



## Alf the Workshop Dog

*Emma Calin*

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How could a scruffy dog in a bus depot and the call of crows, link back to another world of power and love? Award winning bestseller Emma Calin's brand new series of modern day fairy stories for younger readers. A wicked king, a brave girl, a young prince and the struggle between right and wrong maintain the fable tradition. The ancient Kingdom of Zanubia and a stray dog looking for scraps in an inner-city repair garage, hold the secret. It's a chapter book story-time action ride. Just add imagination and stir. Both printed and digital versions of this story are enriched with charming illustrations (anime style). Free bonus audio and video material is included via links in the text. Simply scan the QR codes to pop up the bonus material during the story on smart phones or electronic devices. Enjoy this timeless story with 21st century media enrichment as you read. Emma's 'Once upon a NOW' series - launching in 2014 Alf The Workshop Dog. Isabella's Pink Bicycle. Kool Kid Kruncha and The High Trapeze. Available in print, Kindle e-book and audio book versions. Suitable for reading ages 7-11, grades 3-7, or for adults to share with younger readers

## Alf the Workshop Dog Details

Date : Published October 21st 2014 by Gallo-Romano Media (first published October 11th 2014)

ISBN : 9781502479587

Author : Emma Calin

Format : Paperback 62 pages

Genre : Childrens, Fiction

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# From Reader Review Alf the Workshop Dog for online ebook

## **Zineb says**

A short story that deals with a king who rules the kingdom Zanubia and how his son, Prince Alfredo, will stop at nothing to bring about peace and make an end to the evil that his father has brought upon the kingdom and its people. But that's not all, when Alfredo's friend Laura is in danger from the king's wrath, a crow comes into the picture and Alfredo is turned into a dog and forced to travel in time. A story that speaks of wisdom, courage, love and most importantly, friendship.

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## **Julie Barrett says**

Alf The Workshop Dog by Emma Calin

Won this book via a giveaway at Library Thing and was always fascinated with the creature we used to watch on TV every week.

We even have a hand puppet of the creature in the living room.

Pictures throughout the book along with QR codes to help tell the story of the little boy whose father and mother were king and queen of the land.

He tries to live up to what his father expects and sometimes doesn't always follow the lead and that lands him in trouble.

When the king dies he must return to rule the lands and with his dog they can do anything. He has gone through a lot and knows how he wants to run the land.

Lots of QR codes about free things to get and other information. Other works by the author are highlighted at the end.

Enjoyed the book more than I realized as it's similar to Robin Hood times, being in the forest and ruling the lands.

I received this book from Library Thing via the author in exchange for my honest review.

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## **Jo-Marie Jo-Marie says**

Alf the Workshop Dog is a delightful tale. The characters are endearing and the plot has fun twists. It's an imaginative tale worth reading. The author has added some special features which middle-grade readers will love. Older readers will really enjoy it, too. I'm very glad I found this story and will definitely read more from this author.

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## **RJ says**

A story of good vs evil, father vs son, magic, friendship, and time travel. The story is for older elementary students. I felt some of the details were too graphic for me. It is very Grim Brothers style.

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## **Gordon Mcghie says**

From a Dad's viewpoint Alf the Workshop Dog was a great reading experience with my son. The story caught his imagination and the promise of the interactive elements to the book were a great incentive for him to try to prolong his bedtime story each night.

The integration of story and additional content through digital media is a great idea and worked well as a hook to get my son reading a story that he may not normally have considered.

Extract from a longer review which appears at [www.grabthisbook.net](http://www.grabthisbook.net)

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## **Biscuit says**

*I received a review copy through LibraryThing's 'Member Giveaway'.*

An imaginative tale told in a slightly slapdash manner.

The illustrations are stark but appealing however the addition of QR codes at the end of chapters linking to additional content felt cluttered and gimmicky - a website link at the beginning or end that held all the information would have been sufficient.

Some of the jumps in narrative were quite jarring and the pace of the story felt a little rushed.

Overall, it has potential but hasn't quite reached it.

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## **Kristin says**

The cover is terrible, but our old guy is named Alf and Hayden would love this.

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## **BestChickLit.com says**

Ellie's review:

Alfredo is a prince, soon to be king. His dad, the King, is often away at war. But, Alfredo doesn't want to fight in the war when he is King. One day, he meets a crow that changes his life! I enjoyed this book. It was good that Alfredo changed the law so everyone was treated equally now there is no need to fight. I also liked the fact that there were QR codes in the book as it helped you to understand the story even more.

Eden's review:

Alfredo met a girl in the woods called Laura and they became friends, but he got sent to prison by his father the king because he talked back to him. When he came out of prison he met a crow who changed him into something and sent him to the future. He went back to Zanubia after many years when the king had died. I

liked the story because Alfredo met Laura again and they were happy. I really liked looking at the videos and singing the Zanubia National Anthem.

Reviewed on behalf of Bestchicklit.com

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### **Pam Bonsper says**

Alf the Workshop Dog is a cute tale of good vs. evil set in the kingdom of Zanubia. A kind and gentle prince is appalled at the manner in which his father, the king, rules. Alfredo sets out to create a new path, but the brutal power of his father makes this very difficult. As he grows stronger and bolder, he uses his wit to overcome the tyrant, protect the woman he loves, and rule with compassion for all people and animals. To get him to this place, he experiences wild adventures and mental challenges and even help from a crow who changes him into a dog named Alf.

Alf is based upon a real-life dog and it is impossible not to fall in love with him. I recommend this book to young readers who want excitement, romance, and a wonderful tale of bravery and courage.

The QR codes and/or the Youtube links throughout the book enable the reader to access videos and pictures which enhance the narrative. Although the illustrations are delightful, the videos add much...and I guarantee you will be singing the National Anthem of Zanubia for days after reading this book!

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### **Chelley Toy says**

This review was originally posted on [www.talesofyesterday.co.uk](http://www.talesofyesterday.co.uk)

Me and my son loved this tale of good vs evil where a good Prince in the Kingdom of Zanubia rebels against his brutal Father, the King. When the girl the prince loves is in danger the Prince finds a magic crow who turns him into a Dog called Alf and goes on a journey of discovery, bravery and courage.

What we liked about this book was that Alf is based on a real life dog and as the book has unique QR codes and you tube links on each chapter we could access extra content, pictures and discover the story behind the real Alf the workshop dog and also a very catchy Zanubia theme tune!

For more reviews and more please visit [www.talesofyesterday.co.uk](http://www.talesofyesterday.co.uk)

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### **Shania Jones says**

**Alright**

Hate. It. Who's. The. People. Ugh. Who. Made. This book. Stupiiiiiiid. Sj41328@gmail.com Said. Me. For. Me. To. Go. Play. Wish

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## Agi says

Alfredo is a young prince, the only child of the King and his wife. His father is a cruel man, all the time at wars and he expects his son to be the same. But Alfredo is totally different, he's sensible, friendly boy and he doesn't want to be like his father. As much as his father is devil and adores violence, Prince Alfredo dreams about bringing evil to end. Once his best friend Laura is in trouble, Alfredo puts everything (and it means everything, because his life) at stake and his own father sentences him to death but then a crow enters the scene and everything changes. Alfredo is turned into a dog and travels in time.

It was a story about courage, friendship, good and bad and that goodness always triumphs but in my opinion those children that have more active imagination may have troubles – as it was in fact a story about very cruel King and some of the descriptions were too vivid for my liking (and I'm an adult!). It also felt too jumpy, to abrupt and it lacked a little in depth.

Sophie's Shelf – Blog Tour for Emma Calin's Children's Books + Giveaway  
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First of all, let me introduce you to Sophie's Shelf. Sophie is three years old (almost) and loves books, just like her mum (it's me! It's me!), which is a great thing because I personally think there is nothing better for imagination, developing vocabulary and knowledge of world as reading stories. Till today I remember my Great – Aunt who used to read me books of all kinds, and I loved this time, spent on the sofa and listening to her magic voice. Then, one day, my Aunt must have to go abroad shortly and there was nobody who could read to me. It was a real disaster! A day without reading? No way! So, I learnt how to read by myself. I was 4/5 years old then and since then I haven't stopped reading, and I hope that Sophie will be the same. Well, she sees her Mum in every free minute on the sofa, with a book in her hand...

Blog Tour Once Upon A NOW! – Emma Calin + Giveaway

OnceUponaNOWBanner

Welcome to the Once Upon A Now! tour . . .

Award-winning bestseller Emma Calin has released a brand new series of modern day fairy stories for younger readers and is introducing them to the blogging world over the next few weeks. A host of talented reviewers will be giving their thoughts on the illustrated, interactive, magical bedtime story chapter books so look out for the special guests, posts and giveaway.

Also, keep your eyes peeled as the books will all available for FREE at different points during the tour!

Alf final 1st Oct Amazon Kindle smallAlf The Workshop Dog (Once upon a NOW 1)

What they say:

How could a scruffy dog in a bus depot and the call of crows, link back to another world of power and love?

The ancient Kingdom of Zanubia and a stray dog looking for scraps in an inner-city repair garage, hold the

secret. A wicked king, a beautiful girl, a young prince and the struggle between right and wrong maintain the fable tradition.

[Click Here To Buy This Book](#)

My review:

Alfredo is a young prince, the only child of the King and his wife. His father is a cruel man, all the time at wars and he expects his son to be the same. But Alfredo is totally different, he's sensible, friendly boy and he doesn't want to be like his father. As much as his father is devil and adores violence, Prince Alfredo dreams about bringing evil to end. Once his best friend Laura is in trouble, Alfredo puts everything (and it means everything, because his life) at stake and his own father sentences him to death but then a crow enters the scene and everything changes. Alfredo is turned into a dog and travels in time.

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Verdict for all the three Once Upon a NOW stories: they are for bigger children, and my Sophie didn't enjoy the pictures so much, they were much too realistic and well, I have the same opinion. The QR codes in all the books (and especially this bit at the end for the parents not as much technical as their children – thank you, Emma!) are a great idea, the same as the additional link here or there that direct you to the videos. In short, all three stories were tales with moral and message that goodness always triumphs but set in a current, present world, with characters that may easily appeal to children. Unfortunately, reading on kindle to a 3 – year – old is not the best idea, as it doesn't keep her attention as much as the physical copy of a book that she can hold herself in her hands. All the books seemed to me a little abrupt, jumping from one conclusion to the other and I personally think that the children deserve a good, old precise explanation, they can't read between the lines. I would recommend those book to children older than 6 years.

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## **Ivy H says**

A nice, cute little kid's story about a kind prince called Alfredo who gets turned into Alf the workshop dog. Alf gets to travel through time and have adventures but at the end of the story he is turned back into a prince and gets to marry his sweetheart, the peasant girl Laura. The interactive features were interesting and I guess children would have a lot of fun with it. The national anthem of Zanubia was really funny, especially the part where I got to hear the narrator sing it ! The real dog Alf, who was the inspiration for the dog in this story, was also an adorable little guy and his photos and videos were lovely.

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## **Melissa Gill says**

Once Upon a Now: Alf the Workshop Dog.

This is a genuine, fairy tale that harkens back to the works of the Brothers Grimm or Hans Christian Anderson. But rather than being a retelling of an often told legend, this is a new story altogether. And although the setting has all the glory of High Fantasy, it also has the marvels of new technology. The book

incorporates links to extra video and images that add even more texture to the tale.

This would make a fantastic bedtime story for children 5 and up, if you can get kids to wait until bedtime to read it. They might just want to read it in the middle of the day!

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