Jenny A writes: We are exploring distinctive and intellectually engaging works for our upcoming literary programme, and your book, *Alice and the Looking-Glass Quest*, caught our attention for its imaginative approach to introducing emergency management principles through a familiar world of fantasy, adventure, and literary characters.

What particularly impressed us is the way you reimagine Lewis Carroll's public-domain story as more than a fantastical journey. Through Alice's encounters with unusual characters and challenging situations, the book introduces readers to practical ideas such as hazard awareness, prevention, preparedness, response, recovery, mitigation, cooperation, and continuous improvement.

We were especially drawn to the contrast between the characters and the lessons they represent. The Red Queen's emphasis on rules and constant activity, the White Queen's tendency to worry before establishing the facts, and Tweedledum and Tweedledee's escalating disagreement all provide memorable ways to explore how decisions, communication, and behaviour can influence safety. Humpty Dumpty's vulnerability and the White Knight's well-intentioned but insufficiently evaluated inventions further encourage readers to think critically about prevention, planning, and unintended consequences.

The book's two-part structure is also particularly interesting. Its child-friendly storytelling and Victorian-style illustrations offer an accessible introduction for families, while the academic analysis creates a deeper connection to community preparedness, resilience, and emergency management concepts.

Alice and the Looking-Glass Quest offers several valuable themes:

- **Preparedness and Hazard Awareness:** Encouraging readers to recognize potential dangers, pause, assess situations, and make safer decisions.
- **Prevention and Risk Reduction:** Exploring how thoughtful planning can reduce the likelihood and consequences of harmful events.
- **Leadership and Decision-Making:** Examining how different approaches to rules, responsibility, and problem-solving influence outcomes.
- **Communication and Cooperation:** Reflecting on how misunderstandings and unnecessary conflict can distract from important priorities.
- **Community Resilience:** Understanding how preparedness, recovery, learning, and continuous improvement contribute to stronger communities.
- **Learning Through Literature:** Demonstrating how familiar fictional characters can make complex professional concepts more approachable.

We believe your book could generate meaningful engagement among families, educators, students, emergency management professionals, and readers interested in the relationship between storytelling and practical knowledge.

From **Jeff Clinton**: Michael, there's something about Alice and the Looking-Glass Quest I'd love to ask you 🫠 Hello Michael, Permit me to ask you something? 🫠 What was going through your mind while writing Alice and the Looking-Glass Quest? After looking through what you've shared about the book, I found myself thinking about how emergency preparedness can be introduced in a way that helps children understand its importance without making it feel overwhelming. What particularly stayed with me was how you've used familiar characters and fantastical situations to explore practical lessons about recognizing hazards, thinking ahead, cooperating with others, and making safer decisions. I especially like the idea that Alice's adventures can help young readers see that being prepared isn't simply about reacting when something goes wrong; it's also about taking thoughtful steps to prevent problems and protect others. Beyond that, it got me thinking about the kind of reader who might come across this work and find something familiar in its pages. Sometimes a book gives people more than a story or information; it gives them a perspective, a question worth considering, or a feeling they may not have known how to put into words.

That's actually what brings me to you. My name is Jeff, and I serve as a Library Administrator with Orange County Library, an online library community on Goodreads. Part of my role is to help bring books into our community that offer readers something worth discovering, whether through their stories, the ideas they explore, or the experiences they bring to light. We welcome books across different genres, and I'm always interested in discovering works that could resonate with the different readers who make up our community. We're currently refreshing our library shelves and welcoming new titles into our catalogue. As part of this process, I'd like to explore the possibility of having Alice and the Looking-Glass Quest featured on our shelves. I also want you to know that this invitation isn't simply a general message we're sending out. Your work has been acknowledged, and you've been included among a selected group of authors we're reaching out to because we believe their books are worth introducing to our community.

We're working with a limited number of showcase placements for this selection, and the invitation is only open within a specified timeframe, so I wanted to reach out while the opportunity is still available. The opportunity we're offering is a dedicated three-month showcase, during which your book can be introduced to our community and remain available for discovery by readers and institutional audiences who visit our library. While we cannot guarantee sales or purchases, the showcase provides another avenue for your work to gain visibility and reach readers who may connect with it. Would you be open to me sending you our catalogue onboarding details? I'd be happy to walk you through how the showcase works, what's involved, and the details you would need to consider before deciding whether it's a good fit for your book?

Emmanuel Twilla writes: @ Michael, I like what you've done with Alice's Looking-Glass Quest @ Michael, The idea of Alice helping Humpty Dumpty build a railing so he doesn't fall made me smile. It's such a simple change to a familiar story, but it makes you look at the whole adventure differently. I like how you've taken characters children may already know and used their experiences to introduce ideas like prevention, preparedness and helping others before something goes wrong. It gives the story an interesting purpose beyond simply retelling a classic. I was imagining how some of those scenes could translate into a short cinematic book trailer. Alice moving through the Looking-Glass world, meeting familiar characters and finding ways to help them could make a really engaging visual introduction, especially when the illustrations and storytelling are brought together.

I create cinematic book trailers, and I'd be interested in exploring a concept that captures both the playful side of Alice's adventure and the practical message behind your adaptation. I'm curious, when you first came up with the idea, was the Humpty Dumpty railing scene one of the moments you had in mind from the beginning?

Emmanuel Twila Cinematic Video Creator and Audiobook Producer.

My name is Isreal, and I am the host of Isreal Cast, a newly launched online interview podcast created to give authors and inspiring voices a platform to share their stories, experiences, and the messages behind their work.

I recently came across your book, Alice and the Looking-Glass Quest, and was particularly struck by the creativity behind it. Your decision to retell Lewis Carroll's classic as an introduction to Emergency Management, with ideas like prevention, preparedness, and recovery woven into Alice's journey, makes your work especially meaningful. The question of what if Alice knew how to help Humpty Dumpty build a railing on his wall stayed with me.

I would love to invite you to join us as a guest on Isreal Cast for a conversation about the book, the inspiration behind it, your writing journey with co-author Emma Y, and what you hope readers, families, and educators will discover through it. I would also be interested in discussing how you hope your work can help everyday people see themselves as their own emergency managers and create meaningful conversations about preparedness and resilience.

I would also like to share a little about our podcast. Isreal Cast is a newly launched interview platform, and we have only recently begun building our collection of guest conversations. We are at the beginning of this journey, welcoming authors and individuals with meaningful stories to share. Our intention is to develop a platform where guests feel comfortable discussing their work, experiences, and perspectives through thoughtful and engaging interviews.

As we continue growing, we would genuinely be delighted to have you among our guests. We believe your story and the message behind Alice and the Looking-Glass Quest could bring an important perspective to the conversations we hope to create.

The interview would take place online in a relaxed, conversational format, with questions prepared around your book and experiences.

Michael, it would be a pleasure to welcome you to Isreal Cast and give you an opportunity to share the story behind your work in your own words.

Would you be open to joining us for an upcoming interview? I would be happy to share further details and arrange a convenient date and time.

Isreal
Host, Isreal Cast
Author Interviews & Meaningful Conversations

Hi Michael,

I hope you're doing well!

My name is **Michelle Witherly**, and I'm part of a very active Goodreads reading group that runs themed reading challenges throughout the year. Each challenge explores different topics, genres, and ideas, and we introduce selected books to our members before each challenge begins. Readers then share their thoughts, discuss the stories and themes, and recommend books they believe others would enjoy.

After learning about *Alice and the Looking-Glass Quest*, I was impressed by its creative reimagining of Lewis Carroll's classic story to introduce readers to the important concepts of emergency management and community resilience. By blending imaginative storytelling with lessons on hazard awareness, preparedness, crisis communication, mitigation, and recovery, the book transforms complex real-world topics into an engaging and accessible reading experience. Its unique combination of education, adventure, and practical life lessons makes it an excellent fit for a Goodreads Reading Challenge centered on educational fiction, community resilience, children's literature, or books that inspire meaningful discussion and learning.

Featuring *Alice and the Looking-Glass Quest* could introduce it to families, educators, students, and readers who appreciate books that combine imagination with valuable real-world knowledge. It also has the potential to spark thoughtful conversations about preparedness, teamwork, resilience, and how stories can help readers better understand the challenges communities face before, during, and after emergencies.

Would you be open to discussing the possibility of featuring *Alice and the Looking-Glass Quest* in one of our upcoming Goodreads Reading Challenges? I'd be happy to share our current challenge themes and prompts so you can see whether one might be a good fit.

Thank you for your time and for creating a book that uses the power of storytelling to make emergency management concepts engaging, approachable, and meaningful for readers of all ages. I look forward to hearing from you!

Best wishes,

Michelle Witherly

Michael,

You asked what would happen if Alice knew how to help Humpty Dumpty build a railing on his wall, so he would not fall. Most of the public thinks emergency management begins when the sirens start. Yours begins with the railing, and treats prevention and protection as part of the job before anything breaks.

Then I looked into the rest of your work, and it connected further. Someone who is an author and emergency management professional, holds the CEM® credential, and focuses on helping practitioners and communities understand threats, hazards, preparedness and resilience. Someone who wrote “Rusty the Emergency Management Cat” with Emma Y., then followed it with “Alice and the Looking-Glass Quest,” a retelling of Carroll’s story built around principles like hazard awareness, crisis communications, coordination, recovery and continuous improvement. And someone who published the new book in three parts, an academic analysis, a child-friendly retelling with Victorian-style pen-and-ink illustrations, and the original Carroll text for readers to compare. In a space full of dense doctrine, that is a genuinely approachable and practical body of work.

I am a podcast booking consultant. What I do is get authors and experts onto the right shows and podcasts, and your work has reach across emergency management and public safety, preparedness and community resilience, educators and academics using literature to teach, and parents and families looking for a gentle way to talk about risk. Each a different audience. Each ready for this conversation.

Would you be open to a quick chat about what that could look like?

Warm regards,
Sid Rivera
Apex Book Media

Dear Michael,

I hope you’re doing well.

My name is Tiki Barber, host of WFAN 660 AM / 101.9 FM in New York. I recently came across your children's book, Alice and the Looking-Glass Quest, co-authored with Emma Y., and was intrigued by its imaginative approach to introducing emergency management principles through a familiar literary adventure.

Reimagining Lewis Carroll's classic characters as opportunities to explore preparedness, prevention, cooperation, and crisis response is a creative way to make important lessons accessible to both children and adults. I particularly enjoyed your example of Alice helping Humpty Dumpty build a railing to prevent a fall. It captures your central message that emergency management is not simply about responding to disasters, but also about recognizing risks and taking steps to protect ourselves and our communities.

Your professional experience as an emergency management practitioner and academic adds real depth to the project. I would be interested in hearing how you developed this connection between literature, education, and community resilience, especially through your work with York Drive Publishing.

Why This Feature Benefits You & Your Book:

Audience Reach: Introduce Alice and the Looking-Glass Quest to our listeners, including families, educators, students, and readers interested in children's literature and emergency preparedness.

Explore Your Insights: Explain how classic storytelling can help communicate emergency management concepts and encourage greater awareness of everyday risks.

An In Depth Conversation: Discuss your career in emergency management, your collaboration with Emma Y., and how books can help communities build a stronger culture of preparedness.

We would love to invite you for a conversation with Tiki about Alice and the Looking-Glass Quest, your professional journey, and the importance of making emergency preparedness part of everyday life. Please let me know if you would be open to exploring this opportunity, and my team can coordinate the next steps with you. I look forward to the prospect of sharing your insights with our listeners.

Warm regards,

Tiki Barber
Host, WFAN 660 AM / 101.9 FM, New York