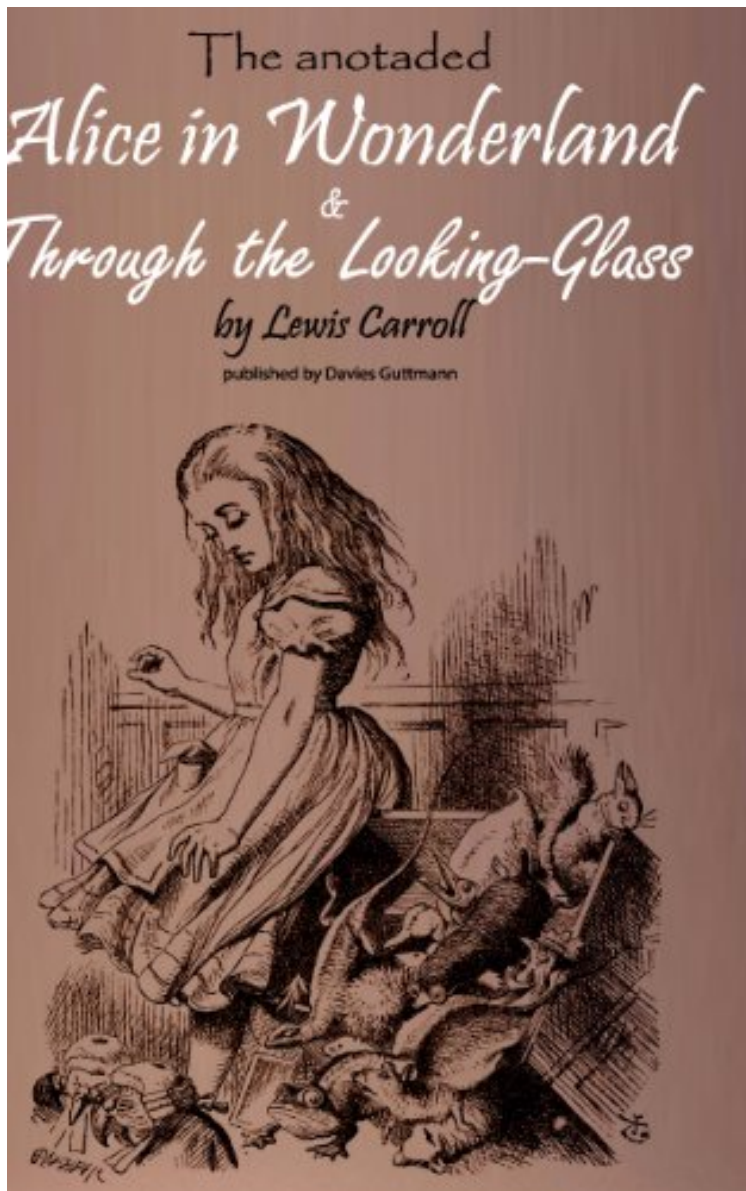


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Alice in Wonderland Through the Looking-Glass: The stories, important background information and a biography of Lewis Carroll



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Description :

Prsentation de l'diteur Charles Lutwidge Dodgson (alias Lewis Carroll) was an interesting and idiosyncratic character, to say the least. He was a mathematics lecturer at Cambridge University and a deacon in the Anglican Church. Obviously a very bright man he suffered from physical impairments such as partial

deafness and a stammer which, perhaps, made him reserved and slightly aloof from the society of the day. He also had a predilection for young female companionship, which would seem highly contentious to us today but was, perhaps, more acceptable (and possibly entirely innocent) in the latter part of the 19th century. The books can be read on a number of levels. They originally emerged from a boat trip that Dodgson took with a family he knew (the Liddells) including their three daughters and he told them a tale to while away the journey. The children were so taken with it that they asked him to write it down and so the legend began. It is quite possible that, initially, Dodgson has simply intended the tale to be a children's story for their amusement; but when he set about writing it down, expanding and structuring it he introduced some darker, perhaps even sinister elements to the tale. His penchant for logic, dry humour and nonsense pervades the stories but there is also a suggestion of themes running through the books. Inevitably the states of childhood and maturity feature strongly given Dodgson's own situation and the nature of his relationships with both adults and children. The topsyturvy nature of Wonderland could be seen as a commentary on the outside world where the child, Alice, seems to be the only sane and sensible person around. Dodgson himself seemed to live more in a child's world than adults. The nature of his occupations in academia, the church and finally writing would all serve to contain him in an unreal existence, somewhat separate from the harsh truths of the world around him. Perhaps it was all an acting out of his own fantasy a world full of conundrums, logic puzzles and childlike interactions that he would much preferred to inhabit than the world he was personally faced with. Whatever the true motivations and meanings behind them, the stories have stood the test of time as children's tales and literature in their own right and scholars today continue to pore over the interpretation of the musings of a lonely mathematics teacher from 150 years ago.

ATTENTION : La reliure de ce livre est "Rough Cut" c'est pourquoi les bords sont mal coupés. Ce n'est pas quelque sorte de défaut de fabrication, c'est plutôt une sorte de reliure utilisée pour donner un aspect ancien aux livres.

"And what is the use of a book," thought Alice, "without pictures or conversations?" Taking to heart his charming, insatiably curious heroine's words, Lewis Carroll worked many long hours (days, months...) with illustrator Sir John Tenniel to create the most perfect pictures imaginable for what were to become instant classics: Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking-Glass. When thinking about Alice and her dreamy surrealistic adventures down the rabbit hole and behind the looking-glass, who can help picturing the golden-haired girl in her lilac dress and striped stockings, gazing up at the Cheshire Cat or arguing with Tweedledum and Tweedledee? Tenniel's drawings remained black and white for over 40 years until 1911, when eight prints in each book were hand colored. Now, for the first time, every remaining illustration has been colored, making these the first editions to feature all of the original art in full color. Traditionalists need not worry: colorist Diz Wallis colored proofs taken from Tenniel's carefully preserved woodblocks, remaining faithful to his original drawings. The beautiful tones of these new hardcover editions look as natural as can be; they could just as easily be from the 19th century. (Ages 9 and older) --Emilie Coulter