

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

written for the stage
by

Elliot Guerra and Kathy Stout

directed by Elliot Guerra

excerpt from *Third Planet* lyrics
by
Isaac Brock

performed by
Modest Mouse

excerpt from *Midnight in Paris*
written by Woody Allen

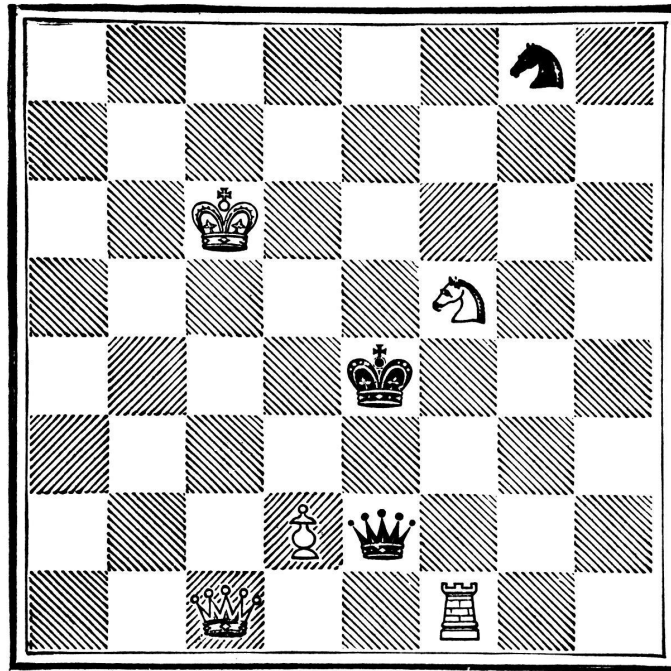
based on
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland
and
Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There
by
Lewis Carroll

“Curiouser and curiouser...”

FINAL DRAFT
September 2022

Dramatis Personae
(as arranged before the game.)

Red

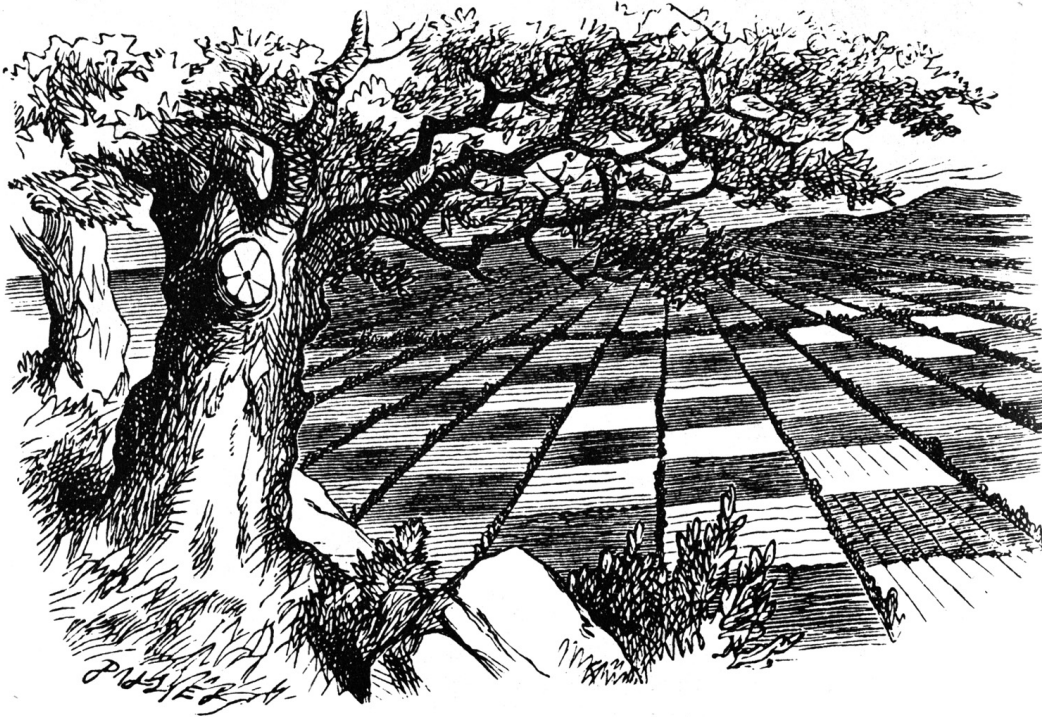


White

White Pawn (Alice) to play, and win in eleven moves.

Alice
 Alice's Sister / Tear 1
 Violet / White Queen
 White Rabbit / Mock Turtle
 Mouse / Lily
 Duck / Rose
 Dodo / Walrus / Seven / White
 Knight
 Lory / Carpenter / Tear 2
 Eaglet / Violet / Two / Tear 3
 Old Magpie / Red King / Five
 Canary / The Fawn / Tear 4
 Young Bill the Lizard / Seven / Old
 Crab
 Cook / Red King / Tear 5

Caterpillar
 Fish-Footman / Tweedledee /
 Pigeon 1
 Frog-Footman / Tweedledum /
 Pigeon 2
 Duchess
 Cheshire Cat
 March Hare / Alice from Another
 Place
 Mad Hatter / Knave of Hearts
 Dormouse / Humpty Dumpty
 King of Hearts / Tear 6
 The Man in White Paper
 Queen of Hearts



Act I

Down the Rabbit Hole

The Pool of Tears

A Caucus-Race and a Long Tale

The Garden of Live Flowers

Advice from a Caterpillar

Tweedledum and Tweedledee

A Mad Tea Party

Pig and Pepper

Intermission

Act II

Through the Looking-Glass, and What Alice Found There

The Rabbit Sends in a Little Bill

Humpty Dumpty

The Queen's Croquet Ground

Queen Alice

Epilogue

Down the Rabbit Hole

ALICE'S SISTER *and* ALICE *are sitting*. ALICE'S SISTER *reads to her while* ALICE *is sleepily playing with* DINAH.

ALICE'S SISTER

“All in the golden afternoon
Full leisurely we glide;
For both our oars, with little skill,
By little arms are plied,
While little hands make vain pretense
Our wanderings to guide.”
Alice you really should try to listen and stop playing with that kitten and making that man out of paper.

ALICE

...and what is the use of a book without pictures or conversations? I guess I could make a daisy chain but the warm day has made me so sleepy.

ALICE'S SISTER

Never the less, try and learn something, you don't want to be sleepy *and* stupid do you?

ALICE'S SISTER *continues when* ALICE *falls asleep and* DINAH *notices a* WHITE RABBIT. *The* WHITE RABBIT *sleepily dances onto the stage to jazz music.* DINAH *goes to pounce waking* ALICE *and she sees the* WHITE RABBIT.

WHITE RABBIT

Oh my ears and whiskers. I'm late!

ALICE

Dinah, what is it? Why it's a rabbit! In a waistcoat! How curious... Oh Mr. Rabbit! Oh Mr. Rabbit.

ALICE'S SISTER

Alice! Alice! We're not finished with lessons! Where are you running off to?

ALICE *follows the now running* WHITE RABBIT *running down.* ALICE *stops at the top of the rabbit hole and stumbles.*

The Pool of Tears

WHITE RABBIT

I'm late; I'm late, for a very important date! How late it's getting.

WHITE RABBIT *exits a door and ALICE chases after him but the door is shut in her face and the door is locked. ALICE notices a drink on the table that reads "drink me."*

ALICE

(Noticing the table.) Oh now here's the key, but I am too large to fit, why my head won't even fit through that door. *(Picking up the bottle.)* Drink me. Well I'm not going to do that in a hurry. I'll see if it is marked poison first. *(She takes a sip when suddenly she shrinks.)* I'm shutting up like a telescope. I wonder if I get any smaller if I should just disappear like a candle blown out. *(Once she's small.)* What a curious feeling. Oh now I am small enough to fit right under the door. Oh wait, no the key!! I left the key on the table! Oh stupid, stupid Alice. How could you be? *(She sees a small box that reads, "eat me.")* Eat me. Hmm. *(She takes a bite and grows.)* Curiouser and curiouser. Now I'm the largest telescope ever. I have the key but now look how monstrous I am! It is just too terrible. *(She begins to cry.)* You should be ashamed of yourself, crying like this Alice. Oh wait! I forgot! *(She eats again from the "eat me" container, which is small in her hands and shrinks down. She splashes into her tears and rushes through the door, which has broken because of the water.)*

ALICE

I feel like I'm dreaming but I don't feel like I'm sleeping. I'm drowning. Oh dear. Who are you?

TEAR 1

Alice dear, we're your tears

TEAR 2

You dropped us on the floor, right here

TEAR 3

We've fallen from your giant eyes

TEAR 4

Why are you acting so surprised?

ALICE

My tears? But how?

TEAR 5

So many questions, Alice dear

TEAR 6

At this point it seems rather clear

TEAR 1

You cried us out and now we're here

TEAR 2

Her eyes are big, but little ears!

ALICE

But I can't swim, surely I will drown!

TEAR 3

Alice, read what science wrote

TEAR 4

When you're with us you're sure to float

TEAR 5

Tears are raindrops full of salt

TEAR 6

So if you drown it's not our fault

TEAR 1

Tears are many things it's true

TEAR 2

Us tears are here to help you

TEAR 3

Alice with your face so blue

TEAR 4

Tell us something else that's true

ALICE

How doth the little crocodile improve his shining tail, And pour the waters
of the Nile on every golden scale!

TEAR 5

This one surely needs a friend

TEAR 6

She's fallen off the deep end!

ALICE

I have done no such thing!

TEAR 1

Alice dear, hush and be well.

TEAR 2

Us tears have many things to tell.

TEAR 3

It always helps when you are dripping.

TEAR 4

To lift each leg as if you're skipping.

ALICE

I'm swimming!

TEAR 5

And if by chance you still feel down.

TEAR 6

Adjust your head to hold a crown.

TEAR 1

Hold out your hands, stick up your chin.

TEAR 2

Shake out your arms and show a grin.

TEAR 3

And if you still feel sad or weepy.

TEAR 4

Just make a face that's really creepy.

TEAR 5

Tears may make what was dry wetter.

TEAR 6

But tears will make you feel much better.

ALICE

Oh Mouse! Please help! I'm drowning! I'm drowning in my own tears!!
Please help.

MOUSE

Come this way, come this way!

The Caucus-Race and A Long Tale

ALICE is led by the MOUSE to a party with many different animals. The DUCK, LORY, EAGLET, OLD MAGPIE and OLD CRAB are all marching around the DODO bird.

ALICE

Oh thank you Mouse. Dinah would be quite pleased.

MOUSE

Who's Dinah?

ALICE

Why, she's my cat.

MOUSE

Oh of all the things that upset me! I help you out of a flood you created and you're gonna tell me about your Cat! Really?

ALICE

Oh no, Mouse, Mrs. Mr. Mouse, you really shouldn't think—

DODO

A little less noise there, a little less noise! OK boys, back to it! One and two and four and nine!

OLD CRAB

You girl, what's the matter?

ALICE

Well, I'm... I'm terribly uncomfortable I'm afraid, I'm soaking wet.

DODO

I got it! Silence all 'round, if you please! (*Reading:*) 'William the Conqueror, whose cause was favored by the pope, was soon submitted to by the English, who wanted leaders, and had been of late much accustomed to usurpation and conquest. Edwin and Morcar, the Earls of Mercia and Northumbria'—" even Stigand, the patriotic archbishop of Canterbury, found it advisable'—"

DUCK

Found what?

MOUSE

"Found it," of course, you know what 'it' means."

DUCK

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

LORY

Oh what is the point of all this?

DODO

It will make her dry, and this is the driest thing I know! The history of England!

EAGLET

Speak English! I don't know the meaning of half of these words and more to the point; I don't think you know either!

DODO

It's the driest thing I know!

DUCK

Are you any drier?

ALICE

No, I'm afraid.

DODO

In that case, I move that the meeting adjourn, for the immediate adoption of more energetic remedies... Boys, get me my blowtorch!

ALICE

Um, well...

OLD CRAB

I have an idea! What about a caucus race!

DODO

A caucus race! Well played sir, well played Old Crab, good form indeed.

DODO

Well the best way to explain it, like all good things, is to do it!

DUCK

I'll try anything twice! Quack.

DODO

Hm.. How tacky duck. (*Clears throat.*) Well played.

DODO, DUCK, MOUSE, OLD CRAB, EAGLET, LORY, OLD MAGPIE begin the caucus race which is a very silly dance.

DODO

Coming right at ya ladies and gentlemen. Check it out. Right this way!

LORY

Hot off the request line from Wonderland.

OLD MAGPIE

While we proceed to give you what you need.

EAGLET

The boys can do it too y'all.

MOUSE

James brown, James brown!

OLD CRAB

He's still the godfather of soul y'all!

LORY

Something smelling pretty funky in here!

OLD MAGPIE

Everything is just jumping and out of sight.

OLD CRAB

Psychedelic and funkadelic!

EAGLET

Throw up your W's Fellas!

DODO

Let's show them how we do things uptown... and downtown!

ALL THE ANIMALS *all stop suddenly and run to* ALICE.

ALL

Prizes! Who won? I won! No you didn't! Alice give us a prize! Yeah Alice!

ALICE

Wait. How do you all know my name?

ALL THE ANIMALS *stare at her.*

LORY

Well do you have a prize?

ALICE

Wait, how do you know me?

EAGLET

Yeah girl who we've never met before, do you have prizes?

DODO

A prize girl, named not Alice, a prize please.

ALICE

Um... I have this thimble.

OLD MAGPIE

That will do!

OLD CRAB

Beautiful.

ALICE *gives the thimble to the* MOUSE.

MOUSE

On behalf of all of us, please take this thimble as a prize and symbol of our appreciation for a caucus race well run.

OLD CRAB

Well done madam.

ALICE

Oh, well, thank you—I think— I've never won an award before. Dinah should be so proud.

LORY

Who's Dinah?

MOUSE

Her cat!

ALL

Cat? Cat!

ALL THE ANIMALS *run away.*

The Garden of Live Flowers

ALICE

How this path twists, it's more like a corkscrew than a path. I will see the land much better from the garden. Oh lovely lily, how I wish that you could tell me where I am.

LILY

You're in the garden, silly girl.

ALICE

You can talk?

VIOLET

We speak to anyone worth speaking to....and also you

DAISY

Violet, must you be so rude? Yes her petals leave a lot to be desired, but she has good color and color can go a long way

ROSE

Look at her stumpy little stems! And her smell...

ALICE

I don't smell! Hey!

DAISY

She could use a little sun, stand up straight silly girl.

ALICE

Who knew vegetation could be so bossy.

LILY

Who knew little girls could be so absent minded.

ALICE

But I'm not absent minded I'm just lost.

VIOLET

What's lost is your sense of fashion, what is this frock? (All flowers laugh.)

DAISY

Now ladies, take pity on the little girl, she was born with such an unfortunate look

ROSE

And smell.

ALICE

I've had just about enough of this. I could just pick you, you know!

The DAISY begins to cry

DAISY

WAAAAAAAAAAA (*breath*) AAAAAAAAAA!

LILY

Now you've done it, you've woken up daisy.

VIOLET

You wake her to you take her!

DAISY

Ah, I think she's pretty.

LILY

Quiet you!

ROSE

Can you blossom? Certainly you don't look very beautiful, but can you recite?

ALICE

Ah yes, "How doth the little busy bee improve each shining hour, and gather honey all the day from every opening flower!"

They all boo.

VIOLET

School on a Sunday I reckon.

ROSE

Yes, no class.

LILY

Poor Form

DAISY

I liked it.

LILY / ROSE / VILOT

SHHHHH!

ALICE

Oh! Excuse me! I should just stuff you in a vase until you wilt!

LILY

Oh I'd like to see you try it!

Advice From A Caterpillar

ALICE wanders through a forest where the CHESIRE CAT dances and an ALICE FROM ANOTHER PLACE sees the wonders and awe as well but they do not see each other. Smoke fills the entire stage as ALICE comes across a CATERPILLAR

ALICE

Oh my....

CATERPILLAR

Who are you?

ALICE

I-I hardly know, sir, 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? Explain yourself.

ALICE

I can't explain myself, I'm afraid sir-- because I'm not myself you see.

CATERPILLAR

I do not 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-- I just-- its all so confusing.

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 know and then after that into a butterfly-- you'll feel strange then.

CATERPILLAR

Not a bit.

ALICE

Well perhaps your *feelings* will feel different, I know they feel different to *me*.

CATERPILLAR

You! Who are you?

ALICE

I think you ought to tell me who you are first.

CATERPILLAR

Recite...

ALICE

Right. "How doeth the little crocodile improve his shining tail...."

CATERPILLAR

Your name.

ALICE

I'm Alice, Alice Liddell.

CATERPILLAR

Yes, but who are you?

ALICE

Oh this is no use.... (ALICE *begins to leave*.) I'm speaking to a caterpillar for goodness sakes.

CATERPILLAR

Wait! Wait! Oh little girl! Little girl come back! I have something every important to tell you! ALICE!!!

ALICE

Yes? What is it?

CATERPILLAR

Keep. Your. Temper.

ALICE

That's it? That's all? Oh goodness.

CATERPILLAR

Do you know why changing will not feel strange to me?

ALICE

Because you're supposed to change?

CATERPILLAR

Yes.

ALICE

What does it feel like? To change so completely.

CATERPILLAR

It feels like a planet revolving around a star.

ALICE

I used to feel that way. She was my planet and I was her star. I used to feel that way, like anything was possible. I would run, barefoot near the lake by my house and make everything an adventure—flower pedals fell from my pockets on the sidewalk and horns played in my shoes, but then Mother got sick and well, stars dim, I suppose.

CATERPILLAR

Change is essential, that's how we know we're Alive.

ALICE

Well we don't all get to turn into butterflies

CATERPILLAR

We don't all get to be Alices'. (*a pause.*) You'll get used to it.

ALICE

Well I'm not used to it.

CATERPILLAR

Ah, you again? Who are you?

ALICE

Not again, I'm Alice!

CATERPILLAR

Which Alice?

ALICE

Well there's only me.

CATERPILLAR

There never is only "me." "Me" is a very complicated thing.

CATERPILLAR

Eat.

ALICE

Eat? What?

CATERPILLAR

The mushroom of course!

Tweedledee and Tweedledum.

Just then the WHITE RABBIT comes dancing on in a dreamy sequence with the CHESIRE CAT and people dancing. ALICE falls asleep.

TWEEDLEDEE

If you think we're wax-works you out to pay you know.

TWEEDLEDUM

Wax-works weren't made to be looked at for nothing.

TWEEDLEDEE

Contrariwise.

TWEEDLEDUM

If you think we're alive, you ought to speak.

ALICE

I'm sure I'm very sorry.

TWEEDLEDEE

I know what you're thinking about.

TWEEDLEDUM

Contrariwise, if it was so it might be.

TWEEDLEDEE

And if it were so

TWEEDLEDUM

It would be

TWEEDLEDEE

But as it isn't. It ain't.

TWEEDLEDUM

That's logic.

ALICE

Well, I was thinking, which is the best way out of this wood: it's getting so dark and I'm looking for a white rabbit...

TWEEDLEDEE

Why are you looking for him?

TWEEDLEDUM

Contriwise. Perhaps he's looking for you.

ALICE

Now, that is curious.

TWEEDLEDEE

You know who else was curious?

ALICE

I'm not sure, I know what you mean.

TWEEDLEDUM

The oysters were curious you know.

TWEEDLEDEE

And we know what happened to them.

TWEEDLEDUM

Do you know what happened to them?

ALICE

No, I'm afraid.

TWEEDLEDUM

Presenting! The Tale of the Poor Little Oysters or

TWEEDLEDUM

The Walrus and the Carpenter.

ALICE

This should be interesting.

TWEEDLEDEE

The sun was shining on the sea,
Shining with all his might:

TWEEDLEDUM

He did his very best to make
The billows smooth and bright--

TWEEDLEDEE

And this was odd,

TWEEDLEDUM

because it was

BOTH

The middle of the night.

TWEEDLEDEE

The sea was wet as wet could be,
The sands were dry as dry.

TWEEDLEDUM

You could not see a cloud, because
No cloud was in the sky:

TWEEDLEDEE

The Walrus and the Carpenter
Were walking close at hand;

TWEEDLEDUM

They wept like anything to see
Such quantities of sand:

WALRUS

If this were only cleared away "it would be grand!

CARPENTER

If seven maids with seven mops Swept it for half a year.

WALRUS

Do you suppose,
"That they could get it clear?"

CARPENTER

"I doubt it,"

TWEEDLEDEE

said the Carpenter,

TWEEDLEDUM

And shed a bitter tear.

CARPENTER

Look here, there are some Oysters!

WALRUS

Hello, little Oysters!

CARPENTER

"The time has come," my little friends
"To talk of many things:
Of shoes--and ships--and sealing-wax--
Of cabbages--and kings--
And why the sea is boiling hot--
And whether pigs have wings."

WALRUS

"O Oysters, come and walk with us!"
I do beseech.
"A pleasant walk, a pleasant talk,
Along the briny beach:"

TWEEDLEDEE

The eldest Oysters looked at him,
But never a word he said:
The eldest Oysters winked their eye,
And shook their heavy heads--

TWEEDLEDUM

The sea is nice
Take our advice
And stay right here.

TWEEDLEDEE

But the young Oysters hurried up,
All eager for the treat:

TWEEDLEDUM

Their coats were brushed, their faces washed,
Their shoes were clean and neat--

TWEEDLEDEE

And this was odd, because, you know,

ALICE

They hadn't any feet?

CARPENTER

The Walrus and the Carpenter
Walked on a mile or so,
And then they rested on a rock
Conveniently low:
And all the little Oysters stood
And waited in a row.

WALRUS

"The time has come," my little friends
"To talk of many things:
Of shoes--and ships--and sealing-wax--
Of cabbages--and kings--
And why the sea is boiling hot--
And whether pigs have wings."

CARPENTER

"No hurry!"

WALRUS

Ah, yes. Let's take a breath!
"A loaf of bread,"
"Is what we chiefly need:
Pepper and vinegar besides
Are very good indeed—

CARPENTER

Now if you're ready,

BOTH

We can begin to feed!

ALICE

Oh no, what a dreadful story. (*ALICE is troubled by a strange sound.*)

TWEEDLEDUM

It's only the Red King snoring, come and look at him.

TWEEDLEDEE

Isn't he lovely?

ALICE

I'm afraid he'll catch cold lying on that cold grass.

TWEEDLEDEE

He's dreaming now.

TWEEDLEDUM

What do you thinking he's dreaming about?

ALICE

No one can guess that.

TWEEDLEDEE

Why, he's dreaming about you!

TWEEDLEDUM

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

ALICE

Where I am now, of course.

TWEEDLEDEE

Not you!

TWEEDLEDUM

You'd be nowhere. Why, you're only a sort of thing in his dream.

TWEEDLEDEE

If that there king was to wake, you'd go out—bang—just like a candle.

ALICE

I shouldn't! Besides if I'm only a sort of thing in his dream, what are you, I should like to know.

TWEEDLEDUM

Ditto.

TWEEDLEDEE

Ditto, ditto.

TWEEDLEDUM

Well there's no use talking about waking him when you're only one of the things in his dream.

TWEEDLEDEE

You know very well—

TWEEDLEDUM

That you're not real.

ALICE

I am real!

TWEEDLEDEE

No you're not. None of us are.

TWEEDLEDUM

I'm so sick of this! Yes I'm real! And yes I'm me! I'm supposed to know when I'm happy or sad, or changed or not, and even when I am happy how am I to know it?

TWEEDLEDEE *and* TWEEDLEDUM *stare at her.*

TWEEDLEDEE

Say, she looks like her doesn't she?

TWEEDLEDUM

Like Alice only shorter.

TWEEDLEDEE

And younger.

TWEEDLEDEE *and* TWEEDLEDUM *freeze and* ALICE *tries to get their attention but they ignore her.*

ALICE

Hello, excuse me. You can't just stop! Oh what's the use?

Pig and Pepper

ALICE *walks into the house. Inside the house there is a COOK pouring violently ingredients into a pot with a giant spoon. The DUCHESS sits at the table and rocks her child crazily back and forth. Occasionally throwing her child up in the air and catching it, most of the time. The CHESIRE CAT circles Alice as she walks in smiling and staring at her keeping eye contact until curling up on the table with his/her chin in hand.*

CHESIRE CAT

Let's rock.

ALICE

Please could you tell me why your cat grins like that?

CHESIRE CAT

Too blessed to be stressed.

DUCHESS

It's a Cheshire cat. Idiot. They all grin like that.

CHESIRE CAT

One in a million.

ALICE

I didn't know that they could.

DUCHESS

Factually, they all *can* and most do.

COOK

More PEPPER!!! More Pepper!

The COOK begins wildly throwing pepper around the room. Some of it reaches the soup. ALICE begins sneezing wildly.

DUCHESS

That's quite enough! You rude girl! Keep sneezing like that and your head will pop right off.

ALICE

It's the peh peh (*she sneezes*). Shouldn't you be more careful with the child? Oh! that must have hurt.

DUCHESS

I'm done. You can have him. I must go get ready for croquet with the queen.

COOK

But what about the soup?!

ALICE

Have him?

DUCHESS *takes a taste of the soup*

DUCHESS

Needs more pepper.

COOK

Pepper in the air like we just don't caaare

DUCHESS
(to ALICE)

Watch out. she bites.

DUCHESS *and* COOK *exit*.

ALICE

Hey little. OUCH! Well I never.

ALICE *unravels the 'baby' to find that it was just a pig the entire time.*

CHESHIRE CAT

That's one mean ham.

ALICE

Excuse me, Cheshire Cat- would you please tell me which way to go from here

CHESHIRE CAT

Depends. Where would you like to be?

ALICE

Well.... I'm not sure exactly. Anywhere as long as I get somewhere.

CHESHIRE CAT

Oh, that's not far! Half a mile in any direction, you won't miss it. Oh by the way, if you really want to know he went that way

ALICE

Who did?

CHESIRE CAT

The White Rabbit.

ALICE

He did?

CHESIRE CAT

Who did?

ALICE

The white rabbit!

CHESIRE CAT

What rabbit?

ALICE

Ugh! What sort of people live around here?

CHESHIRE CAT

In that direction there's a Mad Hatter.

ALICE

Oh I don't think I want to go near him if he's mad.

CHESHIRE CAT

Down there lives a March Hare.

ALICE

Great.

CHESHIRE CAT

Of course, she's mad too.

ALICE

Well I don't want to go among mad people!

CHESHIRE CAT

Oh you can't help that. We're all mad here. I'm mad, you're mad...

ALICE

I most certainly am not!

CHESHIRE CAT

You must be, or you wouldn't have come here.

ALICE

Now listen, cat...

CHESHIRE CAT

What ever happened to that child?

ALICE

It turned into a pig.

CHESHIRE CAT

Figures. Did you say a pig or a fig?

ALICE

I said a pig. (*The CHESHIRE CAT has dissolved leaving only her smile.*)
Cat?

ALICE

I've seen a cat without a grin, but never a grin without a cat.

A Mad Tea Party

ALICE *discovers a large table.*

HARE / HATTER

Wake up we're stealing cars!! Incoming. No room! No room!

ALICE

But there's plenty of room.

HARE

Would you like a scone?

ALICE

Um, yes, I am quite hungry.

HATTER

We don't have any scones!

ALICE

Well you should not offer what you do not have.

HARE

You should not sit when you're not invited.

ALICE

But there are plenty of...whoah!

HATTER *pulls chair out from under ALICE.*

HATTER

Alice? Is that you?

ALICE

I'm sorry. I don't think we know each other.

HARE

Oh Alice.

HATTER

The assignment was to take the hill. There were four of us, five if you counted Vicente, but he had lost his hand when a grenade went off and couldn't fight as could when I first met him. And he was young and brave, and the hill was soggy from days of rain. And it sloped down toward a road and there were many German soldiers on the road. And the idea was to aim for the first group, and if our aim was true we could delay them.

HARE

Right. Why is a raven like a writing desk?

ALICE

I believe I can figure that out

HARE

You mean you can find the answer?

ALICE

Exactly so.

HARE

Then you should say what you mean.

ALICE

I did! At least I mean what I say- same thing, you know?

HATTER

Not the same thing! You might as well just say 'I see what I eat' is the same thing as 'I eat what I see'

HARE

You might as well say 'I like what I get' is the same as 'I get what I like'

DORMOUSE

You might as well say 'I breathe when I sleep' is the same as 'I sleep when I breathe'

HARE

It's the same for you if— Alice. Do you know what dreams are? They are successions of images, ideas, emotions, and sensations that occur involuntarily in the mind during certain stages of sleep. The content and purpose of dreams are not definitively understood, though they have been a topic of scientific speculation, as well as a subject of philosophical and religious interest, throughout recorded history.

HATTER

What day of the month is it? It's the 4th!

ALICE

What a funny watch! It tells the day of the month and not what o'clock it is

HATTER

The Dormouse is asleep again.

HARE *and* HATTER *wake up* DORMOUSE

HARE

Have you figured out the riddle yet?

ALICE

I give up. What is it?

HATTER

No idea.

HARE

Haven't the slightest

ALICE

I think you might do something better with your time then make up riddles with no answer

HATTER

If you knew Time as well as I do, you wouldn't think of wasting it.

ALICE

I don't know what you mean

HATTER

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

ALICE

How can anyone?

HATTER

Time is very willing to work with you- we worked so well until last March. I was invited to sing for the queen and I was just halfway through the verse "twinkle twinkle little..." when the queen jumped up and yelled 'He's murdering the time! Off with his head!

HARE

Oh dear....

HATTER

And ever since that, time won't do anything I ask. It's always 6 o'clock now. It's always tea time- no time to wash things in between. MORE TEA!

ALL change seats and continue the conversation as though nothing has happened

HARE

I have an excellent idea. Let's change the subject. The dormouse will tell a story.

Sleeping DORMOUSE is awoken

DORMOUSE

Once upon a time there were three...

HATTER

I want a clean cup. Move down!

ALL move one seat down. ALICE is forced into doing so.

ALICE

I am very confused.

HATTER

Then you shouldn't speak. Go on Dormouse.

DORMOUSE

Once upon a time there were three sisters who lived in a well.

ALICE

And?

DORMOUSE

and they lived very well.

HARE

Excellent. EXCELLENT!

ALICE

I don't think so.

DORMOUSE falls asleep.

HATTER

Touching. Moving. Brilliant.

ALICE

It is not! None of this is. It's nothing, what a waste of time.

HATTER

Ohhhh TIME!

Suddenly TWO, FIVE, SEVEN enter.

TWO

By order of the Queen of Hearts this party is over!

HATTER

Order? You're out of order!

HARE

You're out of order!

HATTER

Your full of odor!

HARE

Thank you Hatter.

SEVEN

You three are under arrest for painting the queen's roses red!

HARE

It's true... It's true. Constables?

HATTER

You've caught us red handed! *(The HATTER through a bucket of red paint and they are chased.)*

HATTER

Wait! Stop! Stop!

HARE

You're going to wake up the Red King!

HATTER

If he wakes up we'll all be out of his dream!

They all stop and continue to chase in slow motion and quietly.

ALICE

Oh this is all quite silly. I just... (she sneezes and the Red King wakes up.)
Oh Dear...

The lights come on in the house, the crew and director enter. Alice has fallen out of the play.

INTERMISSION

Through the Looking Glass, and What Alice Found There

On a bare stage.

Where am I? ALICE

You're nowhere. PAPER

How is that— who are you? ALICE

Nobody. PAPER

How? How can you be nobody? ALICE

That's my name, nobody and this is nowhere. PAPER

I don't understand. ALICE

It's ok, I'm sure the audience doesn't either. PAPER

Audience? ALICE

Yes, the theatergoers, the readers, the cinephiles. The audience. PAPER

I'm afraid I don't understand. ALICE

PAPER

I know.

ALICE

You look very familiar, like I've seen you before.

PAPER

That's because you have. I'm dressed like—

ALICE

Like the man I was making when I was taking lessons with my sister!

PAPER

Exactly.

ALICE

You've come to life!

PAPER

Not exactly. You see Alice I am only dressed like the man in white paper.

ALICE

Why?

PAPER

So I don't frighten you.

ALICE

Who are you?

PAPER

You have many questions, your innate curiosity is inherent to all Alice's but you— you not only find things curious you find them....

ALICE

Curiouser and curiouser.

PAPER

Exactly. You are a very special Alice. I know this is going to be hard to hear but you are approximately the five hundred and fifty first Alice to fall down the Rabbit hole and hopefully the last.

ALICE

That is why everyone knows who I am!

PAPER

You see Alice, the universe is...

ALICE

The universe is shaped exactly like the earth. If you go straight along enough you'll end up where you were.

PAPER

Exactly. But you are different, when the Red King woke up, you fell out of his dream and ergo into nonexistence, ergo out of the play and ended up here. Nowhere. And we are so happy you did.

ALICE

We?

PAPER

Yes, I am not alone, I serve the White Queen. Your Majesty.

W QUEEN

Alice my darling.

ALICE

Your majesty.

W QUEEN

This is my guardian and defender, the slayer of the Jabberwocky, the White Knight.

KNIGHT

Alice.

ALICE

It is lovely to meet you all but will someone please tell me what is going on.

PAPER

Sir Knight.

KNIGHT

Of course. In your world's time 1865 a young girl named Alice Liddell fell down a rabbit hole. It was a glorious adventure she went on but she never returned, she stayed in Wonderland and by doing so leaving the rabbit hole open for anyone or anything to fall down. Over a hundred years later, we continue to have dozens and dozens of versions of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland you being the....

ALICE

Five hundred and fifty first Alice to fall into the rabbit hole.

PAPER

Exactly.

KNIGHT

But you're more than that Alice, you managed somehow to end up here, nowhere and that means you're not just Alice but possibly our only hope to restore Wonderland and all the other Alice's to their proper place time and adventure.

W QUEEN

My darling... I know this is a lot to take in but there is a menace plaguing Wonderland. Far worse than the furious Bandersnatch and more dreaded than the fearsome Jabberwocky. The dreaded Queen of Hearts, ever since she appeared she came and deposed my throne and her murderous ways must end.

ALICE

You want me to fight for you? Why should I? This is all so confusing, since I've been here or there or nowhere people have told me what to do, who I am and how to behave—why can't you fight for yourself!

KNIGHT

Keep your temper.

W QUEEN

It's ok Sir Knight. Alice, I can't. Like all chess queens if I am not in play I cannot do anything, I cannot interfere until I'm saved.

PAPER

Will you save us Alice? And make everything right once and for all? You've seen what the dreaded Queen of Hearts can do. Help us Alice. Save us.

KNIGHT

We can make the red king fall back asleep which means you'll be in his dream again but like all dreams once you fall back asleep after waking it will not be the same dream, so we are not sure where you'll be or who you'll be with. We just hope we can get you close enough to the Queen of Hearts and somehow depose her.

ALICE

She is quite dreaded. OK. I'll do my best. Wish me luck your majesty.

W QUEEN

We shall be with you.

PAPER

We are now sending you back Alice. May the White Queen's blessing be with you.

The Rabbit Sends in a Little Bill

Two PIGEONS enter with the WHITE RABBIT.

PIGEON 1

Yo, some place they got here bro.

PIGEON 2

Nice digs, Kid.

PIGEON 1

Yo Pigeon, what's that wainscoting?

TOMMY

Pigeon, Bro, do I look like my name is Charlie Carpenter over here?

JESSE

True. True. No disrespect.

WHITE RABBIT

Pardon me gentlemen, but I was told you from The Bailiwick of Jersey, the great isle in the English Channel.

PIGEON 1

Nah bro, we're from

PIGEON 2

New Jersey!

PIGEON 1

Just outside of Bayonne, Kid.

PIGEON 2

Yeah we just founded the town! We got a baseball diamond near the port. Let's go Eureka!

PIGEON 1

Let's go!

PIGEON 2

So like where's the mess?

WHITE RABBIT

Mary Ann and I are hosting the Queen and I need the house cleaned!

PIGEON 1

Oh the Queen. Oh respect. RIP Queen Elizabeth

PIGEON 2

Yo, rest in peace. (They both take off their hats and make the Sign of the Cross.) North, South, West, East.

PIGEON 1

Alright bro, get to steppin' we got it from here. We'll let you know when you can come back in.

WHITE RABBIT

I leave you to your task. (Exits.) Where's Mary Ann?!

PIGEON 2

Easy peasy lemon squeezy kid, (he scrubs the stain) look the stain comes right up. Who's better than us Pigeon?

1

Wait! Woah. Look, it is reappearing!

2

Yo, strange things are afoot in cup o' tea England. What should we do?

BOTH

Lunch break! (They turn their buckets over and sit on them and begin to eat.)

1

Bro, these Brits over here are killing me with the marmalade dude. You want a bite of my Sammy?

2

Nah. How are things going with Ashley Jes?

1

Bro, you know she's my Bayonne beauty, but like she's killing me dude. The other day she's, like "you don't cut enough fire wood, you're at the public house all the time." Blah. Blah. Blah. And I'm like, "No disrespect babe, no disrespect, but like, I had a full shift at the yard, then I had to go to my mother-in-law's house and change her

gaslights, Then I had to get new spokes for the carriage and my horse is pregnant so I'm out at the general store buying apples in the middle of the night like a schmuck."

2

I hear ya brother. I was out to dinner with Marie and she's like this place ain't fancy enough, I'm like babe, babe, babe, babe, can I, babe, let me say something, babe, but she ain't trying to hear me.

1

It's like I know she works hard, no disrespect,

2

None!

1

...but I'm supposed to be a scallywag, because I want to crack open a couple of hard ciders and spend a little money on bearbaiting.

2

What's this world coming to? We're getting too sensitive as, like you know, a civilization, sooner or later we're going to be using leather gloves in baseball games.

1

I rue the day my friend.

2

You hear something?

1

Nah, you know these old houses.

2

Nah bro, I'm feeling something I ain't ever felt before. Like a sense of existential impending doom kid.

ALICE runs in with a house on her head.

ALICE

Oh my! I'm growing and growing! My head is now in the trees.

WHITE RABBIT
(Running in)

Mary Ann! Oh Mary Ann! What the—

PIGEON 1

Serpent! Serpent! There's a serpent in your house bro!

WHITE RABBIT

What happened?

PIGEON 2

Well we were just here waiting and then all of a sudden this giant serpent appeared in your house.

ALICE

I'm terribly sorry— I guess the white queen dropped me into a new dream and now I'm a giant stuck in a house.

PIGEON 1

The giant is talking!

PIGEON 2

AH! A talking giant!

ALICE

I'm not a giant!

PIGEON 1

Yeah you are!

PIGEON 2

You're bigger than a house; you're definitely a giant.

ALICE

Well I'm just me!

PIGEON 1

Well yeah a giant version of you.

PIGEON 2

Yeah, like not even metaphorically, you're a giant, huge, a monster.

WHITE RABBIT

My house! Oh what am I going to do?

PIGEON 1

You can always smoke her out.

ALICE

Wait, what?

WHITE RABBIT

How long is it going to take I have Wu Tang tickets.

ALICE

You're not going to smoke me out!

WHITE RABBIT

I'll send in Bill. Bill! Bill! Willy! William! Billy!

BILL

I'm right here.

WHITE RABBIT

Right.

PIGEON 1

This is gonna be great.

PIGEON 2

Burn the serpent!

ALICE

I'm not a serpent!

BILL

Is that a giant serpent?

ALICE

Still not a serpent.

WHITE RABBIT

OK, Bill. I need you to smoke out that serpent.

BILL

That's crazy, I'm not doing that, you see the size of her?

ALICE

Hey! I'm not a giant.

PIGEON 1

What is her deal? Yes You Are!

PIGEON 2

Definition of a giant, I'm gonna Google it.

WHITE RABBIT

Just start a fire and burn her—

BILL

No way, I'm your landscaper, I'm not going to burn a snake on fire, make Mary Ann do it, what kind of insane—

PIGEON 1

What did you find?

PIGEON 2

An imaginary or mythical being of human form but superhuman size.

PIGEON 1

She's getting bigger!

WHITE RABBIT

Are you going to smoke her out or what?

BILL

I'll do it for those Wu-Tang tickets.

WHITE RABBIT

Ugh. Fine.

BILL

OK Monster I'm gonna smoke you out!

PIGEON 2

You better hurry Bill she's growing so big her head is going to be in the tree tops!

ALICE throws the house at BILL and company and they all scatter.

Humpty Dumpty

ALICE

Whew. Where do you think we should go? Those cards will be right behind us. (FAWN points to HUMPTY DUMPTY sitting on a wall.) Maybe we can get some help from—how exactly like an egg she is!

HUMPTY

'It's VERY provoking,' 'to be called an egg—VERY!'

ALICE

'I said you LOOKED like an egg, Sir,' 'And some eggs are very pretty, you know'

HUMPTY

'Some people,' 'have no more sense than a baby!'

ALICE

What is his problem?

HUMPTY

'Don't stand there chattering to yourself like that, 'but tell me your name and your business.'

ALICE

'My NAME is Alice, and this—'

HUMPTY

'It's a stupid enough name!' 'What does it mean?'

ALICE

'MUST a name mean something?'

HUMPTY

'Of course it must,: 'MY glorious name, humpty dumpty, means the shape I am—and a good handsome shape it is, too. With a name like yours, you might be any shape, almost.'

ALICE

'Why do you sit out here all alone?'

HUMPTY

'Why, because there's nobody with me!' 'Did you think I didn't know the answer to THAT? Ask another.'

ALICE

'Don't you think you'd be safer down on the ground?' 'That wall is so VERY narrow!'

HUMPTY

'What tremendously easy riddles you ask!' 'Of course I don't think so! Why, if ever I DID fall off—which there's no chance of—but IF I did—' 'IF I did fall,' he went on, 'THE KING HAS PROMISED ME—WITH HIS VERY OWN MOUTH—to—to—'

ALICE

'To send all his horses and all his men,'

HUMPTY

'Now I declare that's too bad!' 'You've been listening at doors—and behind trees—and down chimneys—or you couldn't have known it!'

ALICE

'I haven't, indeed!' This guy's unbelievable. 'It's in a book.'

HUMPTY

'Ah, well! They may write such things in a BOOK,' 'That's what you call a History of England, that is. Never mind. Let's start fresh,' , 'and it's my turn to choose a subject—' So here's a question for you. How old did you say you were?'

ALICE

I'm eleven years old.

HUMPTY

'Wrong!'

ALICE

'I thought you meant "How old ARE you?"'

HUMPTY

'If I'd meant that, I'd have said it,' 'An uncomfortable sort of age. Now if you'd asked MY advice, I'd have said "Leave off at seven"—but it's too late now.'

ALICE

'I never ask advice about growing,'

HUMPTY

'Too proud?'

ALICE

'I mean, 'that one can't help growing older.' Something can't control how old it is. It just is or isn't.

HUMPTY

Incorrect. You can decide how old you are.

ALICE

Why is that Mr. Dumpty?

HUMPTY

Because The universe is shaped exactly like the earth. if you go straight along enough you'll end up where you were.

ALICE

Curious.

HUMPTY

You know what else is curious? Those numbers behind you.

The CARDS chase off the fawn and HUMPTY DUMPTY falls off the wall in the chaos.

The Croquet Game and Who Stole the Tarts?

WHITE KNIGHT

Alice?

ALICE

The white knight! Where am I? I don't know where.

WHITE KNIGHT

Look, here we got you into the Queen's Croquet game. Get as close as you can and try to steal her crown. Once you do that the White Queen can enter the game and become the rightful queen.

ALICE

(to the fawn)

I have to go. I know you're scared but I'll be back, I promise. If anything happens, try and find the white knight.

WHITE KNIGHT

May the blessings of the White Queen be with you?

Everyone is dancing with Croquet mallets. A Variety of animals.

WHITE RABBIT

Ladies and Gentlemen! Hear ye! Hear ye! I present to you, the queen of hearts and rightful ruler of Wonderland, her majesty THE QUEEN OF HEARTS!

The KING and QUEEN enter. KING whispers in white rabbit's ear.

WHITE RABBIT

Oh and the King of Hearts too.

QUEEN

Oh, how I do love croquet. Are the players ready?

ALICE

Yes your majesty.

DUCHESS

Yes, your majesty.

QUEEN

Oh what a pretty girl. You look familiar.

ALICE

Well I'm afraid we haven't met your majesty.

QUEEN

Your hair wants cutting.

ALICE

Yes, your majesty.

The QUEEN begins to play. Aside.

DUCHESS

You can't imagine how glad I am to see you again, dear!

ALICE

How do you know we've met?

DUCHESS

In your dream of course. How is the game going?

ALICE

Poorly.

DUCHESS

Yes, well maybe we shouldn't put all of our eggs in one basket.

ALICE

What?

DUCHESS

One **MUST** remember the *MORAL*- darling. Don't cry over spilt milk when you're caught between a rock and a hard place or it could cost you an arm and a leg!

ALICE

Excuse me, it's my turn.

DUCHESS

Looks like someone bit off more than she can chew, don't quit your day job in the heat of the moment, dear, every cloud has a silver lining!

ALICE

Those aren't moral's they're idom's.

DUCHESS

What did you just call me?

QUEEN enters pointing at audience members followed by her KING and WHITE RABBIT.

QUEEN

And off with her head, off with his head, definitely off with their head. Nice ball babe. Off with their head. Ohhhhhh hello Duchess.

DUCHESS

(scared)

A fine day, your majesty.

QUEEN

I see your score is better than mine.

DUCHESS

Well I mean...

QUEEN

Mmmmm, off with this head as well.

ALICE

You're majesty, respectfully, won't we need a few heads if we're to finish this game of croquet?

QUEEN

(ignoring ALICE)

Has anyone seen the mock turtle?

ALICE

No.

QUEEN

Well you must! Haste! Come my dear!

ALICE

I didn't know it was so important.

QUEEN

Oh yes, you must hear the Mock Turtle's story. MUST! Oh here he is, with a lovely new audience to hear!

TURTLE

I'm sorry Alice.

ALICE

What? No! That's my sister!

SISTER

Alice!

ALICE

No, no. What are you doing here?

SISTER

After you fell into the rabbit hole I jumped in after you. I kept falling and met a caterpillar but then was captured by those horrid cards. I'm so sorry Alice. I just want to go home.

QUEEN

Commence With the Trial!

TURTLE

I'm so sorry. I'm sorry.

The SOLDIERS come in and throw in the FAWN.

FAWN

Alice.

ALICE

She is horrid. Are you OK?

KNAVE

Are you Alice? Thee Alice?

ALICE

I don't know anymore. Who are you?

KNAVE

I'm the Knave of Hearts. I was accused of stealing the queen's tarts.

SISTER

Did you?

KNAVE

Of course not. OK, yes I did, but I didn't know this would happen?

SISTER

I'm surprised you still have your head.

TURTLE

Stop talking prisoners. I'm sorry. Your trial begins soon. Sorry.

ALICE

Oh you are so mean! Why? Why are you such a tyrant? How can you be so cruel?

QUEEN

Oh so you're the newest Alice I see. I wasn't always of course, but then the people you love darling sometimes leave you and running away can be much easier than staying. The first Alice knew this, that's why she stayed.

ALICE

You must have killed the first Alice, Alice Liddell and that's why you rule wonderland.

QUEEN

The first Alice wasn't killed, how ghastly child.

ALICE

How are we supposed to believe you?

QUEEN

Because I'm Alice. I'm the first Alice! That world, up there. That's the real terrible place, a place of sickness and pain and cruelty. Here, well here I can rule the way it should be where either you win or lose, the rules of the game are so much easier.

SISTER

But how could you become so mean?

ALICE

Keep your temper. The caterpillar told me to keep my temper, because if not I turn into...

SISTER

Whatever you're going to do, get it over with!

ALICE

Yes! All hail the White Queen. The true queen of Wonderland.

QUEEN

The true queen, please, there would be no Wonderland without me! I'm going to put the Knave of Hearts and you and all your little pals on trial, for all of wonderland to see and when they vote you guilty we will know that I reign and my subjects will reign supreme. And you girl... You know why you were the five hundred and fifty first Alice? Because they were that many people more important than you. You're not special, not even a little bit. I'll rule forever but first, I'm going to collect your pretty little head. OFF WITH YOUR...

The lights blackout.

Queen Alice

ALICE *wakes up in the middle of her room. DINAH is playing by herself. She wakes up startled. ALICE'S SISTER walks in.*

ALICE'S SISTER

Alice! Make a shape girl! You fell asleep again. We have lessons you know. Come, we'll go to the park for lessons today. Get ready, you can bring Dinah if you like. Why are you looking at me like that?

ALICE

Oh Dinah, lets consider who it was that dreamed it all. Did you dream it? Or did I dream that wild adventure?

ALICE'S SISTER (O.S.)

Alice! Come on, before the day gets too hot!

ALICE

You see, kitty, it *must* have been either me or the Red King. He was part of my dream, of course—but then I was part of *his* dream, too! Was it the Red King, Kitty? (A pause. She looks at the audience.) Which do you think it was? (She smiles devilishly.) Ah, I see. It was you. Naughty kitten. (looks directly into the audience.) Off with your head.

The lights dim to the center of the chessboard when the MAD HATTER appears.

HATTER

(Walks into the center. Takes off his hat.)

Thus grew the tale of Wonderland:
Thus slowly, one by one,
Its quaint events were hammered out—
And now the tale is done,
And home we steer, a merry crew,
Beneath the setting sun.

The MAD HATTER exits. The MAN IN WHITE PAPER appears and snaps his fingers. Blackout.

THE END