



Alice Will

Ashley Chappell

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With her leaky powers and premature smiting problem, fourteen year-old Trotter was still just trying to get the hang of the demi-godding business when the apocalypse began. In a world where the gods have withdrawn from humanity, leaving mortals bitter toward magic, she finds herself torn between the human and the goddess in her. When the world begins to fade away and she becomes the prime suspect, her search to determine the cause and prove her innocence ends up revolving around a mysterious little girl named Alice. Then she discovers that not all of the gods had been as distant as they seemed...

Now, with everyone against her and the gods fighting amongst themselves, Trotter is on her own to save her world and stop a spiteful god from using Alice to destroy everything.

Alice Will Details

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From Reader Review Alice Will for online ebook

Bobbi Wagner says

Alice Will: Dreams of Chaos Book 1 by Ashley Chappell is the first book in her Dreams of Chaos series. This is a young adult fantasy book that will keep you reading until the last page. This is my first story by this author and I enjoyed the fantasy characters and how easy flowing her writing style is. She created many different types of characters that kept the story engaging. They were connectable and lovable. They took me on an emotional roller coaster ride from laughter to compassion. They took me on some twists and turns that I didn't see coming and left me sitting on the edge of my seat just waiting to see what will happen next. This is the story of Alice and Trotter. They are two young girls trying to find their way through a world full of war. They both have powers, Trotter knows how his powers work but Alice has yet to find out about how powerful her powers are. What will happen when these two are faced with the suspension of causing harm to the human population? Is it possible that they will be the ones to save the world? One of the things I enjoyed most about this story is how in the beginning this author gives two different perspectives and then the farther you read, you get how they are connected. Alice has never really had a family nor has she ever felt loved. Then you have Trotter who really hasn't accepted her self. They both have some unique relationships with other characters in this story that was great to see. This author has created some unique secondary characters that bring life to this story and meaning that will pull at your heart strings. I know you will find a favorite character among them, like the cute kitty bears. I highly recommend this book. This story will take you on a journey of gods and creatures that you won't soon forget.

Grace Troxel says

This review originally appeared on my blog, Books Without Any Pictures:
<http://bookswithoutanypictures.com/20...>

Alice Will by Ashley Chappell is the story of a 14-year-old demigod named Trotter who is just coming into her powers. She's going through an awkward preteen age, and that means she's pretty bad at magic. She can't even get the hang of using it to make her hair behave. Trotter has a talking cat named Prowler who serves as her guardian. Prowler is a noble kitty who has a good heart and loves seafood. One day Trotter does something really amazing with magic and makes an item from the past show up. That's the moment that the apocalypse starts. People think it's her, but it's really not.

You see, this is also the story of Alice. Alice is just a little kid, and she's an indentured servant at an inn. She's starved and mistreated there, and she dreams of a better life. Alice is powerful too, but she doesn't know it. She thinks she's completely human. Then she starts realizing by accident that her wishes and desires can manifest and become reality. She starts out trying to improve her life, and like any six year old, she doesn't realize that her actions have consequences. Her powers have been noticed by a sadistic god named Laramak who was imprisoned by Trotter's father a long time ago after doing a lot of terrible things. Laramak sees Alice's naivete as an opportunity for him to regain his powers and rule/destroy what's left of the world.

Trotter is in a unique position to stop Laramak and save Alice (and the world). Part of the lore in Alice Will is that the gods had a war, and then they went through a period where they kept changing reality all the time. They saw life as interchangeable, and so it really didn't bother them if they turned a human into a unicorn or threw people to all corners of creation, erasing and reshaping their existences. Of course, anyone living

through that time would have had major problems. After the war ended, the gods decided that it would be better for everyone if they kept to their own realm, and let the humans live their own lives and make their own mistakes without interference. Alice and Laramak are in the human world. As a demigod, Trotter isn't confined to either.

Sounds like an interesting premise, right?

And yet, I had a difficult time getting into the story, even though I came around somewhat by the end. It wasn't that there was any one major thing that was wrong with the book, but rather a lot of little things that bugged me and could have been fixed with another round or two of edits. Take, for instance, an anachronistic Dr. Seuss reference. Alice Will is a completely different world than our own, so there should be no Dr. Seuss. And then there's the running motif that the gods have no imagination, but then we see the gods crafting some rather creative monstrosities.

Alice Will has a lot of humor, but I didn't think a lot of the jokes were funny. Now, that's probably just me being weird, because I couldn't get into Good Omens either and everyone tells me that that book is hilarious. I told my boyfriend that I was having a hard time getting the jokes, and he asked me tongue-in-cheek if maybe the real problem is that I'm a grumpy old lady at heart. There's a fair chance that his assumption was accurate.

But as the book progressed, I started to get it. There were several parts of Alice Will that made me silently chuckle. Ursula and her teddy bears are a good example. When gods lose their worshipers, they fade away into something less than what they once were. Ursula was once a warrior goddess, but as people forgot the bulk of her story, she instead became the goddess of bears. Cute stuffed ones, apparently.

And I did enjoy many of Chappell's anecdotes about the nature of stories/legends/gods/etc. Like this part, where Prowler is explaining to Trotter why the gods are so dangerous, even though they seem like nice people:

"They have no frame of reference for life! They live forever and can't die. Therefore, they have no fear of death. Just because they created something that can die doesn't mean they understand the concept of death at all. That's what makes them so dangerous. They don't actually intend to do anything outright evil, even though it seems that way."

And for all that I've talked about Trotter, it was Alice's story that impressed me the most. Alice could be Cosette from Les Mis, or Cinderella, or Sara Crewe from A Little Princess. She's the typical abused yet virtuous orphan girl. And yet, Alice isn't waiting for a rescue. Instead of just going along with the hand fate dealt her, she changes the face of reality, and that's pretty awesome.

In retrospect, I think my real problem with the book was that the Trotter/Prowler combo reminded me a bit too much of Sailor Moon.

I'm a bit older than the target audience for Alice Will, which is YA/middle grade, and some of the jokes that I didn't find as funny were probably much more suited to a different age group. I'd encourage anyone who is considering reading the book to look around at other reviews, because the reader response to this book has been overwhelmingly positive.

Kayla Beck says

Review originally posted on Bibliophilia, Please.

A lot of YA fantasy novels that I read these days seem to be dark or romance-based. *Alice Will* by Ashley Chappell is something refreshing that I've been missing lately - a whimsical fantasy novel in the vein of Diana Wynne Jones.

Now as to whether *Alice Will* itself is YA, it was kind of hard for me to put a finger on. There were times that it read like a middle grade novel because of the characters and humor, but the writing style definitely pushed it towards being something for a more advanced reader. There were a lot of descriptions that made for a slow build to action, and the word usage and writing style was certainly not juvenile most of the time.

The characters that I brought up a moment ago were very young and fun, and I think Prowler was my favorite. I don't care how they act or what the story is about, but if you give me a talking cat, it's going to be my favorite character. Period. For some reason, he reminded me a bit of Luna and Artemis from the old *Sailor Moon* TV show. Again, how could I not love a snarky cat?

Something truly unique about *Alice Will* is the mythology. There are gods and magic, but they aren't any that you typically see. You know, original, not Greek or formulaic fantasy goodness. It is always refreshing to enter and explore a new world, but at the same time, it can be frustrating when the pace slows. (It's slow for me when I don't know what's going on.)

Alice Will by Ashley Chappell was a fun book to read, and I think it will be a hit for teens who enjoy a more romance-free fantasy novel. I think fans of Jones' *Howl's Moving Castle* and Neil Gaiman's *Stardust* will enjoy reading this book.

- 3.5/5 Stars -

To satisfy FTC guidelines, I am disclosing that I received a copy of the novel from the author through TLC Book Tours in exchange for an unbiased review. It has in no way affected the outcome. All expressed opinions are awesome, honest, and courtesy of me.

Cats of Ulthar says

Review: ALICE WILL by Ashley Chappell
[DREAMS OF CHAOS #1]

First in a young adult fantasy series, ALICE WILL stars a fourteen-year-old girl named Trotter whose companion is a vocal feline named Prowler. Trotter happens to be a demi-goddess, and not yet too talented with it. When she discovers the world disappearing little by little, what can she do but step in, be suspected, try to prove herself--and in the process discover mysterious little Alice...

Elizabeth Seckman says

Very seldom does a writer make me want to read slower, but draw me toward the end so hard I want to skip pages. I mean it's like you want to enjoy every well structured phrase and bit of humor, but at the same time, you want to know how it ends. That's how I felt reading Alice Will. So many good things about this book. It's smart, it's funny, it's sad, it's action packed. Simply put, I am in awe. It's like Harry Potter with a divine twist!

Darlene says

Alice Will by Ashley Chappell is a Young Adult fantasy novel that was a fantastic read! I really enjoy books that are full of magic, demons, and goddesses and Alice Will delivered on all counts along with a fourteen year old heroine who can definitely kick some butt when she needs to! I was drawn into this book from the start with the world building, characters, and vivid imagery that made me feel as though I was a part of the book itself. One thing for sure – Ashley Chappell has quite the imagination!

We have fourteen year old Trotter who is a demi-goddess with Prowler, the talking cat (which I loved). We also have almost seven year old Alice who is just a lonely little girl working as a servant. Yet there is something about Alice... Now Trotter knows she has magical abilities. The only problem as she sees it is that she can't manage to get her magic to work properly and more often than not causes herself more problems by using it. However when the world as she knows it begins to crumble she learns that it is she who is to save it. Really??? She doesn't think so. She can't even get her magic to work! Yet as she begins her adventure she also begins to learn just how powerful she actually is and just how Alice has been changing the world around herself.

I don't want to give away any of this story because that would just ruin a good adventure for someone else. I do want to say how fresh and fun this book was though. Trotter is a great character and she had me laughing more than once and Prowler her cat is just a hoot! Yet there is also a deeper element of emotion in this book that shows the value of believing in yourself and in what is right and good. There are twists and turns, scary monsters, and secrets unfolded that are sure to hold any reader captive.

I'd say this book falls between middle grade and young adult as both could enjoy it. And as you all know I'm neither at my age and I thought it was a great story. I'm excited as I'm going to be reviewing the second in the series called Tilt next week. I can't wait to get back to Trotter's world and see what she's up to next! Recommended for young and old readers especially those who love a good old fashioned fantasy novel that is really well written and exciting!

Vanessa K. Eccles says

This novel is well-written and highly imaginative. Its wit, suspense, and vivid descriptions of both characters and place leaves readers in awe. My favorite quote from the book perhaps explains what makes story telling so powerful: "Some stories are told to celebrate memories. Some stories are told to transform them. Sometimes a story describes something so terrible that people need to forget the horrific events that entailed

the original story and over time the story gains a hero, a new twist, or even a happy ending. It isn't long in the retelling that the terrible memory is no longer a memory at all, and becomes no more real than a child's fairy tale." (80) This story is captivating because the author truly knows what great stories are made of and has the talent to create them. I can't wait to read what else comes from the mind of Ashley Chappell.

Katie says

Alice Will (Dreams of Chaos #1)

By Ashley Chappell

4 stars

I think out of all the paranormal and fantasy books that I have read I seem to really enjoy Demi-God stories so I was really excited when I found a new one to read – plus it had cats in it too!!! I really enjoyed this story; I thought the author did a great job with the storyline and the pace of the story too. The plot was really good and kept my interest throughout. The characters that appeared in the story were really imaginative, well thought out and I can see YA in particular enjoying reading about them. The author's descriptive language was also a good point for this book.

I particularly liked that the story felt unique, the gods chosen in particular weren't ones that you usually see in stories which made it nice to read. There were some good twists and turns along the way and I could definitely see this book being a hit with YA who like fantasy books.

Overall a really good story, that is well written and enjoyable to read. I would definitely like to read more from this author in the future and be transported off to magical lands!

Dennis Sharpe says

I feel duty bound to say, up front, that this book is best read by "cat people" as opposed to "dog people" ... like me. That aside, this book won me over. It didn't even take that long for it to do so.

I've done a lot more reading of Urban Fantasy and Modern Fantasy of late, and so this book was a pleasant breath of fresh air as it took me back into a realm of the Fantasy genre I hadn't been to in a while. While this is definitely Fantasy fare of the most classical kind it is not a rehashing of previous stories, a retelling of Tolkien, Weis and Hickman, Salvatore, or Eddings. In fact the author, Chappell, has provided us here with anything but. It's amusing, interesting, and engaging, providing us with vividly fleshed out characters that are not only believable and relatable but easy to become intellectually involved with.

I will not get into explanations of locations I enjoyed or characters I did (or did not) like, as I believe you should actually read the book for yourself. I wouldn't recommend it to you, if I didn't feel that way about it. I also will not dwell on the finer points that disappointed me, as that is subjective, and I know others who don't agree with my assessments in that area.

What I will say is that when this book is good, which is 96.3% of the time... it is damn good. The world was

rich, and while there were sequences that I will admit weren't as good as others, I found myself so deeply bound to following the character's lives I eagerly continued reading. I think of all the books I've read this year I would have to say this was the easiest and most enjoyable and relaxing read.

I will gladly return to follow any further adventures that Trotter has in store, as I would also gladly fork over a few dollars to follow Chappell's forays into other genres of writing if she chooses to go in new directions. I am a fan of her skilled depictions of the complex as well as her grasp of humor. (It makes it hard to believe that this is her debut.)

Conclusion: Alice Will is definitely worth the time and money if you are a true fan of Fantasy fiction. You will not be disappointed.

Steven Peeples says

I have to admit that my preferred genre is not fantasy nor am I a young adult. This didn't keep me from immensely enjoying the book however. It was chance that put this book in my hand and am glad for it. Although this is Chappell's debut book the articulation of her unlimited imagination is apparent by the intricate world and characters she conjures. My most favorite parts of the book and the author's strong suit I think are the battle sequences. These scenes at the apex of conflict keep you at the edge of your seat and never fail to deliver resolution and gratification for the reader's investment.

Tammy Theriault says

Total mixture of Monty Pythons, Labrynth, Alice in Wonderland, and Harry Potter. I loved every minute of reading the book and took my time enjoying the amaZing descriptions!!

E.M. MacCallum says

"Alice Will" is rife with humour, drama and a multitude of relationships that I loved exploring. I doubt there's a single person who couldn't relate to Alice's loneliness or Trotter's desire to know the truth.

As the story progresses we are pulled along with Trotter and her best pal, and talking enchanted cat, Prowler. They face some great triumphs and sadness in their quest to save Realm. Then there is the sad and yearning life of little Alice. Her need for acceptance in the world is almost palpable.

There was plenty of action and a roller coaster plot that kept me glued to the pages. The storytelling is flawless. I couldn't find anything I didn't like and enjoyed every twist and turn.

Tom says

Good old-fashioned fantasy ala Lord of the Rings. It's a rollicking adventure with nail-biting suspense tempered with humor. Alice and Trotter, the two main characters, stumble through the story trying to solve problems much too complicated and dangerous for a couple of little girls, and I often ended up cheering for them as they dealt with monsters, evil spells, bad weather, nasty gods, a reality that is never quite what it seems, and a weird cat that used to be... It's a solid adventure. The author has a deep grasp of human (and cat) nature and, and her characters are very real as a result. I rarely finish fantasy stories, but I was pulled into this one and enjoyed it to the satisfying end. Recommended.

A.G. Porter says

After reading Alice Will there was no way I couldn't give it 5 stars! If I could give it more then I would! Alice Will is a unique and intriguing fantasy novel. Chappel writes with wit, humor, and a touch of the bizarre. The world she has built around Chaos is dense and once you start reading you get completely immersed in the many layers of humans, gods, and mystical creatures. The main character, Trotter, is the hero our generation of young readers need. Not that she isn't a hero for all ages, but what she represents is so important. She has all the classic characteristics of bravery and self-sacrifice, but she's not broken from her past. Trotter uses the pain from her past wounds to propel her forward. On top of that, she is so full of love and humanity. She just has a big heart! And, Prowler, a magical cat, is one of the best supporting characters I've ever come across in a book. He's probably my favorite! There just isn't enough I can say about how wonderful this book is and I can't wait to read the next in the series!

Haley says

3.75 stars

I *finally* had the time yesterday/this morning to settle down and really dive into this book the way I haven't been able to do since I started it, and I finish the entire second half in two sittings. WHEW. I was hooked.

I have to say: I chose a bad time to start this book. Especially with new books and authors, I like to be able to sit down and really get immersed in the new style and story, and I generally end up plowing through it (sometimes out of sheer curiosity about how the author will manage). However, I started this book when the busiest part of school hit, so I had to take it just a dozen or so pages a day, starting and stopping, and sometimes going long enough between times I got to pick it up that how fast I was reading it would leave me struggling to remember what I had finished last time I let off.

But every time it would only take me a couple lines to find my way back into the story. Everything was distinct, and the world was a complex one but so easily and vibrantly explained that diving back in after all my brief hiatuses was no trouble.

Let me say first that it's been a long time since I read a story from the third person omniscient perspective, so I wasn't expecting that to be the style. At first, it threw me. But then I was so curious about what was going to happen and how all these storylines would tie together, that it ceased to bother me. And that's saying something, because generally I cannot get on board with that style. The story would not have worked without

this particular point of view (or it wouldn't have worked as *well*), because not only do we see Trotter and Alice and the gods, we see sweeping aerial scenes and Chaos, and in my opinion there would have been far too much jumping from character's mind to character's mind had omniscient not been the perspective. It worked, and I thoroughly enjoyed it in this book, so well done, Ms. Chappell!

I had a hard time deciding whether to classify this book as middle-grade or YA. There was some description or a curse word that had me leaning toward YA, but then some of the easy humor and the age of the characters seemed more middle-grade. Either way it was still a simple, good-old-fashioned fantasy. There were realms and magic and gods and mystical creatures, and the world was fed to you a little at a time so it never felt overwhelming. Ashley Chappell has an amazing imagination; I was sucked into the hilarious descriptions of the gods' realms, the mode of transportation within Realm, and the unique magic surrounding the characters. With so many "demigod" stories out right now, Ms. Chappell's book managed to never make the mistake of falling in with the rest of the genre; the gods were not Greek, the main character, Trotter, was not the only important and powerful one, and even the magic was not traditional. I didn't feel like I could guess everything that was going to happen, and I certainly didn't. There were surprises and reveals and plenty to keep readers on the edge of their seats!

My *only* wish for this story was that some of the scenes would be expanded. It was definitely not something to bring my rating down even a whole half-star, and honestly, I'm not sure it's something worth that .25-star reduction. But sometimes I would be so invested in the scene that was happening or coming up and I would have loved to see some of those be longer, more detailed, dived into further, but instead the story moved on. Now, the quick pace was one of the things that kept me so invested—the story *never* dragged, and I **HUGELY** appreciated that. Too many stories do.

As an author who's had to attempt some serious world-building myself, I'm awed by Ashley Chappell's ability to do so. Imagination flowed off the page, and everything was so unique and so fitting; it never seemed like she'd had to spend ages deciding how this or that particular piece of her world would appear. It flowed naturally, and she commanded every single bit masterfully, and that made *Alice Will* utterly enjoyable!

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.