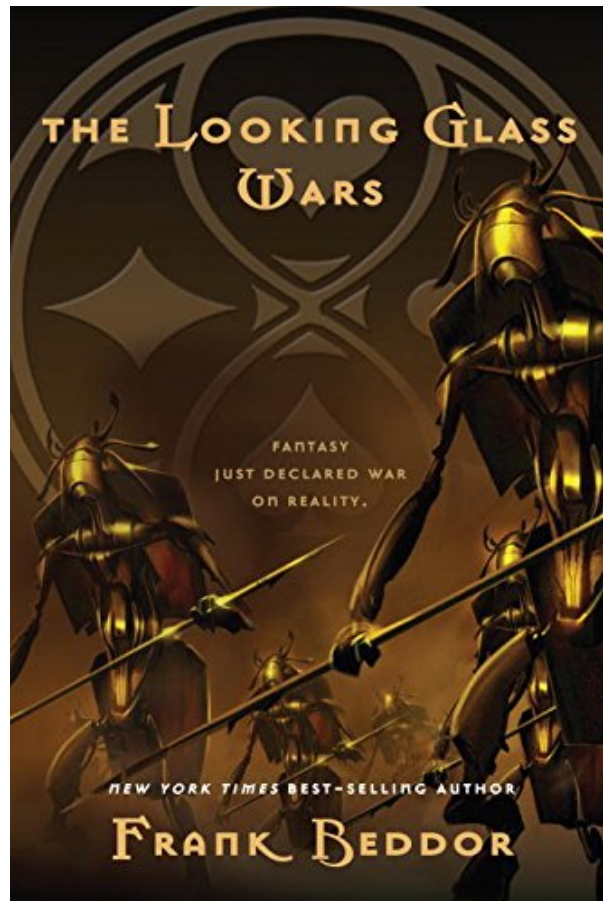
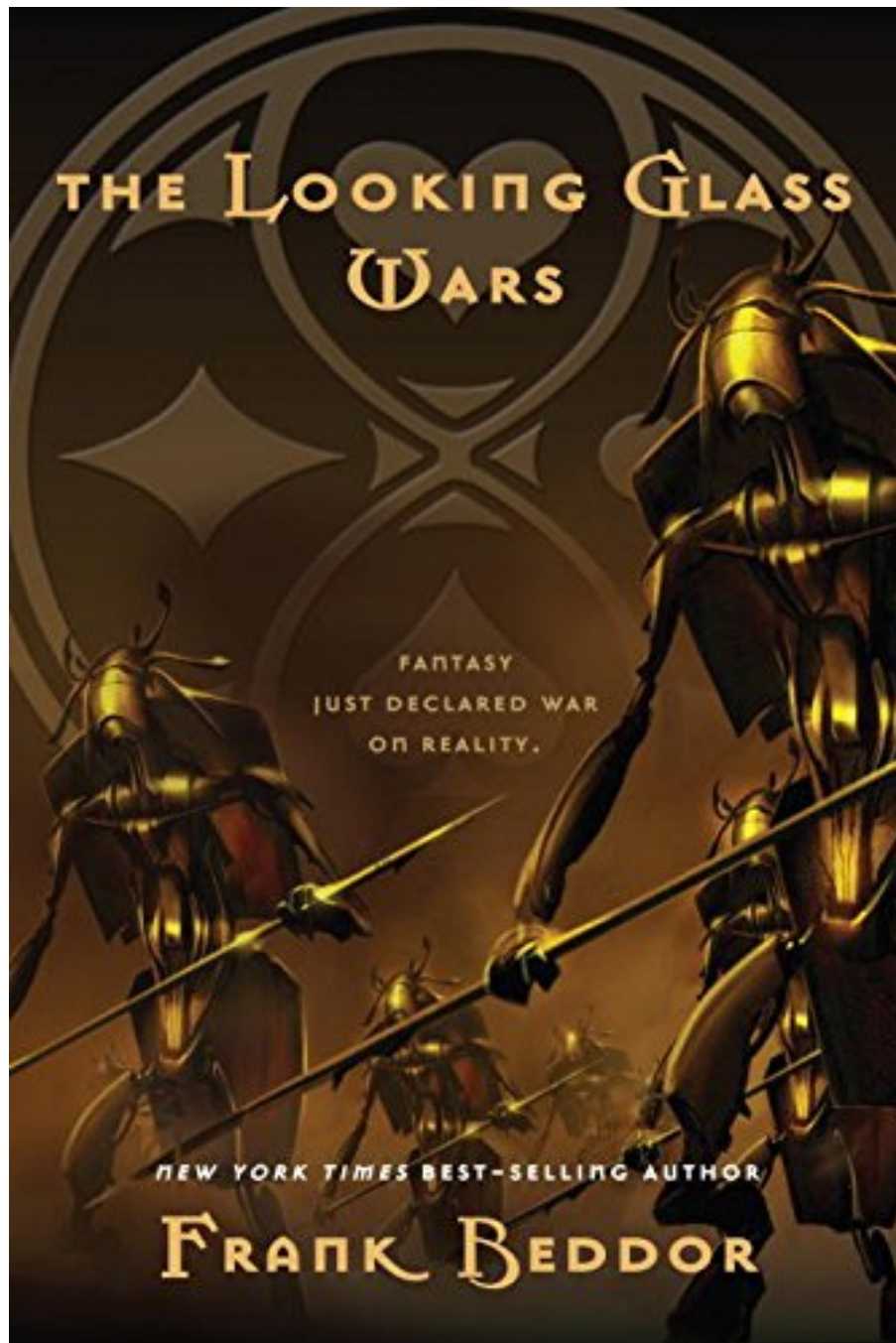


THE LOOKING GLASS WARS BY FRANK BEDDOR



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From School Library Journal

Grade 4-7—When her parents, the king and queen of Wonderland, are killed by her Aunt Redd, Alyss Heart escapes by jumping into the Pool of Tears. Her jump takes her to Victorian Oxford, where she emerges from a puddle, lives as a street urchin, and is eventually adopted by Reverend and Mrs. Liddell. Unable to make anyone believe her fantastic story, she finally confides in Charles Dodgson, who says he will write a book about her. When she discovers that Alice's Adventures Underground is full of make-believe, and not her story or her real name, she sadly resigns herself to life as a Victorian girl of privilege. Meanwhile, back in Wonderland, the Alyssians form a resistance movement and attempt to overthrow the despotic Redd. For years, Hatter Madigan searches the world for Alyss so she can return to Wonderland as Queen. In the end, the Alyssians prevail, but only after much graphic bloodshed and many brutal battles involving card soldiers who transform into warriors, chessmen, blades that whirl and slash, vicious Jabberwocks, and even carnivorous roses. The tale is clever and flows like an animated film where action is more important than character development. However, it bears little resemblance to Lewis Carroll's original story. Beddor has usurped the characters and setting and changed them for his own purposes, keeping only the story's frame and not much of that. Still, the fantasy will appeal to those readers who like battles and weapons and good vs. evil on and on and on.—Barbara Scotto, Michael Driscoll School, Brookline, MA

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From Booklist

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The Myth: Alice was an ordinary girl who stepped through the looking glass and entered a fairy-tale world invented by Lewis Carroll in his famous storybook. The Truth: Wonderland is real. Alyss Heart is the heir to the throne, until her murderous aunt Redd steals the crown and kills Alyss's parents. To escape Redd, Alyss and her bodyguard, Hatter Madigan, must flee to our world through the Pool of Tears. But in the pool Alyss and Hatter are separated. Lost and alone in Victorian London, Alyss is befriended by an aspiring author to whom she tells the violent, heartbreaking story of her young life. Yet he gets the story all wrong. Hatter Madigan knows the truth only too well, and he is searching every corner of our world to find the lost princess and return her to Wonderland so she may battle Redd for her rightful place as the Queen of Hearts.

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- Binding: Paperback
- 400 pages

Features

- Frank Beddor
- science fiction
- Steam punk

From School Library Journal

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Most helpful customer reviews

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Could have been brilliant

By M. Bennett

I was very excited to read this book after I met the author at the Denver Comic Con. He was very witty, charming and fun. I figured if he put any of that into his books, they have to be awesome. Problem was... I didn't really see any of that in this book.

The book is a different take on Wonderland. Supposedly the truth since Lewis Carroll did a more "disneyesque" version of the story the Alyss told him. According to this book Looking Glass Wars is Alyss's true account.

The premise was good, the storyline was inventive, the execution was okay. My biggest problem with the book was the characters. There was nothing at all that made me like them or hate them. I felt nothing for them. I couldn't care less about what happened to them. I greatly wanted to like them but, alas, I just couldn't. To me, that is one of the most important things in a book. Without it, who cares if the bad guys win. I know I didn't. I think stronger characterization would have made this quite an enjoyable read. Hopefully there will be improvements in that area but not sure if and when I'll go to the 2nd book.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Remarkably clever, violent, and shallow

By Pop Bop

Bear with me a moment. Pretend that there was never a book titled "Alice in Wonderland". Treat "Looking Glass Wars" as just a stand-alone war/fantasy novel. Well, it's not very good. Characters are shallow, dialogue is leaden, plot is hackneyed. Lots of beheadings and dismemberment, in a cartoonish sort of way. Each scene is brief and barely established. Weapons just appear out of thin air, characters keep arriving in

the nick of time, all of the book's progress is sketchy and thin, almost like the outline of a book in progress. It's just not very satisfying, even as a middle-school type read. (Towards the end, if you just read a sentence or two every other page you'll finish without having missed anything.)

But, the first 50 pages, where the connection is made with the original "Alice in Wonderland", is remarkably clever. The idea that "Alice ..." is a perverted, infantilized version of the true history of a parallel universe Wonderland, is just pure gold. And Beddor does a good job with that, mixing obvious and subtle references to the original "Alice ...".

Unfortunately, after those first pages the connection to "Alice ..." is not further developed, and we are just stuck with the clumsy fantasy/actioner.

So, well worth the effort to pick up a copy to read the beginning, but I'd skim the rest, (at least to pick up a few later riffs, like the stoned caterpillars), and skip the sequels.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Perfect for Sixth Grade Boys.

By William M. Ferriter

This is a fantastic read for anyone looking for a fantasy story about a civil war. Lots of really interesting characters. Lots of really interesting conflicts. Lots of really interesting weapons and fighting scenes.

As a sixth grade teacher, I recommend this to boys who are good readers but reluctant to read because I know they will be hooked by the story and spend time working their way through the rest of the series.

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