

# **The Looking Glass Wars Study Guide**

## **The Looking Glass Wars by Frank Beddor**

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# Plot Summary

The Looking Glass Wars is a novel by best-selling author Frank Beddor. This book takes a new look at the Lewis Carroll novel, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, telling the story from the point of view of a young girl who swears that her story is true and that Carroll twisted it to his own advantage. In truth, Alyss Heart is the daughter of a queen who was beheaded by her sister, Redd, forcing Alyss to flee into the Pool of Tears and a world where imagination is only a child's plaything. When Alyss returns to Wonderland, Redd has decimated what was once a happy, carefree place and turned it into a nightmare of Dark Imagination and injustice. The Looking Glass Wars is a unique look at a beloved story that pits good against evil in a landscape Carroll fans will recognize and with characters who seem vaguely familiar, yet completely endearing.

Alyss Heart is celebrating her seventh birthday at home in Heart Palace. Alyss is anxious for her father to return home and to share her celebration with her best friend, Dodge Anders. However, the celebration is abruptly ended when Queen Genevieve's sister, Redd, enters the palace and begins a coup to regain the queendom from her sister. Alyss is forced to watch as the grown ups who have shaped her young world are killed all around her. Genevieve pushes Alyss and her personal guard, Hatter Madigan, into a looking glass to escape the mayhem just moments before Redd beheads her.

Alyss and Hatter jump into the Pool of Tears as Redd's assassin, Cat, overtakes them. The next thing Alyss knows is she is in a world that is nothing like the bright colors of her home, Wonderland. Confused and frightened, Alyss spots a carriage that she believes is carrying her mother and she chases it through the streets only to discover it is not her mother. A young orphan boy comes across Alyss and takes pity on her, welcoming her into the bosom of his small band of homeless orphans. Over the next few weeks, Alyss uses her imagination to help beg money to feed this group of orphans, but in time Alyss's imagination stops working. In an attempt to steal food for the group, Alyss is caught and sent to an orphanage.

As Alyss spends time in the orphanage, Hatter Madigan finds himself in France, having popped through a different puddle of the Pool of Tears. For thirteen years Hatter searches for Alyss. At the same time, Alyss is adopted by a kind couple with two other daughters. Alyss meets a professor at the college where her new father is dean and finds in him a sympathetic ear to her stories of Wonderland. However, Alyss feels betrayed when this man uses her stories and twists them to write a novel that essentially makes light of her memories. From this moment on, Alyss conforms to the ways of her new world, almost convincing herself that her memories of Wonderland are only an overactive imagination, as everyone has told her. In time, Alyss finds herself engaged to marry Prince Leopold, the son of Queen Victoria.

Hatter stumbles upon a copy of Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and tracks down the author. Carroll tells Hatter where he can find Alyss, but when he tries to get past the security at Kensington Palace, he is accidentally shot by a guard. Hatter manages to escape into a puddle back to Wonderland where he is found and taken to

the Alyssian camp for medical care. When Dodge learns that Alyss is still alive, he goes through the Pool of Tears to bring her back to Wonderland.

With Alyss back in Wonderland, hope once again fills the Alyssians who have fought for so long against Redd in Alyss's name. However, Alyss cannot remember how to use White Imagination and is worried she might not be able to lead her people to victory. However, after going through the Looking Glass Maze, Alyss grows more confident. In a battle with Redd, Alyss proves her superior strength, but is surprised when Redd jumps into the Heart Crystal with her assassin rather than allow Alyss to win the battle. Alyss is left to become queen and rebuild Wonderland.

# Prologue and Part 1: Chapters 1-6

## Prologue and Part 1: Chapters 1-6 Summary

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland is a work of fiction by author Lewis Carroll. The author of this novel, Frank Beddor, takes Carroll's novel and gives it a new twist, suggesting the ideas that lead to the creation of such a fantastic novel were actually based on truth.

In the Prologue, Alyss becomes angry when she reads the rhyme meant to introduce the book her friend, Reverend Charles Dodgson, has written based on her memories of Wonderland. Alyss realizes that Dodgson did not believe her any more than anyone else and her hopes that his book would finally redeem her have been crushed.

In Chapter 1, it is Alyss's seventh birthday, but she is bored because her mother is making her watch the invention parade with her. When Queen Genevieve likes an invention, she sends it to the Heart Crystal and it will become a reality in another world. Alyss is more concerned with her birthday party and whether her father will arrive in time. Alyss also wonders where her friend, Dodge Anders, is.

In Chapter 2, King Nolan is finishing up a meeting with King Arch of Boarderland, attempting to make a pact with Arch to join forces should Redd's army attack either country. King Arch has a problem with women of authority, which is why King Nolan has come to speak to him instead of Queen Genevieve. Now that they have reached a tentative deal, King Nolan is in a hurry to return to Wonderland for his daughter's birthday.

In Chapter 3, Bibwit Harte is an albino with incredibly sharp hearing who has been tutor to the Heart family for many generations. Bibwit has been attempting to teach Alyss what she needs to know to become the next queen, but Alyss is an imaginative child who often uses White Imagination without control, causing a great deal of trouble such as the joke she plays on Bibwit during her party. Bibwit expects Alyss will make a very powerful queen someday despite this fact.

In Chapter 4, King Nolan is within sight of Heart Palace when he and his men are attacked by Redd's card army. Redd herself stabs King Nolan through the heart.

In Chapter 5, Alyss finally finds Dodge Anders. Dodge gives Alyss a jabberwocky tooth for her birthday. Alyss makes Dodge dance with her, which he enjoys even though his father has often told Dodge that he is destined to be one of the Millinery, a protector of the royal family, not Alyss's king. Instead, Alyss will more than likely be forced to marry Jack of Diamonds, the only member of the suit families of a suitable age. Jack of Diamonds is a very unpleasant person, however, as exemplified by his disruption of Alyss and Dodge's dance. Dodge hits Jack of Diamonds when he touches Alyss's gift, then takes Alyss out of the palace.



In Chapter 6, Queen Genevieve overhears disturbing discussions in the garden where some of the suit families talk about the growing underground Black Imagination groups. Queen Genevieve assures these gossips that her Millinery is working to quash the movement. Jack of Diamonds tries to join the group, but Bibwit stops him. When the Jack of Diamonds complains about what Dodge did, Bibwit convinces him to hold his tongue until Bibwit can locate Dodge and Alyss. At the same time, Dodge has taken Alyss out of the Palace through servant tunnels and shows her the Pool of Tears, so named because people who fall in are never seen again, causing their loved ones to cry at its shores. Bibwit comes toward them, but Dodge and Alyss escape his clutches. Alyss then finds a kitten near the gates of the Palace with her name on a card around his neck. Alyss takes him with her inside only to have the kitten jump from her arms and disappear.

## Prologue and Part 1: Chapters 1-6 Analysis

The book begins with a snapshot from the future. Alyss is still a child, but she is living in the real world and has told a man she is acquainted with about Wonderland. This man, Reverend Charles Dodgson, has taken these stories as a figment of her imagination and changed them to create the novel, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Alyss is very upset about this not only because he spelled her name wrong, but because he has made a mockery of her memories. This snapshot suggests to the reader not only a connection to the classic novel, but it begins a story about the real Wonderland that readers might recognize in partiality, noting the differences between Alyss's reality and Dodgson's fictional tale.

The first few chapters of the novel not only introduce the main characters, but the setting of Wonderland. The reader meets Alyss, a seven year old girl who lives in a world where imagination is not just a tool that children use to play pretend, but an actual power that children and adults alike can use to create real objects and to manipulate people and things around them. The imagination that Alyss and her mother use is called White Imagination. However, Alyss's aunt, Redd, uses another kind of imagination called Black Imagination that has a darker nature and is based in darker emotions, such as anger, jealousy, and hatred. As the novel opens, Genevieve has gained the throne at great price after a civil war with her sister.

The reader meets Bibwit Harte, who will be renamed White Hare in Carroll's novel. Bibwit is a tutor who is to train Alyss how to use her imagination and prepare to become queen one day. Bibwit has extraordinary hearing and plays devil's advocate with the children. Dodge Anders is a friend of Alyss's who is only a few years older than her. Dodge's father is the leader of the Millinery, the military force in Wonderland. Dodge hopes to be head of the Millinery himself someday. However, Dodge is in love with Alyss, but knows he will never be allowed to marry her. Finally there is Jack of Diamonds. The suit families are like dukes and lords in the English government and Jack of Diamonds is the only boy of the suit families of a suitable age to be king to Alyss's queen. However, Jack of Diamonds is spoiled and unpleasant, just like his parents. In fact, all the suit families are petty and unpleasant, always looking out for

their own good rather than the country's good. This leaves Genevieve's government vulnerable because of the suit families' lack of loyalty.



# Part 1: Chapters 7-10

## Part 1: Chapters 7-10 Summary

In Chapter 7, while resting for a few minutes in her rooms, Queen Genevieve is visited by the blue caterpillar, one of a race of psychics who serve only the Heart Crystal. The blue caterpillar shows Queen Genevieve a confusion of images that include her sister, Redd. When Hatter comes for Queen Genevieve a short time later, she tells him to inform the Millinery to prepare a defense.

In Chapter 8, the party moves into the South Dining Room for tea. Alyss and Dodge join the party, prompting Jack of Diamonds to take the opportunity to tell on Dodge. An argument ensues that is quickly ended when the kitten comes into the room and suddenly morphs into a large cat-like man. Seconds later, Redd bursts into the room with a group of her card soldiers and orders everyone beheaded.

In Chapter 9, Redd, who has spent years preparing her army and creating the perfect assassin, has finally decided it is time to take back what is rightfully hers. Redd should have been queen because she was the older child, but Redd's mother decided it should be Genevieve because Redd was insolent and refused to learn at Bibwit's side. Redd killed her mother and entered into a civil war with her sister when Genevieve dared to take the throne, but was pushed back by the Millinery, especially Genevieve's own assassin, Hatter Madigan. However, now she believes she is the stronger sister and will take what is her by force.

In Chapter 10, as Redd bursts into the dining room, Dodge pulls Alyss under the table with him. From their position, Alyss and watch the Millinery men in the room, including Dodge's father, Justice Anders, and Hatter Madigan, fight Redd's soldiers and The Cat. Justice Anders falls to The Cat, causing Dodge to come out from under the table and leave Alyss alone. Redd finds Alyss and drags her out from under the table. It is then that Redd uses her scepter to show Genevieve and Alyss that King Nolan is dead. Genevieve uses White Imagination to battle Redd and gets out of the room with Hatter and Alyss just ahead of Redd. Genevieve takes them to her rooms and tells Hatter to protect Alyss at all cost. Genevieve then sends them into the Looking Glass Continuum through a looking glass in her room. The Cat reaches the room just as Alyss and Hatter disappear. Genevieve manages to kill The Cat, but Redd stops Genevieve with rose vines, cutting off her head while she is immobile. The Cat then revives, having lost only one of his nine lives.

## Part 1: Chapters 7-10 Analysis

Moments before an attack by Redd, the blue caterpillar comes to warn Queen Genevieve but she is not fast enough to stop it. Genevieve proves herself to be smart and capable, but she falls under her sister's power anyway. Redd is a dark, jealous

woman who feels that she was wrongly passed over for queen by her own mother, a woman she murdered as a result. Redd has proven herself to be darkly selfish and filled with rage, turning her anger on her own family without thought of the consequences.

Genevieve manages to get Alyss out of the Palace, but that does not guarantee Alyss's survival. To protect her, Genevieve has sent her own bodyguard, Hatter Madigan, with her. This gives the reader hope that Alyss will survive to one day come back and reclaim the queendom for her family. However, at the moment there is a great deal of chaos and danger afloat, leaving the reader wondering how Alyss might get out of harm's way.

Also important in this group of chapters is the death of Justice Anders. Dodge sees his father fall and is devastated because, like all young boys, Dodge thought his father was invisible. This causes Dodge to fail at his self-appointed duties to protect Alyss, causing her some shock at his actions. This will also set Dodge up for a desire for revenge against The Cat that will haunt him for many years to come.

# Part 1: Chapters 11-18

## Part 1: Chapters 11-18 Summary

In Chapter 11, the Crystal Continuum is a very dangerous and tricky way to travel. Alyss has never been inside the continuum before, but Hatter knows how to navigate it well. Hatter manages to get himself and Alyss to a hidden looking glass in the Whispering Woods. However, they are quickly spotted by seekers, birds designed to seek out specific targets. At the same time, Redd repairs the looking glass in Genevieve's rooms that Genevieve shattered after Hatter and Alyss's escape, sending The Cat through to finish Alyss off.

In Chapter 12, as The Cat chases them, Hatter holds Alyss and jumps into the Pool of Tears. Alyss is immediately caught by the undercurrent and soon finds herself emerging from a puddle in the middle of a dirty street. Alyss spots a carriage in the middle of a parade and thinks it might contain her mother. However, after chasing the carriage off the parade route and onto a side street, she realizes it was not her mother. Alyss returns, or tries to return, to the puddle where she came from to find Hatter but there are so many puddles. A young boy speaks to Alyss and she tells him she is Princess Alyss Heart of Wonderland, causing him to answer her with an equally outlandish title. The boy then tells her to follow him if she wants a change of clothes.

In Chapter 13, at the same time Alyss finds herself in the streets of London, Hatter emerges in Paris. Hatter instantly searches around for Alyss but she is nowhere to be seen. Hatter wonders what to do and realizes some of the people around him shine like Alyss did in Wonderland. For this reason, Hatter follows one of these men into a hat shop and tries to ask him about Alyss. The man does not understand his language and Hatter does not understand him. Then a man outside the shop tries to take Hatter's backpack, causing Hatter to show them his weapons to show that he can defend himself. The men call for help and when Hatter tries to run, they corner him and wrap him in a rug to take him to jail.

In Chapter 14, the Cat, back in Wonderland, decides not to follow Hatter and Alyss into the Pool of Tears, but instead returns to Redd and tells her that he killed them and devoured their bodies. Bibwit is saddened by this news, but promises to be loyal to Redd in order to place him in a position of helping to topple Redd someday. The suit families also pledge loyalty to Redd in order to protect themselves from a less than pleasing situation. Redd then claims the queendom and turns the Heart Crystal red, hiding it from anyone who might dare to take it from her.

In Chapter 15, General Doppelganger escapes the Palace with as many soldiers loyal to Genevieve and vows to reorganize and fight Redd to reclaim the queendom. Dodge is among them even though he would have preferred to die with his father and Alyss. Later, Dodge and a rook return to the palace and bury his father in the palace garden.



In Chapter 16, Alyss tells Quigly Gaffer, the homeless orphan, about her life in Wonderland and her powerful imagination. Alyss even shows Quigly her imagination by making a flower sing. Quigly then introduces Alyss to his friends and gives her dry clothes to wear. The next day, Quigly takes Alyss onto the streets of London and has her make a flower sing so that people will give them money. Afterwards, Alyss and Quigly buy all the orphans a large meal with their spoils. They do this for several days, but soon Alyss's imagination begins to fade and she can no longer make the flower sing. Alyss then takes Quigly and several of the other children to a butcher shop where she tricks the butcher into leaving the children alone in the front of his shop. The children gather as much food as they can and run, but Alyss is caught.

In Chapter 17, Hatter is taken into court, still wrapped in the rug. When the magistrate orders that Hatter be released from the rug, he escapes through a window. Hatter hits the streets, more careful how he behaves, but determined to find Alyss.

In Chapter 18, Alyss is placed in an orphanage at Charing Cross. Alyss is not well liked because of her stories of Wonderland, but she is beautiful and soon is adopted by a reverend and his wife, the Liddells. Alyss is teased by her new sisters because of her Wonderland stories and the tutor insists on spelling her name wrong. However, Alyss makes a friend in Reverend Charles Dodgson, the mathematics lecturer of Christ Church where Reverend Liddell is the dean. Reverend Dodgson believes Alyss's stories of Wonderland and encourages her to tell him more of them, asking if he can write a book about Alyss's Wonderland. However, the resulting book is not what Alyss expected.

## Part 1: Chapters 11-18 Analysis

Alyss and Hatter escape the palace through a looking glass only to find themselves cornered at the Pool of Tears. Hatter knows that he has no choice and takes Alyss into the Pool of Tears. This causes them to become separated and appear in the real world in different places. Alyss finds herself alone on the streets of London where she uses her powers of imagination to make money on the streets, but soon being so far from Wonderland and the Heart Crystal, Alyss's powers of imagination stop functioning. Soon Alyss finds herself in an orphanage where her memories of Wonderland are mocked and her future becomes uncertain. All of this is a rude awakening for Alyss who has always lived in a carefree world of privilege, slowly causing Alyss to become jaded to the people around her.

Alyss meets Charles Dodgson, a mathematics lecturer who will one day publish novels under the name Lewis Carroll. Dodgson shows interest in Alyss's stories, the first to do so, and even suggests writing a book that would be for both of them. Alyss is enthusiastic about this because Dodgson is the first to show interest in her stories and because a book could mean vindication for Alyss after being made fun of and told her stories were not real for so long. However, as the reader already knows, Dodgson changes the story and makes Alyss feel like a fool.

Hatter too finds himself in the real world, but he is in France rather than England. Hatter struggles in her early days in the real world after pulling his weapons on some men in the street and getting himself arrested. This shows the reader how different the real world is from Wonderland and how difficult to navigate even for an adult. In fact, Alyss seems to assimilate must easier than Hatter, but this does not stop Hatter from his determination to make sure he fulfills his promise to Genevieve, to protect Alyss.

## Part 2: Chapters 19-24

### Part 2: Chapters 19-24 Summary

In Chapter 19, four years later, a rebel group that calls itself Alyssians for Alyss, has grown and begun attacking some of Redd's outposts, including the labor camp Blaxik. One of the fiercest fighters among the Alyssians is Dodge Anders. Redd rules Wonderland from a fortress on Mount Isolation, where she is outraged to learn of the Alyssians' success at Blaxik. After the battle, Dodge and rook walk through the ruins of Wondertropolis, aware of the changes that have taken place since Redd's rise to the queendom.

In Chapter 20, Hatter has left Paris and travels around the world in search of Alyss. In Monaco, Hatter finds his top hat in a puddle that should not have existed. Hatter suspects this puddle is a portal to the Pool of Tears.

In Chapter 21, after Dodgson shows Alyss his book, she realizes that no one in this world will ever believe Alyss's stories of Wonderland and she begins to wonder herself if they were real. For this reason, Alyss resolves to allow herself to be assimilated into this world, no longer fighting against the things expected of her here.

In Chapter 22, Hatter steps into the odd puddle in Monaco and quickly finds himself in Wonderland. Hatter learns from the woods that Alyss is believed to be dead, that she has not returned to Wonderland. For this reason, Hatter returns to the real world where he continues to search for Alyss, traveling the world. Thirteen years after the death of Queen Genevieve, Hatter wanders into a shop in the shadow of the Great Pyramid of Giza and is given a copy of Carroll's Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.

In Chapter 23, Dodge races through the Crystal Continuum just ahead of Redd's Glass Eyes as he attempts to get a message to one of Alyssians' outposts. Dodge is quite experienced at traveling in the continuum and successfully eludes his pursuers. Afterward, Dodge visits the Pool of Tears where he allows himself to remember a better time.

In Chapter 24, Alyss has worked hard to fit in in her new world and has made many friends. When Alyss is sixteen, boys begin to take notice in her and her adoptive mother begins encourage her to make a good marriage. However, Alyss is not interested in men or marriage, her memories still refusing to let go of her memories of Dodge. When Prince Leopold begins to take notice in Alyss when he comes to Christ Church to attend classes, the Liddells encourage the relationship. Alyss finds Leopold's company pleasant, therefore when he proposes to Alyss after a visit to an orphanage, Alyss accepts.

## Part 2: Chapters 19-24 Analysis

Time has begun to pass. In Wonderland, Redd has completely changed the city, turning everyone against one another, fueling drug-like habits with crystals, and imprisoning people for the simplest of crimes. Redd even encourages people to turn on one another and then imprisoning both the criminals and the informers.

In Wonderland, a group of rebels has grown up, calling themselves Alyssians to honor a princess they believe to be dead. Dodge has become an honorable member of this group and proven himself over and over again as a capable soldier. However, Dodge is still haunted by the deaths of his father and Alyss, more determined to get revenge than he is in helping return Wonderland to White Imagination.

Alyss is living in the real world where she has forced herself to forget about Wonderland and live a normal life. Alyss makes friends and becomes a part of a real family, growing up to become a beautiful, gentle woman. When she is old enough to make a marriage, Alyss's adoptive family is pleased when she catches the eye of Prince Leopold. Although Alyss does not love Leopold, she agrees to marry him in order to make her family happy and to continue her mundane existence in this world where she has decided she must fit in to survive.

## Part 2: Chapters 25-30

### Part 2: Chapters 25-30 Summary

In Chapter 25, Hatter Madigan tracks down Charles Dodgson and demands to know where Alyss is. Dodgson shows Hatter an announcement in the paper for Alyss's impending nuptials and tells him she is at Kensington Palace. However, when Hatter attempts to force his way into Kensington Palace, he is accidentally shot in the shoulder.

In Chapter 26, the Alyssians are struggling with a lack of morale after thirteen years of fighting. Therefore, when Redd offers the Alyssians some land to form a country of their own in exchange for an end to rebel activity, they agree to talk, unaware that Jack of Diamonds, who pretends to be loyal to the Alyssians is actually in business for himself. However, Jack of Diamonds is not aware that the Alyssians have a backup plan should Redd fail to keep her promises.

In Chapter 27, Dodge is at the Pool of Tears when Hatter Madigan suddenly appears, injured. Dodge quickly takes Hatter to the Alyssian headquarters and has a surgeon repair his injuries. Hatter tells everyone that Alyss is still alive and insists that he must go back. However, Dodge insists on going in his place due to Hatter's injuries.

In Chapter 28, Alyss is at her engagement party, which is a masquerade ball, when she finds herself dancing with a man she thought was her fiancé but turns out to be someone from her past, a past she no longer believes in.

In Chapter 29, when Jack of Hearts tells Redd that Alyss is still alive, she becomes enraged and kills The Cat again, taking another of his lives and leaving him with only six. Redd immediately sends The Cat out after Alyss, insisting he not come back without her head.

In Chapter 30, it is Alyss's wedding day and she is nervous, partly because she cannot forget the face of the man she danced with at her engagement party. Alyss looks for this man as she walks up the aisle on the arm of Reverend Liddell and thinks she sees him in the back. As the ceremony begins, a strange cat-like creature and several card-like men come into the church. As they charge toward Alice, the stranger grabs her and manages to get her out of the church. Alice and the man flee through the streets on a stolen horse and jump into a puddle.

### Part 2: Chapters 25-30 Analysis

Hatter Madigan finally finds Alyss after thirteen years of searching, but is injured and forced to return to Wonderland. When Hatter returns, he finds a much changed Wonderland and a rebel force on the verge of giving up. With the news that Alyss is still alive, the rebel cause is recharged. Dodge goes to get Alyss, awakening in her the memories of her childhood that she has repressed for so many years. Alyss continues

to deny these memories, however, until her wedding day when The Cat and several of Redd's card soldiers break into the church.

Alyss's return to Wonderland will present several problems that the reader wonders how the characters will navigate. Alyss has tried to forget Wonderland, therefore the reader wonders how she will respond when she suddenly finds herself back in that fantastical world. At the same time, Dodge is not the same boy Alyss once knew, but now a boy consumed with a need for revenge. This changed boy needs hope and might find it in Alyss, but the reader is still left wondering if it will be enough to help Dodge and the Alyssians overcome Redd's long rule.

## Part 3: Chapters 31-41

### Part 3: Chapters 31-41 Summary

In Chapter 31, Bibwit Harte waits beside the Pool of Tears when Dodge and Alyss appear. They quickly jump onto spirit-danes and rush to the Alyssian camp ahead of the quickly returning Cat and his card soldiers. However, they are ambushed in the woods. Luckily, some chess pieces from the rebel camp come and help them escape the fight.

In Chapter 32, Alyss arrives in the Alyssian camp and is welcomed with much fanfare by the rebels. Jack of Diamonds, however, is less than pleased to see Alyss still alive even though he covers his shock with a show of emotion and an offer of marriage.

In Chapter 33, General Doppelganger and the others discuss Alyss's return, deciding that she must lead them now that she has returned. Bibwit Harte reminds them that every queen goes through the Looking Glass Maze and that when Alyss goes through it she will reach the full potential of her powers. Jack of Diamonds does not agree with the Alyssian's plans, but quiets when Dodge accuses him of telling Redd where Alyss was.

In Chapter 34, Redd is angry when she learns that The Cat did not kill Alyss, taking yet another of The Cat's lives.

In Chapter 35, Bibwit brings Alyss some clean clothes and then takes her outside for tea. Alyss explains what happened to her in the real world and worries that she cannot use her imagination anymore. Bibwit assures her with a little training she will remember and be able to lead them as a warrior queen, as her mother did before her. Alyss then goes to speak to Dodge and he takes her out of the camp.

In Chapter 36, Jack of Diamonds returns to the Alyssian camp with a satchel containing The Cat in his kitten form. Jack of Diamonds takes the bag directly to the guards guarding the entrance to the camp and releases The Cat, stepping back as the assassin goes to work.

In Chapter 37, Dodge takes Alyss into Wondertropolis and leads her to Heart Palace. As they walk through its abandoned halls, Redd sees them and brings the building down. Dodge and Alyss barely escape.

In Chapter 38, as Alyss and Dodge make their way back to the camp, they are warned to turn back by the foliage. Before they can, however, Alyss and Dodge are attacked by Glass Eyes. Alyss manages to help Dodge fight long enough for General Doppelganger to find them. They continue to fight as they attempt to flee to the emergency portal into the Crystal Continuum hidden in the forest.

In Chapter 39, Alyss escapes into the continuum with Dodge, General Doppelganger, Hatter, and Bibwit. The Glass Eyes follow. As they battle the Glass Eyes, a cannonball

spider accidentally takes hold of Dodge and Alyss is able to imagine a muzzle to keep the spider from injuring him before he can kill it.

In Chapter 40, Redd is enraged when The Cat returns to her and tells her that Alyss escaped him once again. However, The Cat is able to turn Redd's anger on Jack of Diamonds by telling her of the weapons they found in the camp that can be traced back to Jack of Diamonds. Then Redd's imagination shows her Alyss in the Crystal Continuum. Redd breaks all the looking glasses in the city, causing the continuum to begin disappearing around Alyss and her companions.

In Chapter 41, Dodge uses a tiny looking glass to keep the void from overcoming them until they happen upon a forgotten mirror in the Volcanic Plains.

## **Part 3: Chapters 31-41 Analysis**

Alyss returns to Wonderland among much fanfare from the Alyssians, but causing Redd a great deal of frustration. Alyss is the only one capable of taking Redd's throne from her and she knows this, therefore she attempts in multiple ways to have Alyss killed. Unfortunately, even with a spy in the Alyssian camp, Redd's assassin, The Cat, cannot get to Alyss.

Alyss is frustrated upon her return to Wonderland both because she cannot remember how to use her imagination and because Dodge seems so different from the boy she remembers. The war has changed Dodge and Alyss is concerned that he will never again be the boy she remembers. At the same time, Alyss is worried that she will not be a strong leader for her people. However, a visit to her former home helps Alyss to remember what used to be and to fill her with a hope that it might be that way again.

## Part 3: Chapters 42-47

### Part 3: Chapters 42-47 Summary

In Chapter 42, Alyss and her friends walk across the Volcanic Plains and nearly come face to face with a jabberwocky after being caught up in a small landslide. With Hatter's help, they manage to get away and quickly make their way out of the Volcanic Plains.

In Chapter 43, Alyss and her friends stop for the night. Bibwit wants to work on Alyss's lessons, but falls asleep. However, Alyss cannot sleep. Alyss lays by the fire and begins working on her imagination, slowly not only remembering how to use it, but building a control over it she never had before.

In Chapter 44, Redd pulls a curl from Jack of Diamond's wig and turns it into a Wig Beast that begins to beat him for his betrayal of Redd. To stop the beating, Jack of Diamonds tells Redd that Alyss and the others are looking for the Looking Glass Maze. Redd stops punishing Jack of Diamonds and makes him tell her all he knows about the maze, which is very little. Redd as The Cat send the seekers out to follow Alyss so that she might know where they find the maze.

In Chapter 45, Alyss and her friends reach the Valley of Mushrooms where the caterpillars have gone to escape Redd. Alyss is summoned to the blue caterpillar who tells her that Hatter must take her to a place in Wondertopolis that will allow them to find a puzzle shop that holds the key to the Looking Glass Maze. Hatter has no clue what this means, but agrees to take them to the one place he knows.

In Chapter 46, Alyss and her friends arrive in Wondertopolis where they enter a seedy bar and find a young halfer, half civilian and half Millinery, who was in the rebel camp only days before. This girl, Homburg Molly, tells them she knows where the puzzle shop is and will take them. However, Hatter does not trust her. Unfortunately they have no choice but to follow because a division of The Cut is coming.

In Chapter 47, Alyss and her friends find the puzzle shop, but are overrun by The Cut before they can get inside. A battle begins. Hatter manages to get Molly and Alyss inside where they begin to search for the key. Alyss finds the key, a blue cube, and then falls into a hidden-looking glass before she can figure it out.

### Part 3: Chapters 42-47 Analysis

Alyss and her friends manage to make it to safety despite everything Redd does to hunt them down and stop them. However, safety turns out to have its own dangers as Alyss and the others find themselves nearly face to face with a jabberwocky. At the same time, Jack of Diamonds finds himself at the mercy of Redd when The Cat shows her some weapons that can be traced to Jack of Diamonds that were found in the Alyssian camp. It seems everyone is out to help themselves in this world Redd has created.

Redd should not be so surprised that those loyal to her are as selfish and dishonest as she.

Alyss visits with the caterpillars who can see the future and the blue caterpillar tells her a cryptic way in which she might find the all important Looking Glass Maze. Alyss is still concerned that her control over her imagination is not good and that she is not worthy to lead these people into a fight against Redd, let alone to challenge Redd herself. Alyss lacks confidence although she has remembered why Wonderland was so important to her so long ago and is determined to bring it back to its heyday. This leaves the reader wondering, but hoping, if Alyss can really survive the Looking Glass Maze and stop Redd.

## Part 3: Chapters 48-56

### Part 3: Chapters 48-56 Summary

In Chapter 48, Alyss is in the Looking Glass Maze. Alyss is taken through a confusing collection of corridors and hallways by one of her reflections and left alone. Alyss's parents show up in the looking glasses and give her words of encouragement. Then a seven year old version of Alyss engages her in a game of tag. Afterward, the younger Alyss shows her a white scepter and tells her to get it. Before Alyss can reach it, she is shown a jumble of scenes showing her friends in danger and old acquaintances laughing at her. As Alyss moves on, she is placed back in the dining room where Justice Anders' was killed and forced to watch her mother's murder. This outrages Alyss and she finds herself in a room with Redd. Alyss embraces her rage and kills Redd only to find herself at the door of the maze and told she has failed. Alyss returns to the maze where a version of Hatter fights with her, teaching her to not only use her skills to fight, but her imagination in an inventive way. Alyss then finds herself face to face with Redd once again as Redd prepares to execute her friends. Redd asks Alyss to sacrifice herself to save her friends. When Alyss agrees, she is presented with the white scepter.

In Chapter 49, Alyss quickly uses her stronger imagination and her scepter to help end the battle. Before it is over, however, the key to the maze is stolen by a seeker.

In Chapter 50, the suit families suggest to Redd she move the Heart Crystal, but quickly back track when she takes offense. The Cat delivers the key to the maze to Redd. When she cannot figure it out immediately, Jack of Diamonds takes it and promises to find its solution.

In Chapter 51, as Alyss and her friends begin to make plans to attack Redd, Alyss tries to use her imagination to conjure up a large army. When all she is able to create are toy soldiers, Alyss comes up with an idea.

In Chapter 52, as Redd's army attacks a fake army, Alyss and her friends manage to sneak up to the fortress and force their way inside. They decide to divide into two groups, but quickly realize Dodge has gone off on his own to get his revenge on The Cat. Dodge finds Jack of Diamonds and the walrus butler hiding in a room. They are quickly joined by The Cat. Dodge and The Cat immediately begin to fight. As Alyss makes her way toward Redd, she senses Dodge in trouble and tries to help him, but he rebuffs her help. Dodge manages to kill The Cat twice, but then The Cat tricks Dodge and manages to cut his leg badly.

In Chapter 53, Alyss finds Redd and they quickly begin to battle with Imagination. Alyss finds herself on the defensive too often and tries to come up with inventive ways to fight to place her on the offensive. They are both strong because of their nearness to the Heart Crystal, but Alyss is much stronger. However, she becomes distracted by Dodge fighting The Cat next door, giving Redd an opening.



In Chapter 54, Alyss finds herself back in the real world with the Liddells and Leopold who tell her once again that Wonderland is only in her head. However, Dodge breaks in and tells her it is a trick. Alyss returns to her reality and battles against Redd. When Redd realizes she is about to lose, she jumps into the Heart Crystal. At the same time, just as Dodge is about to take The Cat's final life, he jumps after Redd into the Heart Crystal.

In Chapter 55, Dodge is treated for his injuries. The suit families come and claim they were forced to support Redd. Alyss announces they will all face a tribunal to see if they are guilty of war crimes. Jack of Diamonds Alyss places under immediate arrest when the key to the Looking Glass Maze is found in his pocket. Bibwit then instructs Alyss to send a twin of herself back to the real world where Alice lives out her life married to a good man and lifelong friends with Prince Leopold.

In Chapter 56, Hatter asks for and is given time off for personal reasons before taking on the task of rebuilding the Millinery. Molly is left in charge of Alyss's personal protection. Alyss is crowned in a simple ceremony. However, she worries about Dodge and the future of Wonderland.

## **Part 3: Chapters 48-56 Analysis**

Alyss is placed in the Looking Glass Maze and finds herself having to not only learn how to be a warrior queen, but learning how to embrace hope and to control her anger. When it is over, Alyss has full control of her imagination which is every bit as strong as it was when she was a child.

Alyss breaks into Redd's fortress with only herself and a handful of people. Dodge, who has been obsessed with revenge since his father's death, leave Alyss to her own devices and goes in search of The Cat. Although Alyss does not agree with Dodge's choices and worries that he might compromise their success, she worries for him and tries to help him. Dodge, however, has been on his own for so long that he resents her help. In the end, however, Dodge realizes when he is overcome and learns to accept a little help.

Alyss faces Redd and begins her epic battle. Alyss is much stronger than Redd, but Redd is very determined. They battle for quite a while before Alyss finally allows some of her anger to fill her heart. Alyss realizes anger is not bad as long as it is controlled. Alyss wins the fight, but Redd disappears into the Heart Crystal, suggesting that she is not dead, but somewhere waiting for her time to return and try once more to take control of Wonderland.



# Characters

## Alyss Heart/Alice Liddell

Alyss Heart is seven years old when her aunt, Redd, breaks into her family's palace and kills her mother along with several important people in her mother's guard. Redd, who was passed over as queen and disowned by her parents, waged a civil war against her sister, Genevieve, in the past, but lost. Redd was not ready to give up and she built an army of card soldiers, creating an assassin that could rival Genevieve's bodyguard, Hatter Madigan. With these behind her, Redd kills her sister and takes the throne of Wonderland.

Alyss jumps into the Pool of Tears with Hatter Madigan in an attempt to outrun The Cat and ends up in the real world. In the real world, Alyss discovers that her imagination does not work as it did in Wonderland and that no one believes her stories of Wonderland. For this reason, Alyss forces herself to forget about the past and to embrace the world in which she now lives, becoming both outwardly and inwardly Alice Liddell, adopted daughter of Reverend and Mrs. Liddell. Alyss grows up to become a very beautiful young woman and to attract the attention of a prince, who asks Alyss to marry him.

During her wedding, The Cat breaks into the church and tries to kill Alyss. Dodge Anders, Alyss's old friend, comes to her rescue and takes her back to Wonderland. Alyss discovers that all she believed as a child is really real and she embraces her heritage, becoming the warrior queen her mother intended for her to be.

## Dodge Anders

Dodge Anders is the son of the leader of the Millinery and is determined to become a Millinery member when he is older. However, when Redd attacks and kills Dodge, she not only takes away his dreams, but she leaves Dodge consumed with a need for revenge. Dodge spends the next thirteen years fighting with the Alyssians, a group of rebels. When Alyss returns, Dodge does all he can to help her success in her fight against Redd. In the end, however, Dodge's need for revenge is stronger than his loyalty to Alyss and he abandons her to engage with The Cat. In the end, both Dodge and Alyss appear to be successful, but it is unclear what has really happened to The Cat and Redd.

## Hatter Madigan

Hatter Madigan is a member of the Millinery and the queen's personal bodyguard. Hatter is an assassin like no other and for this reason was an important part in the successful banishing of Redd from Wonderland. However, Redd returns and Hatter finds himself in the real world, separated from Alyss and trying to fulfill his promise to

the queen. When Hatter finally returns to Wonderland, he learns that all he knew is gone, including the only woman he ever truly loved.

## **Queen Genevieve Heart**

Queen Genevieve Heart is Alyss's kindly mother. Genevieve was the second daughter, therefore she should not have become queen. However, her sister, Redd's, disinterest in following the traditions of their family caused Genevieve's mother to disown Redd and make Genevieve queen. Out of jealousy and anger, Redd embraced Black Imagination and waged civil war against Genevieve. Even though Genevieve won the war, unrest remains in Wonderland. Genevieve is killed when Redd raids the palace and beheads her.

## **Redd Heart**

Redd Heart is the disgruntled sister of Queen Genevieve who was passed over for the throne. Redd is a strong imagination user and she has embraced Black Imagination over White Imagination. This gives Redd a strength and power that in the end Genevieve cannot fight. Redd takes over the throne and rules for thirteen years, turning the once happy, peaceful Wonderland into a world of unhappiness and injustice. Only Alyss is strong enough to fight Redd and for this reason Redd tries on multiple occasions to have Alyss killed.

## **The Cat**

The Cat is an assassin Redd has created out of her imagination. The Cat is a cat-like creature who can disguise himself as a tiny kitten or grow to his full image as a large, cat-like killing machine. Like most cats, The Cat has nine lives. Redd does not hesitate to take three of these lives when she becomes annoyed with The Cat. Although The Cat is a dangerous and successful assassin, he fails multiple times to kill Alyss. In the end, The Cat escapes with his final life into the Heart Crystal.

## **General Doppelganger**

General Doppelganger is a general who works for Queen Genevieve. General Doppelganger has the ability to turn into more than one person, often morphing into Generals Doppel and Ganger. After Redd takes over the throne again, General Doppelganger organizes an army of rebels against her, calling themselves Alyssians for Princess Alyss. In the end, General Doppelganger is at Alyss's side when she battles Redd.

## **Bibwit Harte**

Bibwit Harte is the royal tutor. Bibwit is a tall albino man who has amazing hearing. Bibwit knows everything in the books kept at the Palace and has taught all the queens for multiple generations. Bibwit was to be Redd's teacher, but Redd refused his lessons. When Redd takes the throne, Bibwit pledges loyalty to her and becomes her royal secretary because he wants to be in a position to help any threats to her throne. When Alyss comes back to Wonderland, he is prepared to resume her lessons, but realizes she already knows what she needs to be a warrior queen.

## **Jack of Diamonds**

Jack of Diamonds is the son of the suit family, the Diamonds. Jack of Diamonds might have been Alyss's spouse had Redd not taken over the throne because she is to marry a member of the suit families and he is the only one of appropriate age. Jack of Diamonds is a spoiled young man and is very unpleasant. During Redd's reign he feigns loyalty to both her and the Alyssians, but is really out for his own gain. In the end, Alyss has him arrested for war crimes.

## **Prince Leopold**

Prince Leopold is the son of Queen Victoria. When Prince Leopold comes to Christ Church for an education, he falls in love with Alice Liddell. In time, Alice agrees to marry Leopold, not because she loves him, but because she knows it will make her adoptive parents happy. On their wedding day, Dodge saves Alyss from The Cat and whisks her back to Wonderland.

# Objects/Places

## Heart Crystal

The Heart Crystal is the source of power of imagination. When something is sent into the Heart Crystal, it appears in another world as a new invention. Redd jumps into the Heart Crystal at the end of the novel along with her assassin, The Cat.

## Card Soldiers

Card soldiers are soldiers who resemble cards until they are unfolded, allowing them to hide well.

## The Cut

The Cut is a platoon of card soldiers that consists of fifty-two soldiers.

## Glass Eyes

Glass Eyes are robotic creatures Redd created to spy on the people of Wonderland. Dodge and his friends have frequent encounters with these creatures while trying to prepare a coup against Redd.

## White Imagination

White Imagination is the good version of imagination, a type of magic Genevieve and her followers use.

## Black Imagination

Black Imagination is the evil version of imagination, a type of magic Redd and her followers use.

## Alyssian

Alyssian is the name of the rebel group that forms in the aftermath of Redd's attack on the throne. The Alyssians chose their name to honor Princess Alyss, whom they believe has been killed by The Cat.



## **Alice's Adventures in Wonderland**

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland is the book Reverend Charles Dodgson wrote about Alice Liddell's stories of Wonderland under the name Lewis Carroll. Dodgson would also write a sequel called Through the Looking Glass.

### **Pool of Tears**

The Pool of Tears is a lake like structure in Wondertropolis that is said to be filled with tears because those who go into it never come back. However, Hatter finds a way to return.

### **Valley of Mushrooms**

The Valley of Mushrooms is home to the caterpillars who can see into the future.

### **Volcanic Plains**

The Volcanic Plains is a section of land in Wonderland that is marked by many volcanoes. This is where the animal, jabberwockies, can be found.

### **Wondertropolis**

Wondertropolis is the main city in Wonderland.

### **Wonderland**

Wonderland is a mythical land where imagination is a power people can actually use to make things appear or to manipulate objects and people. Wonderland is the home of the Hearts, the ruling family, and the site of a bitter civil war after Redd steals the throne from her sister, Genevieve.

### **London**

London is where Alyss finds herself after she travels through the Pool of Tears.

### **Paris**

Paris is where Hatter finds himself after he travels through the Pool of Tears.

# Themes

## Revenge

Revenge is a theme that motivates many of the characters in this novel. The novel begins with the story of the civil war that raged between Genevieve and her sister, Redd, when Redd was disowned and passed over for queen because of her refusal to embrace the traditions and White Imagination of her family. Redd was angry and embarrassed by her mother's decision, therefore she killed her mother and tried to take the throne anyway. Genevieve fought her and won. To get revenge, Redd raised an army and built an invincible assassin, The Cat.

In the aftermath of Redd's takeover of the throne, Dodge finds himself consumed by a need for revenge due to the death of his father and his beloved Alyss. Dodge fights for thirteen years with the rebels, working as hard as he can to get a chance to kill The Cat and to get to Redd. When it is discovered that Alyss is still alive, Dodge's need for revenge is not cooled, but fanned when he realizes that Alyss can give him the opportunity he needs to get to The Cat and Redd.

Dodge becomes so focused on revenge that he often places his own life in danger and acts in crazy ways. In the end, Dodge places Alyss's plan to overthrow Redd in danger by going off on his own to fight The Cat. However, Dodge eventually learns to accept a little help. In the end, revenge appears to have been waged, but there still remains the fact that it does not change anything, leaving Alyss concerned for Dodge's future.

## Good versus Evil

In this novel, Redd wages her war against White Imagination with her own imagination, Black Imagination. By the simple names alone, it is clear that one is meant to be the good one, the man in white, and the bad one, the man in black. Redd is clearly evil while Genevieve is the gentle, kind queen.

As the novel progresses, the reader can see that Redd's petty jealousies and her selfishness have continued even after she has gotten what she wanted, taking Wonderland into a time of unhappiness and injustice. Many Wonderlanders find themselves turned into slaves and worked to death. Even those close to Redd find their lives in danger at the slightest warning, depending on Redd's often volatile moods.

Alyss, on the other side, is a kind, gentle woman who has been somewhat tainted by the teasings of other children. However, Alyss has managed to retain some of her innocence despite the tragedies in her life, able to overcome her overwhelming anger at Redd's actions to act with intelligence and compassion. It is this that makes Alyss the good side of the good versus evil theme of this novel.

## The Power of Imagination

The author makes imagination the magic of choice in this novel. With imagination, the user can conjure up objects that did not exist before, modify objects that already exist, move objects, and move people. In the real world, however, this imagination stops functioning in the same way and becomes something to be ridiculed and exploited.

When Alyss returns to Wonderland, she is an adult and she cannot quite remember how to make her imagination work. This seems to bring to mind the idea that most children outgrow their wild imaginations as they grow, leaving behind childish things. However, Alyss eventually regains her imagination, as though the writer is telling adults that a little imagination is not a bad thing in the right circumstances. Imagination is an important thing and it seems that the author has used his story to remind his readers of that.

# Style

## Point of View

The novel is written in the third-person omniscient point of view. The novel is told from multiple viewpoints from Alyss to Hatter to Redd. The author uses this point of view in order to tell his complex story from many viewpoints in order to allow readers to see parts of the story they might not be aware of if they were limited to only one point of view.

The point of view of this novel works well with this story because it is such a complicated story with so many different, but important characters. By telling the story from many viewpoints, the author limits the intimacy between reader and characters, but he allows the reader to see so much more than the reader might have seen from only one character's eyes. Hence, the point of view of this novel works well with the plot.

## Setting

The novel begins in the fantastic world of Wonderland. Wonderland is a place of fascinating creatures, talking plants, and imagination wielding monarchs. The novel then moves to London in 1859, a world much different from Wonderland, where a young girl discovers that imagination is not something that is held in high esteem. When the novel returns to Wonderland later in the novel, it is a much different place, a dark place that is ruled by a cruel and petty queen.

The setting of this novel is a marvelous creation that the author has borrowed from a classic novel and manipulated in his own ways to create yet another unique place. The author has created a child's dream place, a world where imagination is a power that is held in the highest esteem, filled with characters that are both unique and familiar. When the novel moves to the real world, the author explores a world that existed more than a hundred years ago, a place that is well documented and also familiar, but seen through the eyes of a stranger, giving it a new twist. The author uses his settings with grace, creating two unique and exciting places that work impeccably with the plot.

## Language and Meaning

The author uses language in the novel that is both educated and simple. The author's novel is intended for a young audience and many of the main characters are young people, therefore the author uses language that is uncomplicated and authentic to his characters. However, there are some characters who are older and better educated, therefore some of the language used when the author tells the story from their point of view is more sophisticated, again creating authentic characters.

The language of this novel works well with the characters, but does not slip into the imaginary language of a new world as some fantasy novels tend to do. There are many made up words in the book, but they are all self-explanatory. There are also some foreign words and phrases in the novel, but understanding these phrases is not important to the understanding of the overall plot, therefore they pose no obstacle to the reader. Therefore the language of the novel works well with the plot.

## Structure

The novel is divided into three parts, a prologue, and fifty-six chapters. The novel's chapters are fairly short, keeping the pace of the novel fast. The novel is told in a linear fashion, with little reference to a past that might complicate the plot. The novel is told in both narration and dialogue, showing a story rather than simply telling one.

The novel contains one main plot and many subplots. The main plot follows Alyss Heart as she is first rescued from her aunt's murderous attack on her family palace, then her return to take back what is rightfully hers. One subplot follows the life of Dodge Anders, a young man who has become obsessed with revenge in the aftermath of his father's murder. Another subplot follows Alyss's struggles to survive in a world vastly different from her own. All plots and subplots comes to a satisfying conclusion at the end of the novel.

## Quotes

"Everyone thought she had made it up, and she had tolerated more taunting and teasing from other children, more lectures and punishments from grown-ups, than any eleven-year-old should have to bear" (Prologue, p. 1).

"It was both a warning and an expression of hope: Queen Genevieve, aware of the dark forces at work somewhere in the wastes of the Chessboard Desert, knew that joy and happiness didn't last forever in Wonderland; sooner or later the queendom would come under attack, and it would require all of Alyss' imaginative powers—and then some—to ensure its survival" (Part 1: Chapter 1, p. 15).

"But with a sound akin to the metal blades of scissors rapidly opening and closing, an unseen deck hidden in nearby underbrush fanned out and surrounded the king and his men" (Part 1: Chapter 4, p. 27).

"But the kitten ran and ran, as if it knew exactly where it was going and had things to do, appointments to keep. Which, in fact, it did" (Part 1: Chapter 6, p. 42).

"She looked around one last time for Hatter, then abandoned her puddle. She couldn't afford not to have a friend" (Part 1: Chapter 12, p. 79).

"Yes, it felt right: a masquerade to celebrate the orphan girl's impending marriage to Prince Leopold of Great Britain" (Part 2: Chapter 24, p. 172).

"And as she torpedoed up toward the surface, having worked impossibly hard to convince herself that the place about to be seen by her disbelieving eyes didn't exist, she said the man's name—Dodge Anders—and water filled her lungs" (Part 2: Chapter 30, p. 205).

"'She won't fail,' Dodge said. 'I won't let her'" (Part 3: Chapter 33, p. 226).

"Resignation to the past, defiance of the present, hope for the future—Alyss had them all at once" (Part 3: Chapter 37, p. 248).

"It's unconscious. To will something into being, the willing of it must be so deep down that no self-doubt is possible. The imaginative power itself must be a given, a thing already proven that cannot be disbelieved" (Part 3: Chapter 43, p. 271).

"The spirit of White imagination would live with them. It lived only so long as they did" (Part 3: Chapter 48, p. 314).

"'It's all in your head,' Genevieve said" (Part 3: Chapter 56, p. 358).

## Topics for Discussion

Who is Alyss Heart? What can she do with her imagination? What does her tutor want to teach her to do? Why? What day is it when the novel begins? Why is this an important day for Alyss? Who does Alyss choose to spend this day with? Why? What happens to end the day for Alyss?

Who is Genevieve? Why does her sister want her throne? Why? What does Genevieve do to fight this? How does Genevieve's sister get into the palace? What does Redd do once she gets into the palace? Why? How does Genevieve get Alyss out of the palace? What happens to Genevieve? What role does Genevieve later play in Alyss's attempts to defeat Redd?

Who is Redd? Why does Redd think she should be queen rather than Genevieve? Is this true? What type of imagination does Redd use? How does it compare with Genevieve's imagination? What does Redd insist she be called after she becomes queen? Who is the only person who can challenge Redd's claim to the throne? How does Redd plan to take care of this threat? Do her plans work?

What is the Heart Crystal? Why does Redd steal it after she takes over the throne? Where does she put it? What does the Heart Crystal do for Redd? What does it do for Alyss? What happens when Redd and Alyss fight near the crystal? Why does Redd jump into the crystal after her fight with Alyss? What does Bibwit theorize happened to Redd when she did this?

Who is Dodge Anders? Why does his father tell him he can never marry Alyss? Does Dodge want to marry Alyss? What happens to Dodge's father? How does this change Dodge's future? Why does Dodge become so focused on revenge? What danger is Alyss afraid this places Dodge in? What does Alyss try to do about it? Does it work?

Who are the Liddells? How did Alyss come to live with her? How do they treat her? Why do they spell Alyss's name differently? Why do they want Alyss to behave differently? Who is Charles Dodgson? Why does he write a book about Alyss's memories of Wonderland? What does Alyss expect from this book? Does she get what she wants? Why or why not?

What is the Looking Glass Maze? Why is Alyss required to go through the maze? What does the maze teach Alyss? Why does Redd think she should go through the maze too? Does she? Why or why not? What happens to Alyss after she leaves the maze? What does this suggest about her performance in the maze? How does this eventually help Alyss to defeat Redd?