



Death of the Mad Hatter

Sarah J. Pepper

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Never in my wildest dreams did I consider the possibility that I could fall for the boy with the girl's name. Why couldn't Ryley have bacne, chronic case of nose bleeds, genetic baldness, or uncontrollable gingivitis? Oh no, he had to be perfect in every way. And, that body... Nuff said. It was all I could do to convince my knees not to weaken at the sight of him. Forming coherent words when he spoke my name was dang near impossible.

Perhaps if his frontal lobe was a teensy weensy smaller, I might have been able to convince myself that he wasn't so intellectually stimulating. But, he was stimulating, in more ways than one; there was no denying that; no matter how badly I tried to hate him, I couldn't. That made what I was about to do so delightfully horrible that even the wicked Queen of Hearts would be impressed--Alice Mae.

Death of the Mad Hatter Details

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Author : Sarah J. Pepper

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From Reader Review Death of the Mad Hatter for online ebook

Up All Night Book Addict says

4.25 stars

"A world where the impossibilities of our most farfetched dreams come true--that was the essence of Wonderland."

Welcome to a new twist on the story of Alice in Wonderland. I wasn't sure what to expect with this story, but what I got surpassed anything I could have imagined! There are many takes and twists of this age-old classic. One never knows what they will get into with any of them.

In this twisted version we get murder and deceit. A story of a boy and a girl trying to overcome what is expected of them and their pasts.

Alice Mae... she is a prisoner of Wonderland and her past mistakes. It is her job to lure the now deceased king's nephew to Wonderland for the Queen... The Queen, an evil ruler who wants to make sure her reign of Wonderland is secure. Then we have Ryley... "every creature in Wonderland would tip their Hat to the misfit girl with a boy's name (or was it a boy with a Girl's name?) who'd end the Reign of Terror."... the heir to the throne of Wonderland.

I couldn't put this book down. I was sucked into the vortex of this complex, yet simple story. I was a willing traveler between the realm of Wonderland and the Otherworld. If you think this is a story that couldn't possibly be an emotional ride, you are wrong. This story is not just about an evil queen wanting to be in complete control. This is a story of a boy and girl building a relationship that could stand the test of time (literally). It is about what one would give up to have that love people dream of. It is about how far people will go to not only do the right thing, but to also right their wrongs.

I laughed and teared up throughout this book. The characters are hard to not love. The twists of the story are complex but easily followed. The writing alone is wondrous. Sarah J Pepper is a true genius and has a very good imaginative and unique writing style that gives this book some extra character!

Dianne says

Stops at Tome Tender December 12th!

Sarah J.Pepper will be giving away a SIGNED COPY
of DEATH OF A MAD HATTER at the end of the tour!

Fasten your seatbelt and hang on tight for the thrill ride that is Sarah J. Pepper's **Death of the Mad Hatter!** The rabbit hole you are about to fall into more closely resembles a whirling vortex into massive black hole, where the pull is so strong nothing can escape! There is a prophecy to fulfill and Alice Mae is the girl to get the job done, Ryley is on her radar and life for this ordinary seventeen year old boy will never be the same!

Did the King want to leave the Queen for another woman? Did he really trip over the queen's guillotine and accidentally behead himself? Was the White Rabbit really named Mr. Ruth? Do frogs talk? Does the Mad Hatter prefer to be called MH? All these questions and more may or may NOT be answered in this twisted and tweaked version of Alice in Wonderland, but, I say, so what? I have not read anything so quirky and

crazy in, well, probably ever!

This is not the tale your mother read to you, but go ahead and re-read the original just to be sure, then answer this question: How many times did you laugh out loud for each version? Which was crazier, more twisted, which had the quirkier characters with more depth? Which is bouncing off the walls in all directions at once, and last, which one could you better relate to?

Sarah J. Pepper has turned this tale upside down, inside out and then twisted it like a corkscrew. She writes with attitude, humor and doesn't miss a beat as she sends us barreling along on this fantastic young adult journey. Fast-paced, full of colorful detail, you will not get to the end without knowing you have just read something completely unique!

I received a copy from the author in exchange for my honest review as part of the DEATH OF THE MAD HATTER BOOK TOUR & GIVEAWAY stopping at Tome Tender December 12!

Publication Date: November 26, 2013

Publisher: Sarah J. Pepper

Genre: YA Fantasy

Number of Pages: 344

Available from: [Amazon](#) | [Barnes & Noble](#)

Jazmen says

A modern day retelling and twist on the story of Alice and Wonderland. Meet Alice Mae aka Al, "the girl with the boys name.". Alice Mae is the queen of hearts assistant of sorts she may fulfill the bleeding hearts prophesy, and then she may not. Then there's Robby the boy who knows nothing outside of his world but is thrust into the world of wonderland and otherworldliness the minute he meets the oddly dressed , strange new girl Alice Mae. She knows things about his father and he doesn't like it, not one bit. He has to now deal with pursuing the girl he has only dreamed of and the strange girl who now invades his every thought.

This book is a fantastical world of strange and wonderful happenings. I got pulled in pretty quickly and found it hard to put down. I actually didn't put it down. I read it until I was done.

I fell in love with the characters almost as soon as I met them. Each character was beautifully developed and got more and more interesting. Pepper clearly has a way with words and knows how to tell a story with natural skill and finesse. By the end of the book I was so entranced with the story I had a hard time believing I hadn't fallen down a rabbit hole. It was a journey I will not soon forget.

Brittany says

I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review.

I was really excited to read this book, as it was about Wonderland and I am always intrigued by Wonderland stories. The Death of the Mad Hatter is written by Sarah J. Pepper.

The book revolves around a prophecy given by the Jack:

"If the king loses his head, then the Queen with a Bleeding Heart would rule the Red Court until Time ceased to move forward. When a second carried on for infinity, every creature in Wonderland would tip their Hat to the misfit girl with a Boy's name (or was it a boy with a Girl's name?) who'd end the Reign of Terror. However, it all hinged on the One-Eyed Hare being able to convince an uninspirable Heir that the impossible was indeed possible—like stopping time—and that Love was worth a Beheading."

I loved the opening of this book, at first I thought that my Kindle was acting up but then I realized I was reading it correctly, it opens with a nice bit of lunacy, that has you already feeling the Wonderland effect on the story. Sarah did a great job of adding her own twist onto the characters and paying attention to a lot of little details. I was loving the lunacy and brilliance in the attention to the clothes that Alice Mae wore and especially her nail polish.

I loved the concept of the rabbit holes and the candy, and I felt like I could picture a lot of the world of Wonderland. The main characters were well described and came to life, but I wish I could have seen more of some of the ancillary characters. It would be awesome to see a prequel story to delve more into the lives of some of the Wonderland characters and get to know them better.

The feelings are well described and the the raging torment between love and self perseverance comes through to the reader very well. I have read some negativity about the shifting views between Alice and Ryley and I personally loved being able to see things from the different perspectives. I also loved the flash backs to Wonderland to slowly unfold how things got to be where they are now.

The thing that really stood out to me to take away from this being a really stand alone novel was a lot of the high-school aspect. The petty high school drama and immature conversations and bickering really distracted from the story. I would have rather seen a lot more of Wonderland and had a lot less of high-school drama. I also found that there were a few major questions that really never felt filled in, again I feel like with a prequel book being written it could really fill in the background better, or even if this was a 2 part book.

Overall I give this book a 4 out of 5 stars, and would love to read more of the Wonderland that Sarah has brought to life, and get to know more of the Wonderland characters more. If you are into Wonderland, or Fairy tales, fantastical, and loony, fiction, young adult and struggle, this book is for you.

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Jasmin says

I received this book in exchange for an honest review (LoP or Lovers of Paranormal)

In Ms.Pepper's version of the wonderland life centers around a prophecy the Jack once made:

"If the king loses his head, then the Queen with a Bleeding Heart would rule the Red Court until Time ceased to move forward. When a second carried on for infinity, every creature in Wonderland would tip their Hat to

the misfit girl with a Boy's name (or was it a boy with a Girl's name?) who'd end the Reign of Terror. However, it all hinged on the One-Eyed Hare being able to convince an uninspirable Heir that the impossible was indeed possible—like stopping time—and that Love was worth a Beheading.

Heads would Roll...
Hearts would Break...
In the end, would it matter who Reigned?"

There are also a few prophecy's that influence the first one, but I don't want to say too much :).

I always loved the story of Alice in Wonderland(even though there are way too many versions I think), but it's kind of funny that I didn't read or heard of a story involving Alice for a while and now I even stumbled upon two in a short period of time.(The second one would be the TV series "Once upon a time in Wonderland") So Alice might be coming in fashion again? (or it's simply a coincidence lol)
Well.. Actually "Death of the Mad Hatter" is nothing like the original story, but it's just as enjoyable. The two main protagonists, Riley and Alice, are a kind of really realistic couple, since they have a hate-love relationship. That's interesting in it's own way and after all differs the normal love-at-first-sight stories. So in my opinion it's really refreshing :).

I also liked the idea of using candy to keep sane in the normal world. Definitely a nice invention!

I have to admit though that I can't get used to Alice's looks. i mean she is pretty, but she wears blue lipstick, really? Anyway I still loved all characters, while I'd prefer to ignore there taste in fashion.

Overall the whole book was a great read and it was a very fast read. Once started you simply won't be able to stop reading! Wonderland is such a nice place, where the impossible becomes possible :). So it totally deserves the 4 stars!(I only gave 4 stars, because the pace was pretty slow at the beginning and everything was kind of confusing.)

April says

I absolutely loved Death of the Mad Hatter. Alice in Wonderland is one of my absolute favorite stories and I love to read any adaptations. I especially liked how, in this story, the original story line was not followed at all.

I liked the changes that Ms. Pepper has made in characters of Alice in Wonderland. They are mostly the same in that Hearts is still an evil queen who has a abnormal obsession with beheading and the Cheshire cat is still insane. The Joker has a much more prominent role in this story and I'm not sure how I liked it because he works for Hearts, is evil, and tortures people.

I was upset with the death of the Mad Hatter. Yes the title of the book already tells you that it will happen but I still wanted to cry. The Mad Hatter is probably one of my favorite characters in the original story. The character who has been changed the most is definitely Alice, or Alice Mae.

Alice is definitely not the same little girl that everyone knows who simply falls down the rabbit hole and is left in the confusing world of Wonderland. She is capable of leaving and returning Wonderland as long as she is working for the queen, Hearts. She is strong, loyal, and loving. I think that Alice is much more of a three dimensional character in this novel than in the original because you get to see more of her feelings and

her life than just what is in Wonderland.

The story mainly follows Ryley, an almost eighteen year old boy, who has moved around many times in his life per his father's request to keep him safe. Ryley is oblivious to everything that is Wonderland and his own involvement in prophecies that will alter everyone's lives. Throughout the novel Ryley must learn about himself, Alice Mae, Wonderland, and his own father's involvement.

I really liked the dual narrative of this novel because you are able to see Alice Mae and Ryley's reactions to varying events. I think that Ryley and Alice Mae's interactions were beautifully written. I loved that Ryley simultaneously wanted to strangle and kiss Alice Mae at the same time.

Alice Mae has definitely spent too much time in Wonderland as she has developed their curious ways. Any simple question results in a riddle from her which adds to Ryley's frustration.

I loved the ending of this novel because everything was resolved in the right way IMO. In the end Ryley learns about his destiny and Wonderland is changed.

Overall, I loved Death of the Mad Hatter. I think it is a beautiful take on a classic story. Everything that you thought you knew about Alice is completely changed. The romance between Alice Mae and Ryley is sweet and I love their HEA. I give this story 5 stakes and I would love a novella or short story to see an update on Wonderland and the couple. Also, this cover is amazing. I simply love this author's book covers.

*ARC provided by author for honest review.

*Full review on <http://onceuponacoffin.blogspot.com>

Satarupa says

I got this book from the author, free of cost, in exchange of an honest review from my side.

Firstly I would like to thank Sarah J. Pepper, author of Death of the Mad Hatter, for giving me this opportunity of reading and reviewing this fabulous book.

I got this book from Lovers of Paranormal group of Goodreads under the Read to Review Scheme! I really, really, really enjoyed this read a lot, from my heart. It was mesmerized by this and this read was an otherworldly experience for me, altogether. I read Alice in Wonderland when I was a kid and this book really brought up those memories of that particular winter when I read the original Alice in Wonderland, curled up with my mom on my tiny bed. This story is different yet it has got a similar and known feeling to it. The modernization that the author did to this classic story is really great and I loved the main character Alice.

A great and enjoyable read and I would definitely recommend it to all of you book lovers and if you want to relive your moments of reading the classic 'Alice in Wonderland' with a fantastic twist then surely you should go for it and I guarantee you that you would definitely love it. The ending is truly awesome but I'm not going to give it up. So buckle up guys and enter the fantasy world where there are developed and fantastic characters that will draw you in, a well planned out plot and it has a very unique essence to it. The story is fast-paced and a page turner and don't worry there are major differences between this book and the classic one and you can't even imagine who much more you'll get from this story. So get ready for the huge surprise. Enjoy, folks!

Renetta says

What an entertaining story! I adore the main characters Alice Mae and Ryley. Alice's sarcasm mixed with a bit of madness from all her time spent in Wonderland and Riley's love hate for her had me thoroughly entertained. The entire book could have been just about those two going back and forth and I would have been satisfied.

The story is a retelling of Alice in Wonderland. It had all the same great characters but with a twist. It was set in modern times but still maintained an old world feel while in Wonderland. It blended WONDERfully. It was written from both Alice Mae's and Ryley's point of view so I connected with both characters equally.

Ryley finds himself obsessed with the new girl at school, Alice Mae, she drives him absolutely crazy and he wants nothing more than to not like her. That's not the case however. She's full of secrets and talks in riddles, she drives him MAD. He's not sure if he can trust her and neither is the reader, although you're hoping you can. Can you? I'm not telling. I can keep secrets too.

The Queen of Hearts believes in the prophecy that a girl with a boys name (or was it a boy with a girls name) will be the end of her reign. She'll stop at nothing to ensure it doesn't come true. After all what's a Wonderland tale without a beheading? Who's head? I'm not telling.

But maybe you shouldn't read this story, it can be dangerous after all. Repeat after me... I will not follow rumperbabbits down dirty holes. I will not follow rumperbabbits down dirty holes. I will not follow rumperbabbits down dirty holes. Just kidding! You definitely should read the book. I will not follow rumperbabbits down dirty holes. I will not follow rumperbabbits down dirty holes. I will not follow rumperbabbits down dirty holes. Follow him down the hole! I will not follow rumperbabbits down dirty holes. I will not follow rumperbabbits down dirty holes. I will not follow rumperbabbits down dirty holes. I will not follow rumperbabbits down dirty holes.

I saw the author also wrote a retelling about Rapunzel titled Locks. I added it to my to read list. I look forward to more from this author!

Amir at NotSoLiterary says

This review is also available at: [The Not-So-Literary Heiresses](#)

4.5 Stars

It all started with a prophecy. Well, if I have to be really specific, it all started with an "accidental" beheading but I'd really rather focus on the prophecy.

If the king loses his head, then the Queen with a Bleeding Heart would rule the Red Court until Time ceased to move forward. When a second carried on for infinity, every creature in

Wonderland would tip their Hat to the misfit girl with a Boy's name (or was it a boy with a Girl's name?) who'd end the Reign of Terror. However, it all hinged on the One-Eyed Hare being able to convince an uninspirable Heir that the impossible was indeed possible—like stopping time—and that Love was worth a Beheading.

From the title I already had an idea that this is a Young Adult take on Alice and Wonderland and although I admit that I've never really fully read the classic, the world of Wonderland has always been fascinating in my eyes. This book did more than do a present-day twist to the classic tale though, it added new depth to the characters we've grown to love. By introducing new characters from the Otherworld it was able to incorporate two worlds into the story. The book was able to actually step away from the classic tale and become fascinating and original on its own.

The story is told from two points of view. **Ryley**, an ordinary 17-year-old teenage boy with family secrets he would rather forget about, and **Alice Mae**... whom I will assume you are already familiar with (hint: Alice in...?)

What initially got me hooked with this book is Ryley and Alice Mae's interactions with each other. It was refreshing to read that for once, it wasn't the female protagonists who was left in the dark and searching for answers from the mysterious bad boy. Ryley is the attractive boy-next-door whose life gets disrupted by the seemingly sly Alice Mae. She knows secrets that Ryley would rather stay hidden and it baffles him that despite her weird fashion sense, evil intentions, and crazy personality, he can't keep the girl out of his mind.

Alice Mae was just... awesome. I love her character! She's adorably weird and quirky and not at all apologetic that she's that way. I like that there's no angsty monologue of her not being able to fit in or her not looking pretty enough like the other girls. Just like her out-of-this-world makeup and outfits, her demeanor clearly shows that she is from another world and she does not care in the least if she doesn't fit in in this one because really, she has other more important things to worry about.

Their relationship was not insta-love and I can't really say that it gradually developed either. Rather, it was pent-up attraction and teenage hormones that had them threatening each other one minute and suddenly kissing the next. It actually made my stomach flutter when it happened and my stomach rarely flutters anymore these days.

One moment Alice Mae and I were sworn enemies -- like a superhero to a villain. A kiss changed all that.

I've read books that feature love-hate relationships before but there was just something about Ryley and Alice Mae's relationship that just made it so sweet and heartwarming. Perhaps it's Ryley realizing he's jealous or Alice Mae getting flustered when she first sees Ryley's naked chest, but when these two interact it just feels so special and I really can't help rooting for them. Their relationship just has that innocent feel of first love that's so adorable.

Aside from Ryley and Alice Mae's relationship, I really enjoyed uncovering the secrets of both worlds. The storytelling is non-linear and we get to read about Ryley and Alice Mae's past and present in an alternating manner. Getting to know supporting characters from Wonderland and the Otherworld was also just as fascinating as getting to know the villains of both worlds (and all of them were just hateful!) I also love how although this book featured dark themes, discovering the magic of both worlds still felt... well, magical. Ms. Pepper's world-building of Wonderland was definitely her own but it is just as colorfully twisted as the

original.

I only wish that we were given an epilogue. I really wanted to find out what happened to the characters from both worlds, especially Ryley and Alice Mae.

So Ms. Pepper... please, *please* write a novella, or a short story, anything that will give us more Ryley and Alice Mae. I don't think I'm ready to let go of these two yet!

An ARC copy was provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.

Elicia Cheah says

You can also find this review at <http://girlinthewoodsreviews.blogspot...>

Detailed Review: You want my honest opinion? The book was yummy. It's impossible to not continue after reading the first page. That first page sucks you right in without letting you go. It's just like falling down a rabbit hole, endless and inescapable. This retelling of Alice in Wonderland is unlike other retellings. After glimpsing the title, I already felt quite curious about what it was about since it was unlike other titles such as Alice in Zombieland- which made the content seem obvious. But THIS was different. It gave an air of mystery.

First, I must comment on the originality of the story. The essence of Wonderland is still there, which is described as- a world where the impossibilities of our most farfetched dreams come true. But the story took on a darker twist. It is more sinister and the story revolves around several prophecies and dangerous plots. It is amazing how the author managed to do this without changing how Wonderland felt. I mean- the idea of needing sweets to think straight and fight off the magic of Wonderland in our world? That is what I call creativity. It must be no easy task, I can assure you.

And now I present to you, the two main characters- Ryley Edward Edgar and Alice Mae Liddell. They were very eccentric characters and I absolutely loved them. Both of them had contrasting personalities and this in turn made them stand out and blend in with the story at the same time. And as people say, opposites attract because both of them fall in love with each other, thus changing the course of the story. This is what makes the book different from Alice in Wonderland. The other characters are also very unique, such as the Mad Hatter and the Queen of Hearts.

The story itself is not only original, it pulls you in both with its mysterious quality and the smooth flow of the story. There are no sudden interferences (if you exclude the twists). It focuses on a prophecy and shows how the characters and the story itself revolves around it. This may seem boring to you, but it turned out to be quite interesting for me. And I can tell you, not everything in the prophecy came true. That's a twist for you. It should be tempting.

Finally, the cover, is very attractive and eye-catching. The white border complements with the content of the cover. I like it. So, cover judges, you MUST not miss this. Sorry for the long review, thanks for reading!

*Note: I sometimes got a bit annoyed and frustrated because of the occasional mistake in the story but overall everything was very good. I hope the final piece is all perfect so you want have to go through the same feelings as me stumbling through some mistake.

Brief Review: Together with an interesting and wonderful plot, this book exhibited good writing skills with originality with some evidence of craziness in it (which is essential) and characters were perfect. I was satisfied after the end. But I do need more Alice and Ryley!

Final Rating: 4.5/5 'Really Liked It!'

Deniz Ozen says

2.25 stars

“She chuckled in the way I imagined every comic book villain would. “We are from the wondrous world of wonders.”

I started reading Death of the Mad Hatter because I love love love wonderland but this book turned out to be a complete disappointment. The book was telling instead of showing constantly. But, I loved the very beginning of the book; how it drew me inside the lunacy of Wonderland. I also really liked it at the beginning where Alice Mae was nonsensical and the relationships and characters made sense. But after Ryley learned about Wonderland and accepted it so quickly, I started to have doubts. His falling madly in love with Alice Mae did it for me. The book no longer made sense- not in a wonderland way but in a "I don't believe you" kind of way. Their relationship felt too fake. Ryley felt "pulled" to Alice Mae, which was very very weird. One minute they hated each other and the next -bam!- they are madly in love. Everything was too convenient and some of the plot points felt off. Plus (view spoiler)

Hope says

I received a copy through the LOP Read 2 Review group.

First Impression: Alice in Wonderland adaptation? Quirky-looking girl drinking tea on the cover? Yes please!

Characters: Alice Mae is fabulous – I would say she carries the book although her counterpart Ryley seems to be the main protagonist. This reimagining of the famous Alice Liddell is almost as backwards as the Mad Hatter himself. With random wit and phrases I dare say Sarah J. Pepper's young Alice is better than the original.

Ryley is a 17-year-old from a family with secrets. I found him grow more likeable as the story progressed, and the twist on his character at the end is priceless.

The Queen 'Hearts' and her minions are perfectly evil, while the Mad Hatter seems relatively sane this go-round. I think the only depiction I didn't care for was 'Chez' the Cheshire cat. He was just too ordinary.

World Building: Wonderland is wonderful and confusing as always. The travel between worlds is still the rabbit hole, and most of those details haven't much changed. I appreciate the basics staying the same when it comes to beloved stories.

Writing Style: This is reading at a YA level with hints at PG-13 adult fiction. I appreciate that nothing outright sexual happens – it never sits right with me when teen characters are getting busy. Alice Mae and Ryley have excellent chemistry, and their relationship builds in a way that makes sense. I think my favorite part of this story was the dialogue exchange and subsequent relationship building.

What I liked: The story flowed easily, and I didn't have to suspend too much disbelief for that to happen. Having read far too many adaptations of Wonderland, I greatly enjoyed not having to follow too many rabbit trails. The ending was positively justified. I was left with that warm feeling in my stomach – as it should be in a fairytale.

Deal Benders: In my opinion, Death of the Mad Hatter would benefit from focusing more as either YA or adult fiction. I say this in the sense of audience – it felt like the author was trying too hard to make the main characters grow up exponentially over the course of two years.

Overall Rating: I gave this story 4 stars because I really enjoyed it, although there was room for improvement. I would definitely read more from this author.

For Fans Of: The original Alice in Wonderland, Gregory Maguire

Kayla says

This book was really high on my TBR but It did not live up to my expectations! I am so gutted cause I really wanted to love this book.

Marie Clarisse says

Actual rating: 4.5 stars

"Every molecule in my body screams that you are dangerous and that I shouldn't trust you, but every time I look at you, I forget all logic and hope that you can't hear my heart beating out of my chest. I fall into your eyes and swear that I catch a glimpse of your soul. You sound like an angel when you speak. You consume my thoughts. I forget to eat because I day dream about your kiss," I said and brushed her hair out of her face. "I'm going to tell you something I've never told a girl before. I've fallen hard—and not just down a rabbit hole."

You know what, I never expected to like this book this much. I got so frustrated with it at first that I actually thought twice about continuing with the story. I'm lucky that I still read it though. This book may have had such a slow start but eventually, everything got better.

The Death of a Mad Hatter is a retelling of the classic Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll, just with a more modern and gothic twist to it. Following the king's death, the story revolves around a series of prophecies: *the Bleeding Hearts Prophecy, the Backwards Wanderer Prophecy and the Madmen's Prophecy*. All of these somehow state or predict what was bound to happen before the *reign of terror* ends, and what they had to do, for the *Queen of Hearts* to fall. However, this book does not only take place in *Wonderland*. The setting of the story basically switches back and forth from one realm to the other, showing how the story interconnects somehow with the life of a senior high school student-who just might be the one they've all been waiting for.

I know what you're thinking. "*Prophecies! Ugh, not again. What a cliche.*" or even, "*Pfft, prophecies. Why can't people get over that kind of shit?*" Well yes, yes, I know. That's exactly what went through my mind at first. I was so sick and tired of this "chosen one" crap that I didn't know if I could even handle reading a book that contained not only one prophecy but three or more.

BUT let me tell you this, dear friends. I loved how this book turned out, prophecies and chosen ones and all. In the end, I loved how well thought out everything was. All three prophecies plagued my head with questions but everything was eventually made clear. The plot was amazing, and all those predictions also blended well with the storyline.

The world-building was also extraordinary. Sarah J. Pepper managed to take inspiration in Carroll's masterpiece and breathe new life into it. The way she revived Wonderland and all its creatures truly captured me. Not only did she show the readers very vivid images of that very strange realm, she also integrated a more twisted personality to each of the creatures of Wonderland. I found that very cool.

I also loved the character development and romance in the story. I liked Alice Mae's weirdness and also how Riley was that typical teenage guy, going after the hottest girl in school. It was nice having a little sense of ordinariness. I also loved how both of them went from childishly fighting each other to fighting *for* each other in the end.

Oh, and the writing is also special. It has this dark and gloomy, but at the same time flowery feel to it. I don't really know how to explain it, so I'll show you some of my favorite quotes instead.

""Have you ever wondered why you get a tummy ache after eating a lot of candy?" He didn't wait for a reply. "Because too much of a good thing is actually a bad thing."""

""We all make thousands of wrong choices in life. What matters is what you learn from them," I said and kissed her."

Here's my favorite, next to the very first one I quoted.

"Do you believe in ghosts?"

"I believe that some people are haunted," I said. "I don't believe that a misty substance manifests to scare people. But people can be haunted by their past, their family, their upbringing, their future or any number of things."""

Well, now I think you get my point. Sarah J. Pepper's writing style is beautiful.

Overall, I'm giving this book 4 and a half stars. Almost perfect, but not quite. It just had a rough start, that's all. I should've given it 5 stars otherwise.

Mishma says

A copy was provided by the author in exchange of a honest review.

I've read a lot of fairytale retellings. Some have the exact storyline, but the story, but the story happens in the modern world. But some retellings only have the concept and the background, and the story is twisted into something entirely new. I love the latter kind of books. And Death of the Mad Hatter is one of the best books I've ever read in that category.

It's a great book to anyone who loves dark, twisted and intense paranormal stories. The kind of book that will make you addicted to and engrossed in it. It took me a long time to understand the book. A fair warning I'd like to give to anyone who reads the book is not to put it down if it confuses you. In fact the beauty of the book was how confusing the story was. That's what made the book unique and original.

Just as I told before, this book is for readers who love twisted and dark stories. Like really crazy stuff. You can't digest half of the facts in the book and most sounds really creepy. But all of them are the plus points of the book. I've never read a more dark, creepy and retelling than this book.

As an addition to Alice-who's the traditional heroine of Carroll's creation-we also have a hero, Ryley. Both of them were entertaining characters and I liked Alice Mae a lot more. She's a character who has this weird dressing sense and loads of self confidence which I admired. Ryley was not a really remarkable character, but still I loved them together, and their romance was so sweet.

The book had great side characters. M.H, Robbie, Mr. Ruth were my favourites beside Alice. We also have a ruthless and cruel villain, Hearts who is really a piece of work. I was actually sad to see that Chez the cat was a bad guy, but still I couldn't help but love him, as I have a thing for paranormal cats. Blame it on Grimalkin from Iron Fey:

Simply put, it's a perfect story to any Tim Burton fan. Anyone who loves a creepy Tim Burton-Johnny Depp collaboration will definitely fall in love with the book. I am telling this as a Burton fan myself, and if this is how Sarah J. Pepper writes her stories, I can't wait to read every single one of them.
