

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland & Through the Looking Glass

- Lewis Carroll
(published in 1865 & 1871)

Why this book?

I chose this book as I heard about this from book from many of my childhood friends. Also, I had seen a movie that is not completely based on this book but very much related to it. The main reason, why I chose this book, was because I was bored of reading novels and story books that included real life kind of scenarios. I wanted to read something different, magical, fun and full of strange characters. I wanted something that I can read even after I come room after an exhausting day. I ~~think~~ thought this book by Carroll would be best choice.

Summary:

This book actually consists two of the Carroll's Stories. The first one, Alice Adventures in Wonderland starts with drowsy Alice watching a talking rabbit in a waist coat, watching time in his clock. She follows him down a rabbit hole into Wonderland, where she consumes and drinks things that make her shrink or grow. This continuous changes in her size annoys her a lot initially. Later she participates in a strange caucus race. She meets many creatures like dodo, old caterpillar, Smiling cheshire cat who says to her "We all are mad here!", March hare, Dormouse and mad Hatter at the Mad Tea party who were stuck at 6 o'clock - the never ending tea time. Everybody she meets provides her answers in riddles and everything is absurd like the Queen of Hearts screaming "Off with their heads!", even over smallest of the mistakes.

In the second one, Through the Looking Glass, Alice ascend a mirror into a topsy turvy world. She is working as a chess pawn there, meeting the twins

Tweddledee and Tweddledum and Humpty Dumpty, who will only accept that words have meaning when he utters them. Both the stories end with Alice realising, it was nothing but her dream.

Analysis and Opinion:

Carroll is a genius, He gave multiple life lessons and morals through his stories. When the Cheshire cat says "If you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there." It hit me the reality. Life is really like it.

The Queen's obsession with cutting heads off (though no one ever dies) demonstrates how people blindly and mindlessly obey unfair leaders. Also when Alice refused to bow to Queen's Tyranny, "I won't" - she boldly declared, showed the importance of standing up against wrong doers.

The last thing, I understood, was the importance of curiosity in our life. Alice's curiosity led her into the Wonderland. Where she explored new ideas and experiences. Her willingness, to embrace adventures, teaches us to stay open-minded and explore opportunities beyond our comfort zone.

Overall, I got to learn many things. But only problem I faced was the slow pace of the content, that is, sometimes, I felt bored due to slow moving sections such as long poems. But the humour compensated everything :)

Personal Connection: This book brought back my childhood memories of summer holidays, when I used to read books and dream about fantasy worlds. Alice's resilience - such as when she's negotiating with the Queen but still lost - brought back memories of my own moments of crisis. The manner in which she takes the hits (even when other gaslights her) brought back memories of how to deal with life and its mysteries.

The line that hit me the hardest was from the Duchess, when she said "Everything's got a moral, if only you can find it." After reading it, I try to learn from every situation I face, whether good or bad, and try to improve. Moral of the book: Occasionally, you have to laugh at the ridiculous :)

Conclusion

I would absolutely recommend this book to those who want a fun reading session, to those who want to take an adventure of a place full of magic and wonders. Children will enjoy this tale of gossiping animals, characters and mayhems and adults will enjoy the satire and wordplay. It's ideal for anyone who's ever had to work out being a misfit or wondered why the world is the way it is. Just don't overthink it - like Wonderland, it's only really fun if you relax and let the ridiculousness sweep you along :)

Review By-

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