

# [PDF] The Annotated Alice: The Definitive Edition

**Lewis Carroll, Martin Gardner, John Tenniel - pdf download free book**

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#### **Books Details:**

Title: The Annotated Alice: The Defi

Author: Lewis Carroll, Martin Gardne

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#### **Description:**

"What is the use of a book," thought Alice, "without pictures or conversations!"

Readers who share Alice's taste in books will be more than satisfied with *The Annotated Alice*, a volume that includes not only pictures and conversations, but a thorough gloss on the text as well. There may be some, like G.K. Chesterton, who abhor the notion of putting Lewis Carroll's masterpiece under a microscope and analyzing it within an inch of its whimsical life. But as Martin Gardner points out in his introduction, so much of *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass* is composed of private jokes and details of Victorian manners and mores that modern

audiences are not likely to catch. Yes, *Alice* can be enjoyed on its own merits, but *The Annotated Alice* appeals to the nosy parker in all of us. Thus we learn, for example, that the source of the mouse's tale may have been Alfred Lord Tennyson who "once told Carroll that he had dreamed a lengthy poem about fairies, which began with very long lines, then the lines got shorter and shorter until the poem ended with fifty or sixty lines of two syllables each." And that, contrary to popular belief, the Mad Hatter character was *not* a parody of then Prime Minister Gladstone, but rather was based on an Oxford furniture dealer named Theophilus Carter.

Gardner's annotations run the gamut from the factual and historical to the speculative and are, in their own way, quite as fascinating as the text they refer to. Occasionally, he even comments on himself, as when he quotes a fellow annotator of *Alice*, James Kincaid: "The historical context does not call for a gloss but the passage provides an opportunity to point out the ambivalence that may attend the central figure and her desire to grow up." And then follows with a charming riposte: "I thank Mr. Kincaid for supporting my own rambling." There's a *lot* of information in the margins (indeed, the page is pretty evenly divided between Carroll's text and Gardner's), but the ramblings turn out to be well worth the time. So hand over your old copy of Lewis Carroll's classic to the kids-- this *Alice in Wonderland* is intended entirely for adults. --*Alix Wilber*

**From Library Journal** Clarkson Potter published *The Annotated Alice* in 1960, and Gardner published the sequel *More Annotated Alice* in 1990. Here, Gardner combines and expands both to produce *The Definitive Edition*. This presents the full texts of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *Through the Looking-Glass*, and "The Wasp in a Wig," a "suppressed" chapter of *Looking-Glass*. Each of these texts is accompanied by a lengthy marginal commentary that identifies historical and literary references and allusions, explains Carroll's logical and mathematical puzzles, and interprets colloquialisms and idiomatic expressions. Gardner's commentary is sufficiently detailed to be informative without burdening *Alice* with excessive pedantic baggage. *The Definitive Edition* also includes Tenniel's original illustrations and an exhaustive annotated list by David Shaefer of *Alice* on the screen. This is a happy contribution to those who appreciate Lewis Carroll.

-*Thomas L. Cooksey, Armstrong State Coll., Savannah, GA*

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