



Alice in Wonderland and Philosophy: Curiouser And Curiouser

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The perfect companion to Lewis Carroll's classic book and director Tim Burton's March 2010 remake of *Alice in Wonderland* *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* has fascinated children and adults alike for generations. Why does Lewis Carroll introduce us to such oddities as blue caterpillars who smoke hookahs, cats whose grins remain after their heads have faded away, and a White Queen who lives backwards and remembers forwards? Is it all just nonsense? Was Carroll under the influence? This book probes the deeper underlying meaning in the Alice books, and reveals a world rich with philosophical life lessons. Tapping into some of the greatest philosophical minds that ever lived? Aristotle, Hume, Hobbes, and Nietzsche? Alice in Wonderland and Philosophy explores life's ultimate questions through the eyes of perhaps the most endearing heroine in all of literature.

Looks at compelling issues such as perception and reality as well as how logic fares in a world of lunacy, the Mad Hatter, clocks, and temporal passage Offers new insights into favorite *Alice in Wonderland* characters and scenes, including the Mad Hatter and his tea party, the violent Queen of Hearts, and the grinning Cheshire Cat Accessible and entertaining, *Alice in Wonderland and Philosophy* will enrich your experience of Alice's timeless adventures with new meaning and fun.

Alice in Wonderland and Philosophy: Curiouser And Curiouser Details

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Belhor says

A truly one star book. Not because I didn't like it (I didn't like it, not one bit) but because the book is just bad.

This book has nothing to do with the philosophy of Alice in wonderland. It is basically using the story to talk about philosophy and the topics are truly boring, they have nothing new or in depth to offer. And somehow in the process of writing these dull articles, the writers have managed to ruin the beauty and mystic of this wonderful book.

This has been a very disappointing introduction to the series.

Christina Jolly says

An A+ compilation. Although some points came across as over-assumptions, having read Alice in Wonderland alongside this, adding philosophical sense to an illogical dream-world full of absurd creatures is enlightening and I loved it overall.

"Never forget, any strategy—no matter how provocative—is always a deterrent. Deterrence does not merely defend the homeland against aggression, it prevents aggression through unfriendly persuasion."

"To reduce the risk of nuclear war, the risk must be increased."

I must include the other books in the series to my TBR.

Monica says

This book came out right around the time the newest 'Alice in Wonderland' movie came out, I doubt a coincidence but it is still a welcome book. This book is a collection of stories, or essays if you will because of the non-fiction pieces, the delve into the minute details of the well loved story, 'Alice in Wonderland'.

The essays are each vastly different all taking on elements of the original story and giving different insights, historical facts, and other various tidbits. After reading this book I want to re-read the original story just so I can get a truly see with my own eyes what each of these writers were saying in their pieces. If you like 'Alice in Wonderland', please pick up this book, you won't regret it!

P.S. I also think the cover is very well done, and super cute.

Janice says

Liked this overall, but definitely enjoyed some essays more than others.

Jayshree Salian says

Wasn't exactly what I expected it to be, a nice feminist take at the book though.

Cary says

This book is just a feminist agenda using the AIW story to advance it's biased and zealous views.

From p. 12: "Alice's line 'little girls eat eggs quite as much as serpents do,' even resonates with today's pro-life/pro-choice discussion"

Lucy ✿? ★ says

This collection of scholarly essays was an absolute pleasure to read.

I was given this delightful little book off of my favourite auntie for my birthday last week and was absolutely ecstatic as I am a huge fan of the Alice stories. Utterly obsessed, really.

The entire book was incredibly intriguing and I found it so amazingly unique. I spent the day annotating it also, challenging myself to expand my knowledge and even add my own sociological and psychological perspectives into the philosophy.

My favourite was definitely “Unruly Alice” which questions if Alice is a female icon in literature that young girls can look up to. It was so fascinating! I recommend just reading that one if you’re going to skip the book because it gave me a fresh perspective on the classic. Remarkable.

This book was brilliant and imaginative as well as informative and I recommend to anyone who likes Alice too!

Love, Lucy x

April says

Reading philosophy and literary theory related to books I've already read is like being given a key. I feel like I've unlocked some secrets within the text and have been given a better view of what deeper meanings Alice In Wonderland may contain.
[Read the rest of my review here](#)

Anita Dalton says

Overall, this book was a disappointment to me, and that may be a user problem, I am ready to admit. I wanted this book to explain the philosophy of Alice in Wonderland. Several articles used Alice in Wonderland to explain philosophy, and if that seems like a fine distinction, it really isn't. The former explores philosophical points in the book. The latter uses book elements to illustrate philosophical points. You can do the latter with anything. I could, if I tried long enough, find a way to illustrate any philosophical tenet using my cats, organic bathroom cleaners or the content of the junk drawer in my kitchen. You can use just about anything to prove a theory if you don't mind stretching a metaphor until it almost breaks. That seems to happen a lot in some of these articles, and while it wasn't what I particularly wanted, the book is titled Alice and Wonderland and Philosophy, which means that my complaint is just me... well, complaining. The book didn't misrepresent itself. I just wanted something else. Read my entire review [here](#).

Rhian Daniel says

For someone who adored the 'Alice in Wonderland' and 'Through the Looking Glass' adventures from a young age, I was delighted when I discovered this book. It provides a catalogue of interesting interpretations and understandings of the stories which have enchanted children for many years. Each of the authors took slightly different approaches, some seeking to expose philosophical theories within Alice, others using Alice to explain philosophical ideas. In this way, it is an engaging and instructive introduction to philosophy, for the vivid and familiar imagery aids explanation in a unique way. The authors, as expected, do not forget the traditional philosophers that underpin their work; the close referencing of specific, relevant books equally allows for the continuation of research and reading. On the whole, the most persuasive topic was the one discussing logic for Charles Dodgson (more commonly known by his pen name, Lewis Carroll) was a mathematician and logician, however, this is not to say that the essays on other topics should be dismissed.

However, I must say that some of the essays I found utterly unconvincing and at times connections between Wonderland and philosophy were strained to say the least. Occasional vagueness and poor explanation are also seen, perhaps mainly due to the language and tone some of the authors employed; some essays came across as patronising, with an abundance of pop culture references that made reading clunky. Despite these slight annoyances, the book was highly engaging and absorbing; a careful blend of academia, general interest, and of course, the fantastical. I highly recommend it to anyone who has an interest in literature or philosophy and especially to those who simply are fanatics of Alice and her journey down the rabbit hole.

Natalia Ahmed says

A fascinating read! A compilation of short essays, discussing Alice in Wonderland through different lenses - studying the use of memory, of different realities (influenced by drugs), and even studying the concept of time- the way we experience it and the way Alice experiences it.

Ali Nazifpour says

In this series in general, sometimes it seems that the essays look at the book in the question only as an excuse to talk about something only loosely connected to the work. However, they're always educative and interesting essays and occasionally provide an interesting new perspective on the books as well.

Rachel says

So unbearably inane. This book felt to me as though all it did was laboriously, and with a large number of pop-culture references, explain each crystalline, brilliant joke in *Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass* until their luster faded. I admit to reading it quickly after a certain point, skimming because I didn't want its mindlessness to detract from the delicate perfection of the original books, which I love beyond belief.

Literary criticism of Lewis Carroll is dubious at the best of times, and this was a particularly bad example, written for people used to reading nothing but magazines, who either struggled through or (more likely) didn't read Carroll's books at all. I don't mean to sound snobbish about it (and theoretically, I suppose, the idea of the "Philosophy and Pop Culture" series to which this volume belongs is an admirable one, making cultural analysis and criticism accessible to a larger group, but this book, notably, was the only one in that series to analyze a classic work of literature rather than a film or television show, and they at least could hire better authors), but, honestly, it was just *bad*.

Angelc says

This collection of essays is a fantastic addition to any "Alice in Wonderland" fan's collection. These are scholarly essays, and even though they are easy to read, don't expect fluff stories that were thrown together to feed off of the recent Tim Burton movie release. These are highly researched and well thought out studies of the original book.

Some of the essays, I loved and would give 5+ stars to, but my rating is for the book as a whole, which did sometimes seem repetitive. The book is separated into four parts, each with essays that related to each other in topic. There are 14 essays in all, and reading all the essays back to back made the content seem repetitive to me. I think I would have enjoyed this book much more if I had only read a few at a time.

My favorite essay was "Unruly Alice: A Feminist View of Some Adventures in Wonderland" by Megan S. Lloyd. Lloyd gives strong examples of how Alice can be seen as a feminist icon. Some of her examples I had noticed before, but some were new to me and fascinating.

Another essay that stood out was "Jam Yesterday, Jam Tomorrow, but Never Jam Today: On Procrastination, Hiking, and...the Spice Girls?" by Mark D. White. Not only was the content of this essay strong, but the way that it was written was so appealing! I feel like White really embraced the nonsense that is Wonderland and he wrote the entire essay in that style.

I also enjoyed the comparisons of Carroll's work to Socrates. The authors point out that Carroll did study Socrates so these nods to his philosophy were no accident. I learned another biographical fact of Carroll that I hadn't known, that he suffered from migraines and that contributed to his writing about distorted reality (from the Scott F. Parker essay).

I would definitely recommend this book to a fan of Alice in Wonderland. The book helped me understand the book in ways that I never did before. I only would have preferred to read the essays over a longer period of time so that the content wouldn't overlap so much. I'm eager to read some of the other titles in the Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture Series.

I received this book from the publisher for review.

reviewed for <http://inthehammockblog.blogspot.com/>

Amanda says

I'm afraid I lemmed this at page 67. Not enough of the original text in the essays. None of the topics gave me fun thoughts to think about. Just not what I was looking for in this and I don't want to waste any more time on it.
