



## Under the Looking Glass

*Alisa Tangredi*

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Maura Reyes survived an almost unbearable trauma—the loss of her family in a home invasion. Two years later, she's still consumed by grief and acute insomnia, hiding inside her elegant, empty Los Angeles home. No amount of therapy or medication can restore what Maura lost. When her therapist suggests a change of scenery, Maura reluctantly agrees to go on a cruise. But once aboard the luxury liner, she finds herself in a bizarre and terrifying wonderland.

On the strange ship Cockaigne, Maura discovers an artist's homage to "Alice in Wonderland", complete with Dormouse, Mad Hatter, Tweedledum and Tweedledee. All that's missing is Alice herself—and Maura, a pretty blond widow, suits the artist's vision perfectly. Soon, Maura finds herself sliding between past and present, reliving that deadly night in bizarre and contradictory ways. Desperate for sleep, she first questions her memory, then her sanity. Is someone trying to drive her insane? Or is the truth darker and more twisted than she can possibly imagine?

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## **Under the Looking Glass Details**

Date : Published October 21st 2012 by CreateSpace

ISBN : 9781480154759

Author : Alisa Tangredi

Format : Paperback 146 pages

Genre : Thriller, Mental Health, Mental Illness

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## **From Reader Review Under the Looking Glass for online ebook**

### **Jessica Bronder says**

Maura Reyes was a victim of a home invasion. She is now alone with insomnia and trying to figure out what happened that night. The only time she leaves the house is to see her therapists. They are trying to help her with medication and therapy. Eventually they suggest that she take a cruise.

On the Cockaigne, Maura discovers an Alice in Wonderland theme missing the Alice. Maura takes the place of Alice and begins her adventure to heal from the home invasion and break through to what really happened that night.

This is one heck of a thrill ride. I was hooked when I read Alice in Wonderland in the description. But as you follow Maura through to the truth, you don't realize how far the human psyche can go off kilter. I couldn't turn the pages fast enough and I admit that I had to back track a little because I got lost. But I never expected the ending.

I'm sorry to say that I have not heard of Alisa Tangredi before, but I will be sure to check out her other books. This is a great short story for those that like great psychological thriller and you don't want to miss this one.

I received this book for free from the Book Rooster program in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Georgeanna says**

OMG!! I loved this book!! I was blindsided!!! I refuse to give away any spoilers, but, Wow! I never, ever, ever saw that coming! Alisa Tangredi is brilliant. She draws me completely into the story and characters and I was totally and completely blindsided. I loved this book. I received a free copy for review and I will make it a priority to read everything this author publishes.

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### **Gail Richardson says**

RECEIVED BOOK FREE THROUGH GOODREADS FIRST READS. I could not even finish this book. I tried, but, it jumped around and I found it difficult to keep my concentration (sic) I'm sure there are those who would understand this book better than me.

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### **Noreen says**

I love books with a twist but I felt like I spent the whole time reading this book trying to figure out where the author was going instead of enjoying the storyline. I was not a fan of this book. I would give the author another try.

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### **Lynda says**

I think I enjoyed this book, it felt like a fast paced crazy disturbing journey into the unknown, never quite knowing what is real and what is not. I received this book on a review basis and decided to read it based on reviews on goodreads. It definately kept me reading but I can't say that it left me with a pleasant feeling, but I guess that was the authors intention.

I gave it a 4 star rating because I thought that it was written very well and at no stage was there any part of the story where I wanted to skip a few pages.

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### **Mandy White says**

Thrilling, and a bit of a mind-warp. Excellent read!

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### **Christine says**

This book is about a woman who survived home invasion, whose world is upside down, who can't sleep or dream. It's about a cruise, a theme park, a bathtub and a husband.

But it's not, and at one point I became so enthralled with picking apart the pieces of this puzzle to find the reality, and it was so impossible that I just let the sure, steady hand of the author guide me through the maze.

This is an incredible piece. Daring and breathtaking in its ambition. You could spend a worse afternoon than letting it drown you.

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### **Sasha says**

This story was very well written by what I would have to say was a brilliant author. The author has written a very enthralling story. For me this book kept me wanting to find out what really happened and made it so I could not put the book down. The author has very wonderfully lead the readers to be fully immersed into the story. I would truly recommend this book to any readers. It is a wonderful read

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### **comfort says**

Disturbing

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### **Alan Nayes says**

My initial observation after finishing **UNDER THE LOOKING GLASS**, other than I just finished a very well written story, is that the author herself must be brilliant in order to have conceived such an undertaking. The story revolves around Maura Reyes who seems to be attempting to figure out what happened to her husband and dog-- a terrible crime has been committed in Maura's home yet she is unable to unravel the truth. As the reader delves deeper into the story, bits and pieces of the crime are revealed through Maura's demented psyche, and it isn't until you near the riveting conclusion that you finally realize what has "really happened." The author has done a brilliant and ingenious job at leading the reader down a path of bizarre mental illness and into the mind of the criminally insane. Highly recommended for readers who thrive on immersing themselves in a story with many psychological twists!

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### **Caleb Blake says**

Cross-posted from Papyrus Independent Author Reviews (<http://papyrus.calebblake.net/2013/03/31/under-the-looking-glass-by-alisa-tangredi/>)

There is a crime. Of that we are certain. But we are not so sure of the place and time. Follow Maura through the looking glass and down the rabbit hole as we try to piece together reality from fantasy.

*Under the Looking Glass* is essentially a dramatic mystery that reveals itself slowly through the unreal imaginings or memories of Maura Reyes after a home invasion upsets her life. The condition of her husband is not fully known and the fate of her dog, unstated but seemingly dire. What follows is a particularly disjointed set of scenes that are played out between herself and several characters including her husband, her psychiatrist, a psychologist and two homicide detectives.

Understanding the images was like making my way through a mirror maze with reflections of the main character staring back at me at every turn. Slightly shifting variations of the same scene were repeated, while I tried to intuit the truth behind the narrative. What happened to her husband? Where and when is she? And why is she spending so much time on a fantastical ocean liner? Has she lost her mind?

The enigma of Maura Reyes, her past and present, slowly unravels under the weight of discordant images – a kind of subconscious interrogation, led by a white rabbit, on a Wonderland cruise and on the other side of looking glass under which she lies.

Interestingly, as the main character finally starts climbing out of the rabbit hole, the reader is pushed in. After my own fall, as reality crept insidiously towards me, I realised that up was down and what was dark had only become darker. On my side of the glass, I could do nothing but look on helplessly as my sympathies ricocheted like deflected bullets. I felt used; but in a good way.

There really isn't much in the way of character development in this story – even for the main character herself. The story is more a cerebral exercise designed to leave us disoriented until the truth hits us like a hammer. If you really must engage with characters to enjoy a story, perhaps this will not be for you. This was not a character study, more like a character discovery.

I always find disjointed and fragmented stories difficult to enjoy. It's hard to find a thread to commit myself to and each shift is a jolt out of the story. For this novel, the fragmentation made sense once the author had fully trapped me inside her web. However, sometimes even with clever ideas, the execution can still fail on

some level, and knowing how necessary the approach might have been didn't win me over fully. The snatches of scenes along with the protagonist's reactions to them started to become a little repetitive. There's only so many "What the Hell is going on?" reactions I can read before it starts sounding like a mantra, repeated to induce numbness rather than full engagement.

My reservations aside, I thought the little poison pill at the heart of this nightmare-scape was worth it. I enjoyed the revelation that I, not the main character, was the Alice in this twisted little fairytale. Having already been suitably impressed with *The Puppet Maker's Bones*, this story has done nothing to sate my appetite for this author's work. If you don't have a problem with a confusing kaleidoscope of scenes slowly resolving into a nasty reality, I think you're going to love this one.

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### **Sheryl says**

I enjoyed this book and it was a quick read. after reading several 5 star reviews for this book I was extremely excited to read it, especially the ending. I wasn't completely thrilled with how the story panned out. for me I had to reread parts about 3/4 through as it was hard to follow. a very good book, but not 5 star worthy IMO.

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### **Jess says**

What an interesting book. such a great twist at the end and it always had me thinking. While reading this book I had in my mind that I didn't like it but once the story started to unravel at the end I couldn't put it down until it was finished. Would love to read more books like this

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### **Carolyn says**

This book was really interesting and I would read it again. The story was sometimes confusing but its actually why the book is good. I am not giving anything away because it would spoil it and I don't do that. The whole story captivated me from the start and I couldn't wait to turn the page to see what happened.

Thank you to Goodread Giveaways for giving me the opportunity to be able to own and read this book.

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