

Unmask Alice

author: Rick Emerson

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Synopsis

author	Rick Emerson
readBy	Gabra Zackman
inLanguage	english

Two teens. Two diaries. Two social panics. One incredible fraud.

In 1971, *Go Ask Alice* reinvented the young adult genre with a blistering portrayal of sex, psychosis, and teenage self-destruction. The supposed diary of a middle-class addict, *Go Ask Alice* terrified adults and cemented LSD's fearsome reputation, fueling support for the War on Drugs. Five million copies later, *Go Ask Alice* remains a divisive bestseller, outraging censors and earning new fans, all of them drawn by the book's mythic premise: *A Real Diary, by Anonymous*.

But *Alice* was only the beginning.

In 1979, another diary rattled the culture, setting the stage for a national meltdown. The posthumous memoir of an alleged teenage Satanist, *Jay's Journal* merged with a frightening new crisis—adolescent suicide—to create a literal witch hunt, shattering countless lives and poisoning whole communities.

In reality, *Go Ask Alice* and *Jay's Journal* came from the same dark place: a serial con artist who betrayed a grieving family, stole a dead boy's memory, and lied her way to the National Book Awards.

Unmask Alice: LSD, Satanic Panic, and the Imposter Behind the World's Most Notorious Diaries is a true story of contagious deception. It stretches from Hollywood to Quantico, and passes through a tiny patch of Utah nicknamed "the fraud capital of America." It's the story of a doomed romance and a vengeful celebrity. Of a lazy press and a public mob. Of two suicidal teenagers, and their exploitation by a literary vampire.

Unmask Alice...where truth is stranger than nonfiction."

Reader's comments

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