



Starting with Alice

By Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

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Alice at EIGHT—and boy was she a pistol! The very youngest book in the beloved series gets a makeover.

Eight-year-old Alice McKinley wants pierced ears, really long hair, a pet, and, most of all, a mother. Oh, and some friends would be nice. As the new girl in third grade, Alice doesn't know a single kid in Takoma Park, Maryland, except her next-door neighbor Donald Sheavers, who is not only a boy, but seems a bit peculiar, too! Desperate to meet people, Alice learns that making friends is harder than it seems when she runs into a group of girls whom she nicknames the "Terrible Triplets" after they make it very clear that they do not want to get to know Alice.

As Alice navigates the ins and outs of third grade, there are plenty of bumps, giggles, and surprises along the way. Every girl should grow up with Alice, and with this irresistible new look, a whole new generation will want to.

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Starting with Alice By Phyllis Reynolds Naylor Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Alice fans (and their younger friends) are in for a treat as Phyllis Reynolds Naylor turns back the clock on the popular series hero: *Starting with Alice* documents the ups and downs of Alice's third-grade year. Two additional prequels are planned, to bring the younger Alice up to the point where the original series opener, *Alice in Agony*, begins. Ages 7-up.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 3-6-In this first of a trilogy of prequels, the author of the "Alice" books takes readers back to the protagonist's arrival in Takoma Park, MD. Alice gets off to a rough start at her new school, where she meets three girls who snub her and soon become her enemies. She also gets in trouble for lying to her classmates about how her uncle died, and for disobeying a crossing guard. Gradually, though, she finds reasons to like her new environment, including friends Rosalind and Sara and her father's gift of a kitten, and she discovers that it is easier to be a friend than an enemy, even when the enemies are the Terrible Triplets. At eight years of age, Alice is as thoughtful and engaging as her older self. Naylor captures the problems of starting over while coping with the everyday woes of teasing and managing friendships. The otherwise light tone of the book changes suddenly in the middle when Uncle Charlie dies of a heart attack just after Alice and her family return home from his wedding. While this sudden plot twist is a little jarring, Alice's feelings are presented in a believable, sensitive manner. Elementary-school girls will enjoy this introduction, while older fans may be curious enough about the spunky heroine to read about her earlier exploits.

Ashley Larsen, Woodside Library, CA

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 3-8. Since *The Agony of Alice* (1985), when Alice first appeared in sixth grade, Naylor has written 13 books in the hugely popular series about the motherless girl trying to follow the unwritten rules about growing up female now. Alice became older in each book (she's a high-school freshman in the recent *Simply Alice* [BKL Je 1 & 15 2002]). Naylor said in a *Booklist* "Story behind the Story" [BKL My 1 99] that she would stop when Alice turns 18. In this book, the first of several planned prequels to the 1985 book, Naylor goes back in time to find Alice in third grade. She has just moved to Takoma Park, Maryland, where her dad gets a job as manager in a music store, and her much older brother, Lester, fits in much better than she does. Her desperate need for the mother she lost when she was four is like an open wound as she struggles to make friends and feel at home. It will be interesting to see who the audience is for this younger Alice series. Will it break the credo that kids won't read about characters younger than themselves? Certainly, Alice fans who can't get enough of the characters will enjoy going backward, and there are a few sly jokes that they'll appreciate. Will third-graders start reading the series here? Alice does sound a bit wise for eight, but that sense of needing a mother-guide will strike a chord with girls of all ages. Then there's the question of the setting: Is the book set now? There aren't any e-mails or cell phones, but Alice wants pierced ears and green sparkle nail polish. As always, Naylor does a great job of blending the big emotional issues with the daily details that are both trivial and immensely important, and she does it with candor, tenderness, and truth.

Hazel Rochman

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Esther Ponce:

Do you among people who can't read enjoyable if the sentence chained inside straightway, hold on guys this particular aren't like that. This Starting with Alice book is readable through you who hate those perfect word style. You will find the data here are arrange for enjoyable studying experience without leaving actually decrease the knowledge that want to offer to you. The writer involving Starting with Alice content conveys the thought easily to understand by a lot of people. The printed and e-book are not different in the information but it just different such as it. So , do you nevertheless thinking Starting with Alice is not loveable to be your top list reading book?

Daniel McCullough:

Hey guys, do you wants to finds a new book you just read? May be the book with the subject Starting with Alice suitable to you? The particular book was written by famous writer in this era. The actual book untitled Starting with Alice is one of several books that everyone read now. This book was inspired lots of people in the world. When you read this book you will enter the new dimensions that you ever know previous to. The author explained their idea in the simple way, thus all of people can easily to comprehend the core of this guide. This book will give you a great deal of information about this world now. So that you can see the represented of the world with this book.

Albert Hartley:

Reading a guide tends to be new life style within this era globalization. With looking at you can get a lot of information that can give you benefit in your life. Having book everyone in this world may share their idea. Guides can also inspire a lot of people. A lot of author can inspire their reader with their story or their experience. Not only the storyline that share in the ebooks. But also they write about the ability about something that you need instance. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your sons or daughters, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors nowadays always try to improve their expertise in writing, they also doing some research before they write with their book. One of them is this Starting with Alice.

Marian Dyer:

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