract.

This is an insta-love situation and it does sort of fit with Alice's personality, yet, insta-love is a hard sell for me and would've had an easier time buying it if Elliot and Alice had intense sessions of talking about love and life. Have you ever had a friend you just met and you instantly bonded, talking until the wee hours about *everything*? I have, and so if that were the case here I would've totally been on board, but Alice and Elliot's relationship was more whacky dates as they traveled, and then BAM: Love. In spite of that the romance was fun, and full of some pretty steamy scenes. Saucy, playful and very HOT! Could've done without Alice's endless commentary during more intimate moments, but it did fit with her personality, I guess.

Also, wasn't a big fan about how Elliot handled the situation when an accident happens at his home/castle. Lack of communication led to a miserable experience for Alice and was completely unnecessary. I hate issues that stem from lack of communication.

The Importance of Being Alice was a light, funny romance, best enjoyed by just rolling with it and having a good time.

I've seen a lot of love for Katie MacAlister's writing so I'd like to give another book a try.

A copy was kindly provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Bookcrazy says

Schade!

Ich hoffe, es liegt nur an diesem Buch oder ich komme mit der Schreibweise und dem Erzählstil der Autorin einfach nicht mehr klar. Ihre Aisling Grey-Reihe habe ich ja vor gut 10 Jahren verschlungen, aber bei "Flitterwochen mit einem Unbekannten" passte einfach nichts.

Die Charaktere haben sich sehr merkwürdig verhalten und Chemie zwischen der Amerikanerin und dem englischen Lord gab es für mich fast keine durch ihr abruptes Verhalten. Blöd fand ich schon Alice Unkenntnis eines Coffeeshops in Amsterdam und dann als die beiden in den deutschen Swingerclub gingen, ging es nur noch bergab mit der Story - Stichwort Penis-Hutbild, dass sie auf Instagram sofort posten musste. Nein, schon klar, in einem Paralleluniversum oder so hätte es bestimmt eine Version von Elliot gegeben, der sich über so was freut, nackt im Internet verbreitet zu werden.

Ich war oftmals knapp davor das Buch abubrechen, aber das Auftauchen ihres Exes hat dann doch noch einen Hauch Neugier in mir erweckt. Im Nachhinein betrachtet aber trotzdem Zeitverschwendung. In dem Buch war einfach nichts stimmig, weder mochte ich die Ich-Perspektive, die Charaktere und auch seine Familie war eher nervtötend als witzig. Schräg fand ich auch Alice Wunsch den Liebesakt schnell über die Bühne zu bringen. Ich mag ja eigentlich keine seitenlangen Sexszenen, aber die war selbst mir etwas zu rasch beendet.

Das Cover ist ja recht süß, den Koffer kann man ein wenig auf den Inhalt beziehen, aber Hamster kommt keiner in der Handlung vor. Generell empfand ich das Buch nicht so witzig, wie das Cover suggeriert. Zumindest kamen die "Witze" bei mir nicht an.

FAZIT: Das war nix trotz interessanter Ausgangssituation. Schade, lieber etwas anderes lesen!

Kirsten says

A delightful contemporary romance! Lots of humor and quirky characters. Also, it was just a little different from my standard romance. The will they or won't they element was dealt with quickly. The man admitted he loved the woman long before the last 10 pages. Nothing split the couple up other than injury.

Still, it had some wonderful elements. Though, I do wonder about the conflict in the last chapter. It seemed a little awkward.

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Leigh's review posted on Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

3 STARS

Review copy provided for an honest review

With a cute plot and quirky characters, I had high hopes for this story. Unfortunately, this book was not for me.

At first, Alice seemed to be flighty and odd, but I assumed that the awkwardness would become endearing. For me, it never did. It always remained just...awkward. I think the author was trying for a lighthearted story with funny, Bridget Jones type characters, but it just never made it quite to that level.

Elliot was a disappointment for me as well. At first portrayed as stuffy and fussy, I kept reading and expecting there to be a sexy, mysterious Mr. Darcy smoldering away underneath the stodgy exterior. But constantly having a man be so serious and describing himself as weak did nothing for me.

I will admit that Alice and Elliot did get themselves into some amusing situations with their second hand marijuana smoke high and pirate porn, but together, these two strange characters had some cringe-inducing sex talk that literally had my libido coming to a screeching halt.

With far-fetched situations that ranged from comical to just plain unbelievable, I found my ability to take anything these two did seriously. I was truly looking forward to enjoying the romance between a quirky American and a stuffy Brit. But, sadly it just wasn't my cup of tea.

D.G. says

DNFed at 50%

Great hero and great narration but a really foolish heroine. I just can't take her POV and her crazy leaps in logic: she meets a writer who writes spy books and she immediately reaches the conclusion that he's a spy! Because she saw him talking to a guy she didn't know and he didn't want to give her details. Oh and he didn't like the fact that she took pictures of him (without his consent) and posted them on FB. So OF COURSE that means he's a SPY!!

I freaking hate stupid heroines so this is it for me.

Jessica says

DNF at 49%

Too cheesy/awkward for me. Romance wasn't really believable and didn't see the connection between them.

Shannon says

The Importance of Being Alice

The Characters

Alice Wood

Elliot Edmund Richard Ainslie, eighth Baron Ainslie

The Story

My intentions were good when I started this books. I took notes all through the first chapter but somewhere in chapter 2 I let go and just enjoyed. I don't think I can even do a summary justice. I'd just like to say Alice and Elliot are A-freaking-dorable. They are in for an interesting ride. Elliot's family delighted me and I'll be very happy to see more from them in the future.

The Random Thoughts

I feel such relief at liking maybe even loving this book. My last few Katie MacAlister reads have been less than stellar but this book brings me back to when I first discovered and loved this author.

4 Stars

Jacob Proffitt says

I'm a bit over halfway and I'm quitting. Yeah, it's unusual for me to give three stars to something I dnf. I thoroughly enjoyed seeing these two fall for each other. I like their personalities and their banter is a lot of fun. I particularly liked their unconventional (i.e. unsexy) conversations during sex and how it illustrated both their characters and how they connect so well.

What I didn't like was the stupid spy idiocy. Alice isn't stupid but I feel like MacAlister manipulated her to be so that she can have angst episodes that should have been ordinary. It doesn't help that Elliot was manipulated a couple of times to skip details that would have resolved things early.

And yes, it's still three stars even though I hate author manipulation and induced stupidity. I just liked these two when they were together that much.

A note about Steamy: A good deal of their relationship is built through their attraction. Including sex. There

are three explicit scenes in that first half so this was on a trajectory to blow through my steam tolerance. I'm pretty sure that plot shenanigans were going to overtake that, though, and that the pace was on the brink of slowing there (not least because they were physically separated when I stopped).

Beth says

When I finished reading *The Importance of Being Alice* my first thought was this book was just “flat out fun”.

This is a story of a broken engagement, between Alice Wood and her ex-almost-finance', Patrick. They had planned a once in a life time trip to cruise Europe but when their relationship fell apart (Patrick's doing) Alice decides to take the trip without him... What she never expected was Patrick giving his ticket to his old college buddy (Elliot) adding an unwelcome roommate for this adventure.

Elliot comes across as the typical stogy English Lord while Alice is a go with the flow kind of gal. It was fun watching Alice slowly chip away at Elliot's reserve only to have her fall head over heels for Elliot.

I will say it again...this was a fun, feel good, HEA with just the right amount of spice, English charm and family bonding. The characters are highly entertaining and quite humorous. Simply great, entertaining read.

I received this ARC copy of *Te Importance of Being Alice* from PENGUIN GROUP Berkley, NAL / Signet Romance, DAW in exchange for a honest review. This book is set for publication January 6, 2015.

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Reviewed for: <http://tometender.blogspot.com>

Jane says

The Importance of Being Alice

A light, quirky romance that satisfies

Katie MacAlister writes paranormal, historical and contemporary romance books. Through all her books, there are heroes, heroines, wit, charm and a bit of danger. Katie's new series is A Matchmaker in Wonderland. The Importance of Being Alice is the first book of the Ainslie Brothers.

Lord Baron Elliot Ainslie is a writer burdened with producing an income for his large family. His parents have adopted many children and they all live in a run down castle. His now adult siblings depend on him emotionally and financially. A friend recently dumped his fiancée just before the wedding and offers Elliot a ticket for a cruise and a chance to get away. Needing peace and quiet to finish a book and assured that he would be alone, he accepts.

Alice is shocked that she will not be a bride. Patrick was not only her intended, but her boss, too. No wedding, no job and no home, a friend persuades her to go on the cruise anyway. She needs to re-assert herself and take charge of her life again. Alice and Elliott are forced to share a cabin ---- and neither is happy about it! And the fun begins --- sex clubs, hussies, wrong assumptions and the Ainslie family. Witty banter...funny scenes... chemistry and bonding ... a satisfying ending. Sigh. I so enjoyed this book!

Look for the next book in the series of A Matchmaker in Wonderland and another Ainslie brother: A Midsummer Night's Romp.
