

References to *Alice in Wonderland* in Popular Culture

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1. Lewis Carroll is the pen name for Charles Lutwidge Dodgson. Edmund Yates, the editor of *The Train*, selected it from a list of possible pen names that Dodgson offered him after Yates accepted some his poems for publication. Other names on the list included: Edgar Cuthwellis, Edgar U.C. Westhill, and Louis Carroll.
2. According to Morton N. Cohen in his *Lewis Carroll: A Biography* (1995), along with the Bible and Shakespeare, the *Alice* books are the most widely quoted books in the Western world. Neither *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1865) nor *Through the Looking-Glass* (1871) have ever gone out of print.
3. When *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* was first published in 1865, the illustrator, John Tenniel, was better known than Lewis Carroll who was a mathematical lecturer at Oxford University. The early book reviews praised the illustrations more than the text.
4. The first version of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* that Carroll wrote was a handwritten manuscript called *Alice's Adventures Under Ground*, which he illustrated himself and gave to Alice Liddell as a Christmas gift in 1864.
5. The man who introduced Lewis Carroll to John Tenniel, the illustrator of both *Alice* books, was Tom Taylor, a popular Victorian playwright. It was Taylor's play, *Our American Cousin* that was being performed in Ford's Theatre when Abraham Lincoln was shot.
6. John Tenniel was a well-established cartoonist for *Punch* magazine, a popular Victorian magazine, he recycled and revised many of his images from his *Punch* cartoons for the *Alice* illustrations, including the image of Alice.
7. When John Tenniel, the illustrator, saw the first edition of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, he was so disappointed with the printing of the illustration that Carroll had the book reprinted at his personal expense.
8. The Mad Tea Party in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* takes place on May 4, which is Alice Liddell's birthday. Alice Liddell is the girl for whom Carroll wrote *Alice in Wonderland*. She was born on 4 May 1852.

9. When Lewis Carroll wrote *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, he did not have an answer for the Mad Hatter's riddle, "Why is a raven like a writing desk?" But so many readers either wrote or asked him for the answer to the riddle, he came up with one which he published in 1896. His answer was, "Because it can produce a few notes, though they are *very* flat and it nevar put the wrong end in front!" He spells never as "nevar," since it is the reverse of "raven."

10. The original illustrations of the two *Alice* books were in black and white and the first time they were done in color was when they appeared in *The Nursery "Alice"* (1889), which is a picture book version of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* that Carroll adapted for young readers.

11. L. Frank Baum wrote *The Wonderland Wizard of Oz* (1900) as an attempt to create an American *Alice*. The same year he published *The Wizard of Oz*, Baum also published another children's book called *A New Wonderland* (1900). But with the success of *The Wizard of Oz*, Baum renamed it *The Surprising Adventures of The Magical Monarch of Mo and His People* in 1903.

12. Shel Silverstein's popular collection of poetry *Where The Sidewalk Ends* (1974) features the poem "Alice," which praises the curiosity of Carroll's heroine.

13. The children's picture book illustration Maurice Sendak owns a copy of the last photography that Lewis Carroll took of Alice Liddell, when she was eighteen years old. Sendak keeps next to his drawing desk and refers to the photograph as, "his buddy."

14. The popular teen book *Go Ask Alice* (1971) by Anonymous, which purports to be a young girl's diary describing her descent into a world of drugs, incorrectly refers to the author of the *Alice* books as "Lewis G. Carroll." *Go Ask Alice* isn't an actual teen diary, but an anti-drug tract written by Beatrice Sparks, a Mormon youth counselor.

15. Roberta Rogrow published a series of detective novels beginning with *The Problem of the Missing Miss* (1998) in which Charles Dodgson (Lewis Carroll) and Arthur Conan Doyle, the creator of Sherlock Holmes team, up to solve crimes during the Victorian era.

16. The *Alice* books have been translated into many languages include *Alitji in Dreamland/Alitjinya Ngura Tjukurmankuntlala* (1975), which is Nancy Sheppard and Barbar Ker Wilson translation of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* in the Aboriginal language of the Pitjnatjare of Australia.

17. Using the pen name Sirin, Vladimir Nabokov, the author of *Lolita* (1955) did what is considered one of the best translations of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* into Russian in 1923.

18. Walt Disney enjoyed *Alice in Wonderland* and some of his earliest short films that he made in Hollywood between 1923-1927 were the "Alice Comedies." They featured a young actress, Virginia Davis, who falls into the Wonderland of cartoons. The first of the Alice's comedies was *Alice's Wonderland* (1923).

19. Walt Disney wanted to make his first feature-length cartoon *Alice in Wonderland*, but the release of Norman Z. McLeod's *Alice in Wonderland* (1933) forced him to change his mind. He did "Snow White and the Seven Dwarves" (1937) instead. He finally got around to making *Alice in Wonderland* in 1951.

20. Max Fleischer produced *Betty in Blunderland* (1934) in which Betty Boop falls asleep and follows a rabbit into Wonderland.

21. One of the odder film adaptations of *Alice in Wonderland* is the Hanna Barbera cartoon TV special *Alice in Wonderland, or What's a Nice Kid Like You Doing in a Place like This* aired in 1966. Voices featured in the cartoon included Sammy Davis Jr. as the Cheshire Cat, Zsa Zsa Gabor as the Queen of Hearts, Mel Blanc as the Caterpillar, and Harvey Korman as the Mad Hatter.

22. Although Jefferson Airplane famously sang, "Remember what the dormouse said: Feed your head, Feed your head," in the song "White Rabbit" (1966), what the dormouse actually says in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* is, "If you can't be civil, you better finish the story yourself." There is no evidence that Carroll used drugs.

23. Jewel released her CD, *Goodbye Alice in Wonderland* in 2006. She has called the title song, "the most autobiographical song I has ever written." There is a YouTube version of her singing the song in performance.

24. Bud Townsend directed *Alice in Wonderland: an X-rated Musical Fantasy*, which was released in 1976 as an X-rated film, but after cutting 3 minutes the film was released a year later as an R-rated film.

25. After the success of *The Watchmen* (1986/1987), the graphic novelist, Alan Moore, along with Melinda Gebbie published a three-volume pornographic graphic novel, *Lost Girls* (2006), which features the adventures of Alice from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, Dorothy from *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, and Wendy from *Peter Pan*.

25. In addition to Tim Burton's *Alice in Wonderland* there are at least two of Alice-oriented films in the works: Marilyn Manson's *Phantasmagoria: The Visions of Lewis Carroll* in which Manson plays Lewis Carroll and *American McGee's Alice* which is based on the violent video game released in 2000 and features Sarah Michelle Gellar as Alice. Both films are scheduled for release in 2010.