This play had been suggested to me to read because this year I had decided that I wanted to get back into reading more plays (some of which are on their way to be delivered to my place!) and the person who suggested *Peter and Alice* knew I loved the classic stories it was based upon, Ben Whishaw (the actor who played Peter), and surrealism. I had also been told that this play had been popular on BookTube but I really had never heard of it before.

I had only gone into the play with the suggestion in mind, the synopsis on the back, and the trust that both Dame Judi Dench and Ben Whishaw wouldn't have performed anything close to a mediocre script. I didn't have any clue where the plot would take me, and with my expectations non-existent, I enjoyed every moment of the play.

*Peter and Alice* is a play inspired by a real life meeting of two inspiring characters. Peter Llewelyn Davies and Alice Liddell are names that might ring a bell, and they are our two title characters of this play of which we uncover more about their lives. In 1932, both characters met at the opening of a Lewis Carroll exhibition and the playwright says how he imagined it must have been for the real life *Peter Pan* and *Alice in Wonderland* to meet, for these were the people who inspired the famous characters. The script starts of in the bookshop of the exhibition and never quite leaves the setting but takes you on a journey through memory and fantastical places. I loved the way that the memories were not delivered quite as conventionally as flashbacks but instead embodiments of space and times which consumed the characters and occurred anew in the current locale. It was a little bit confusing at first, of course, it’s a play script that would otherwise have shown you far more than the sparse directions of the playwrights hand; but I personally like a script with little to no direction for that allows the reader and then the director to imagine it their own way.

This play is both a work of historical fiction and fantasy surrealism where the real and the fictional occupy the same space and the same world. Above anything it is an exploration of the real life people behind our beloved characters and the pressures of living up to a name. The lines between adulthood and childhood are blurred as the characters try to understand the affects of a relationship between adult and child. The real becomes questionable and the unreal becomes comforting. The characters were immediately human, and I was able to connect with them very quickly. Perhaps influenced by the cover I could hear Dame Judi Dench and Ben Whishaw’s voices
as I read their lines and sensed what a perfect casting that original performance was. I only wish to go see it performed now, to bring life to a script that is surprisingly so full of life.

Fans of *Peter Pan* and *Alice in Wonderland* will enjoy this script, I'm sure. It is a quick and easy read; it's lack of scenes or acts demands you to read it in one sitting, but I wasn't able to put it down anyways. The imagination of Logan will enchant you just as the imagination of Carroll and Barrie may well have done as a child. I am glad to have read this play and my trip down memory lane (much as the characters’) was one of bittersweet nostalgia, for to read this as an adult makes you wonder just how magical childhood can be.