



Alice MacLeod, Realist at Last

Susan Juby

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deAR gooSE,

Thank you for your letter. Too bad you won't be able to write. I guess you'll be too busy moving on. Me too. First of all, I'm quite busy socially. *Very* busy socially. Plus, my screenwriting is really taking off. I'm basically in discussions with some people. Producer-types. You know. They say moviemaking is the new novel writing. I'm pretty much on the vanguard of that whole thing. Thanks for the memories.

Alice

I'm not sure that quite captures my emotional state. A more accurate reflection of how I feel would have been:

Dear Goose,

AAAAAAAAAAGGGGGHHHHH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Alice Heart-Torn-into-Small-Pieces-and-Then-Thrown-Away MacLeod

Oh Goose, Goose! Why hast thou forsaken me?

Alice MacLeod, Realist at Last Details

Date : Published June 13th 2006 by HarperTeen (first published May 1st 2005)

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Author : Susan Juby

Format : Paperback 320 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Fiction, Cultural, Canada, Teen, Humor

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From Reader Review Alice MacLeod, Realist at Last for online ebook

Viviana says

I read the first two book while I was still in High School and I went to the library and found this book. I didnt really like it as much as the first or even the second. Its just going into a downward slope. Alice had her funny moments. What I found charming and unique while in high school, I now found sad and thought to myself that Alice needs to straighten out.

Christine says

I should write these right away - I kind of forget what my impressions were!

I know it wasn't quite as good as the other two Alice books, but it was still Alice-ish and funny and good. I wasn't a huge fan of the scripts but I understood that that was the whole concept - I just didn't enjoy them as much as the straight Alice narration. I also wasn't a huge fan of the guys hovering around her, they all seemed fairly creepy. I remember creepy guys hovering when I was that age though (TMI?) so I guess it's a gross rite of passage for small-town girls.

If ever there's another Alice book I will totally read it.

Bethel says

I read the others. They are pretty good books. I first picked up Alice, I Think because I thought it was another in the Alice Series, written by Phylis Renolds Naylor (which I also recomend) Alice has learned a few things since the start of the collection. As always it is hilarious.

Candy Boisvert says

Title: Alice Macleod, Realist at last

Author: Susan Juby

Copyright date: 2005

Publisher: Harpertrophycanada

How many pages: 331 pgs

Category: Fiction

I learned about this book from: the TV series

Comments: I'm glad that she found some closure...kind of...hopefully, there's a fourth one coming...

Alyssa says

So I have to say right away, I was so afraid Alice was going to be date raped when she went away with Evan.

I would also like to state for the record that Wallace is the sweetest guy.

I enjoyed the book, it didn't really wrap up Alice's story as well as I would have liked. All in all an amicable read.

Julian says

Somehow, the awesomeness of the first book (and to a lesser extent the second book) of this YA trilogy just made the blah-ness of the third book kinda sad. It was basically just about boys and clothes. Could have been any other YA book about a slight misfit confronting normal social concerns. I guess she was trying to show that the main character did some growing up and learning and made progress in fitting in with society, but still, blah.

Emma (Miss Print) says

There are many reasons this review was posted late and backdated which I won't get into here. Suffice to say I have been meaning to write this review for months but have been putting it off because I knew that once I wrote the review I would have to admit that Alice's adventures were done--no small task let me assure you.

Onward . . .

Alice MacLeod, *Realist at Last* (2006) is the stunning conclusion to Susan Juby's debut trilogy (preceeded by *Alice, I Think* and its sequel *Miss Smithers*). You might recognize Juby's name from the 2009 Edgar Awards where *Getting the Girl* was a nominee.

This installment opens with the first scene from Alice's screenplay "Of Moose and Men"--a creative work loosely based on her own life. Excerpts of the screenplay are sprinkled throughout the novel. The writing is overwrought, exaggerated, and provides hysterical insight into Alice's psyche throughout the story. In addition to being Alice's latest career of choice, writing her screenplay also helps this sixteen-year-old heroine make sense of the chaos that has become her life.

At the beginning of the story, Alice's boyfriend Goose is moving with his family to Glasgow for an entire year only to go away to university on the other end of Canada when he finally returns. Dealing with this heartbreak is bad enough on its own. Then Alice's mother, a somewhat aggressive environmentalist, is thrown in jail as a result of her activist activities. That leaves Alice, her younger brother, and her father on their own. To say that this development leaves the family less than functional would be a vast understatement.

The one constant in Alice's life seems, ironically, to be Death Lord Bob--her ineffectual therapist from the Teens in Transition (Not Trouble) Center in town. At least until he too is called away leaving Alice with the surly Ms. Deitrich who doesn't seem to understand anything about Alice's life let alone her highly evolved

sense of style.

With their matriarch breadwinner in jail Alice and her father find themselves, for the first time, looking for gainful employment. Alice's job search, and eventual employment, throw her into the paths of two brilliant characters: Wallace and Vince. Negotiating these new romantic waters, Alice finds herself caught between two equally charming suitors--one five years her senior, the other considerably her junior. The dilemma is equally difficult for readers who will likely be as attracted to these guys as Alice herself.

Throughout the series, readers are able to trace Alice's evolution as a character. The girl we meet in this novel is very different from the Alice entering a traditional school (or a beauty pageant) for the first time. She is more mature, and in some ways more responsible and engaged with the world at large. More than that, though, Alice's true depth as a heroine is really apparent in this story as she not only works through but even rises above all of the (screw)balls life throws at her.

Alice MacLeod, *Realist at Last* doesn't qualify as truly "realistic" fiction because of the humor and general madness that surrounds Alice. But Alice is still an utterly real and engaging character with a quirky sense of humor (and style) that will leave readers smiling.

(I'd recommend reading the entire trilogy in sequence to fully appreciate how awesome it is, but the stories do stand alone fairly well if you happen upon them out of order.)

Katrina says

I would've liked to have seen more of Macgregor, as he is painted to be quite a deep young character. As the story stood, Alice's self-centeredness proved to finally be too much for me, hence the two stars.

Karin says

Alice Macleod, 16, spends her summer after grade 11 looking for work while her mother is in jail after breaking some laws during a protest. Her love life is up in the air, her clothing is still unique, her job search is interesting and there is still humour in this book. This is definitely y/a, and I was losing interest at times during the book. Book 2 is the best of this trilogy, but if you enjoy Alice and are a teen, I think you'll like this one, too.

eves says

I'm sorry, but I hated this book. It seemed really shallow to me (and hello, I'm also sixteen) and...it's just so hard to articulate. Hated Alice's character, hated the plot line, and hated all the characters-- except Betty Lou.

Sorry guys.

Riley says

Start with the first book in the series!!!

Helen says

The weakest of the three. It rather trickles off at the end and I suspect that is because there was a contract for a tv series. It says it's on CTV but I haven't seen it. There are a few edgy episodes in this, the pit party and the party at Evan's. It's an okay read, definitely rural B.C. but there's just too much hinting at the upcoming series.

Becky says

I love the character of Alice. This is the third book- and from what I've read- not the very best of the series- but great enough to be well worth the read and make me want to find the other two. Alice was funny and engaging and so were the rest of her zany family, friends and would-be-boyfriends. I smell a fourth book as this last one left a lot of stuff unresolved.

Jenny says

Alice thought life was good until she learned her boyfriend was moving to Scotland for a year, her activist mother was going to jail, and she had to get a job to support her family. How will Alice cope with the pressure of job interviewing, fending off older guys, and still have time to write the screenplay of the next blockbuster movie?

Logan Hughes says

This book is weird. I can't even really tell if I like it or not. On a sentence-to-sentence level, it's clever and funny, but the story doesn't seem to hold together that well. It seems like it wants to be a funny hijinks/vignette-based plot: Alice spends the summer having various ridiculous jobs and inappropriate romance-lets, reading letters from her hippie mom who is in prison for starting a riot, writing crazy emails to her ex where she talks about how over him she is (and then deleting them), and of course, writing entries in her insane, Mary Sue screenplay. All of those things have a lot of comedy POTENTIAL, and while the way Alice describes them is generally funny, the actual events of the 'jinks are just a little too bleak and sad. They're sort of amusingly described lowjinks.
