



Beware the Little White Rabbit

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Curiosity often leads to trouble...

Thirteen powerful voices in young adult fiction invite you to journey into startling new Wonderlands in this nod to the 150th anniversary of Lewis Carroll's timeless character, ALICE.

Mystery. Madness. Mayhem. Each story in this collection will intrigue, bewitch, and enchant. Through rich historicals, castles and keeps, wild wormholes, secret workshops, deadly plagues, and gritty urban explorations, we present new tales of Alice and her white rabbit.

Whether an intrepid reporter, a would-be car thief, or the last human in a world ruled by machines, at the heart of each story Alice is a girl discovering who she really is in worlds that never fail to surprise.

What wonders await, oh curious reader? Leap down the rabbit hole and discover the truth...

Beware the Little White Rabbit Details

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From Reader Review Beware the Little White Rabbit for online ebook

Tracey says

Oh, so that's why I've been seeing Alice so often lately: it's the 150th anniversary.

I hate to admit it – but I've never been entirely enamored of Alice. It's another childhood classic that I somehow never read, like *The Wizard of Oz* - just never had a copy, or something.

The call for entries seems to have specified that there be a young main character named Alice, a white rabbit, and a fall. Another theme running through a lot of the stories is that parents can be perilous, unreliable, sometimes dangerous. As with all collections of stories by various author, there is a wild variety of style, quality, and subject matter, but the variety of things done with the basic elements in this baker's dozen of stories is pretty impressive.

I just wish I liked Alice in Wonderland more. I should, I suppose; I'd like to; I don't. Oh well. Happily, I have more than enough enthusiasms without Alice.

Alice, Through the Wormhole – Charlotte Bennardo – Alice in space, in a trippy chase after stolen tea, which is more than just tea. Meh; kind of clever, but kind of annoying - ***

They Call Me Alice – C. Lee McKenzie – blend of Chinese mythology, young adult romance, and Alice; really kind of lovely. Though it focused more on the Chinese mythology than on Alice; the heroine could have been called anything, and the rabbit had no relation to Wonderland. Still, it fits well enough, and had an affect on me. ****

Alice, Last of the Bleeding Hearts – David Turnbull – I wasn't thrilled with this one; where the last story's connection to AinW seemed distant, here it felt forced, a science fiction story hammered into an Alice mold. Flaws in the narration showed up here – unless the text actually read "soldiering iron" twice? I wasn't enamored of this version of the Cheshire Cat; I wasn't impressed with the intelligence of the "last of the bleeding hearts" (announcing her weapons to the Red Queen? Wouldn't they be more effective as surprises? And Alice knows how to play chess but wonders at the knights moving in "an odd, L-shaped manner"? ** Meh.

The Watchmaker's Ball – Christine Norris – Here the narrator used a very nice British accent, fitting the Alice-contemporary setting. It was an interesting idea (except how did that mechanic know to give a warning?), interestingly executed – fun. ****

Rabbit Fever – Jackie Horsfall – I don't know. I just don't know. I like the concept of an Alice from another time period, but she seemed a little too prescient. I didn't love it. **

Mustang Alice – Medeia Sharif – My initial comment was simply "oh you have got to be kidding". It's not often I DNF a short story – but I skipped most of this one after Alice stole the car. Nope. (If it had been a Volkswagen Rabbit, now...) *

White Is a Human Construct – Laura Lascarso – Read with a Southern accent – very good and rather intense story of abuse and madness and what it takes to get out of both. I liked what was not said as much as what was. *****

Alice and Her Shadow – Tom Luke – Told in the second person present tense: "None of the streetlamps are working, and your shadow is beginning to worry you." – NICE. I didn't *like* it – it's a very disturbing story – but I appreciated it to pieces. Creepy as all hell. And in light of a recent (possible)(unconfirmed)(oh please no) major character death on *The Walking Dead* and how Damon Lindelof, producer of other shows, talked about it ... story arcs and taking the show in a direction and that sort of thing. Yeah. *shiver* ****

Alice in Wilderland – Jessica Bayliss YA love story – which should have annoyed me, to be honest – but my initial reaction was "NICE". ****

The Aviary – Crystal Schubert - "ok" love the idea of rescuing someone who doesn't want to be rescued "kids" "my life on hold" Oh, I really don't care about the inside of her belly button. I really don't. "her ribbon arms" I get selfishness, but while she was off enjoying her love nest her family was dying. **

Broken Tethers – Holly Odell – Chick talks to herself a whole hell of a lot. I mean, I do too, but not in text. As such. Was this supposed to be funny? **

Undercover Alice – Jennifer Moore – Aussie (why?) Cute enough story, but not great. ***

Follow the Steam Rabbit – Liam Hogan – parachute? Not awful; not great. ***

The book is introduced as having "dazzling silhouette pieces for the interior title page of each Alice tale" – not exactly a plus to the audible book listener; it's a shame that line isn't deleted from the audio edition.

This audiobook was provided by the narrator at no cost in exchange for an unbiased review courtesy of AudiobookBlast dot com.

ETA: It took a remarkably long time to get on Goodreads to post a review here. And come to find out three of the authors and both editors involved in this book not only reviewed it but gave it five stars. The first word that comes to mind on that subject is 'tacky' - but it's worse than that. It's drastically skewing the rating of a book which not so many people have reviewed. It's worse than getting family and friends to rate and review - they would have fewer horses in the race. I **was** giving this three stars, as a rough average of my opinion of the stories. Under the circumstances, I feel the rating needs a bit of realistic balancing out. Pity.

My rating is balanced by those of:

Judith Graves

Shannon Delaney

Jackie Horsfall

Medeia Sharif

Jessica Bayliss

With just a couple of exceptions, this was not a good experience.

Jessica Bayliss says

13 Unique Tales by 13 talented authors. This book has a little bit of everything, no matter what your tastes run.

Liam Hogan says

I'm one of the 13 authors in this YA anthology, centred on Alice and "a white rabbit", but not necessarily the Alice in Wonderland (or the rabbit!) we know. Some stories very much take more inspiration from the original than others, with the element of fantasy largely missing from a couple - the young romance "Alice in Wilderland", say. Personally, I'm a sucker for "curiouser and curiouser" elements Alice in Wonderland.

It's a lovely book, with bold illustrations to introduce each story that really help make it more special, but if

there is an issue with it (and there is, hence the 4 stars, though only a relatively minor one) it's that "YA" is actually quite a wide and not always well defined age range. So, while there are stories in here that would suit a 12 year old, (the lower range of YA?) others very much wouldn't. While the range of worlds, genres, and themes may broaden it's appeal, I suspect it also makes presenting it to a young adult to read a trickier proposition. I can't see the target audience having a more polarised view of the individual stories than I.

As ever with an anthology, some stories were always going to appeal to me more than others, but there are no outright clunkers here, merely stories that aren't really aimed at me. Which isn't a surprise, given my YA years are a long time behind me...

In no particular order, my favourite three were Alice through the Wormhole, (nice nod to Star Wars at the start), The Watchmaker's Ball (like a scary Dr Who episode) and Undercover Alice (Which is delightfully batty. Or hatty!)

Heather says

The most fun I've had reading an anthology in a long time. You'd think that in 13 stories about a heroine named Alice who encounters a white rabbit you might get bored or at least get the Alices mixed up. But every thrilling tale in this collection (by established and new authors) has a unique, memorable Alice and a new and interesting take on the heroine's journey. Fans of every genre will find something to enjoy: science fiction, fantasy, romance, historical, contemporary, horror, steampunk, humor, and more. Highly recommended for anyone who loves Alice or great YA fiction.

Rebecca McNutt says

As usual, why is *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* associated with insanity?

Modern authors always see the classic Carroll novel as some kind of allegory for insanity, mental hospitals or drugs. I guess we've got Jefferson Airplane, Resident Evil, Beatrice Sparks and American McGee to blame for that - oh, and that godawful live-action CGI Disney thing with the creepy-as-hell Tim Burtonified characters. But the book itself is just an adventure fantasy story about a little girl and her daydreams. It was never intended to be some kind of profound dive into the world of madness. There's one character who is mad, the Mad Hatter, and that's it.

^...Ugh, why do directors have to do this sort of thing?^

I liked *Beware the Little White Rabbit*. The writing was intense and evocative, and the stories were interesting. But I think that the writer(s) forgot that *Alice* isn't *The Addams Family*. I have no problem with authors wanting to put their own spin on a story as long as it's in the public domain already or they have

permission. But the whole Gothic Tim Burton-esque *Alice* thing has been done *way* too often and it's getting a little old.

Raquel (Rocki) says

Some of these were pretty good I especially liked the ones that were kind of sci-fi. I think one of my favorite though it wasn't my favorite at first was the one written in 2nd person. Though I was tired of hearing about different Alice's I need to read about a different name now.

Jacqueline Horsfall says

Even though I'm the author of one story included in this anniversary anthology, I couldn't let the opportunity pass without commenting on the other 12 stories. A unique mix of genres covering historical, fantasy, sci-fi, steampunk, contemporary, each story featuring a bold Alice and her Otherworld guide -- that pesky white rabbit. As much as I love the original Alice, it was fun to see her in new settings, eras, and incredible new conflicts. Kudos to my talented co-authors!

Melissa Simmons says

This was an amazing collection of short stories; all unique new twists on a classic tale.

Alice Through the Wormhole by Charlotte Bennardo is the first story in the Beware the Little White Rabbit anthology. I have to admit that I squee'd a little when I saw Char's name listed with the authors for this. I absolutely loved her Sirens books (penned with Natalie Zaman) and was excited to see how her solo work would compare.

From the very first line, I was absolutely hooked-the Sci-Fi element was genius and I loved it. The story was full of action, tension and humor--it was fantastic from beginning to end. I loved the detail and creativity Bennardo wove into every scene and I was so sad when the story was over. I look forward to reading even more from this fabulous author in the future!

They Call Me Alice by C. Lee McKenzie-

There was an air of sadness throughout the majority of this story that pulled on my heartstrings. An orphaned girl in a new country-a whole new culture and name. So much change all at once would be difficult for anyone to bear. I was immediately rooting for this incarnation of Alice to get some sort of happy ending.

While this tale seemed steeped in heartbreak, there was also the bittersweet joys of moving forward and embracing new things. I really enjoyed this story and will be looking for more from this author.

Alice, Last of the Beating Hearts by David Turnbull -

Story number three from this collection was 'Alice, Last of the Beating Hearts' by David Turnbull. In this Alice tale, machines have taken Alice's mother from her and taken over her world. Now, ruled by an elusive mechanical Queen, Alice relies on her android helper, Hatter, to help keep her alive.

Rife with tension and action, I was riveted through the entirety of this story. I look forward to reading more from this author.

The Watchmaker's Ball by Christine Norris -

The Watchmaker's Ball by Christine Norris is the fourth story in this collection. I found it amazingly easy to connect with this Alice. Her love for inventions in a time when ladies were not encouraged to use their minds endeared her to me. Enter the clockwork white rabbit and away we go.

The Watchmaker was superbly done in my opinion-a fantastic villain. The creepiness of the clockwork dancers locked away forever to satisfy a madman's boredom was enough to make me shiver. I thoroughly enjoyed this story and I will be adding Christine Norris to my authors to watch list.

The fifth story in Beware the Little White Rabbit is Rabbit Fever by Jackie Horsfall. I found this story to be unique and well written. It was well paced and full of emotion. I really enjoyed it very much. Anything with a sort of historical twist to it usually catches my interest and this was no exception. I've found another author to add to my watch list.

K.L. Hallam says

What a ride! Each Alice adventure left me a little shifted. So much fun.

Medeia Sharif says

I'm one of the authors of this anthology. My short story aside, I thoroughly enjoyed the stories that covered a variety of genres from the other 12 authors. It was interesting reading about Alice through their lens, and going through new adventures and situations with these familiar, yet reinvented, characters.

Megan says

3.5 stars!

This was the first anthology I ever listened to, and I have some mixed feelings on it. There are a variety of genres represented in this book. The stories are all very different, but they all contain a few elements. They seem to be a girl named Alice, a white rabbit, and a problem of some kind that Alice needs to work through. Things are not always what they appear is a common theme throughout the book.

I have shortly broken down my thoughts on each story individually below:

-Alice through the wormhole- This was one of the better stories. This was a fantasy story, with a touch of science fiction. I liked how Alice had to buy her rare tea from a dealer, very much like buying drugs from drug dealer.

-They Call Me Alice- I was bored by this story until the end when it all came together. I ended up loving this one! A Chinese girl has been adopted by an american family. They have changed her name, and she doesn't know who she is anymore.

-Last Of The Beating Hearts-

This was a science fiction type story. The world is very mechanical, and Alice is in a war against them. I found this one to be a little boring.

-Watchmakers Ball- Alice's mother drags her to a festival of some kind, where she is given a strange warning. Ignoring the warning, she followed the white rabbit to a secret ball. This story grew on me slowly, and I ended up really liking it!

-Rabbit fever- Alice's brother has been affected by the plague. A ground up unicorn horn is supposed to be a possible cure.

I liked this story, and the theme that love for your family can make you stronger than you knew you could be.

-Mustang Alice- Alice spots a white rabbit like one from her childhood, in a Mustang parked nearby. She ends up driving away in the car, with a boy in the backseat. This was one of my favorites in the book.

-White is a human construct- Alice is a young southern girl, hiding her feelings about what her stepfather did to her and her mother. She's trying to pull her mother out of the deep depression she has fallen into.

This story was ok, but a little boring.

-Alice and her shadow- This story was confusing at first. Alice's shadow begins doing the talking, and explains that Alice's life has become boring. The shadow decides to take over, and force her to become the shadow. This story was so weird and creepy, but is my favorite!

-Alice in Wilderland- Alice is on a camping trip, and finds herself with the hot guy from school. They get seperated from the group and have to spend the night together. Simply a cute little, romantic teenage story.

-The Aviary- Alice's father keeps her family locked away in a tower to be safe from the plague. Things are not always as they seem. I found this one a little boring.

-Broken Tethers- Alice wonders into an old abandoned house, and finds her favorite childhood book. She falls through the floor into the basement, and finds a door to a different world. This was one that actually reminded me of the original Alice In Wonderland.

-Undercover Alice- Alice goes to cover the launching of Maddie Hatter's new hats. She ends up uncovering a case of animal cruelty. I liked that this story approached an issue that I have never read about.

-Follow The Steam Rabbit- Alice's uncle creates a lot of mechanical things in his underground workshop. A mechanical rabbit draws her attention and she ends up falling into his workshop. Essentially this was a steampunk version of Alice In Wonderland, with a twist.

As with any collection of stories, there will be some great, and some not so great. My favorites were mostly the ones that did not feel like a straight up retelling of the original story, but rather a completely new take with a few key details included. Rhiannon Angell was an amazing narrator. By providing the voices for all these stories, and all these characters, we really see how talented she is! If she had not had such a wide range of voices, the audiobook would have ended up very boring. She really brought life to this book, and I am very impressed with the outcome!

**I was provided this audiobook in exchange for an honest review through Audiobook Jukebox. This does not change my opinion in any way.

Shannon Delany, Judith Graves
Beware The Little White Rabbit
Rhiannon Angell
Leap Books
Unabridged
7 hours and 41 minutes

Tonja Drecker says

This is a must read for all fairy tale fans, who have dreamed of following Alice into the rabbit hole and seeing where it might lead them. There are thirteen stories, each introduced with a lovely picture and accompanied with cute little rabbits between scene changes. (Yes, I love tiny little extras like this.) The stories center around an 'Alice', a rabbit and a hole, but that's where the similarities end.

Although I honestly wondered if reading about the same main character again and again might grow repetitive, the authors take Alice through all sorts of fantastical worlds and times - from steampunk to rides into history - making each adventure new and exciting. The Alices not only had to face very different situations, but each has a distinct personality, making the characters fresh and different despite the shared name. I especially enjoyed how many of the authors incorporated the strange and often topsy-turvy feel that Wonderland and it's inhabitants always have into the plot and dialogue. It peppered the tales with a fun bit of insanity even when some of the plots drew into darker worlds. . .and they do that!

Summed up, this is a delightful collection of very different stories, which are just the perfect length for taking quick trips with Alice down a huge variety of rabbit holes. And several of the stories had me going back to read them again. . .and probably again.

I received a free copy in exchange for an honest review.

Moujnir says

Beware the White Rabbit is an anthology with 13 stories, all inspired by Alice in Wonderland and starring Alice herself as the main character in all of them. It sounds like it could get repetitive really quickly, but rest assured, this anthology is the exact opposite of repetitive. All of these stories are so unique, so brilliant in the way that that are told, that you can't help but fall in love with each and every one of them.

Alice, Through The Wormhole was action packed and a wonderful sci-fi delight with an ending that made me gasp in astonishment while smiling in satisfaction. They Call Me Alice was more of a tear-jerker, bringing different cultures together for a heart-warming tale of new beginnings and accepting all versions of one's self. Alice, Last of the Beating Hearts had a haunting, cinematic action quality to it, and it possessed one of the most awesome depictions of the Cheshire Cat, Mad Hatter, White Queen, and Red Queen EVER. The Watchmaker's Ball was extraordinarily creepy, each page of the story unfolding more disturbing secrets about The Watchmaker than I ever expected to find out. Rabbit Fever was an ingenious take on what would happen if Alice's story was told during the plague in London; fleas and plague shall haunt my dreams for a while.

Mustang Alice was a great story!!! It had a very interesting spin on what happens when a "good girl" decides to add some adventure to her life (and I was not expecting the way it ended at all!) White Is a Human Construct broke my heart into a million tiny pieces, stomped on it, and then left me a smidgen of hope at the end. It was raw, complex, heart wrenching and it made me want to jump into the pages and let Alice know that she's not alone. Alice and Her Shadow was definitely very unsettling, creepy, disturbing, and brilliant.

The thought of someone else taking over your identity is terrifying enough, but this story took it to new heights, and I loved every minute of it.

Alice in Wilderland was beautifully written, moving, and just plain excellent. It perfectly captured the feeling of loss, the beauty of love and that feeling when you finally find something, or someone, after experiencing immense pain that encourages you to enjoy life again. The Aviary told an incredible tale about family, soul mates, and the fate of those who are left behind after the loss of a loved one, while integrating the horror of the plague with the intrigue of the paranormal. (Also, because of The Aviary, blue macaws are my new favorite bird- you just have to read it for yourself to understand why.) Broken Tethers had a wonderful plot about taking risks and learning from your mistakes, told in unique prose. Alice was epic in this story, and Buddy may just be my favorite incarnation of the white rabbit ever!

Undercover Alice was just awesome! I feel in love with this Alice, especially her humor and wit, and the assortment of characters that surround her instantly, enjoying the characters without minding whether their intentions were good or evil. The simple scandalous scoop she was after quickly turned into a mad adventure, and I adored every second of it. Follow the Steam Rabbit was the last story in the anthology but definitely not the least, as it was full of brilliant references to Alice in Wonderland ranging from the obvious to the obscure. It was a great read (and kudos to author Liam Hogan for Uncle Charles' name - it was wonderful to see the creator of the original work acknowledged in that way.)

In conclusion, this is a must-read for Alice in Wonderland fans that are looking for an interesting and new take on beloved and familiar characters. No matter what genre you like, there is a story in here for you- and if you enjoy reading across a multitude of genres, this anthology is paper(or ebook!) heaven. Definitely worth checking out!

5 out of 5 stars.

~Moujnir

Shannon Delany says

BEWARE THE LITTLE WHITE RABBIT has short stories for all types of YA lit lovers. Steampunk, fantasy, romance, science fiction, history, and horror help round out this book. Instead of crafting a single genre homage to Lewis Carroll's Alice, Leap Books BEWARE strives to echo the diversity found in Carroll's Wonderland with a wide selection of story genres.

Many people (from around the world) submitted stories, and the vast majority of them were rejected. The stories that were chosen demonstrated well-constructed worlds, heartfelt characters, and resourceful women cast in the role of Alice. We invite you to find your favorites and let their authors know.

As a note, the book will not release to any readers or reviewers (other than our editing staff) until 4/14/15 and there was no ARC.

Full Disclosure: I am a co-editor and co-publisher of this anthology and only publish books I firmly believe readers will love. These authors gave a fresh take on Alice their all.

Judith Graves says

I can't wait for this anthology to launch. Fans of Alice, horror, romance, thriller, sci-fi, historical fiction, steampunk...it's got just about every reader covered. But BEWARE, once you follow the little white rabbit...you might not want to come back.
