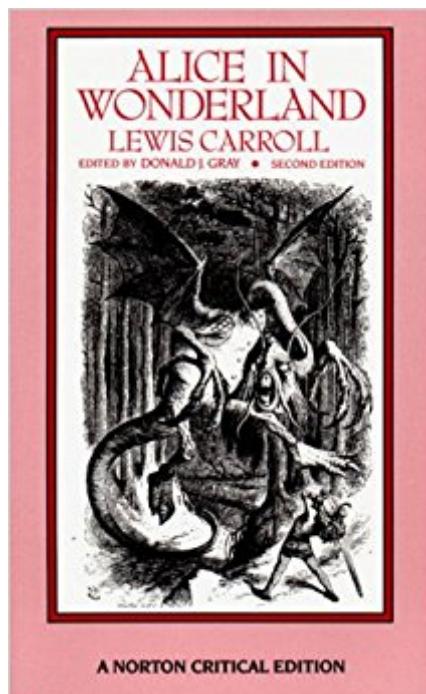


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# Alice In Wonderland (Norton Critical Editions)



## Synopsis

This Norton Critical Edition reprints the 1897 editions of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking-Glass and the 1876 edition of The Hunting of the Snark. New to the Second Edition is "The Wasp in a Wig," a recently discovered episode Carroll deleted from Through the Looking-Glass, but which fits into the story in interesting ways. Each text is accompanied by ample explanatory notes. "Backgrounds" reprints new selections from recent biographies of Carroll and from recent editions of his diaries and letters. Our understanding of and appreciation for Carroll's life and literature are deepened by new contributions from Anne Clark, Tony Beale, E. M. Rowell, and, most revealingly, Carroll himself. "Criticism" retains seven seminal critiques from the First Edition while adding four important recent essays by Nina Auerbach, Roger Henkle, Robert Polhemus, and Donald Rackin. A revised and updated Selected Bibliography is also included.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 9 and up

Grade Level: 4 and up

## Customer Reviews

Lewis Carroll is a pseudonym of the Rev. Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, who was born on January 27, 1832, and died on January 14, 1898. His most famous works are Alice's Adventures in Wonderland; its sequel, Through the Looking-Glass and What Alice Found There; and The Hunting of the

Snark. Donald Gray is Culbertson Chair Emeritus of English at Indiana University. He is the editor of the Norton Critical Editions of *Alice in Wonderland* and *Pride and Prejudice* and of the anthology *Victorian Poetry*. He has written extensively on Victorian poetry and fiction, popular journalism, and the history of literary publishing.

I really liked this version. I bought two different Alice books because I didn't realize the one I bought wasn't the one I needed for class. And I liked this one so much better, it was very helpful. And it has bunch of extra stuff in there.

Assigned text for Children's Lt class. Pleasurable read.

This edition of *Alice in Wonderland* is fantastic! It includes both the Alice books and another story by Carroll as well. This book would make a wonderful addition to anyone's library, be it that of a child or of someone fond of 19th Century writing. A truly lovely book!

What can I say: it's Norton, so the scholarship is solid. Carroll was a prophet and his take on society is evident in his fiction.

Needed this for college. It was a great help. It came in handy and I keep it in my collection.

This NCE contains *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *Through the Looking Glass*, and *The Hunting of the Snark*. I was pleased with the footnotes, which were helpful in clarifying many of Carroll's jokes. The critical information included some interesting biographies/diaries of Dodgson (Carroll), as well as a few critical essays. I was disappointed in these because although they were mostly good, the editor clearly has some negative feelings about Dodgson's morals and included many unnecessary Freudian-finger-pointing passages. If I were younger or more impressionable, I'd have been left with a very negative view of Dodgson indeed! Because of these attempts at manipulating the readers' good opinions of Dodgson, I wish I had gotten *The Annotated Alice* instead.

No room in the title for the myriad of Alice and Alice like movies. Most have there on agenda and bring with them a different dimension. If you want to get closer to the real Alice and still look at it through several lenses this is the book for you. It covers but is not limited to "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland", "Through the looking-glass", "The wasp and a Wig", and "The Hunting of the

Snark."Some readers may be disappointed not to see their favorite theories or interpretations here; however no book can contain everything. The quality and variety in this book make it well worth having as part of well rounded library.

The Norton Critical Edition of Alice in Wonderland is the classic textbook of three of Lewis Carroll's most widely read works. The book contains authoritative texts of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Through the Looking Glass, and The Hunting of the Snark. Any one looking for a review of the two Alice books should see my review of The Annotated Alice, ed. Martin Gardner as I will limit my review to the additional material supplied by this edition. The Hunting of the Snark is presented in its entirety but without the classic Holliday illustrations. The poem is a masterwork of nonsense that would have been helped by adding the illustrations. After all, the edition leaves in the Tenniel illustrations to the Alice books. Snark is not the easiest poem to read and Donald Gray is somewhat sparse in his annotations. The remainder of the book is broken into two sections: Background and Literary Criticism. The Background section gives a fairly good portrait of C.L.Dodgson who became the nonsense writer Lewis Carroll. Included are selections from biographies, letters to friends and children and selections from the diaries. The annotations in this section are fairly extensive and helpful. The Essays in Criticism are the weakest section of the entire work. From my perspective they are dated and unnecessarily complex for the work at hand. Most of this section is made up of essays dealing with the Freudian analysis of the works. One may take this with a grain of salt. Everyone is entitled to there own opinion. The problem with this section is that the analysis seems to be somewhat dated. We have edited versions of the same tired Empson essay that was written in 1935. Perhaps the 3rd edition of this text will update the criticism and make this section more useful to the modern reader. This edition is worth having if you are a student of the Alice works or have a more than basic interest in Carroll/Dodgson and the development of Victorian Children's Literature. For a few dollars more I would highly recommend purchasing the Definitive Edition of the Annotated Alice instead. Recommended with reservations.

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