



Alice In-Between

Phyllis Reynolds Naylor , Nick Vaccaro (Photographer)

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In between, that's what Alice decides she is. During the spring of seventh grade and the summer that follows, she feels she is neither child nor woman, and waits, not so patiently, for beauty to blossom. As she turns 13 and her older brother, Lester, takes her out on the town, some almost grown-up things happen to her, but there are unexpected dangers attached. And a marvelous trip to Chicago with her best friends, Pamela and Elizabeth, proves that "in-between" may not be such a bad place to be after all, when Pamela, acting too old for her age, attracts some unwanted attention, and Elizabeth promptly goes into shock. And when Patrick comes back into Alice's life again, she realizes she doesn't have to rush things.

Being 13 has its advantages, she decides. Taking the pencil test, buying a hermit crab, and taking part in long conversations about life and sex are all a part of her world now. Alice is glad that the first seven grades are over with and she's a teenager at last, but she's also happy she does not yet have to face some of the problems -- mostly with girls -- that her brother faces, or even her father. For anyone who is in-between (and who isn't?) "Alice in-Between" is a book to savor.

Alice In-Between Details

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From Reader Review Alice In-Between for online ebook

Chaana says

Alice In-Between is a book about the growing up, and learning to deal with problems. The book is also showing how teen girls react to certain problems in their lives. One example of this is when a boy sticks chewing gum into Pamela's hair. After this, Pamela freaks out because she had to cut her long, blonde hair. When Pamela cuts her hair, she starts looking and acting like a mature woman. Later, Pamela meets a 30 year-old man and acts like she's 30, too. This leads to Pamela being groped at a train station. The setting of this story is surprising to me because I wouldn't imagine a 13 year-old girl getting groped by a 30 year-old man on a train station. I would've thought that the outcome of Pamela's actions would be much different. If I was Pamela I wouldn't try to show off to a 30 year-old man. There are many different reasons for this. First, he is much older than me. Secondly, I would rather be with my friends. Lastly, I wouldn't feel comfortable being with a 30 year-old man that I do now know. Although, when I read this book I feel that the book is trying to dig deeper into a young girl's life, instead of trying to keep every bad thing that happens to a girl a secret.

After the incident with Pamela and the 30 year-old man, Pamela decided to keep what happened to her a secret. But, her best friend Alice, noticed that Pamela was acting not talking that much, and acting zoned-out. Alice asks what happened to her, and Pamela tries her best to lie, but she couldn't keep the secret from her best friend. When Alice finds out, she is very supportive, and decides to not tell their other best friend freaks out over everything. If I was Pamela, I would definitely tell an adult or a friend. But, I can see how she would not tell anybody because she doesn't want to take the blame for what happened. But, it still surprises me that someone would feel more comfortable not telling a friend/adult about something bad that happened to them. The setting of this story is turns out end in a very good way. Pamela forgets about everything, and goes back to her normal life. This makes me think about how would feel if this happened to them, and how easy it would be to return to your normal life without that memory. Although some people might argue with the fact that forgetting something is easy if you don't think about it too much, I maintain that it is not. Things like this stay with you for the rest of your life. But with everything that has happened, I would say that Alice In-Between is an outstanding book. I would recommend it if you want a book that keeps you wondering about what will happen next.

Charlotte Osborn-bensaada says

This is the review for Alice 1-6. Alice has made it through sixth grade, seventh grade and the summer in between. I am reading these not as the intended audience of middle schooler, but as a parent of a middle schooler. What Naylor does well is capture the weird exuberance and insecurities of being 12. The McKinley family is one of those families you want to belong to, Dad is level headed, not easily ruffled and not afraid of being honest with his kids. Lester is both clued in and clueless older brother that knows just when he needs to say, I am here for you. Elizabeth and Pamela are great bookends of the extremes, one scared of growing up and the other moving too fast. While largely funny exploits of 12 year olds the series has moments where Naylor pulls in the real world and leaves you devastated.

Maria says

Covers the the end of seventh grade and the first half of summer, in which Alice turns thirteen and finds herself in-between child and teen. Definitely one of my favorites in the series

In this one, Alice goes on a grown-up date with her brother, does the pencil test for the first time, and takes a trip to Chicago with Pamela and Elizabeth. This last incident is one of the most memorable in the series. Pamela poses as an older woman on the train and ends up on a date with a creep, only to find herself in way over her head. Alice finds herself *in-between* plenty of things: between child and teenager, between a friendship and a relationship with Patrick, between sexually prudish Elizabeth and sexually liberal Pamela.

From being in-between so many things, Alice learns that you don't have to be in a hurry to grow up, because its going to happen anyway. You can enjoy whatever life stage you're at without worrying too much about who you'll be later, because things have a way of usually working themselves out.

This is one of the shorter books in the series (I think about 190 pages), but it has way less filler than the others. Naylor takes quick pace and moves along from event to event succinctly.

Observations:

This is also the book of Pamela's hair transformation. After having hair "so long she can sit on it" for the first five books, the infamous Gum Incident leaves her with the more mature feathery cut she has for the remainder of the books.

Great character development for Pamela and Alice here. Pamela has always prided herself on acting older than she is, and now she gets to see some of the consequences of growing up too fast. Elizabeth, however, remains the same.

There's also a nice scene with Mrs. Plotkin, Alice's sixth grade teacher and mother-substitute.

Alice also gets to do some grown-up things for the first time, which delights her. Most memorably, she goes on a 'date' with her brother Lester, which involves a fancy dinner, play and dancing. She and Lester end up running into Crystal Hawkins whose stuck on a disastrous date and rescuing her.

This is also the book where Alice accidentally starts crying while reading a poem in her seventh-grade class and learns that you can embarrass yourself, and things will still work out alright.

Cheryl says

Pamela should be allowed to have fun... she should not be taught to hide her light, but instead be taught self-defense. That being said, she did take her game a bit far. And Elizabeth should not be mocked for wanting to be innocent a bit longer. But see, that what made (makes?) these books so wonderful: there's no pat answers, no absolutes.

Unfortunately they are dated in some ways. And there is far too much BS in the schools... for example everyone almost immediately forgives the boys who tangled Pamela's hair in gum... her hair so long she could sit on it... they really need to be taken off the team or at least be given detention or something, not to mention paying for her haircut.

So much development book-to-book; glad they're short so I can keep reading to find out what happens!

Cecilia Barrera says

Alice-In-Between is about a young girl Alice and her friends Elizabeth and Pamela on a trip to Chicago on a

train. Lets start at the beginning Alice turns thirteen and she is officially a teenager. A question she asked herself was "Wasn't being a teenager supposed to feel different?" I recommend this book to readers that like the Alice series.

Joyce says

Wow, this book flew by so quickly that I didn't expect that ending until I turned the page. I love how it starts out with Alice going out for a fancy night with Lester. That was so fun to read about. Loved reading about the trip to Chicago and life's ups and downs as usual. Plot twist - Mrs. Plotkin has a heart attack, and Patrick kisses Alice once more even though they're supposed to be just "special friends". Also - Patrick's family is both rich and chill. Nice.

10-11 Jenna says

This book is awesome! My friend recommended this to me and so I checked it out.....
When i first opened it I knew from then that this was going to be an awesome book and ta-da! It was!

Melody says

Alice really is in-between. Her friend Pamela is the wild one. Her friend Elizabeth is the conservative one. Alice is just somewhere in the middle.

Okay, maybe this is just me having a different reaction to the book than I would have if I were a teenager reading it, but I'm a little disturbed with these three 13 year old girls going on a train by themselves and being in Chicago by themselves. I mean, I remember being that age and being dropped off at the mall with my friends and we were by ourselves, but that seems like a whole different situation than riding a train and being in a big city by yourself. The adult in me is screaming that these girls should not be left alone. And then, Pamela is actually hit on by a man in his 30s and gets in a situation she cannot handle by herself, and the guy is drunk and looking for her. This is why these girls should not be alone! Maybe this book was written when it was a different time, when things were considered generally safer, but in a world full of predators, gun violence, and terrorists, I was so worried for the safety of these girls!

Okay, now that I've ranted about that, I loved the book! I'm so glad that I can catch up on this series that I missed as a teen! I still have some unanswered questions: Who will Lester choose? What will happen with Ben and Miss Summers? Are Patrick and Alice getting back together? Looking forward to reading the next one.

MarinnaC says

This was a cool series. The events were realistic to me when I was in middle school and the characters were so similar to the friends I grew up with.
Definitely recommend to middle schoolers, and high schoolers who are cool with being seen with a middle grade book.

Natalie says

This is the summer after 7th grade, and like most 13 year-old girls, Alice doesn't quite know where she fits.

Alice, Pamela and Elizabeth take a trip to Chicago to see Aunt Sally. I think this was one of the most memorable incidents of the whole series, because of what happened to Pamela. On the train ride their, she was sexually harassed. I think, even as an adult, that's a pretty scary thing. Pamela has always been annoying to me, and her behavior on the train, sealed the deal, but that doesn't give anyone the right to sexually harass her. Especially an older guy. I think that's something important for all girls to think about - what they would do in a similar situation. It's sad we have to think about this crap, but we do.

I wish I could remember all of the little quips and anecdotes that make these books so hilarious, but as I read it several months ago, I just can't. Maybe on the next reread. :)

Leigha says

Child me: 5 stars

Adult me: 5 stars

For the first book in a "child/teen/middlegrade/nostalgic" book, I am going with the rating younger me would have gone with, then if I read on in the series, I will rate the books what adult me believes it should be rated. If the book is a stand alone, I will go with whatever rating I feel most comfortable giving the book. Please note, I do not really think books should have an age limit. People should read what they want to regardless of the intended age group, except for kids reading erotica or something, of course.

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I really enjoy the brother/sister relationship between Alice and Lester. I think it is really sweet. A lot of times, we do not see siblings being this close in some books/series. Also considering the age gap, Lester could just leave Alice behind, but he doesn't.

Brooke — brooklynreads says

As the title suggests, this installment of the Alice series is when Alice (and friends) are thirteen years old. Alice feels that she is "in-between" a lot of things in her life whether it be breast size, fitting of juniors versus women clothing, dating, etc. It's one of those awkward ages where it feels as if you are not a child anymore but you're not quite a woman.

The last installment ended dramatically with a very upsetting (but realistic) topic so I was unsure where this book would go. This book didn't address that topic aside from a mention and essentially saying that the characters didn't know how to deal with that outcome/grief or where to go from that. I actually think that's pretty accurate as that is a very young age to have to deal with that scenario with a peer and I think it would be unrealistic for the characters to come back from that with a 'perfect answer'.

Also, there were a couple examples where the characters of Alice and Pamela were mistaken for older women (being a newlywed and college student). Personally, I don't understand how a thirteen year old could be mistaken for a 18+ year old. But..through both of those examples it showed how men could be insistent and that the characters (and readers) should be careful especially with the messages/intentions that they send to others.

As always, I do recommend this book and this series overall. I especially recommend this series to readers of similar ages to Alice who may be going through similar situations to these characters. Along with feeling as if they are not alone, readers can be given guidance through a character that reads like a friend. Definitely an essential read while growing up!

Crys says

Another great Alice read!

This times readers are introduced to teenager Alice - and she brings it in with a bang. She takes a trip to Chicago with her two best friends, and mayhem on the train ensues thanks to Pamela.

But is being thirteen all Alice had hoped for? After all, this is the start to a new part of her life.

The title is perfect because Alice finds herself at a crossroads in this novel. She is coming off of childhood and stepping into adolescence, but is she ready for all that that entails?

Friendships change, people change, and Alice finds herself changing as well - but for the better.

I loved the way this novel ended. As a matter of fact, I just love reading Alice novels. They make me feel good about life, even if that is not the life I lead when I was her age. They always remind me that there is still good in the world.

Logan Hughes says

If you're reading the Alice books more or less in order but skipping around a little, like I did, don't skip this one. It's not filler like some of them are. This one has a good amount of forward motion on the serieswide arcs, and touches on a lot of serieswide themes (though anviliciously).

Alice feels "in between" childhood and adulthood and she wishes for a mother to help her though. She is "in between" (!) friendship and a relationship with Patrick. Of her friends, Elizabeth is prudish, Pamela is sexy, and Alice is "in between" (!!)

The most memorable part of the book is when Alice, Pamela, and Elizabeth take a train trip to visit Alice's Aunt Sally, and "in between" (!!!) Chicago and D.C., Pamela poses as an older woman and flirts with a man. (view spoiler)

Other events mainly have to do with Alice identifying (consciously, although she does this unconsciously in every book) several mother surrogates, such as Lester's girlfriends and her former teacher Miss Plotkin.

Jessica says

The pencil test! Ah!

Also, Alice's poetry reading made me tear up.
