



## MEET *TOO TALL ALICE* AUTHOR **BARBARA WORTON**

Miley, Demi, Selena—they're what many little girls have been talking about until... Enter Alice—*Too Tall Alice*, that is. A real friend—well not exactly a “real” friend; she is illustrated—but she just could be the best pal a child can have.

Alice is tall, not T-Rex or Empire State Building tall, but she is the creation of writer Barbara Worton. In her first children's book, *Too Tall Alice*, Worton explores the concept of self-esteem and the journey to discover the greatest gift of childhood—the strength to know down to your very bones who you are and as Alice says, “be exactly right for me.”

Self-esteem is a topic near and dear to Barbara, who believes we are born with the unalienable right to be happy, accepted, respected and loved for who we are. “When you love and believe in yourself,” says Barbara, “it’s a lot easier to stand up to bullies and peer pressure, and to know right down to your DNA that you have the right to live a happy and successful life.”

Barbara is a full-time writer, and sometimes that’s not an easy job. A number of years ago, she was at a low-point in her professional life and was thinking maybe it was time to find a new career—never mind that she has known she wanted to be a writer since she was twelve years old. Her friend and therapist who she sees from time to time, Noelle, suggested that Barbara write something just for the joy of it.

The next day, she started writing, and the first words that came into her head were, “Alice was tall, “ and off it went. The story came out in one stream. Once Barbara had everything on paper, she edited to make the story work, but it was essentially all there. Barbara named the character Alice after the baby she lost in pregnancy whom she and her husband had intended to name Alice Elizabeth Worton. Ever since then, Barbara has named every character in her books Alice.

Even though she never became a mom, Barbara has found lots of ways to share her talents with children in the neighborhood—through the Girl Scouts of America and with her niece, whom she adores, and her niece’s best friend. And while her husband, Geoff, is Barbara’s first love, she is also a writer in love with Manhattan. With family roots stretching back to the 1600s, it’s a

part of who she is and how she thinks. While she and Geoff may have moved across the river to New Jersey, she finds her way into Manhattan several days a week to spend time in a city that feels more like a friend than a place.

**Barbara Worton** is the publisher and executive editor of Great Little Books, LLC. She's also the author of *Bedtime Stories: The short, long and tall tales of a sleepwriter*. Barbara has been published in national literary, consumer and business publications. Her story, "London Calling," is featured in *Memories of John Lennon* edited by Yoko Ono. The play she co-wrote with Linda Dini Jenkins, *If I'm Talking, Why Aren't You Listening?*, has been staged in New York City, Boston and Rutherford, New Jersey, and received outstanding reviews.

Right out of college, where she earned a BA in journalism and creative writing, Barbara was an editorial assistant at Pyramid Books. After that, she freelanced at Pinnacle as an editor/ghostwriter and then went on to Berkeley Putnam. In 1978, she moved to England and freelanced at a number of British publishers. She returned to New York in 1980 and worked as an advertising copywriter for 12 years before leaving to be a freelance writer.

Today, Barbara lives in Glen Rock and Cape May, New Jersey, with her husband, Geoff. A student of Frank Lloyd Wright built their home, and Barbara has made restoring it to its prairie-style roots one of her favorite pastimes. Her home office is the one place she doesn't hold to her high design standards. Her shelves and desk are stacked with favorite books, toys, her Minnie Mouse collection and erasers shaped like cakes, cookies and ice cream.

