

FALLING FOR ALICE: Reader Guide



About the book:

New Alice. New Wonderland. New stories to love. From the modern Alice dumped in the Aquarian Age of the late sixties, to the present day Alice, tormented by body image and emotional issues, to the Alice of the future, launched forward through time and space, FALLING FOR ALICE offers five fresh takes on Lewis Carroll's classic tale.

For 150 years, people all over the world have fallen under *Alice in Wonderland's* spell. Now, follow five Young Adult authors down the rabbit hole to discover Alice like you've never seen her before. One thing is certain—this is not your mother's Alice.

Authors: Dawn Dalton, Shari Green, Denise Jaden, Kitty Keswick, Cady Vance

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<http://fallingforaliceanthology.com>

<http://www.vineleavesliteraryjournal.com/falling-for-alice.html>

For Discussion:

- Themes found in Lewis Carroll’s *Alice in Wonderland* include adolescence/growing up, identity, and meaning/meaninglessness. Which of these themes are found in the different stories of FALLING FOR ALICE? What other themes emerge in the stories?
- Did you notice any common threads—symbols, motifs, word choices, metaphors, etc., that occur in two or more of the stories?
- Other than Alice, do you recognize any *Alice in Wonderland* characters in the stories?
- In all the stories, Alice ends up in some kind of wonderland. Identify the portal or path (the “rabbit hole”) to each story’s new, strange land.
- Compare and contrast the challenges that each Alice faces. What obstacles must each one overcome? Are the conflicts internal or external? Are there any problems that all the Alices have in common?
- In each of the stories, how does Alice’s perception of herself or the world change because of her wonderland experience?

Activities:

Art: All the wonderlands (the new worlds Alice lands in after going down the proverbial rabbit hole) have surreal or dream-like elements, even nightmarish ones. Choose one of the stories and create an image through sketching, painting, or collage, with the intent of representing some of the surreal aspects of the story.

Music: One of the stories includes a playlist. Create a playlist for another of the stories, or for the anthology as a whole. Which of your chosen songs represent which characters? Which songs fit specific scenes or themes?

Social Studies: Place each story, as well as the original *Alice in Wonderland*, on a timeline. Identify one or more political or social issues of each time (for those stories set in the future, identify *potential* political or social issues as you imagine them).

Writing/Journalism:

- The original *Alice in Wonderland* contains children’s rhymes and nonsense poetry. Collect about a dozen words or phrases from one of the stories, and then organize/rearrange them to create a “found poem”—like a literary collage.
- Create an interview with one of the Alice characters about her wonderland experience and how it affected her.
- Choose one of the anthology stories and look for references and allusions to the original *Alice in Wonderland*. List as many as you can find. Then choose an existing news story or blog post (or create your own) and re-write it, incorporating an allusion to *Alice in Wonderland*. (Option: also include an allusion to another book or significant event.)

About the authors:

Dawn Dalton is a short-story author, novelist, screenwriter, professional editor and communications specialist. Her short story, *THREAD OF THE PAST* was included in the *SPIRITED* anthology (Leap Books, 2012) and her novel, *KILLER INSTINCT*, (Leap Books, 2013), co-written with Judith Graves, was nominated for the Silver Falchion award. When she's not slaying fictional monsters, she's geeking out over fairy tales, Jack Bauer, Halloween, sports cars, and all things that go bump in the night. Dawn lives in Alberta, Canada, with her husband, Jeff and their giant English Mastiff, Roarke. Dawn also writes contemporary Young Adult fiction under the last name *Ius*. *ANNE AND HENRY* debuts September 2015 from Simon Pulse. Visit Dawn online at www.dawnius.com.

Shari Green writes Young Adult and Middle Grade fiction and occasionally masquerades as a poet. Her first novel for teens, *FOLLOWING CHELSEA*, was released by Evernight Teen in Fall 2014. When she's not glued to her laptop, Shari can often be found wandering in a blissful daze on the beach near her home on Vancouver Island, BC, Canada. Visit her online at www.sharigreen.com.

Denise Jaden's novels have been short-listed or received awards through the Romance Writers of America, Inspy, and SCBWI. The first draft of her debut novel, *LOSING FAITH* (Simon & Schuster), was written in 21 days during NaNoWriMo, and she loves talking with writers and students about her fast drafting process. Jaden's other young adult novels include *NEVER ENOUGH* (Simon & Schuster) and *FOREIGN EXCHANGE* (an Editor's Pick from Evernight Teen). Her non-fiction books for writers include *WRITING WITH A HEAVY HEART* and *FAST FICTION*. Find out more at www.denisejaden.com.

Kitty Keswick's debut young adult paranormal *FREAKSVILLE* (2010) was one of the inaugural novels that launched Leap Books. Her second novel *FURRY & FREAKED* is due out in late 2015. Kitty was the Co-President of the debut author group, *Class of 2k10*, and enjoys working with groups of talented authors. She's a professed anglophile and once spent a blissful month touring crumbling ruins in the UK. She loves twisting fairy tales with history, lives for make believe and even has a fairy door or two in her home. Kitty now resides fifteen miles inland from the sea with her hubby, stepson, and a very lucky black cat. She can often be found dipping her toes in the moody waters of the west coast. Visit her blog at www.kittykeswick.blogspot.com.

Cady Vance is the author of Young Adult and New Adult speculative fiction, including *BONE DRY*, *NEVER SLEEP* and *CLASH*. After growing up in small town Tennessee, she decided to embark on a grand adventure by packing up her bags and moving to NYC. Now, she studies for her PhD in the UK and dreams of seeing the universe. Visit her website at www.cadyvance.com.

Website links:

- *FALLING FOR ALICE* anthology – www.fallingforaliceanthology.com
- Vine Leaves Press – www.vineleavesliteraryjournal.com/vine-leaves-press.html
- *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* online – www.gutenberg.org/files/11/11-h/11-h.htm