



## Through the Looking-Glass, and What Alice Found There

Lewis Carroll (1832 - 1898)

Read by:	Adrian Praetzelis	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
Length:	3 hours 22 minutes	Catalog:	DB-1088
Language:	English	UPC:	0684758935878
Style:	Collaborative	MSLP:	\$9.99
Genre:	Children's Fiction, Fantasy Fiction		

*Through The Looking-Glass, and What Alice Found There* is the sequel to *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, written by Lewis Carroll and published in 1871. As before, Alice enters an alternative reality, this time by climbing through the looking-glass hung over the fireplace, and the book's themes, settings and events are a kind of mirror image to those of *Wonderland*. The first book begins outdoors on a spring day; the second indoors on a wintry night precisely six months later. The first book uses a deck of cards as a theme; the second is based on a game of chess. Time runs backwards. The poem "Jabberwocky" is printed in backwards type and legible only when read in the mirror. The chess motif figures throughout: the looking-glass world is divid-

ed by brooks and streams much like squares on a chessboard. The plot follows the path of a chess game: when Alice meets the Red Queen upon arrival, she offers to make Alice a queen if she can advance to the eighth row. In her journey to this end she has numerous unusual encounters. The plump twins Tweedledum and Tweedledee suggest she is only a figment of the Red King's imagination. The absent-minded White Queen remembers things before they happen. Humpty-Dumpty celebrates his "unbirthday" before his famous fall. She is rescued by the clumsy White Knight, crosses the final brook and is immediately crowned queen. The Red and White Queens appear, and invite one another to a party to be hosted by Alice, of which she is, of course, unaware. The party disintegrates into a chaotic uproar, prompting Alice to grab and shake the Red Queen violently. It's game over – the Red Queen has been captured. Alice awakes, and the story ends with the speculation that everything may have been a dream of the Red King.

Lewis Carroll (1832-1898) is the pen name adopted by Charles Lutwidge Dotson, who was an English writer, mathematician, logician and Anglican deacon born into a conservative northern English family with strong involvements in the British Army and the Church of England. He was educated at the Richmond Grammar School, Rugby School, and Oxford, where his gifts were evident but his academic performance uneven, suffering from a tendency towards distraction. He won the Christchurch Mathematical Lectureship in 1855, which he held for 26 years. He was noted for his gifts for word play, logic and fantasy. The name Lewis Carroll itself is a play on words, with Lewis being derived from Lutwidge and Carroll derived from Charles. These gifts are evident in Alice as well as in its sequel *Through The Looking-Glass* and in the poems 'Jabberwocky' and 'The Hunting of the Snark'.