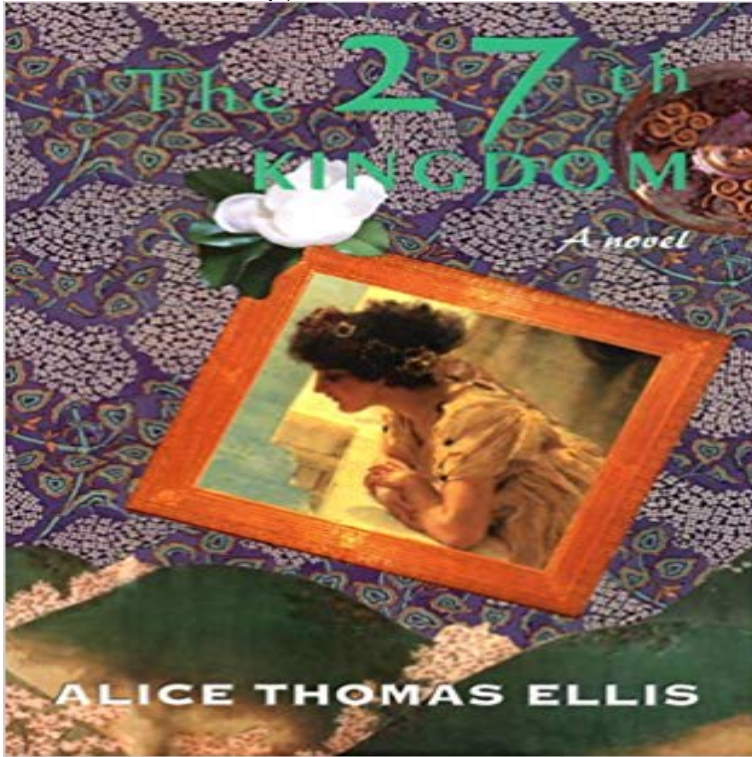


# The 27th Kingdom



Tucked away in secret chambers in London's Chelsea is the exquisitely mannered world of a Russian matriarch and her smugly precious nephew. Their insular existence is soon to be disturbed by a ghostly apparition in the shape of a young postulant on leave from a convent in Wales. From these strange trappings Alice Thomas Ellis conjures a darkly comic, surprising fable where the everyday and the otherworldly mingle. No writer is more adept at both describing the curtains that decorate our lives and suggesting what's behind them.

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