

*Alice in
Wonderland*

Adapted in 2022 by the Cast of the Show

Act 1 Scene 1
(Victorian Tea Party - 1870)

Music Cue: Bird sounds...

Lights up on a Victorian Garden. Shrubs are stage left and right with a large table and chairs center. Bench downstage right. Light classical music plays over the scene. CARROLL sits and reads.

ALICE'S MOTHER is fixing ALICE'S hair as she sits on the bench looking bored.

Lewis Carroll: In a Wonderland they lie,
Dreaming as the days go by,
Dreaming as the summers die

Ever drifting down the stream—
Lingering in the golden gleam—
Life, what is it but a dream?

ALICE finally escapes her mother. ALICE, EDITH and LORNIA start to play.

LEWIS CARROLL closes his book, wrapping it in a package and tucking it away in his jacket. The music swells as the following sequence is acted out silently. CARROLL stands and walks over to greet the Liddell sisters ALICE, EDITH, and LORNIA all dressed in different costumes from a game of dress up. ALICE greets CARROLL with a hug.

Carroll: Alice! Happy birthday, my dear!

Alice: Mr. Carroll, can you show us a magic trick?

Carroll: Of course! Watch carefully, now.

He does a magic trick. The GIRLS cheers with delight.

The MAD HATTER and DORMOUSE are human party planners setting the table. HATTER, checklist in hand, approaches ALICE'S MOTHER.

Mad Hatter: Excuse me madam, for the centerpieces did you want white or red roses?

Mother: Red. Always red.

Mad Hatter: Of course.

The human MARCH HARE, enters carrying a massive armful of white roses. HATTER gestures him off. Panicking, he turns around and throws all the roses offstage. DORMOUSE approaches ALICE'S MOTHER with four teapots.

Dormouse: Mrs. Liddell, We have a selection of different teas for you to choose from. Would you like to sample them?

Mother: Tea? No tea. It's too late in the day for tea.

March Hare: *(an aside to HATTER)* No tea? Is she mad?

HATTER shushes him.

Mad Hatter: And what did you want to do about the-

Mother: Did I hire you to follow me around pestering me with questions, or did I hire you to plan my party?

March Hare: The second one?

Mother: Exactly. Now would you do your job? I have enough going on around here as it is.

She turns away.

Mad Hatter: Mrs. Liddell?

Mother: *What?*

Mad Hatter: I quite like your hat.

ALICE giggles. MOTHER scoffs and the three party planners get the maids to continue setting the table. MAIDS come forward, they are:

The FLOWERS and BIRDS are maids

Mother: Girls! What are you wearing?

Edith: I am a pirate, Ma'ma!n

Mother: Edith, Lorina, go change, the party has begun.

EDITH and LORINA exit. ALICE lingers.

Mother: Alice, stop that. Go get yourself dressed.

Alice: But I am dressed!

Mother: Get dressed in the clothes I laid out for you!

Alice: But, I-

Mother: Listen, Alice! Why can't you ever listen to me?

ALICE stares at her for a second, contemplating retaliation and looking like she's about to cry. She runs off. CARROLL begins setting up his camera.

MR. LIDDELL enters and shakes hands with CARROLL, they enter a conversation.

The COOK runs onstage with a plate of sandwiches in one hand and a tray of tarts in the other.

Cook: Mrs. Liddell! I've finished the hors d'oeuvres.

He presents the sandwiches. She tries one.

Mother: Ah! Far too much pepper. These won't do at all.

Cook: Of course. My mistake. And the tarts, as requested.

He ceremoniously presents the tray of tarts and she takes it.

Mother: Perfect! Finally, something done right!

She places the tray on the table with the utmost care. The Cook exits. The WHITE QUEEN and WHITE KING enter as Alice's grandparents. The White Queen hands over her shawl to Alice's Mother.

Mother: Welcome!

White King: My dear, it is so very good to see you!

Mother: It's good to see you as well, father. You too, mother.

White Queen: We are quite glad to be here on a day as important as this.

ALICE re-enters in a new dress.

Alice: Grandma! Grandpa!

She goes to give them both a hug.

During this, the DUCHESS enters dressed in a gown just a couple decades behind the time, while cradling her baby and leading her twin boys. She greets MOTHER while rocking her baby a bit too aggressively. DUCHESS goes and sits at the stage right edge of the table.

White Queen: Happy birthday, darling! Why, you look so old!

Alice: So do you!

Mother: Alice!

The WHITE QUEEN laughs.

The GENERAL enters and FATHER greets him.

White Queen: Yes, I suppose that's true. You should have seen me when I was young, Alice. I was beautiful then. Wasn't I, dear?

White King: Undoubtedly.

White Queen: Yes, sometimes I wish I was living backwards.

ALICE directs the two to their seats. CARROLL goes to the TWEEDLES as LORNIA and EDITH come down stage to them. BILL enters and greets ALICE.

Carroll: You must be Alice's friends! It's very nice to meet you.

Dee: It's nice to meet you too!

Dum: *(stepping in front)* It's nicer for me than for him.

Dee: No, it's nicer for *me* than for *him*!

The two start to argue.

The music above the scene grows louder as the following plays out. Pleasant party talk (and arguing from the TWEEDLES) fills the air.

The doorbell rings as the new guests are ushered inside by Alice's mother. Bill sneaks over to the table and grabs two massive handfuls of tarts which he eats throughout the rest of the scene.

Mother: Please son, would you fix your collar.

Son: It is fine, Mother.

Mother: No, it is not (*she gets up to fix his collar*).

a short middle aged woman, enters smoking a fancy cigar and goes and plants herself right center front of the table continuing to puff away. Alice is interacting and playing with guests as The TWEEDLES mime a fight (one wielding a sword and one with his fists) and BILL eats his tarts. CARROLL does magic tricks for ALICE and the other children. The Tea partiers order the MAIDS go around with serving trays. Once everyone is situated around the table, Carroll stands up and taps his glass with his knife for a toast. The music and conversation fade.

The SON puts and birthday hat on ALICE's head.

Carroll: To Alice. As you grow older, may you never lose your courage, kindness, and most importantly; your wonderful imagination.

All: To Alice!

EVERYONE congratulates ALICE. A Servant comes downstage with a cake. ALICE blows out the candles. Party continues.

ALICE jumps up, running to CARROLL.

Carroll: I have a gift for you!

He pulls a present from his pocket.

Carroll: Open it when everything starts to make sense.

Alice: When will that be?

Carroll: Who can say? (*to all*) Picture time, everyone!

ALICE hugs CARROLL and the guests all look at the camera. CARROLL goes under the black camera fabric.

FLASH POD.

Music Cue: Falling down the rabbit hole

Immediate silence, everyone freezes except for ALICE. A single light illuminates ALICE and CARROLL downstage center. The party is a silhouette. She looks around, confused. The birthday hat topples off her head.

Alice: Hello? What's happening?

CARROLL uncovers his head to reveal white rabbit ears and nose. The WHITE RABBIT turns to audience, scratches ears and goes down the rabbit hole. ALICE starts at this, wanders around in confusion, before deciding to follow the WHITE RABBIT down the rabbit hole.

BLACKOUT.

Scene 2

Down the Rabbit Hole

Dance sequence.

The Corridor

Alice: After such a fall as this I shall think nothing of falling down stairs. I shouldn't say a word even if I fell off the top of a house!

Music Cue: Fade music

White Rabbit: (*Off-stage*) Which is very likely true.

Alice: Excuse me, sir, is this the end?

White Rabbit: (*Entering*) The question is: Is there any such thing?

Alice: Of course there is. Everything comes to an end sometime.

White Rabbit: It might be a beginning, you know.

Alice: Beginning of what?

White Rabbit: How can I tell until I know more about you?

Alice: Well where am I?

White Rabbit: That all depends on what's going on inside your head.

Alice: I wish you wouldn't talk nonsense.

White Rabbit: I wish you'd mind your manners.

Alice: I didn't mean to be rude.

White Rabbit: Then don't be. That doesn't work down here.

Alice: I only asked: Where am I?

White Rabbit: You're where you belong. And that depends on what goes on inside your head.

Alice: I don't know what you mean.

White Rabbit: How do you suppose you got down my rabbit hole?

Alice: I was curious so I followed you. And then I fell.

White Rabbit: And you entirely forgot that humans shouldn't go down rabbit holes?

Alice: Why, yes. I just felt that I had to see what you were doing.

White Rabbit: Exactly. And so you are here.

Alice: But I have yet to discover where "here" is.

White Rabbit: *(looks at pocket watch)* Oh my ears and whiskers! The duchess! The duchess! Oh my dear paws! Oh my fur and whiskers! She'll get me executed, as sure as ferrets are ferrets!

Alice: Wait! Please! Mr. Rabbit! Mr. White Rabbit! Wait!

Music Cue: Roof Top Chase

WHITE RABBIT runs off. ALICE looks around as a hallway of doors is projected on the scrim. And humans come on with Doors.

Alice: Oh dear.

ALICE finds a key and tries to unlock all of the normal sized doors. One of them opens.

Behind the Scrim we see TWEEDLEDEE and TWEEDLEDUM clowning on the silks/lyra.

ALICE closes the door. And tries more doors, they are locked

She suddenly sees a small door. When she tries it, it unlocks and she fits her shoulders inside. She gasps as joyous music begins to play.

Music Cue: cut to Barbie 12 dancing princesses

The FLOWERS dance behind the Scrim

ALICE tries to get through the door but cannot. Various “oof”-like noises are produced in the struggle. She closes door.

Music Cue: ends when Alice shuts door

Alice: If only I were smaller. How I long to get out of this dark hall, and wander about among those beds of bright flowers. Even if my head would go through, it would be of very little use without my shoulders. Oh, how I wish I could shut up like a telescope! I think I could, if I only know how to begin.

Music Cue: Let me Sleep (1st 20 seconds)

As if the room were listening to ALICE, a Bottle with the label “Drink Me” flies over her head.

Alice: Curiouser and curiouser. *(reading the label)* Drink me. Well, I suppose it should be safe to drink seeing it is not marked poison.

ALICE drinks it. She shrinks.

Music Cue: Shrinking music (I don’t have this, it needs to be found)

Alice: What a curious feeling! I must be shutting up like a telescope.

The shrinking process is done using projections on a scrim in front of the actress. ALICE notices her size and twirls in excitement.

Alice: I am just the right size for the door! But where is the- oh, no!

ALICE realizes she left the key on the table that is now well above her head. ALICE begins to cry.

Alice: You silly girl! You left the key on the table! No- there is no use in crying. You must figure it out yourself now.

ALICE sees a small cake labeled “Eat Me.”

Alice: Eat me. I wonder what would happen if I were to eat this? I suppose I can’t get much smaller.... I would go out much like a candle. Well, I’ll eat it, and if it

makes me grow larger, I can reach the key; and if it makes me grow smaller, I can creep under the door; so either way I'll get into the garden, and I don't care which happens!

Music Cue: Growing music (I don't have this, it needs to be found)

ALICE eats the cake and grows much too big to get into the doors. This is shown by the projection shrinking and ALICE being confined within the small space. ALICE begins to cry again.

Alice: I keep growing and growing, and growing! At this rate, I will never be able to get into the garden if I carry on crying like this. Oh silly me! I'm still holding the bottle.

ALICE drinks the bottle and begins to shrink.

Music Cue: Pool of Tears

Scene 4

Pool of Tears

Blue fabric, being held by other actors, or stage crew, is being swung back and forth like waves on different levels. ALICE, by herself, emerges from the waves, trying to stay afloat. Two birds upstage start swimming, in opposite directions, up stage. They are being held up by the other actors. Eventually, more animals start swimming, but not right away.

Alice: Why, how curious! It seems to me that this day just keeps getting curiouser by the minute! How did all this water get here? I don't recall it being here a second ago.

Suddenly a boat starts coming towards ALICE, from Stage Right. On it is the WHITE RABBIT. It does not look pleased at all!

White Rabbit: That's because it wasn't here *one* second ago. It only came to be, approximately *–(he looks at pocket watch)* 19 seconds ago. Not even. Now it has been 23, 25, 27...Mary Ann, I DO WISH you hadn't cried so much. You are going to make me late.

By the time the WHITE RABBIT has finished speaking, the boat has gone off

Alice: I never realized I cried this much!

The boat reappears. ALICE looks towards it happily, hoping it is the WHITE RABBIT

The TWEEDLES come on synchronized swimming.

Addressing the MOUSE on the boat, who is not paying attention to her, nor anyone.

Alice: O' Mouse! Do you know the way out of this pool? I am very tired of swimming about, O' Mouse! Mouse! *(to herself)* Perhaps it doesn't understand English. *(ALICE tries speaking to the MOUSE again, but this time in French.)* 'Où est ma Chatte?'

The MOUSE jumps, before quickly trying to paddle off stage to get away from ALICE.

Alice: *(hastily)* Oh, I beg your pardon! Mouse, please come back! I quite forgot you didn't like cats.

Mouse: Not like Cats! Would YOU like cats if you were me?

Alice: Well, perhaps not, but don't be angry about it. I only want to get to shore. We won't talk about cats anymore if you'd rather not.

Mouse: *(moving back cautiously)* We indeed! As if I would talk on such a subject! Our family always HATED cats: nasty, low, vulgar things! Don't let me hear that word again!

Alice: I won't indeed!

Mouse: *(nodding)* you need a ride to shore, you say?

Alice: Yes, please, if you would be so kind.

Mouse: *(calling to the birds)* Let us get back to shore! *(To ALICE)* When we get to shore, I will explain to you my history, and you'll understand why it is I hate Cats. Come aboard.

ALL exit stage. Blue fabric exits leaving behind a rock.

Music Cue: Fade music

Music Cue: Love Letters

Scene 5

Caucus Race

All BIRDS except LORY enter stage right, while the MOUSE enters stage left, waiting a minute for birds to get settled in before entering, quickly followed by ALICE. Birds are murmuring and bickering to themselves loudly, shaking their feathers this way and that, trying to get dry.

Eaglet: Ahoy, and other nautical expressions!

Old Magpie: *(Sighing heavily)* How on earth did the world flood so quickly?

Duck: *(complaining)* I'm very wet.

Music Cue: Fade music

Dodo: Yes, if there is a lot of rain, and you do not get to shelter quickly, you risk dampening your feathers.

LORY enters from stage left, and bumps right into ALICE, who was very engrossed watching the birds bicker back and forth.

Lory: Hey, watch where you are going!

Alice: *(confused)* But, I wasn't going anywhere. I was standing right here when you flew into me!

Lory: No, you were not! You came right at me, flapping those...*(looks at ALICE'S arms in distaste)* featherless wings at me.

Alice: Why, I did no such thing!

Lory: *(Turning sulky that she could not beat down ALICE,)* Well, I am older than you, and so I must know better. In fact, I do know better!

LORY stalks away towards the other birds still trying to dry their feathers.

Alice: *(to herself)* Why, how rude!

The OLD MAGPIE notices ALICE and turns on her.

Old Magpie: To whom do we speak?

Alice: My name is Alice.

Duck: Wha'cher doin' 'ere?

Alice: Well, nothing, really.

Dodo: That's just what we are doing here! Nothing at all! Alice, I'm the Dodo, and that snob is Lory. And there's Duck, of course, and Old Magpie and our young Eaglet.

Alice: How do you....

Mouse: (*interrupting her thought process*) Come, my dear, you are wet, yes? I am very good at drying things. Have a seat. (*MOUSE stands on top of rock*) Sit down, all of you, and listen to me! I'll soon make you dry enough! (*some sit, but others ignore the MOUSE'S orders*) Ahem! (*Speaking with important air*) Are you all ready? This is the driest thing I know. Silence all around, if you please! "William the Conqueror, whose cause was favored by the pope, was soon submitted to by the English, who wanted leaders, and had been of the late much accustomed to usurpation and conquest. Edwin and Morcar, the earls of Mercia and North Umbria—"

Lory: (*exasperated*) Ugh! This again?! I've heard this about a million times by now.

Mouse: I beg your pardon! (*frowning politely*) Did you speak?

Lory: (*Hastily*) Not I!

Mouse: I thought you did...--I proceed. "Edwin and Morcar, the earls of Mercia and North Umbria, declared for him: and even Stigand, the patriotic archbishop of Canterbury, found it advisable—"

Duck: Found WHAT?

Mouse: (*Crossly*) Found IT. Of course you know what "it" means.

Duck: I know what 'it' means well enough, when I find a thing. "It" is generally a frog or a worm. The question is, what did the archbishop find?

Mouse: (*ignoring the question, hurriedly speaking*)—"found it advisable to go with Edgar Atheling to meet William and offer him the crown. William's conduct at first was moderate. But the insolence of his Normans—" (*suddenly remembering ALICE*) How are you getting on, my dear?

Alice: (*melancholy*) As wet as ever. It doesn't seem to dry me at all.

Dodo: (*solemnly*) In that case, I move that the meeting adjourn, for the immediate adoption of more energetic remedies—

Eaglet: *(interrupting)* Speak English! I don't know the meaning of half those long words, and what's more, I don't believe you do either!

Dodo: *(offended)* What I was going to say, *(gives a stern glare towards the EAGLET)* was, that the best thing to get us dry would be a Caucus Race.

Alice: What is a Caucus Race?

Dodo: Why, the best way to explain it is to do it. First, I will mark out the circle....The exact shape doesn't matter... and then I will place you all along the circle. *(Dodo starts placing birds around the "circle")* Here... and... there.

Music Cue: Caucus Race

All the BIRDS, the MOUSE, and ALICE begin preparing for the caucus race now that they were all on the circle. They all run around in a choreographed, They start going in slow motion. All ANIMALs fall, but ALICE stays standing:

Music Cue: Music Out

Dodo: The race is over!! *(Immediately ALL drop to the ground exhausted.)*

Old Magpie: Done already?! Why, what fun that was!

Eaglet: *(after resting for a minute)* But, who has won?

Dodo: *(Giving great thought to this)* Everybody has won, and all must have prizes

Old Magpie: Yes!! Prizes, Prizes!

Lory: But who is to give prizes?

Duck: I want a prize.

Dodo: *(goes up to ALICE)* Why, she of-course.

ALICE reaches into her pockets and finds a box of candies, she hands them around as the birds talk of prizes.

Old Magpie: But she must have a prize herself, you know.

Dodo: Of course. What else do you have in your pockets, miss?

Alice: Only a thimble.

Dodo: *(Interrupting)* Hand it over here. *(Once in her possession hands it back like anointing ALICE to knighthood.)* We beg your acceptance of this elegant thimble!

Everyone cheers. LORY and DUCK glare at ALICE and her wonderful prize.

Old Magpie: Now that I am dry, I think it is time to fly. Care to join me, Dodo?

Dodo: The pleasure will be all mine. *(THEY exit).*

Eaglet: *(tugging on the sleeve of ALICE)* I wish I could fly. My mother says my wings are still too short to support my weight? Do you think they're too short?

Alice: I couldn't say. I don't have a ruler to measure them with.

Eaglet: A ruler? Like the Queen?

Mouse: Stop asking questions of her! Can't you see the poor dear is tired?

Eaglet: *(Hanging his head)* Sorry.

Mouse: As you should be. Go along now. I'm sure your Mother is looking for you.

EAGLET nods at the MOUSE's words, for they are true, and exits.

Alice: There's no need to be rude, Mouse.

Mouse: I wasn't being rude. If I hadn't said something, the poor dear could've gone on for an hour, and his mother would have been worried sick. It doesn't help that you cried an ocean, either. It'll probably be a few hours before they find each other now.

Alice: *(taken aback)* I'm sorry. I didn't realize... *(deciding to change the subject)* Mouse, you know, you promised to tell me the story of your history once we got to shore, *(adding in a whisper)* and why it is you hate—C . A. T. S. *(says it hesitantly in case of offending the mouse again.)*

Mouse: Mine is a long and sad tale!

Alice: Why do you call it sad?

Mouse: Because it is a sad tale. You wouldn't call a happy tale, a sad tale, now, would you?

Alice: I guess not.

Mouse: You guess correctly.

Alice: But...why is your tale so sad?

Mouse: *(sighing angrily)* If you have ever lost something dear to you, the feeling you would've felt then would have been akin to sadness. The same can be said about my tale.

Alice: I felt really sad when Dinah ran away once, does that count?

Mouse: Again with the Cat! Do you wish to call it here? Oh, I must be gone at once!

MOUSE runs off stage before ALICE can say another word.

Alice: *(hanging her head,)* I wish I hadn't mentioned Dinah. Now I'll never know why the mouse hates cats.

Lory: *(who had been eavesdropping)* It's not a story you would have wanted to hear. Boring, a waste of time... Very dry.

Duck: Yes, very dry. Why did she run off?

Alice: I mentioned Dinah again.

Duck: *(Terrified, for they had heard about the terrific creature in the pool of tears)* Dinah?!!

Alice: *(Mistaking the fear for a question)* My Cat.

Both BIRDS shriek and run off stage. ALICE, realizing she had lost all of her new friends began to cry again. Comes downstage.

Alice: Oh, why is it that when I speak, all that comes out are things I don't mean to say?

Suddenly, she hears footsteps. She thinks it is the mouse returning to finish his story, but it is the WHITE RABBIT!

Alice: Oh! Mr. White Rabbit! Please, wait!

White Rabbit: No time! No time! Too late! Too late! *(WHITE RABBIT notices ALICE)* Why, Mary Ann what *are* you doing out here?

Alice: Who's Mary-Ann?

White Rabbit: Run home this moment, and fetch me a pair of gloves and a fan! Quick, now!

WHITE RABBIT exits.

Alice: He took me for his housemaid. Without a doubt that is the rudest rabbit I know. I don't even know where to go.

ALICE sighs, shrugs and runs off.

Music Cue: White Queen

Scene 6

White Queen and Caterpillar

The TWEEDLES appear with the WHITE QUEEN. She tangles herself in the silver silk and the TWEEDLES try to help but get distracted. Finally they are so distracted they wander off stage.

WHITE QUEEN has dropped her shawl. ALICE goes to meet her with the shawl.

Music Cue: Fade music

Alice: Miss, you seem to have lost your scarf! Am I addressing the White Queen?

White Queen: Where do you come from? And where are you going? Look up, speak nicely, and don't twiddle your fingers all the time.

ALICE attends to the WHITE QUEEN's demands.

Alice: Your Majesty, I'm trying to find my way home.

White Queen: I don't know what you mean by *your* way, all the ways about here belong to *me* why did you come out here at all? *(In a kinder tone)* Curtsey while you're thinking what to say, it saves time.

Alice: I only wanted to see what the garden was like, your Majesty. Am I addressing the White Queen?

White Queen: Well, yes, if you call that addressing. It isn't my notion of the thing at all, darling. *(points to her disheveled clothing)* I've been a'dressing myself for the last two hours.

Alice: Why, every single thing's crooked! May I put your shawl on straight for you?

White Queen: I don't know what's the matter with it! It's out of temper, I think. I've pinned it here, and I've pinned it there, but there's no pleasing it!

Alice: It *can't* go straight, you know, if you pin it all on one side. (*gently puts it right for her*) Come, you look rather better now! See, you really ought to have a lady's maid.

White Queen: I am sure I'll take you with pleasure! Twopence a week and jam every other day.

Alice: (*laughing*) I don't want you to hire me— and I don't want jam today at any rate.

White Queen: You couldn't have it if you *did* want it. The rule is jam tomorrow and jam yesterday but never jam *today*.

Alice: I don't understand. It is dreadfully confusing.

White Queen: That's the effect of living backwards, darling. It always makes one a little giddy at first—

Alice: Living backwards! I never heard of such a thing.

White Queen: But there is one great advantage in it, that one's memory works both ways.

Alice: What sorts of things do you remember best?

White Queen: Oh, things that happened the week after next. For instance now, there's the King's Messenger. He's in prison now, being punished, and the trial doesn't even begin until next Wednesday... (*notices her hand, examines it, and starts screaming and shaking it*) Oh, oh, oh! My finger's bleeding. Oh, oh, oh!

Alice: What is the matter? Have you pricked your finger?

White Queen: I haven't pricked it yet, but I soon shall.

Alice: When do you expect to do it?

White Queen: When I fasten my shawl again, the brooch will come undone directly.

At these words the brooch flies open and WHITE QUEEN clutches wildly at it and tries to clasp it again.

Alice: Take care! You're holding it all crooked!

ALICE catches at the brooch, but too late. The pin has slipped and WHITE QUEEN pricks her finger.

White Queen: *(smiling)* There, you see! That accounts for the bleeding! Now you understand the way things happen here, darling.

Alice: But why don't you scream now?

White Queen: Why, I've already done all the screaming before.

Alice: But that's impossible. I can't believe *that!*

White Queen: Oh, Alice, darling. Have you never thought of impossible things? Here, I'll teach you. Draw a long breath and shut your eyes.

Alice: There's no use trying. One can't believe impossible things.

White Queen: I daresay you haven't had much practice. When I was your age, I always did it for half an hour a day. Why, sometimes, I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast!

Alice: All before breakfast? But that's absurd!

White Queen: Oh, darling, things are only impossible when you believe them to be. Now, you must keep thinking, thinking, thinking! I would love to see what you think, but I must be on my way. Goodbye for now, Alice, darling! I shall see you soon!

WHITE QUEEN runs off, leaving ALICE alone and confused.

Alice: When I used to read fairy-tales, I fancied that kind of thing never happened, and now here I am in the middle of one!

Music Cue: I want to invade Switzerland

CATERPILLAR dances on.

Caterpillar: Who are YOU?

Music Cue: Music fades to underscore

Alice: I—I hardly know, ma'am, just at present— at least I know who I WAS when I got up this morning, but I think I must have been changed several times since then.

Caterpillar: What do you mean by that? *(Pause)* Explain yourself!

Alice: I can't explain myself, I'm afraid, ma'am, because I'm not myself, you see.

Caterpillar: I don't see.

Alice: I'm afraid I can't put it more clearly, for I can't understand it myself to begin with; and being so many different sizes in a day is very confusing.

CATERPILLAR poses.

Caterpillar: It isn't!

Alice: Well, perhaps you haven't found it so yet, but when you have to turn into a chrysalis—you will some day, you know—and then after that into a butterfly, I should think you'll feel it a little queer, won't you?

Caterpillar: Not a bit.

Alice: Well, perhaps your feelings may be different, all I know is, it would feel very queer to me.

Caterpillar: You! Who are *you*?

CATERPILLAR dances a bit.

Caterpillar: You! Who are *you*?

Alice: I think, you ought to tell me who *you* are, first.

Caterpillar: Why?

ALICE looks at the CATERPILLAR for a moment, sighs and starts walking away.

Caterpillar: Come back! I've something important to say!

ALICE returns.

Caterpillar: Keep your temper.

Alice: Is that all?

Caterpillar: No.

Puffs at hookah.

Caterpillar: So you think you're changed, do you?

Alice: I'm afraid I am, ma'am, I don't keep the same size for ten minutes together!

Pause.

Caterpillar: I don't see how that is something to worry about, one changes quite regularly here.

Alice: But I am not from *here*. I say why is everyone so strange in this land?

Caterpillar: I'm not strange, my reality is just different from yours.

Puffs at hookah. Pause.

Caterpillar: (*whispers to self*) Do you smell that?

Alice: Smell what?

Caterpillar: Did I ask you? (*Pause*) Who are you?

Alice: That's the last straw Cater - Caterpillar. I'm leaving for good.

Music Cue: Music out

Caterpillar: The pepper. Do you smell the pepper?

Points in direction of scent. ALICE leaves in the direction and follows the scent. CATERPILLAR dances off.

Outside of the Duchess' house rolls on Stage Right. FROG exits the house and we hear shouting from the inside.

Music Cue: Critical Analysis

Scene 7

Outside the Duchess's Cottage

ALICE stands, looking at the house, wondering what to do next. She sees the FROG FOOTMAN.

Alice: How strange. I have never seen a frog in a powdered wig before.

BILL the Lizard enters in a powdered wig. ALICE hides.

Bill: For the Duchess an invitation from the Queen to play croquet.

Frog: From the Queen to the Duchess an invitation to play croquet.

Bill: An invitation to play croquet from the Queen to the Duchess.

Frog: Yes, I think I have the gist of it.

Bill: You sure?

Frog: Did I stutter?

Bill: You don't have to be so rude!

Frog: And you don't have to keep repeating things.

Bill: Well...

BILL exits furiously, as FROG sits.

Alice: Please, sir, if you could tell me, how am I to get into the house?

Frog: There is no sort of use in knocking. And that for two reasons- First because I'm on the same side of the door as you are; secondly because they are making such a noise inside no one could possibly hear you.

Music Cue: Music fades out

Duchess: (*off-stage*) Pig!

Cook: (*off-stage*) Pepper!

Alice: Please then, how am I to get in?

Frog: There might be some sense in your knocking...if we had the door between us. For instance, if you were inside you might knock and I could let you out, you know?

Alice: But that is not what I want, I have a question to ask, so I need to get in!

Frog: Are you to get in at all? That is the first question you know.

Alice: How do I get in?

Frog: Maybe I shall sit here till' tomorrow—or the next day maybe.

Alice: How do I get in?

Frog: or maybe a week... Or a monthwho knows??

Alice: The way these creatures argue it's enough to drive one crazy.

Frog: I shall sit here on and off for days and days.

Alice: But what am I to do?

Frog: Anything you'd like.

Alice: Oh, there's no use in talking to him. He's completely idiotic.

ALICE opens door and the set is spun around.

Music Cue: 33a Peckender St, N1

Scene 8

Inside the Duchess's Cottage

The DUCHESS sits in a rocking chair holding her baby while the COOK throws things about. The CHESHIRE CAT sits looking majestic and grinning.

Duchess: What really happened was when the prime minister made the announcement that the water works should be--

Cook: Full of pepper!

Duchess: And paid for with monthly installments of--

Cook: Pepper!

Duchess: The parliament went into--

Cook: More pepper!

Duchess: And called for a vote--

Cook: To use more pepper!

Duchess: And the moral of the story is--

ALICE enters coughing and sneezing.

Cook: There is never too much pepper!

Music Cue: Fade music out

Alice: There is much too much pepper in that soup!

Cook: Did you say the soup needs more pepper?

Alice: No, I didn't.

Cook: Yes, yes I agree. More pepper!

Duchess: Who are you and who let you in?

Cook: The pepper did of course!

Alice: I'm Alice. The frog footman let me in... well he didn't stop me.

Duchess: I have to get rid of that frog. And the moral of the story is frogs make better *handmen* than footmen.

Cook: Yes, yes I agree. Make better handmen... Not footmen...

Alice: Please, would you tell me why your cat grins like that?

Duchess: It's a Cheshire Cat and that's why.

Alice: I didn't know that Cheshire Cats always grinned. In fact, I didn't know that cats could grin.

Duchess: They all can and most of em' do.

Alice: I don't know of any that do.

Duchess: You don't know very much, and that's a fact.

ALICE looks about curiously. She reaches in her pocket and finds the present from Lewis Carroll. Taking it out, ALICE holds it to her.

Duchess: You're thinking about something, my dear, and that makes you forget to talk. I can't tell you just now what the moral of that is, but I shall remember it in a bit.

Alice: Perhaps it hasn't one.

Duchess: Tut, tut, child! Everything's got a moral, if only you can find it. *(To the COOK) PIG!*

COOK goes over the DUCHESS and the baby and shouts in the baby's face.

Cook: PEPPER!

The DUCHESS throws the baby at the COOK.

Duchess: PEPPER!

Cook: *(Throws baby to DUCHESS)* PIG!

Alice: Please mind what you do. Oh his poor ears!

Duchess: If everybody minded their own business the world would go around a great deal faster.

Cook: If everyone used more pepper, the world would be much happier.

Alice: Which would not be an advantage. Just think what work it would make with the day and night! You see the earth takes twenty-four hours to turn around on its axis.

Duchess: Talking of axes-- Chop off her head!

Cook: Talking about chopping-- pepper!

Alice: Twenty-four hours I think. Or is it twelve?

Duchess: Oh, don't bother me! I never could abide figures. I must go and get ready to play croquet with the Queen.

DUCHESS exits.

Cook: Now that the Duchess is gone, could you tell me if these tarts need pepper?

Alice: I suppose so. (*nibbles tart*) I don't think they need any pepper, Sir.

Cook: Well, you don't know anything. These are for the queen. They have to be perfect or my head will be hers.

COOK sets the Tarts on windowsill. BILL the Lizard wanders on seeing the tarts.

Bill: Mmm... tarts.

BILL steals the tarts and walks away. The WHITE RABBIT comes running by outside the window, muttering "I'm Late, I'm late." ALICE notices and tries to go after the rabbit.

Alice: Well, I think I ought to be on my way. I wish to see the croquet game. Goodbye, Cook.

Cook: Goodbye. Oh Wait! Did I hear you say you will be going to the croquet game? Would you mind taking these tarts with you, the Knave of Hearts is very untimely and I'm afraid the tarts will not make it to the Queen in time.

Alice: Oh, well I suppose I don't see why not...

COOK turns to window and notices the window sill is empty. COOK starts to scream. KNAVE bursts in through the door.

Knave: I'M HERE I'M SORRY I'M HERE!

ALICE walks towards the door.

Alice: I'm sorry, I really have to get going.

The COOK starts hitting the KNAVE. ALICE runs off following the WHITE RABBIT

Cook: Ah, you fool someone has stolen the Queen's tarts! She'll have my head! No! No! (*An idea is forming. COOK looks to the KNAVE, smiling sadistically*) She will have your head!

Knave: But... I didn't lose them!

Cook: The Queen of Hearts
She made some tarts,
All on a summer's day;
The Knave of Hearts
He stole those tarts,
And took them clean away.

Knave: But... but-but.... but....

Music Cue:

Scene 9

Cheshire Cat Scene

Lights up stage right.

ALICE strolls through the forest. She stops at the crossroad sign and gazes at her present.

ALICE looks up to see the CHESHIRE CAT.

Cheshire Cat: He didn't go that way.

ALICE turns and looks at the CHESHIRE CAT.

Alice: You're the Duchess's cat!

Cheshire Cat: Cheshire Cat. Oh, by the way, if you'd really like to know, he went that way.

Alice: Who did?

Cheshire Cat: The White Rabbit.

Alice: He did?

Cheshire Cat: He did what?

Alice: Went that way.

Cheshire Cat: Who did?

Alice: The White Rabbit.

Cheshire Cat: What rabbit?

Alice: But didn't you just say - I mean - Oh, dear.

Cheshire Cat: Can you stand on your head?

CHESHIRE CAT stands on HEAD. HEAD then bounces and rolls.

Alice: Oh!

CHESHIRE CAT's body appears again.

Alice: Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?

Cheshire Cat: That depends a good deal on where you want to get to.

Alice: I don't much know-

Cheshire Cat: Then it doesn't matter which way you go.

Alice: -so long as I get *somewhere*.

Cheshire Cat: Oh, you're sure to do that if you only walk long enough.

Alice: What sort of people live about here?

Cheshire Cat: In *that* direction lives silly brothers: and in *that* direction lives a troublesome tea party. Visit either you like: both are mad.

Alice: But I don't want to go among mad people.

Cheshire Cat: Oh, you can't help that; most everyone's mad here. You're mad. I'm not even all here myself.

CHESHIRE CAT slowly vanishes to just the HEAD.

Alice: How do you know I'm mad?

HEAD rolls and bounces.

Cheshire Cat: You must be or you wouldn't have come here.

Alice: And how do you know that you're mad, Cheshire Cat?

CAT body reappears.

Cheshire Cat: To begin with, a dog's not mad. You grant that?

Alice: I suppose so.

Cheshire Cat: Well, then, you see a dog growls when it's angry, and wags its tail when it's pleased. Now *I* growl when I'm pleased, and wag my tail when I'm angry. Therefore I'm mad.

Alice: *I* call it purring, not growling.

Cheshire Cat: Call it what you like. Do you play croquet with the Queen today?

Alice: I should like it very much but I have not been invited yet.

Cheshire Cat: You'll see me there.

Alice: Oh.

ALICE turns back toward the sign and contemplates which way to go.

Cheshire Cat: By-the-by, how did they turn out?

Alice: The Royal Tarts? Very well.

Cheshire Cat: I see. How unfortunate.

Alice: I know two quite silly siblings, so there's no fun that way. The tea party will be most interesting, and perhaps, it won't be raving mad.

Cheshire Cat: Did you say tarts or darts?

Alice: I said tarts! I wish you wouldn't keep appearing and vanishing so suddenly: you make me quite giddy!

Cheshire Cat: Alright.

Alice: Well! I've often seen a cat without a grin but a grin without a cat! It's the most curious thing I ever saw in all my life! When I get home I shall write a book about this place... If I ever do get home.

ALICE wanders down stage right to sign. Looks at it for a moment. Suddenly lights up center on a tea party!

Music Cue: [Devatchka Miette](#)

Scene 10

Mad-Tea Party

ALICE wanders over to them. HATTER, HARE and DORMOUSE gaze at ALICE who curtsies, and they acknowledge her. ALICE goes to sit down-

Mad Hatter and March Hare: No room!

Dormouse: No (*yawns*) room.

Alice: But there's plenty of room!

Pause

March Hare: Have some wine!

Alice: I don't see any wine.

March Hare: That's because there isn't any. (*laughs*)

Alice: Then it wasn't very civil of you to offer it.

Laughing stops.

March Hare: It wasn't very civil of you to sit down without being invited.

Alice: I didn't know it was *your* table. And it's laid out for a great many more than three.

Mad Hatter: Your hair needs cutting.

Alice: You should learn not to make personal remarks. It's very rude.

Mad Hatter: Why is a raven like a writing-desk?

March Hare: (*applauds HATTER*) Brilliant!

Alice: A raven like a writing desk... Oh I believe I can guess that one.

March Hare: Do you mean that you think you can find out the answer to it?

Alice: Exactly so.

March Hare: You should say what you mean.

Alice: I do! - - At least I mean what I say. That's the same thing, you know.

Mad Hatter: Not the same thing a bit! You might just as well say that 'I see what I eat' is the same thing as 'I eat what I see'!

March Hare: You might just as well say that 'I like what I get' is the same thing as 'I get what I like'!

Dormouse: You might just as well say that 'I breathe when I sleep' is the same thing as 'I sleep when I breath'!

Mad Hatter: It *is* the same thing with you. (*looks at cup very displeased*). Clean cup, clean cup! Move down!

Music Cue: Devatchka Miette

DORMOUSE, HATTER and MARCH HARE run around the table once to find their new place. They do this through a very intricate choreographed "dance" before sitting in the seat directly to their right.

Silence.

Mad Hatter: What day of the month is it?

Alice: The fourth.

Mad Hatter: It's two days wrong! (*glares at the MARCH HARE*) I told you butter wouldn't suit the works!

March Hare: It was the *best* butter.

Mad Hatter: Yes, but some crumbs must have got in as well. You shouldn't have put it in with the bread-knife.

March Hare: It was the *best* butter, you know.

Dormouse: Danish, mmm.

Mad Hatter: Some crumbs must have got into it as well. I said, don't put butter in the works with a bread knife!

March Hare: I couldn't put it in with a fork, could I? Here, let me see...

Mad Hatter: (*capricious*) I don't want to *give* it to you, but I will!

The MARCH HARE takes the watch and examines it; first by banging it on the table, and then by dipping it into his teacup.

March Hare: I don't understand it. It was the best butter.

Dormouse: Danish.

The MARCH HARE tosses the watch over to ALICE, who picks it up and studies it.

Alice: What a funny watch! It tells the day of the month, and doesn't tell what time it is!

Mad Hatter: Why should it? Does *your* watch tell you what year it is?

Alice: Of course not but that's because it stays the same year for such a long time.

Mad Hatter: Which is just my case.

March Hare: Where?

Mad Hatter: *(points to a pile of suitcases)* There.

HATTER breaks into laughter.

March Hare: *(dully)* I know when I'm beaten.

HATTER breaks into laughter again.

Alice: I don't see what is so funny.

Mad Hatter: Everything is funny, if you can laugh at it.

Silence.

Mad Hatter: Look. The Dormouse is asleep again.

HATTER and MARCH HARE pull the silk knot, causing DORMOUSE to panic and fall out of the silk onto the table

Dormouse: Of course, of course: just what I was going to remark myself.

Mad Hatter: Clean cup! I'll have a clean cup! Move!! Move!!

Music Cue: [Devatchka Miette](#)

Once again, the DORMOUSE, HATTER and MARCH HARE run around the table once to find their new place. Through a very intricate choreographed "dance" before sitting in the seat directly to their right.

Mad Hatter: Have you guessed the riddle yet?

Alice: No, I give it up. What's the answer?

Mad Hatter: I haven't the slightest idea.

March Hare: Nor I.

Alice: (*sighs*) I think you might do something better with the time than waste it asking riddles with no answers.

Mad Hatter: If you knew *Time* as well as I do you wouldn't talk about wasting it since Time is not an *it* but a *him*.

Alice: I don't know what you mean.

Mad Hatter: Of course you don't! I dare say you never even spoke to Time!

Alice: Perhaps not, but I know I have to beat *Time* when I learn music.

Mad Hatter: Ah! that accounts for it. He won't stand beating. Now, if you only kept on good terms with him, he'd do almost anything you liked with the clock. For instance, suppose it were nine o'clock in the morning, just time to begin lessons: you'd only have to whisper a hint to Time, and round goes the clock in a twinkling! Half-past one, time for dinner!' (*notices the banging*) Op! I'm off beat!

Alice: That would be grand, certainly, but then--I shouldn't be hungry for it, you know.

MAD HATTER and ALICE move to top of the table

Mad Hatter: Not at first, perhaps, but you could keep it to half-past one as long as you liked.

Alice: Is that the way YOU manage?

MAD HATTER and ALICE sit on table

Mad Hatter: Not I! We quarrelled last March--just before HE went mad, you know--' (*pointing with her tea spoon at the March Hare,*) --it was at the great concert given by the Queen of Hearts, and I had to sing: (*moves DORMOUSE, HARE, and ALICE to be her "audience"*)

HATTER begins to sing "Twinkle, twinkle, little bat! How I wonder what you're at! Up above the world you fly, like a tea-tray in the sky, twinkle, twinkle..." DORMOUSE becomes stuck on "Twinkle" like a broken record.

Mad Hatter: Are you quite done yet?...Well, I'd hardly finished the first verse when the Queen jumped up (*HARE jumps up and join HATTER on table*) and bawled out:

Mad Hatter and Hare: "She's murdering the time! Off with her head!"

Alice: How dreadfully savage!

Mad Hatter: And ever since that, Time won't do a thing I ask! It's always six o'clock now. (*sighs in dismay*) Tea time.

Alice: Is that the reason so many tea things are put out here?

Mad Hatter: Yes, that's it. It's always tea-time, and we've no time to wash the things between whiles.

Alice: Then you keep moving round, I suppose?

Mad Hatter: Exactly so, as the things get used up.

Alice: But what happens when you come to the beginning again?

Mad Hatter: Suppose we change the subject, I'm getting tired of this. I want a clean cup. Move!

Music Cue: [Devatchka Miette](#)

White Rabbit: Mary Ann! We are going to be late for the Queen! Where have you been?

'ALICE sighs in relief.

The MAD TEA PARTY is wheeled away

The WHITE RABBIT appears looking worried and sees ALICE which causes him to frantically hop over to ALICE.

Alice: I'm not Mary-

Mad-Hatter, Dormouse, March Hare: Good-bye Mary Ann.

ALICE grumbles.

White Rabbit: Do you have the time? My watch broke and the Hatter did not fix it. There "*best*" butter is a load of futter. But we must be going! Come along!

WHITE RABBIT hops away while gesturing for ALICE to join. ALICE looks confused but follows not knowing what else to do.

March Hare: IT WAS THE BEST BUTTER!

Music Cue:

Scene 11

Painting the Roses Red

We see three cards frantically painting white roses red. A large rose-tree stood near the entrance of the garden: the roses growing on it were white, but there were three gardeners at it, busily painting them red. Alice thought this a very curious thing, and she went nearer to watch them, and just as she came up to them she heard one of them say-

White Rabbit: Oh my ears and whiskers, I'm late, I'm late, I'm Late.

Two: Look out now 5! Don't go splashing paint over me like that.

Five: I couldn't help it, seven jogged my elbow!

Seven: That's right 5! Blame it on someone else!

ALICE walks towards the cards, completely confused as to what they were doing.=

Five: You'd better not talk! The Queen says you need beheading!

Two: What for?

Seven: That's none of your business, two!

Five: For bringing the cook tulip-roots instead of onions!

Seven: (*angrily*) That's not fair--

SEVEN notices ALICE wandering onto stage, and trails off, losing anger as she speaks.

Seven: Who are you?

Alice: Why are you painting those roses?

FIVE and SEVEN look at TWO.

Two: *(in a "it's a funny story" tone of voice)* Why, the fact is, you see, Miss, this here ought to have been a red rose tree, and we put a white one in by mistake; and if the queen was to find out, we should all have our heads cut off, you know. So you see, miss, we're doing our best, before she comes to--

Five: The Queen! The Queen of Hearts!

The QUEEN OF HEARTS and RED KING, WHITE QUEEN, WHITE KING, COOK, DUCHESS, WHITE RABBIT and KNAVE advance with a procession surrounding them on all three sides. She is very surprised to see ALICE and looks towards her servants for an answer to what is causing her confusion. (an emotion she Hates).

Queen of Hearts: Who is this?

The KNAVE, clueless, bows in reply since he does not know any more than she.

Queen of Hearts: Idiot! Why, it's a girl. What's your name, child?

Alice: My name is Alice, so please your majesty.

Queen of Hearts: *(Ignoring ALICE entirely)* And who are these?

Alice: How should I know? I only just got here, and haven't had the time to ask them their names yet. Also, if I might add, it is no business of MINE!

Queen of Hearts: *(turning crimson in fury)* Off with her Head! Off!

Alice: *(interrupting very loudly)* Nonsense!

Red King: *(laying his hand upon his wife's shoulder, as if to calm her down)* Consider, my dear: She is only a child.

White Queen: *(go between QUEEN OF HEARTS and ALICE)* I do say I know this particular child. Harmless, like the wings of a butterfly, but has a tongue like a viper. It's not her fault, either. Some are born with the tongues of snakes.

Alice: *(angrily)* My tongue does not look like a snake's tongue! I daresay, it looks quite human, see?

ALICE sticks her tongue out at the WHITE QUEEN to prove her point.

White Queen: You see? The viper strikes again. Do not take it personally, dear Queen of Hearts.

ALICE humphs at this and crosses her arms over her chest.

Queen of Hearts: Enough! (*angrily, she turns to the KNAVE*) Well?! Turn them over!

QUEEN OF HEARTS points to the three cards with their noses still planted to the ground in a bow. The KNAVE complies and gingerly pushes them over with one foot.

Queen of Hearts: (*To the cards:*) Get Up!!

The CARDS get up hurriedly. The QUEEN OF HEARTS noticing the rose tree, she screams in outrage, already knowing what the answer would be to her question.

Queen of Hearts: What HAVE you been doing here?!

Two: If it may please your Majesty, we were trying--

QUEEN OF HEARTS storms up to further examine the shape of the roses, and to confirm her suspicions that the roses had been painted.

Queen of Hearts: I see! Off with their Heads!

QUEEN OF HEARTS walks back towards the procession, satisfied with the punishment she had dealt. Meanwhile, the Cards immediately run and hide behind ALICE as if she could save them, which she does.

Alice: You shan't be beheaded! (*ALICE points stage right, and CARDS immediately run off stage*) They're dreadfully fond of beheading people here; it's a great wonder that there's anyone left alive!

Queen of Hearts: (*Who hadn't seen or heard the exchange.*) Are their heads off yet?

ALICE looks around in confusion, not sure what to say. She starts in surprise when all the soldiers say in chorus:

Cards: Their heads are off, if it please your majesty!

The CARD closest to ALICE winks at her. The CARDS stay on stage nodding.

Queen of Hearts: That's right!

White Queen: (*who had been looking at her fingers in boredom*) Are we done here now? I would very much like to get back to the palace and play the game.

White Rabbit: That's right! Oh, your Majesty, we are so very behind schedule. We must be going at once!

Red King: Patience, Rabbit. We will get there eventually. *(to his wife, in a more soothing tone of voice)* My dear, aren't you forgetting something?

Queen of Hearts: What?

White King: Ask the girl to play Croquet. The Duchess is indisposed, remember? We need an extra player.

Queen of Hearts: *(Looks over to ALICE with doubt in her eyes)* Her? Play Croquet?

White King: Yes.

Queen of Hearts: Oh, I doubt she can play Croquet! She wouldn't be a very good addition, anyhow. I always win, so it doesn't matter whether we have the correct amount of players or not. Knave! Go and get me my Tarts! It's time for my morning snack.

The KNAVE looks panicked, and then resigned.

Knave: As you wish.]

Hanging his head, the KNAVE pretends to go and get the tarts, sighing heavily. He goes to the COOK and they argue a bit. Each pushing the other towards the Queen, not wanting to be the one to tell her.

Queen of Hearts: *(Ignoring the KNAVE as if he had never spoken)* Speaking of which, White Rabbit, I really should chop your head off.

White Rabbit: Huh? Why? I didn't do anything, I swear it on my--

Queen of Hearts: *(melodramatically)* You're always late! If you are late to the next thing, I tell you--

COOK shoves KNAVE heavily and he drops to the floor in front of the QUEEN OF HEARTS, and raises an empty tray to her face.

Knave: I-came as fast as I could. The tarts are gone, your majesty. *(takes a deep breath)* All of them, *(Knave looks off wistfully)* gone like the wind..

Queen of Hearts: *(Calmly)* What?

Knave: The tarts...

White Rabbit: The Knave of Hearts stole the Queen's tarts! Guards! Guards!

Queen of Hearts: (*screaming angrily, hitting the empty tray out of his hands*) I heard you! Off with your head! Off with your head! Guards! Take him!

Two Cards in the Queen's possession come up from behind her to bind the KNAVE.

Knave: But-but-I didn't do anything!

Queen of Hearts: Didn't do anything? You dare call stealing my Tarts, not doing anything?

Knave: But I didn't steal th--

Queen of Hearts: Take him away!

GUARDS drag KNAVE off.

Red King: Dear, please. Consider a Trial with this case.'

Queen of Hearts: (*appalled*) Why would I go through the hassle of a trial? I can execute him right now for his crimes.

Red King: Because I'm bored.

Queen of Hearts: Can I still chop his head off?

Red King: Of-course.

Queen of Hearts: (*pondering*) Fine then! A trial it is. (*to the WHITE QUEEN AND KING*) We will push our game of Croquet to the afternoon. I have a trial to attend to. Come. (*She starts to walk away, the CARDS surrounding them, before she remembers to address ALICE*) Oh, and Alice!

Alice: Yes?

Queen of Hearts: Be sure to bring your best flamingo to the game! I wouldn't want you to lose without a fighting chance! Oh, and don't be late for the trial!

Alice: (*to herself*) Flamingo?? What have I gotten myself into?

Everyone in the procession leaves, leaving ALICE alone with the WHITE RABBIT, who was just about to leave as well.

Alice: Mr. White Rabbit, where is the trial? Can you show me a way there?

White Rabbit: (*looking at pocket watch*) Sorry, not enough time. I must be going now if I'm to set up in time for the trial. Oh, my ears and whiskers, how my schedule is changing! That's not good at all, you know!

Alice: Please, I need to know how to get there if I am to make the trial. You heard the Queen. I mustn't be late!

White Rabbit: Late! Speaking of late, I AM late! (*WHITE RABBIT starts his exit.*)

Alice: Wait! I have to get to the Trial too!

ALICE runs off. BILL the lizard wanders on with a tray of tarts, humming to himself.

Music Cue:

Act 1 scene 12

Courtroom

Lights up on the courtroom. The KNAVE of Hearts who is in chains. ALICE enters from stage left and goes to the KNAVE.

Knave: I am glad you are here, I am a grave man.

Alice: But you shall be free when they find out you are innocent.

Knave: (*Laughs*) I am doomed. They won't let me explain. If I could just present my evidence.

Alice: Evidence?

But it is too late, as everyone else enters and ALICE is forced away from the KNAVE. JURORS are all writing very busily on slates. Jurors are: Lory, Bill, Duck, Dodo, Lion, Unicorn, Old Magpie. ALICE enters in with the "Audience" and is very confused by this process. The WHITE RABBIT is waiting for the Queen's arrival.

White Rabbit: Order! Order in the court! The Queen is coming!

ALL Hush.

The JURORS are writing very busily on slates.

Alice: What are they doing? They can't have anything to write down yet. The trial hasn't even started!

Cook: They're putting down their names, for fear they should forget them before the end of the trial.

White Rabbit: Her Imperial Highness, Her Grace, Her Excellency, Her Royal Majesty, the Queen of Hearts!

ALL cheer.

White Rabbit: ... And the King.

Bill the Lizard: Hooray!

QUEEN of HEARTs and RED KING enter. The judge, by the way, is the RED KING; and as he wears his crown over the wig, he does not look at all comfortable, and it is certainly not becoming.

All eyes are on the QUEEN.

Queen of Hearts: Bring in the witnesses!

White Rabbit: Bring in the witnesses!

WHITE RABBIT blows three blasts on the trumpet and in come the two witnesses--The HATTER and the COOK.

Red King: Herald, read the case.

WHITE RABBIT blows three more blasts on the trumpet and then clears his little bunny throat.

White Rabbit: 'The Queen of Hearts, she made some tarts,

All on a summer day:

The Knave of Hearts, he stole those tarts,

And took them quite away!'

JURORS gasp and write furiously on their papers.

Red King: Jurors, have you decided on a verdict?

Old Magpie: After receiving that essential information on the matter, the jury have all come to the conclusion that the Knave of Hearts stole the tarts and is indeed guilty.

QUEEN considers this for a moment before erupting.

Queen of Hearts: Off with his head!

ALICE rises and comes to center

Alice: That isn't right! You certainly must consult the *witnesses* before declaring the verdict!

ALL hush. ALICE, herself, goes unnoticed (for now), but her words bring about a congrual agreeance amongst the JURORS and AUDIENCE MEMBERS. The QUEEN begins to shake her head when the KING nods his head.

Red King: Of course. Herald, call the first witness.

WHITE RABBIT blows on the trumpet yet another three times and gestures towards the HATTER.

Music Cue: Trumpet

White Rabbit: First witness!

The first witness was the HATTER, who enters with tea.

Mad Hatter: I beg pardon, your Majesty, for bringing this in: but I hadn't quite finished my tea when I was sent for.

MAD HATTER sits on throne and mocks the WHITE QUEEN

Red King: You ought to have finished. And take off your hat! This is a courtroom!

Mad Hatter: It is not *my* hat.

Red King: Stolen?!

KING gestures to the JURORS.

Red King: Write that down!

JURORS all write things down, becoming very suspicious.

Mad Hatter: Your *honor*. My hat is not stolen. I do not *own* any hats-- I sell them. I am a hatter.

Red King: No matter... Give your evidence.

Queen of Hearts: Don't be nervous, or I'll have you executed on the spot!

HATTER laughs maniacally. QUEEN grows more infuriated.

Queen of Hearts: Give your evidence, or I'll have you executed, whether you're nervous or *not*.

Mad Hatter: (*Unfazed*). I'm a poor woman, your Majesty,—and I hadn't begun my tea—not above a week or so—and what with the bread-and-butter getting so thin—and the twinkling of the tea—

Red King: The twinkling of the *what*?

Mad Hatter: It *began* with the tea.

Red King: Of course twinkling begins with a T! Do you take me for a dunce? Go on!

Mad Hatter: I'm a poor woman, and most things twinkled after that—only the March Hare said—

March Hare: I didn't!

Mad Hatter: You did!

March Hare: I deny it!

MARCH HARE grows increasingly distressed. ALICE, being the kind, compassionate soul she is, decides to step in once more!

Alice: He denies it, leave out that part.

March Hare: Well, at any rate, the Dormouse said—

Looks to HATTER for an answer.

Mad Hatter: After that I cut some more bread-and-butter—as

Lion: But what did the Dormouse say?

Mad Hatter: That I can't remember. I'd much rather finish my tea, if you don't mind.

Red King: It is *not* tea time. You *must* remember, or I'll have you executed.

Mad Hatter: I'm a poor woman, your Majesty—

Red King: You're a *very* poor *speaker*. If that's all you know about it, you may stand down.

Mad Hatter: I can't go any lower, I'm on the floor as it is.

Red King: Then you may *sit*.

Mad Hatter: (*Through her teeth*). I'd *much* rather finish my tea.

Red King: (*to HATTER*) You may go.

HATTER exits.

Queen of Hearts: (*to OFFICER*) —and just take her head off outside. *ki*

Red King: Call the next witness!

Music Cue: Trumpet

COOK comes forward

Red King: Give your evidence.

Cook: Well, I made the tarts as I do before every croquet game. Of course, there was too much pepper at first and then I had to make another batch. And then, there was not *enough* pepper, you see, so I had to make *another* batch. And then finally, when the tarts were peppered just the right amount, I sent them with the Knave to the Queen's match.

Queen: The Knave stole my tarts! Off with his head!

The WHITE RABBIT picks a letter off the ground. Maybe BILL the Lizard has dropped it.

White Rabbit: There's more evidence to come yet, please your Majesty--this paper has just been picked up.

Queen: What's in it?

White Rabbit: I haven't opened it yet, but it seems to be a letter, written by the prisoner to—to somebody.

Red King: It must have been that, unless it was written to nobody, which isn't usual, you know.

Bill: Who is it addressed to?

White Rabbit: It isn't addressed at all, in fact, there's nothing written on the *outside*.

Knave: Please your Majesty, I didn't write it, and they can't prove I did: there's no name signed at the end.

Red King: If you didn't sign it, that only makes the matter worse. You *must* have meant some mischief, or else you'd have signed your name like an honest man

Queen: (*Increasingly more agitated*). Off. With. His. Head!

Alice: Do any of you have any sense?! The first verdict was invalid and the true verdict is nonexistent!

ALL hush. One by one, the witnesses begin to notice Alice and WHO she is.

Cook: Say, weren't *you* the girl there with me as I baked the tarts earlier?

Dodo: *Earlier?* No, *earlier*, she won a race with me!

Duchess: You all have it wrong. *Earlier*, she was with me in my cottage!

Caterpillar: You, you think she was with you. No *Earlier* she was with me interrupting my thoughts and never answered any of my questions.

March Hare: (*Squints eyes at ALICE before finally recognizing her*). Oh Mary Ann? She drank tea with *me, earlier!*

DORMOUSE drowsily interjects.

Dormouse: Technically, she could have done all of these things. It has been quite some time.

ALL CHARACTERS ignore this and carry on their argument. ALICE runs to the KNAVE.

Red King: Capture her!

Lion: Beat her!

Unicorn: Suppress her!

Two: Guilty!

Five: Who are you!

Seven: She's not real!

Bill: She stole the tarts!!!

*ALL of them believe that Alice has **only** visited **them**.*

There is an uproar of disagreement. Everyone is shouting, the KNAVE is trying to protect ALICE, others are throwing things. Suddenly all goes silent.

Queen of Hearts: SILENCE!!!! I've heard enough! (*Points to ALICE*). She stole my tarts! Off with her head!

BLACKOUT.

Music Cue:

Act 2 Scene 1

Jail Cell

The Queen of Hearts Dungeon. HUMPTY DUMPTY, BILL the Lizard and ALICE are locked up together in the jail cell.

Single light held on Alice in the cell.

Alice: Have I ever been in jail before? There are a great many things I learning today, it is quite a grand adventure. The Queen, she seemed to want my head. Perhaps she had a change of heart. Hah! Heart! What a pun! I wonder what the Queen might think to see all of her beheaded subjects still alive and well. What a horrid woman. I think I might be a better queen than her. All of MY subjects would keep their heads. Imagine that, Queen Alice.

Lights up on jail cell.

Bill: Queen Alice....It has a ring to it.

ALICE stands.

Alice: Oh my! I am sorry! I did not know you were here!

Bill: Yeah, that's what they all say. I'm Bill. Bill the Lizard!

Alice: Oh that's lovely, So how'd you get put in here...Bill?

Bill: Oh, I didn't get put in, I just sat down to rest, but I shut the door and now can't get out.

Alice: Bill!

Bill: Yeah... What about you?

Alice: Well, I was falsely prosecuted for the abduction of lovely fruit filled pastries!

Bill: I'm sorry but I didn't understand a thing you just said...

Alice: Some people got mad at me because they "THINK" I stole the Queen's tarts.

Bill: That's just horrible!

Humpty Dumpty: *(loudly sobbing)*

Alice: Oh my!

Humpty Dumpty: They never came!

Alice: Who never came?

Humpty Dumpty: All the king's horses and all the king's men, couldn't put- WAH!
(loudly sobs)

Bill: Look what you've done now. Humpty, what do we do in this situation?
Breathe- in, out, in, out.

BILL leads HUMPTY-DUMPTY in the lamaze breathing technique.

Alice: I didn't mean to upset her. I was just curious why she was crying.

Bill: Well, now you know.

Alice: I could tell her a story to cheer him up. You quite remind me of a nursery rhyme character from when I was little. It goes like this:

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall, Humpty Dumpty had a great fall,
all the kings' horses and all the kings' men
couldn't put Humpty.....

Humpty: *(Sobs loudly).*

Alice: Oh, I'm sorry! *(CHESHIRE appears)* Cheshire!

While this is happening, HUMPTY and BILL go through the motions of crying and calming Humpty down.

Cheshire Cat: Hello my friend...and others.

Alice: Can you get us out of here?

CHESHIRE CAT ignores her and walks around and after a pause, continues.

Cheshire Cat: What force and strength cannot get through,

I with a gentle touch can do.
and many in these twisted halls would stand
were I not, as a friend, at hand.

CHESHIRE drops key then disappears.

Alice: Cheshire, what does that have to do with... anything?

Humpty Dumpty: It's the way to get out, I bet.

Bill: That is one hard puzzle.

Alice: It could be a secret passageway.

Humpty Dumpty: It could be the king's horses and the king's men. Maybe they're finally coming to put me back together.

Alice: I don't think so, Humpty.

Humpty Dumpty: *(loudly cries)*

Bill: Oh look, it's a key!

Alice: Oh, Bill. Thank you!

Humpty Dumpty: You saved us Alice!

Alice: But, I didn't do a thing.

Bill: She who saves a single soul, saves the universe!

ALL exit stage. BILL Mission impossible exits.

KNAVE OF HEARTS enters only to notice the jail cell is empty.

KNAVE: Oh off with my head!

Music Cue: Barbie 12 dancing princesses

Scene 2

Flowers, White Queen and Alice

FLOWERS dance around. TWEEDLES enter and watch/ dance, be Tweedles. ALICE enters and FLOWERS freeze back in their places stage left. ALICE comes in scared, running, because she was hoping to get away from the prison and castle as fast as possible.

Music Cue: Fade music

Alice: I do hope I am far enough away from that wretched palace. (*Notices the FLOWERS*) Oh the garden, I've finally arrived. Tiger Lily! How I do wish you could talk to me!

Tiger Lily: We can talk... When there's anybody worth talking to.

Daisy: Or about.

All FLOWERS giggle.

Alice: (*Timidly*) And can all the flowers talk?

Tiger Lily: As well as you can. And a great deal louder...

All FLOWERS giggle.

Rose: It isn't manners for us to begin, you know. And I really was wondering when you'd speak!

Daisy: Her face has got SOME sense in it, though it's not a very clever one! Still, you're the right color, and that goes a long way.

Violet: I don't care about the color, if only her petals curled up a little more, she'd be all right.

Alice: Aren't you sometimes frightened at being planted out here, with nobody to take care of you?

Rose: There's the tree in the middle, what else is it good for?

Alice: But what could it do, if any danger came?

Daisy: It says Bough-wough! that's why its branches are called boughs!

Violet: Didn't you know that?

ALL mock and tease ALICE.

Tiger Lily: Silence, every one of you! (*Waving her leaves*) They know I can't get at them! Or they wouldn't dare to do it!

Alice: Never mind! (*Whispering*) If you don't hold your tongues, I'll pick you!

DAISIES gasp dramatically.

Tiger Lily: That's right! (*to Alice*) The daisies are worst of all. When one speaks, they all begin together, and it's enough to make one wither, to hear the way they go on!

Alice: How is it you can all talk so nicely? I've been in many gardens before, but none of the flowers could talk...

Daisy: Put your hand down and feel the ground, then you'll know why.

Alice: (*feeling the ground*) It's very hard, but I don't see what that has to do with it.

Tiger Lily: In most gardens, they make the beds too soft—so that the flowers are always asleep.

Alice: Why, I never thought of that before!

Rose: It is opinion that you never think AT ALL!

Violet: I never saw anybody that looked more foolish.

Tiger Lily: Hold your tongue! As if YOU ever saw anybody! You keep your head under the leaves, and snore away there, till you know no more what's going on in the world, than if you were a bud!

VIOLET gasps.

Rose: Just what type of flower are you, my dear?

Alice: Well, I guess you would call me a... Alice.

Daisy: Ever see an Alice with stem like that?

Violet: Come to think of it, did you ever see an Alice?

Alice: Are there any more people in the garden besides me?

Rose: There's one other flower in the garden that can move about like you, I wonder how you do it—

Tiger Lily: You're always wondering.

Daisy: However, she's more bushy than you are.

Alice: Is she like me?

Rose: Well, she has the same awkward shape as you, but she's whiter—and her petals are fuller, I think.

Violet: Yeah - not wilting about like yours.

Rose: But that's not YOUR fault, you're beginning to fade, you know—and then one can't help one's petals getting a little untidy.

Daisy: (*chuckling, as she lifts up one side of ALICE's dress*) And just look at those stems.

Rose: (*as ALICE slaps the DAISY's leaves away*) Rather scrawny, I'd say.

Tigerlily: I think she's pretty.

Violet: Quiet, Tigerlily.

Alice: Does she ever come out here?

Tiger Lily: I daresay you'll see her soon, She's one of the thorny kinds.

Alice: Where does she wear the thorns?

Rose: Why all round her head, of course, I was wondering why YOU hadn't got some too. I thought it was the regular rule.

Alice: She has thorns on her head? Why, I do believe you are talking about the White Queen!

Violet: She's coming! I hear her footsteps along the gravel-walk!

BEAT.

Alice: I think I'll go meet her!

FLOWERS flounce off stage left.

Music Cue: Mad Hatter's tea Party

Alice: White Queen! White Queen!

The WHITE QUEEN runs on, sees her, and stops in her tracks. Then her expression changes as she approaches ALICE and places her hand on her shoulder.

White Queen: Alice, darling, whatever could be the matter?

Alice: I'm afraid I will stay here forever, but all I want is to return home. ~~Everywhere I go, there is no way home.~~ I'm starting to think it's impossible—

Music Cue: Fade music out

White Queen: A-ha! And what have I taught you of impossible things?

Alice: That things are only impossible when you believe them to be..(*ALICE has a moment of realization and jumps up.*) Do you mean to say that if I believe leaving Wonderland is possible, not impossible, I can do it?!

White Queen: Exactly so!

Alice: Oh, that is the best news I have heard all day! Please, White Queen, tell me: how do I return home?

White Queen: It is difficult, but these things generally are. Look around you, Alice, darling. What do you see?

Alice: (*Studies the landscape intently*) I declare the forest is marked out just like a large chessboard. It's a great huge game of chess that's being played—all over the world—if this is a world at all, you know.

White Queen: Precisely! And how does one end a game of chess?

Alice: By reaching the opponent's end.

White Queen: You see, Alice, you're in the second square to begin with, and when you get to the eighth square, you will have reached your opponent's end. Once you do so, (darling), you can return home!

Alice: That seems easily managed! But who could my opponent be?

White Queen: Why, I believe she owns the very palace you just escaped from.

Alice: The Queen of Hearts? Oh, however could I defeat her? That is imposs—
(*WHITE QUEEN gives ALICE a pointed look*) I mean... nothing is impossible if I believe so.

White Queen: That's the spirit! *If you believe you can defeat her, you shall, and then you shall become Queen and return home, if that is your wish.* Now, Alice, as a pawn you go two squares in your first move, you know. So you'll go VERY quickly through the Third Square—and you'll find yourself in the Fourth Square in no time. Well, THAT square belongs to Tweedledum and Tweedledee—the Fifth is filled with a fight—the Sixth belongs to my Husband—the Seventh Square is all forest—however, one of the Knights will show you the way—and in the Eighth Square we shall be Queens together, and it's all feasting and fun!

Alice: How ever shall I thank you, your majesty?

White Queen: By staying sweet and believing, child. Now, Alice, darling, you must be on your way! Follow this direction as this is the way of the board. I bid you luck, and I hope to see you when we are Queens together! (*Runs off*).

Alice: (*Waving*) Goodbye! Thank you!

Music Cue: C'est Ce la Part II

Scene 3

Tweedledee and Tweedledum

ALICE walks on and finds a sign reading: "To Tweedledum's House," and one that said "To Tweedledee's House."

Alice: I do believe, that they live in the same house! I'll just call and say "how d'you do?" and ask them the way out of the wood. If I could only get the Eighth Square before it gets dark.

ALICE runs stage right to find TWEEDLEDEE and TWEEDLEDUM standing together still as stone. ALICE walks around them almost forgetting they were alive. When DUM speaks ALICE tumbles backwards.

Dum: We were wondering when you would show up. I was thinking you would never make it out of that flowerbed, nohow!

Music Cue: Music Fade

Dee: *(Walking around bench)* Contrariwise, I thought you had gone back and drowned in that tear pool.

Alice: I do apologize again.

ALICE grins at them then looks around at the surroundings. The brothers look between themselves and her. BOTH lift ALICE onto the bench.

Dum: I know what you're thinking about and it isn't so. It can't be so because it never was so and it never will be so. As such, it isn't so. Nohow.

Dee: Contrariwise, if it was so, it might be, and if it were so, it would be. And if it was so then it will be so, if it is not so, it will never be so. If it is so, that applies that it had been so, and therefore it was so, it is so, and it will continue to be so for the foreseeable future. Maybe it could be so, and maybe it will be so. I would quite like it to be so, and my dream is for it to be so. I have one more dream, and I wrote a song about it. Would you like to hear it? *(insert lyrics to Bernie Sanders why won't you love me?)* But he doesn't love me. It isn't so. And as it isn't, it ain't. That's logic. *(sit on bench)*

Alice: *(Sit on bench)* I was thinking which is the best way out of this wood; it's getting so dark and I need to get home. Would you tell me, please?

But the TWEEDLES only look at each other and grin. They looked so exactly like a couple of great schoolboys, that Alice can't help pointing her finger at TWEEDLEDUM.

Alice: First boy!

Dum: *(Jumps to stand on bench)* Nohow!

Alice: *(points at DEE)* Next boy!

Alice & Dee: (*Jumps to stand on bench*) Contrariwise!

ALICE laughs.

Dum: You've been wrong! The first thing in a visit is to say "How d'ye do?" and shake hands.

TWEEDLES jump off bench. DUM runs SL turns and both DEE and DUM run at each other hugging. Do a handshake. Then they hold out the two hands that are free, to shake hands with ALICE. ALICE takes hold of both hands at once: the next moment they are dancing round in a ring. Music. DEE and DUM collapse on the ground, ALICE looks awkwardly on.

Dum: (panting) Four times round is enough for one dance.

Music fades. DEE tries to lift DUM off the ground.

Alice: It would never do to say "How d'ye do?" *now* we seem to have got beyond that, somehow. (*turning to brothers*) I hope you're not much tired?

Both DEE and DUM fall back to the ground.

Dum: Nohow. And thank you *very* much for asking.

ALICE easily lifts DEE and DUM up to standing. ALICE stops to listen to something that sounds like the puffing of a large steam-engine in the wood.

Alice: Are there any lions or tigers about here?

Dee: It's only the Red King snoring.

Dee&Dum: (*Linking arms*) Come and look at him!

TWEEDLES lead ALICE to the where the RED KING is sleeping.

Dum: Isn't he a *lovely* sight? Fit to snore his head off!

Alice: I'm afraid he'll catch cold lying on the damp grass.

Dee: He's dreaming now! And what do you think he's dreaming about?

ALICE sits down next to KING.

Alice: Nobody can guess that.

Dee: Why, about *you*!

Alice: Me? You would have to be half mad to dream me up.

DEE flicks ALICE's nose.

Dee: And if he left off dreaming about you, where do you suppose you'd be?

Alice: Where I am now, of course.

Dee: Not you! You'd be nowhere. Why, you're only a sort of thing in his dream!

Dum: If that there King was to wake you'd go out- bang!- just like a light!

Alice: *(Standing)* I shouldn't! Besides, if I'm only a sort of thing in his dream, what are you, I should like to know?

Dum: Ditto.

Dee: Ditto, ditto.

Alice: Hush! You'll be waking him, I'm afraid, if you make so much noise.

ALICE leads TWEEDLES away from RED KING and scolds them.

Dum: Well, it's no use *your* talking about waking him when you're only one of the things in his dream. You know very well you're not real.

Alice: I AM real! *(tears swelling)*

Dee: You won't make yourself a bit realer by crying. There's nothing to cry about.

Alice: If I wasn't real, I should be able to cry.

Dum: I hope you don't suppose those are real tears?

Alice: I know they're talking nonsense and it's foolish to cry about it. At any rate I'd better be getting out the wood, I really need to get to the eighth square soon.

DUM spreads a large umbrella over himself and his brother and looks up into it.

Dum: Do you see that?

DEE runs and holds up harmonica.

Alice: It's only an old harmonica- quite old and broken.

Dum: I knew it was! It's spoilt, of course!

DUM looks at DEE and points

Dum: *He* did it!

Alice: You needn't be so angry about an old harmonica.

Dum: (*Grab harmonica from DEE*) But it isn't old. It's new, I tell you- I bought it yesterday- my nice new harmonica!

Dee: I didn't spoil it!

TWEEDLES verbally fight. ALICE holds both back. Finally they step back and ALICE falls flat on her face.

Dum: Of course, you agree to have a battle?

Dee: I suppose so. Only *she* must help us to dress up, you know.

Dum: I hope you're a good hand at pinning and tying strings? Every one of these has got to go on, somehow or other.

TWEEDLES have dumped armfuls of bolsters, blankets, hearth-rugs, table-clothes, dish-covers, and coal-scuttles. ALICE stands up to help dress them.

Dum: Our armor.

Dee: Our helmets.

Dum: And our swords.

Alice: (*Giggling*) Such a silly thing to fight about!

Dum: I wouldn't mind so much if it hadn't been a new one. Nohow.

Dee: I didn't mean to step on it.

Dum: You did it on purpose!

Dee: I didn't!

Dum: (*Clinging to ALICE*) Do I look very pale?

Alice: A little-

Dum: I'm very brave, generally. Only *now* I have a headache.

Dee: (*Clinging to ALICE*) And *I've* got a toothache!

Alice: (*Patting their heads*) Then you'd better not fight today.

Dum: And have *him* think I'm a coward?

Dee: And have *him* think I'm a coward?

Alice: I'm sure you're both very brave.

After everything is put on. TWEEDLES turn, sit and pout.

Dum: We *must* have a bit of a fight, but I don't care about going on long. What's the time now?

Dee: Half-past four.

Dum: Let's fight till six, and then have dinner.

Dee: Very well and she can watch us

Alice: And all about a harmonica!

Dum: I wouldn't have minded it so much if it hadn't been a new one. (*swoop in, catfight, return to spots*)

Dee: I didn't do it on purpose!

The TWEEDLES argue

Dum: Y'know, I'm kind of regretting how I started this whole thing...but we can't back out now, I suppose.

Dee: Ditto.

Dum: Ditto ditto.

TWEEDLES collide and fight their way offstage.

Music Cue: Fanfair

Scene 4:

The Lion and the Unicorn

SOLDIERS come awkwardly running through the forest and ALICE moves out of the way, so she is not run over. BILL the lizard runs galumphing across last and quite late. As she moves, she comes across the WHITE KING sitting on the ground writing in a book.

White King: I've sent them all!!! Did you happen to see any soldiers as you were coming through the forest?

Alice: Yes I did. I saw a couple, but I heard a thousand I should think.

White King: Four thousand two hundred and seven to be exact. It's written right in my book. I could not send all the soldiers, you know, because two of them are needed in the game. And I haven't sent the two messengers too. They have both gone to the town. Just look along the road and tell me if you can see them.

Alice: I see nobody. *(keeps looking at road)*

White King: I only wish I had such eyes to be able to see Nobody! And at that distance too! Why it's as much as I can do to see real people, by this light.

Alice: Why, I think I see somebody now! But He's coming very slowly and he's skipping kangaroo and wriggling like an eel. And his hands seem to be spread out like an eagle's wings.

WHITE KING and ALICE start to meander to front center stage.

White King: He only does them when he's happy. He's the March Hare. 'He lives on the Hill. The other Messenger's called Hatter. I must have TWO messengers, you know—to come and go. One to come, and one to go.'

Alice: Why one to come and one to go?

White King: Didn't I tell you? I must have Two—to fetch and carry. One to fetch, and one to carry.

MARCH HARE enters and collapses over the rock. He is far too much out of breath to say a word, and could only wave his hands about, and make the most fearful faces at the poor KING.

March Hare: Ah! Mary-Anne, were you happy in prison, dear child?

Alice: My name is Alice!

White King: *(Stands)* Who did you pass on the road?

March Hare: Nobody.

White King: Quite right. This young lady saw him too. So of course Nobody walks slower than you.

March Hare: We do my best. I'm sure nobody walks much faster than we do!

White King: He can't do that or else he'd have been here first. However, now you've got your breath, you may tell us what's happened in the town.'

March Hare: *(Standing on rock)* I'll whisper it. *(Shouting in his ear)* They're at it again!

WHITE KING knocks into ALICE and she falls to the ground.

White King: Do you call THAT a whisper? If you do such a thing again, I'll have you buttered! It went through and through my head like an earthquake!

Alice: It would have to be a very tiny earthquake! Who are at it again?

White King: *(Helps ALICE up)* Why the Lion and the Unicorn, of course.

Alice: Fighting for the crown?

White King: Yes, to be sure and the best of the joke is, that it's MY crown all the while! Let's run and see them.

They run Exit.

LION and UNICORN and COMPANY run on with Boxing Ring.

Alice: *(Out of breath)* Does—the one—that wins—get the crown?

White King: Dear me, no! What an idea!

UNICORN and LION warming up on stage. HATTER is watching with a cup of tea. WHITE KING joins HATTER. ALICE also meets them, stage right.

Hatter: They're getting on very well. Each of them has been down about eighty-seven times.

White King: Well it's obvious that the only way to settle this is to have one final match.

Alice: Oh, how dreadfully savage, but I suppose if there is no other way.

Unicorn: We must fight for the crown!

Lion: I will win easy!

Unicorn: I'm not so sure of that.

Lion: Why, I beat you all round the town, you chicken!

March Hare: And now for the moment you have been waiting for!

The Final Countdown music. HATTER and MARCH HARE walk to UNICORN and LION.

Hatter: (*Holding up UNICORN's arm*) In this corner we have the unicorn, (*CHEERS*) weighing a remarkable 50 pounds! Her hobbies include rolling in glitter, playing the bagpipes and taking long walks on the beach.

March Hare: (*Holding up LION's arm*) And in this corner we have the Lion, (*CHEERS*) weighing a measly 400 pounds. In her spare time, you can find her at the zoo watching the flamingos, at the deli trying new kinds of meat, or at the bookstore.

March Hare and Hatter: LET'S GET READY TO RUMBLE!

DORMOUSE comes on with round one sign. The LION and UNICORN fight. UNICORN falls.

Bill: Hey Lion, why don't you slip into something more comfortable?..... like a - a - a coma?!

Continue trash talk.

March Hare: And the Unicorn took a twinkling down!

Hatter: Probably slipped on butter. We used too much.

March Hare: NO! I used the best butter!

White King: Silence! Continue.

Round two and they fight.

UNICORN and LION trash talk each other.

Round three. They collapse simultaneously. Beat. Vigorous, polite golf clap.

Alice: Well, who has won?

Unicorn: What—is—this?

Lion: Are you animal—vegetable—or mineral?

March Hare: This is a child! We only found it to-day. It's uncommonly rude.

Lion: I always thought they were fabulous monsters!

Unicorn: Is it alive?

Hatter: It can talk.

Lion and Unicorn: Talk, child.

Alice: Do you know, I always thought Unicorns were fabulous monsters, too! I never saw one alive before.

Unicorn: Well, now that we HAVE seen each other, if you'll believe in me, I'll believe in you. Is that a bargain?

Alice: It's a deal. But who has won the match?

Lion: Obviously me.

Unicorn: What are you talking about?

LION and UNICORN argue, fighting offstage right.

CROWD follows cheering. ALICE is left alone on stage.

Music Cue:

Alice: How puzzling all these changes are! I'm never sure where I'm going to be, from one minute to another.

ALICE notices the CATERPILLER

Alice: Please Miss Caterpillar, would you tell me—

Caterpillar: Speak when you're spoken to!

Alice: But if everybody obeyed that rule, and if you only spoke when you were spoken to, and the other person always waited for you to begin, you see nobody would ever say anything, so that—

Caterpillar: Ridiculous! Who are you!?

Alice: Who in the world am I? That's a great puzzle, I have changed so much since coming here.

Caterpillar: That is what one does as you live, you change.

The CATERPILLAR changes into a butterfly

Alice: Miss Butterfly!

Caterpillar: Who are you?

Alice: I should like to be a Queen, so I can go home.

Caterpillar: A little advice before you become Queen. It doesn't matter who you are; as long as you are true to your heart.

Alice: Thank you Miss. Butterfly.

Caterpillar: Goodbye Alice

The CATERPILLER departs and ALICE moves onward.

Scene 5:

The Red and White Knights

Alice: This must be the seventh square.

A galloping, clanking sound. Suddenly the KNAVE OF HEARTS appears brandishing a great pool noodle.

KNAVE: AHOY! AHOY! Check! You're my prisoner in the name of the Queen of Hearts!

Alice: I beg your pardon?

KNAVE: YOU are MY prison-

More galloping, clanking sounds. WHITE KNIGHT gallops in stage right.

White Knight: AHOY! AHOY! Check!

KNAVE: Oh, not you, White! She's MY prisoner, you know!

KNAVE OF HEARTS steps between WHITE KNIGHT and ALICE.

White Knight: Well, yes, but I am here to rescue her in the name of the White Queen.

KNAVE: Well then, I suppose we must FIGHT for her!

White Knight: You will observe the rules of battle, of course?

KNAVE: I always do!

WHITE KNIGHT takes stage right, KNAVE takes stage left. "O Fortuna" plays as both charge dramatically.

Knights: YAH!

Once the KNIGHTs reach each other the music changes to light and fluffy as they begin to hit each other with the pool noodles. ALICE starts upstage of

the KNIGHTs, looking at them oddly, eventually walking downstage to watch. The KNIGHTs fight. KNAVE wildly swings his “sword” as the WHITE KNIGHT charges only to retreat.

Knights: YAH!

KNIGHTs fight. After the three swings, WHITE KNIGHT falls. KNAVE thinks he has won.

KNAVE: All too easy.

WHITE KNIGHT approaches KNAVE, threatening to stab him. WHITE KNIGHT backs off, and then returns, defeating KNAVE.

White Knight: All too easy.

KNAVE: Please don't do this! She'll chop off my head again, you know!

WHITE turns away. KNAVE gets on his knees, begging, as WHITE walks up to Alice.

KNAVE: Do you have any idea how hard it is to come up with a NEW NAME EVERY SINGLE DAY?!?

WHITE KNIGHT walks to ALICE, offers his hand to her and leads her to the bench.

White Knight: *(Standing)* It was a glorious victory, wasn't it?

Alice: Well, I suppose so... *(Looking over at KNAVE)* but I don't want to be anybody's prisoner, I want to be a Queen!

WHITE KNIGHT sits next to ALICE and gestures to audience.

White Knight: And so you shall, once you cross the next brook! I'll see you safe to the end of the wood, but then I must turn back. *(Standing)* That's the end of my move!

Alice: Thank you very much!

Music Cue: One Last Vow

The TWEEDLEs whistle to ALIC

E and lead her to the Eight square.

Scene 6

The Croquet Game

Alice: *(waves goodbye offstage)* The Eighth Square at last!

White Rabbit: It's—it's a very fine day!

Alice: Very.

Music Cue: Fade music out

White Rabbit: Why, Mary-Ann what are you doing out of the dungeons?

Alice: They didn't suit me.

WHITE RABBIT looks at ALICE with a pleased smile, she is understanding Wonderland.

White Rabbit: My dear, I do believe you are finding yourself here.

Alice: Here? In Wonderland?

White Rabbit: Is that what you've named it?

CARDS start to GATHER. EVERYONE starts to set up. The QUEEN OF HEARTS enters.

Queen of Hearts: Get to your places!

Alice: Checkmate.

Queen of Hearts: *(glares at Alice)* Off with her head!

Nobody moves

White Queen: She knows our rules, my dear.

Queen of Hearts: Off with her head!

Two: Forgive me your majesty, but it is against the rules to interfere with the Queen's challenger.

Queen of Hearts: I know the rules just as well as you do. Alright, my dear, but to get to the crown, you'll have to get through me first. Everyone to their places! *(cards move to places)* *(to Alice)* I hope you can keep up, girlie.

Mad Hatter: Ladies and gentlemen!

March Hare: Boys and girls!

Mad Hatter: Assorted Creatures of all kinds! Welcome to Wonderland's 300th annual croquet game!

March Hare: The 384th of its kind!

Mad Hatter: Our first competitor is *(unamusedly)* Oh, look at that; The Queen of Hearts.

Music Cue: *Vivaldi's Spring plays*

Queen of Hearts: Fore!!

QUEEN pushes DORMOUSE upstage through first croquet blockade and continues onto the second.

Mad Hatter: And she takes the shot!

March Hare: 1 point, 2 points...

The DORMOUSE gets up and runs through the last blockade.

March Hare: Three points for the Queen of Hearts.

Mad Hatter: *(dryly)* Yay. How excellent. Our next competitor is newcomer Mary Ann!

March Hare: Hi Mary Ann!

ALICE waves.

Mad Hatter: And she takes the shot!

CARDS close the silks and the DORMOUSE stops rolling.

March Hare: Oh! A disappointing shot from Alice. She'll do better next time.

Mad Hatter: There is a next time, right?

March Hare: *(gravely)* ... I think? Next up is the Queen of Hearts again.

The QUEEN lines up for her shot. The TWEEDLES rush in and take her crown.

Sound: Record scratch

Tweedles: Alice! Go long!

Sound: *NFL theme song plays*

TWEEDLES throw ALICE the crown. ALL move to their football positions. HARE and HATTER move to the apron and sit on the edge of the stage with tea.

Mad Hatter: American football! Wonderland's ninth favorite pastime!

Queen of Hearts: Down! Set! Hut Hut Hike!

She throws the ball in slow motion.

March Hare: The queen throws the ball to the Knave of Hearts!

The ball is passed around, and ends up in the hands of the WHITE QUEEN.

White Queen: Oh! I got it!

CARD steals it from her.

White Queen: I should have seen this coming.

The game continues.

Mad Hatter: Give me a T!

March Hare: T!

Mad Hatter: Give me an E!

March Hare: E!

Mad Hatter: Give me an A!

March Hare: A!

Mad Hatter: What does that spell?

Hare and Hatter: Sports!

The game continues in slow motion.

Mad Hatter: Does this seem a bit slow to you?

March Hare: What ever do you mean?

HARE and HATTER make comments as the game progresses. ALICE gets the ball and scores a touchdown.

March Hare: Touchdown!

Card Alyssa: The Game is over!!!

ALL Cheer.

Queen of Hearts: Off with her head!

ALL laugh.

Knave: You are no Queen of ours.

Queen of Hearts: Off with his head!

White Queen: You, my dear, lost the game, Alice is now Queen.

All: Off with her head!!!

ALL swarm the QUEEN OF HEARTS and carry her off stage.

Scene 7

The Coronation

Sound: Coronation Music

ALICE stands on a little foot stool looking at herself in the mirror. HATTER is putting hats on ALICE while the WHITE RABBIT fixes her dress. CHESHIRE CAT lays at ALICE's feet. The WHITE QUEEN wanders around fixing things... DORMOUSE is there too...

Sound: Music fades

March Hare: (*Looking at HATTER and DORMOUSE*) I invite you to Alice's dinner-party this afternoon. (*Looking at ALICE*) And I invite you.

Alice: I didn't know I was to have a party at all, but, if there *is* to be one, I think I ought to invite the guests.

Dormouse: We gave you the opportunity of doing it.

March Hare: But I daresay you've not had many lessons in manners yet.

DORMOUSE and MARCH HARE exit. While the HATTER is still fussing over ALICE.

ALICE and HATTER continue trying on hats as CHESHIRE CAT goes to ALICE.

Cheshire Cat: Every adventure requires a first step. Trite, but true, even here.

Alice: What if I still don't know which way I ought to be going?

Cheshire Cat: Only a few find the way, some don't recognize it when they do - some... don't ever want to.

CHESHIRE CAT exits as ALICE looks after. The WHITE QUEEN takes the crown the KNAVE had been holding and goes to polish it.

KNAVE exits. HATTER tries on another hat, but stops to have a serious conversation with ALICE.

Mad Hatter: Do you think you'll come for tea sometime?

Alice: I should like that very much.

Mad Hatter: We'll use the best butter.

Dee: Are you crying right now?

Dum: No, you're crying, you big baby

Dee: I have allergies! (To Alice) You should come over to my house and play with me sometime.

Dum: No you should come play at my house! (pause) aww, why are we fighting anyway?

Dee: I don't even know. (they hug)

Alice: I would quite enjoy to play with you both.

ALICE and TWEEDLES hug, TWEEDLES exit stage. Offstage, they reminisce about their father who died in woodchipper incident

Alice: Have I gone mad?

Mad Hatter: I'm afraid so, but let me tell you something, the best people usually are.

HATTER smiles and ALICE sighs deeply.

HATTER and ALICE smile at each other. The WHITE QUEEN comes over to the two.

White Queen: Remember, nothing is ever impossible. (*WHITE QUEEN hands the crown to ALICE*) Oh Alice, you were meant to find us-

Alice: But this isn't my home...

White Queen: (*Quietly*) It could be.

ALICE looks to the WHITE QUEEN for answers. Sighing, the WHITE QUEEN takes the crown back.

White Queen: There are two roads you can take. If you choose to stay, you will be loved by all those in your Wonderland.

Alice: And if I don't?

White Queen: Home.

Alice: But how does it work?

White Queen: Traditionally one puts a crown on her head. (*ALICE gives the WHITE QUEEN a look*) Trust your heart and your head will guide you home.

Alice: You have been so good to me, White Queen...

White Queen: Whatever you choose, you will always be welcomed back with open arms and singing.

Alice: How do I know which to choose?

White Queen: You will find the right path, my dear.

ALICE gazes off. The WHITE QUEEN exits quietly.

Alice: Is this the end?

White Rabbit: The question is: Is there any such thing?

Alice: Everything must come to an end at some point.

White Rabbit: It might just be a beginning.

ALICE takes the crown, takes a big breath and places it on her head.

As the White Rabbit pulls back the curtain, the lights flash and ALICE finds herself on a chair in front of a fireplace.

Music Cue: Mad Tea Party?

Scene 8

The Birthday Party

Lights up on ALICE sitting on a big arm chair alone in a room stage right. To the stage left is a grand mirror atop a glowing fireplace. ALICE's crown is replaced with her birthday hat.

Carroll: Alice! (offstage) Alice!

SON enters stage right looking for ALICE, along with CARROLL

Son: There you are, come on everyone is looking for you, we can't very well open presents without the birthday girl.

Alice: I'll be down in just a second.

SON exits back out stage right. CARROLL lingers.

Carroll: You seem to be off in your head with your own adventures, my dear.

Alice: (*Hugging and very surprised CARROLL*) Oh, Mr. Carroll! I could tell you my adventures—beginning from this morning, but it's no use going back, because I was a different person then. I have seen so many extraordinary things, nothing seems extraordinary any more.

Carroll: Imagination is the only weapon in the war against reality.

Alice: But was it just my imagination, Mr. Carroll?

CARROLL holds out his present to ALICE.

Carroll: Life, what is it but a dream?

Alice: My present?

She opens it and finds a copy of "Alices Adventures Underground."

CARROLL exits.

ALICE opens up her book and reads

Alice: Thus grew the tale of Wonderland:
Slowly, one by one,
It's quaint events were surely grand-

But now the tale is done,
And home we steer, a merry crew,
Beneath the setting sun.
Now it's time to start anew
With our reality finally undone.

ALICE closes the book and stands to rejoin the party.

The WHITE RABBIT appears from the mirror behind the fireplace and beckons for ALICE to follow. ALICE pauses, looking to the mirror and her house.

BLACKOUT

"There is a place, like no place on earth. A land full of wonder, mystery, and danger. Some say, to survive it, you need to be as mad as a hatter. Which, luckily, I am."

— Lewis Carroll

"IN THE END... We only regret the chances we didn't take, the relationships we were afraid to have, and the decisions we waited too long to make."

— Lewis Carroll

Who am I then? Tell me that first, and then, if I like being that person, I'll come up; if not, I'll stay down here till I'm someone else.

It's been so long since anyone has edited the alice and wonderland script
I wonder if anyone would notice little old Brian Franks just hangin around