

CULTURE

LEWIS CARROLL »

Lewis Carroll was not great

The granddaughter of the girl who inspired the character of Alicia published a novel about this event

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Vanessa Tait, great-granddaughter of Alice Liddell, Kosmopolis festival in Barcelona. / JUAN BARBOSA

There is no white rabbit around tardy, or Hatter and Cheshire Cat some, but there is sitting with a cup of tea in hand the great-granddaughter of Alice! It is impossible not to feel an instinctive sympathy for the current descendant of the girl who inspired [Lewis Carroll](#) to create the protagonist of *Alice in Wonderland* and continued his adventures, *Alice Through the Looking Glass*.

Vanessa Tait (Wiltshire, 1971), great-granddaughter of Alice Liddell (Westminster, 1852), is the spokesperson for the family and the author of a novel that appear in July, *The Looking Glass House*, on the relationship between

Carroll and the 10- years a relationship that has caused rivers of tinta-. It is told from the point of view of the governess, Miss Prickett, also a real character. Tait has participated in the [Kosmopolis festival](#) at the Center of Contemporary Culture of Barcelona (CCCB), which commemorated the 150th anniversary of the birth of literary Alicia.

"I dived memories and family history to write the novel, the result of 10 years of research," says Tait, an attractive and nice looking young Victorian definitely anything but dreamy eyes and long brown braid. "I *fictionalized* the facts and the story from the perspective of the governess, a woman naive to which Carroll used to approach the Liddell girls in their care. "

Tait says Carroll (Charles Lutwidge Dodgson pseudonym) had a dark side, "rare" and is confident that in the writer's relationship with Alice, which became her heroine, she was more than innocent feelings. "Carroll was incredibly charming but also very calculating, girls made it happen well and captivated the governess." What is told in the family about the situation? "My family has private letters which show that Lewis Carroll Alice wanted to marry, but never made overtures. In one of these letters, her older sister, Lorina, Alice, when both were already elderly, mentioned that the writer was too affectionate to this and sat on his lap. The mother of my grandmother Carroll spoke to the issue of excessive affection, he was concerned, and this apparently was angry and offended, he left to go to the Liddell house. The theme is open to many interpretations. " Yeah, but what does she think? "I think so, that he loved her, he aspired to marry Alice She speculates that asked her hand at age 11 (he was 31 then) - but never forced the limits". Are our or the Victorians? "It is true that ours are much stricter when it comes to the relationship with minor concerns. But I would say neither one nor the other ".

What about the fans of Carroll taking pictures of naked girls? By a close friend of the Pre-Raphaelites

it was, that sounds to us today pedophilia ... Tait meditates response. "I think it was a strange man, very repressed, with an exceptional interest in girls, which became their ideal girlfriends, but I do not go further. In any case, Alice always remembered him with affection. "

How does it feel to be great granddaughter Alicia? "It's fantastic, I'm very lucky. I believe I have had a genetic lottery, and it is very inspiring to write ". Would strange things happen? Tait laughs openly. "Definitely, predisposes you to the artistic life". When read Alice's Adventures feel affinity with the character, something familiar? "I think what's really great is that we all feel identified with Alicia to read books." Granddaughter notes that the secret of the novels, he adores, is that translate very well surprise entry into the world of adults. "These are true stories of initiation, that's the key. On the other hand, the author's interest in the logical problems and grotesque adds other fascinating layers". Will this strange world influenced intake of psychoactive substances of any kind? "Fungi not, but opium, which is then used medicinally, is possible."

The granddaughter says that although it was a complex man, do not hesitate a moment to open the door to Lewis Carroll. "Give thanks for writing a book that changed my life and invite a teacup".

Before leaving I offer you some cookies that I bought in a grocery store marked as *Magic Creams* . Let's see what happens. It makes very funny, but not touched. "I usually try to give them to someone before," he jokes.

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