

“I love this book! It shares the story of high school students whose friendship stands the test of time as they face difficult challenges. The strong bond of friendship is shown through Sophie’s strength, Alice’s loyalty, and Juan’s bravery.”

“Writers hold up before us a picture of the world. The best stories invite us into their world and ask if we recognize ourselves in it. In Alice’s tale, readers will recognize themselves in her self-doubt and find themselves in her struggle to believe she has something to say. As Alice finds her voice, so does her reader.”

“Alice Jarvis helps readers overcome the real and present dangers we face every day. Young and old alike will recognize the world of Closeville High School, where students meet academic setbacks, devastating diagnoses, and disappointing role models. Navigating addiction, natural disaster, and family dysfunction, this is ultimately a story about friendship and what it takes to forge your path and find your voice. The question is:  
Are we prepared when we know it will cost us to use it?”

“... An unflinching look at the challenge to find our footing in the world ...  
A story of friendship and faith, setback and success, accomplishment and addiction, disaster, accusations, transitions, loss, and heartache.  
Through it all, the biggest challenge Alice faces is finding her own voice,  
and using it when it really counts.”

## Connect with the Author

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THE BEST  
Version  
of  
*Alice*

Merrill J. Davies

Other Novels by Merrill J. Davies

*Becoming Jestina* (2018)

*Our Pebble in the Pond* (2016)

*The Truth about Katie* (2013)

*The Welsh Harp* (2012)

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## Dedication

This story is dedicated to the memory of Fernando Guzman.

Although his life was short, he was an inspiration to the students, school staff, and parents who knew him.

His optimism, courage, and bravery provided encouragement to all those around him.

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I can't begin to list all those who helped me to make this novel a reality. However, there are always a few people who go out of their way to help. In this case there are three who were especially helpful.

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*“I think we all have blocks between us and the best version of ourselves, whether it’s shyness, insecurity, anxiety, ... a physical block, and the story of a person overcoming that block to be their best self is truly inspiring because I think all of us are engaged in that every day.”*

—Tom Hooper, Film Director