



## CONSIDERING the saga of

### Alyss, the Crown Princess of Wonderland

Alex Ness

Frank Beddor's novel *The Looking Glass Wars* has a bit of cachet both in the positive and negative. When I say that what I mean is that people are divided upon the book, but not altogether regarding its contents. Those seeing the book negatively often are Lewis Carroll purists, some seemingly never having read the book they dislike. Those who positively regard it, often are iconoclasts, or have no experience with the *Alice in Wonderland* or *Through the Looking Glass* world created by Lewis Carroll. I have read Carroll's works and Beddor's *THE LOOKING GLASS WARS* and *Hatter M* 1, 2, and 3. I believe the Beddor book is well written, and a worthy companion to the original. While it is clearly related to the original it is sufficiently different as to be worth reading, even for the Carroll-phile. Lewis Carroll's classic fantasy stories (I do not consider them children's stories), *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through The Looking Glass* created a world of insane reasoning and silly word play, queens and kings, a Mad Hatter and Cheshire cat. Beddor uses them as well but interprets them with a twist. Alyss Heart was heir to the throne of Wonderland but lost that throne when Aunt Redd stormed murdered her parents and ascended the throne. Alyss fled to our reality/world and confided to Charles Dodgson (Lewis Carroll) and the family Liddel. And eventually, though the memories became dim she nonetheless believed still but became Alice Liddel Alyss's Wonderland, her home



world must be freed. She realizes that she must return home and, however bloodily, wrest control of the throne from Redd.

If you've read Carroll's work, perhaps you can see the analogues for characters in the cast of LGW. THE CAST

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Alyss Heart: Crown Princess of Wonderland in exile.

Hatter Madigan: Alyss's loyal bodyguard.

Redd Heart: Evil queen.

Dodge Anders: Captain of the palace guard, Alyss's best friend.

Bibwit Harte: The royal tutor to the Heart family, teaching them everything they have to know to be a good monarch. His name is an anagram of White Rabbit.

The Cat: The Queen's top assassin. Seeks to eliminate the Crown Princess, her guards and any who stand in Redd's path.

The Liddels: Alyss adopted family.

Reverend Charles Lutwidge Dodgson: Lewis Carroll

I found Lewis Carroll's books creepy. They were sinister in a fashion, and unpleasant to me. As a child they seemed incomprehensible, as an adult just dark under the guise of odd or clever genius. Beddor's work might not be entirely within the range of my taste, but where I felt uncomfortable by Carroll's work, Beddor's work is bright, hopeful and cheered me. Alyss is beautiful, deserving of great praise as a literary character. Far from a confused Alice, she is a powerful bright light. Some might think because I am a friend of Frank Beddor that I am writing this because of that, but honestly, Beddor's work might be flawed in small places, but it was a fun read. If I had to read Carroll's work again, I might prefer to visit the dentist.

Make sure to find HATTER M #2.5, within it you will find a guide to world of HATTER M, and Alyss, and an FAQ and beautiful artwork. I am not going to review it, as it is exactly what it is made to be, a guide.



## **HATTER M #1-3 Beddor, Cavalier and Templesmith**

If you have read the LOOKING GLASS WARS you would almost certainly gain greater perspective with HATTER M. Princess Alyss is awash in time and space, and Hatter Madigan, Hatter M her bodyguard tracks her as best he can, finding himself in a foreign odd place, and faced with enemies and difficulties. Not a typical comic book, in that this is a story of a very defined quest, a focused warrior, not about discovery of himself, but of finding and rescuing Alyss and returning her to her place in Wonderland. A chapter in the broader story, it is still enjoyable without reading the LGW, but I promise you, reading just one is good but reading both is great. The writing here is far more playful than the novel, and the visuals by Ben Templesmith I love.

## **FIRST BOOK OF THE LOOKING GLASS WARS TRILOGY OF NOVELS NOW AVAILABLE IN THE US**

Frank Beddor's Dark Take on Wonderland Set for a September 26 Release Contact: Ian Feller 813 Services & Solutions, Inc. 813/889-8977 [ian@813sands.com](mailto:ian@813sands.com)

September 22, 2006, Hollywood, CA – The first book in author Frank Beddor's The Looking Glass Wars trilogy will be released in the U.S. on Sept. 26, 2006 by Dial Books, a division of Penguin Group (USA) Inc. and Scholastic Audiobooks. The novel was previously only available in the U.K.

The Looking Glass Wars became a sensation in the U.K. when it debuted there in 2004. Its story revealed how Lewis Carroll, author of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, had willfully misrepresented the story of seven-year-old Alyss Heart, betraying the exiled princess of Wonderland by turning her painful history into a fairytale, when, in fact, it is a dark and dangerous depiction of familial treachery, thwarted love, and the despotic domination of imagination.

“At long last all will be revealed to the audience here in the States that have been anxiously awaiting the truth about Alyss Heart and Lewis Carroll,” said Beddor. “It's taken a while to reach this release date, but now the truth will be told. This first novel is only the beginning of the story and the Hatter M comic series only adds depth to what's in the first novel. There is plenty to tell and eventually all will be revealed.”

Frank Beddor, perhaps best known prior to The Looking Glass Wars as a film producer whose credits include the blockbuster There's Something About Mary, spent years tracking Alyss and the fractured truth of Wonderland's parallel existence before writing one word of the trilogy. Currently, Frank has gone underground somewhere in Los Angeles, California, to avoid the impassioned vigilantes at literary odds with his radical revelations while he finishes work on Seeing Redd, the second book of The Looking Glass Wars trilogy and continues with his ongoing comic book series, Hatter M, which tells of the royal bodyguard's parallel search for Alyss during the 13 years she remains lost in our world.

Copies of The Looking Glass Wars will be available at all major bookstores including Barnes & Noble, Borders and Walden Books, as well as online through Amazon.com.

For more information on the novel or comic book series, or to view a special effects-driven animated teaser trailer for the first novel, please visit [www.lookingglasswars.com](http://www.lookingglasswars.com).

## **IN THE BEGINNING, THE CARDS CAME FROM WONDERLAND...**

Further Adventures from Wonderland The Original Card Game Based on the Hatter M Comic Series

September 18, 2006, Hollywood, CA – Ancient and illuminated, the deck slowly scattered. What remained was eventually housed by the British Museum to lay under a thin film of dust, seen by thousands but discovered by only one, Frank Beddor, author of *The Looking Glass Wars*. After tracking down the full deck, Beddor was able to write his shocking exposé of the true story of Wonderland. But still, he remained haunted by the cards.

Not long after the publication of *The Looking Glass Wars*, Beddor received an anonymous late night phone call hinting at the Wonderland beginnings for the ancient game of GO. The caller whispered, “It all begins with GO. But to complete the truth you must go beyond the board. To the cards.”



Beyond the board?

Beddor hired an esoteric mathematician to unravel this gaming riddle. The mathematician soon realized that the ancient cards were pieces of an even older game, played like the Eastern game of GO, but using the playing cards of the West. What he had discovered was the origin of all strategic gameplay. Based on his findings he created *The Looking Glass Wars* card game where battles transport players from the known to the unknown by enhancing perceptions, extending clarity and opening the mind to the infinite power of unbounded Imagination. The premiere version of the game – *Hatter M* – featuring the art of Ben Templesmith, and based on the comic series published by Desperado Publishing through Image Comics will be available for online play September 20 at [www.lookingglasswars.com](http://www.lookingglasswars.com). A printed version of the game will be available soon as well.

### **HATTER M #3 IN STORES SEPTEMBER 20**

Latest Issue of Critically Acclaimed Series Set For Release

Contact: Ian Feller 813 Services & Solutions, Inc. 813/889-8977 [ian@813sands.com](mailto:ian@813sands.com)

September 5, 2006, Hollywood, CA – Automatic Pictures through Desperado Publishing and Image Comics is set to release *Looking Glass Wars: Hatter M #3*, the third issue of four from the hit series, on September 20.

“Better late than never, right?” joked *Hatter M* writer, Frank Beddor. “We experienced some technical difficulties getting the third issue out, but it is done now and *Hatter* will be able to continue his quest for Princess Alyss very soon. I hope you’ll join him on his journey.”

Issue #3 is “The Haunting of Hatter Madigan.” Royal Bodyguard Hatter Madigan is plunged into the nightmare realm of Wonderland’s bloody coup and the shocking loss of Princess Alyss in the pool of tears. As you turn the pages of issue #3, you will come to know the guilt and obligation that drives Hatter Madigan in his non-stop search.

*Looking Glass Wars: Hatter M #3* is a 40 page issue featuring 33 pages of story and art for a cover price of \$3.99. The issue features a story by Frank Beddor and Liz Cavalier with art by Ben Templesmith. If you have not reserved a copy yet, orders can still be placed by using this Diamond order code: **LOOKING GLASS WARS HATTER M #3 (OF4) FEB061784**.