

# **ALICE in WONDERLAND**

**By Sam Pinnell**

**Inspired by the book by**

**Lewis Carroll**

**FINAL DRAFT 2025**

## CAST

F1 Alice

M1 Mouse, The Cook, Piglet, Dormouse, The Mock Turtle, Queen of Hearts.

M2 Bee, Duck, Caterpillar, The White Rabbit, March Hare, The King of Hearts,

M3 Dragonfly, Dodo, The Duchess, The Gryphon, The Mad Hatter,

### **APPEAR ON SCREEN ONLY : SPEAKING ROLES:**

- *Cheshire Cat,*
- *Five of Spades,*
- *Seven of Diamonds*

### **VOICE OVER :**

- *Governess*

### **APPEAR ON SCREEN ONLY : NON-SPEAKING ROLES:**

- *The animal jury,*
- *The Knave of Hearts*

## SONGS

- 1) Never Far From Wonderland
- 2) Caucus
- 3) Caterpillar intro
- 4) Taller and Smaller
- 5) The Pepper Song
- 6) It Is Always Teatime
- 7) Beautiful Soup
- 8) No such thing as Wonderland
- 9) More Pepper

SCREENS SHOW A LOVELY ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE SCENE.

**VOICE :** Alice don't go too far. We'll be going home for our tea soon. Are you listening to me Alice?

ALICE SIGHS. SHE TAKES OUT A PACK OF CARDS FROM HER POCKET AND SHUFFLES THEM IDLY.

**ALICE**

I'm so bored. There's absolutely nothing to do.

SOFTLY A MUSIC INTRO BEGINS TO PLAY.

**ALL**

On summer days like these

You hear a whisper on the breeze

And voices singing through the trees

With words you cannot understand

The day is hazy hot and slow

And you have nowhere else to go

But deep inside I think you know

You're never far from Wonderland.

There are no windows and no doors

No one to tell you what you're looking for

But if you only can believe

There is no limit to the things that you might see

The places and the people there will be

When you step into Wonderland.

On summer days like these  
The wind is rustling in the trees  
You hear a voice upon the breeze  
You are halfway to Wonderland

Take no notice of the grownups that you meet  
Or to the noises coming from the street  
Just relax and listen to your own heartbeat  
You're never far from Wonderland  
It's world that anyone can enter in  
If you only trust your senses to begin  
To feel the wonder of the crazy world within  
So come with me to Wonderland

On summer days like these  
Just reach a hand out if you please  
And follow where the voices lead  
To find yourself in Wonderland.  
Yes follow where the voices lead  
You're never far from Wonderland.

A WHITE RABBIT SCURRIES ONTO THE STAGE, IN A FRIGHTFUL HURRY AND HOLDING AN OLD-FASHIONED POCKET WATCH.

**WHITE RABBIT**

Oh, my ears and whiskers, look at the time, I shall be so very late!

ALICE STARES AT THE RABBIT IN AMAZEMENT

**ALICE**

Well, I never saw a talking rabbit before. And certainly not one with his own pocket watch!

THE WHITE RABBIT STARES AT ALICE AND THEN TURNS AND HURRIES AWAY.

**ALICE**

Wait, wait a moment won't you?

**WHITE RABBIT**

I most definitely cannot wait, it's the height of rudeness to be late, don't you know.

**ALICE**

Come back! Where are you going?

ALICE FALLS DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE.

**ALICE**

Help!

*ALICE LANDS*

**ALICE** (pats herself down)

Well at least I'm in one piece. But where am I?

ALICE LOOKS AROUND.

*ON ONE OF THE SCREENS THERE IS A LITTLE DOOR ABOUT 10 INCHES HIGH. ALICE GOES TO THE DOOR, KNEELS DOWN AND PUSHES IT. IT OPENS TO REVEAL A GLIMPSE OF A LOVELY GARDEN. THE WHITE RABBIT BUSTLES PAST HER*

**WHITE RABBIT**

No time. No time.

THE WHITE RABBIT EXITS. ALICE NOTICES A TRAY WITH A LITTLE BOTTLE ON IT. THERE IS ALSO A SMALL PIECE OF CAKE AND A FAN.

**ALICE**

What on earth is all this?

SHE PICKS UP THE BOTTLE AND SEES IT HAS A LABEL ATTACHED READING "DRINK ME"

**ALICE**

It's all very well to say, "drink me", but this could be anything. What if it's poison? But then, this bottle doesn't say it's poison. And I think with poison you always get a label on the bottle.

SHE SNIFFS THE BOTTLE. THEN TAKES A TINY SIP

**ALICE**

It tastes of pineapple, and pizza and custard, and avocado, and cookies and –

ALICE STOPS SHORT. *THE SCREEN BEHIND HER WITH THE LITTLE DOOR ON IT IS GROWING AND GROWING. THE DOOR IS GETTING BIGGER AND BIGGER.*

**ALICE**

I'm shrinking, I'm shutting up just like a telescope. Ooh I'm the perfect size to get into the garden.

ALICE LOOKS LONGINGLY AT THE LITTLE DOOR BUT IS TEMPTED BY THE CAKE ON THE TRAY. SHE PICKS UPS THE CAKE AND SEES ATTACHED A NOTE WHICH READS "EAT ME"

**ALICE**

Well, what's to lose I suppose? And after all free cake is free cake.

SHE TAKES A BITE OF THE CAKE.

**ALICE**

Curiouser and curiouser. Goodbye feet! How am I going to put on my shoes? I must be nearly nine metres tall. What's happening to me? This is awful. I've turned myself into a giant and I'll probably be stuck here forever and ever. Or until I starve to death. I've already eaten all the cake.

ALICE BEGINS TO CRY

**ALICE**

Oh, stop it. You should be ashamed of yourself, a big girl like you. What's the use of crying?

THE WHITE RABBIT BUSTLES IN. HE'S WEARING WHITE GLOVES AND HOLDING A FAN

**ALICE**

Mr Rabbit! Mr Rabbit, please help me!

**WHITE RABBIT**

But what about the Queen? She'll be absolutely savage if I keep her waiting.

**ALICE**

No please wait.

SHE REACHES OUT TO THE WHITE RABBIT WHO IS STARTLED. HE DROPS HIS FAN AS HE RUNS AWAY. STILL CRYING ALICE PICKS UP THE FAN. SHE BEGINS ABSTRACTEDLY FANNING HERSELF.

**ALICE**

Oh, everything is so weird today. I'm not the same size from one moment to the next. I'm not sure I'm even the same person. I'll try to remember all the things I used to know, let's see. Four times five is twelve. And four times six is thirteen. London is the capital of Paris. And Paris is the capital of Rome. No, wait a minute, that can't be right.

SHE LOOKS AT THE FAN, NOW BIG IN HER HAND, AND DROPS IT IN ALARM

**ALICE**

I've been fanning myself small again. I could have fanned myself down to nothing! I'm even smaller than I was before.

ON FILM IN THE DISTANCE, WE SEE A MOUSE SWIMMING

Oh, the water tastes salty, of course it's all the tears I cried when I was nine metres high, it's my own fault for crying so much and now I'm going to drown in a pool of my own tears. Help! Help!

THE MOUSE ENTERS, SWIMS IN THE WATER BESIDE ALICE

**ALICE**

Oh Mouse, Mouse. I'm ever so pleased to see you. Do you know the way out of this pool?

THE MOUSE LOOKS AT ALICE BUT SAYS NOTHING

**ALICE**

Perhaps he doesn't speak English, he might be a French mouse. What do I know in French.....ou est mon chat?

THE MOUSE IS HORRIFIED

**MOUSE**

Cats! Cats! Don't speak to me about cats! Nasty vicious things.

**ALICE**

I'm so sorry. My dear dear mouse.

**MOUSE**

Follow me to the shore and I'll tell you why I don't like cats.

MOUSE AND ALICE SWIM. THEY LAND WITH A BEDRAGGLED DODO AND A DUCK WHO HAVE ALSO BEEN CAUGHT IN THE POOL OF TEARS.

**ALICE**

Hello !

THE ANIMALS HUDDLE TOGETHER, SHIVERING WITH COLD.

**ALICE**

Pleased to meet you but oh you're all shivering and wet, I'm so sorry, were you all caught in my tears?

**DODO**

That's not the right question at all.

**ALICE**

I'm sorry. What is the right question then?

**DODO**

The question is: how shall we get dry again?

**DUCK**

Yes, how shall we get dry?

**MOUSE**

We must have a meeting to decide.

THE ANIMALS AND ALICE GATHER ROUND THE DODO

**MOUSE**

Any suggestions?

**ALICE**

Well, what we really need is towels. Big fluffy beach towels. Do we have any?

**DODO** (pompously)

We do not. And I therefore must recommend that the meeting be adjourned for the immediate adoption of some more energetic remedies.

**DUCK**

Speak English! I don't know the meaning of half of those long words. And I don't believe that you do either.

**DODO**

What I mean is that we must have a Caucus Race.

**ALICE**

What's a Caucus Race?

THE DODO FLUFFS HIMSELF UP SELF-IMPORTANTLY

**DODO** (sings)

It is quite an intense competition

You adopt an athletic position

I can say without fear of suspicion

You must race just as fast as you can.

**MOUSE (sings)**

You'll be trying so hard to keep breathing

**DUCK (sings)**

And all of your feathers are heaving

**DODO (sings)**

Never think for one second of leaving

**ALL (sing)**

We must all race as fast as we can

**DODO (speaking)**

On your marks.....

THE OTHERS ADOPT VARYING START POSITIONS.

**DODO**

Get set..... GO!

**DODO (sings)**

Caucus race

It's a raucous chase

**ALL**

And it's hardly ever in good taste

It's a caucus race

So, let's all keep up the pace

Till someone claims the winner's place

**ALICE**

I'm losing my breath from the running  
And the rules seem quite fiendish and cunning  
I don't know if I'm going or coming  
But I'm running as hard as I can

**DUCK**

I feel that my feathers are flying  
But my hope of a victory is dying

**MOUSE**

But remember the aim is for drying  
We must all race as fast as we can

**ALL**

Caucus race  
Such a raucous chase  
And it's hardly ever in good taste  
Caucus race  
So, let's all keep up the pace  
Till someone claims the winner's place

**DODO** (producing a whistle which he blows to signal everyone to stop racing)

The race is over!

**ALICE**

But who has won?

**DODO**

Everybody has won, and all must have prizes.

**MOUSE**

But who is to give the prizes.

**DODO** (pointing to Alice)

Well, she is of course.

**DUCK/MOUSE/DODO** (THEY CROWD AROUND ALICE)

Prizes! Prizes! Prizes!

ALICE IN DESPAIR PUTS HER HAND IN HER POCKET AND PULLS OUT A PACKET OF SWEETS.  
THERE IS JUST ENOUGH TO GO ROUND.

**ALICE**

There, and now we are all dry it must be time Mouse for you to tell us your story about why you hate cats so much. I just know that if you would only meet my lovely cat Dinah you would change your mind.

**MOUSE**

I shall do nothing of the sort. I won't stay here to be insulted.

HE HURRIES AWAY.

DODO AND DUCK FOLLOW, GENERAL MUMBLING OF "CATS, HORRIBLE ANIMALS, ALL FUR AND TEETH ETC"

**ALICE**

Oh, don't go. I'm so sorry. Don't leave me alone.

A CATERPILLAR ENTERS BEHIND HER.

**CATERPILLAR**

May I ask, who are you?

**ALICE**

I don't know Sir. I mean I know who I was when I got up this morning but I seem to have changed several times since then. Do you see?

**CATERPILLAR (CONFUSED)**

I don't see.

**ALICE**

Yes I'm afraid it's all very confusing.

**CATERPILLAR**

No, it isn't.

**ALICE**

Well perhaps not for you, but it's very confusing to me.

**CATERPILLAR**

So, you think you've changed do you?

**ALICE**

I'm afraid so. I got very tall, and then I got very small. And now I'm absolutely tiny!

**CATERPILLAR**

Nonsense. You're an excellent height.

HE STANDS BY HER - THEY ARE THE SAME HEIGHT.

**ALICE**

Oh .....I'm sorry.

MUSIC STARTS TO PLAY

**CATERPILLAR** (sings/speaks in an urbane style a la Rex Harrison)

I think being shorter is better all round

You feel very safe with your feet on the ground

You'll be able to hide and you'll never be found

Being so tiny brings pleasures profound.

**ALICE** (sings)

But I'd like to be taller, it's more fun you see

I could take down the jam from that high shelf for tea

I could see over fences much more easily

I want to be taller it's better for me

**CATERPILLAR** (sings)

Take a piece of my mushroom just here on the right

You'll soon get your wish if you swallow a bite

Just give it a try and you'll grow like a weed

You'll notice the change with incredible speed

THEY REALISE THAT THEY ARE BEGINNING TO GROW.

**ALICE AND CATERPILLAR** (together)

Oooooooooooooooooohhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!

THEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER AND REALISE THEY HAVE GROWN TO AN ENORMOUS HEIGHT.

**CATERPILLAR** (sings)

We're quite the pair

We're walking on air

I haven't a care

Since we got taller

**ALICE** (sings)

It's hard to believe

What we could achieve

Looking down on the trees

Now we are taller

**TOGETHER**

Now we've got it right

Found the perfect height

Yes the future's bright

Now we are taller

**TOGETHER**

Now we are taller

**ALICE** (spoken)

But now you mention it, it is a long way down.

**ALICE** (sings)

It's making me scared

So high in the air

I was happy down there

When we were smaller

**CATERPILLAR** (sings)

Let's try just a piece

Of the mushroom beneath

Chew it up with our teeth

And we'll get smaller

**ALICE AND THE CATERPILLAR**

Oooooooooohhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!

**CATERPILLAR** (sings)

Now we've shrunk down in size

Can't believe our own eyes

But it's worth it to try

Being smaller

**ALICE** (sings)

We're so nimble and light

We can dance through the night

And It just feels so right

Being smaller

**TOGETHER** (singing)

Now we've got it right

Found the perfect height

Yes the future's bright

Now we are smaller

**ALICE AND CATERPILLAR** (singing)

Being smaller.

Yes we're making our way

Through the forest today

And we're happy to say

That we're smaller

Yes we're happy to say

That we're smaller.

**CATERPILLAR**

Well, that seems to have sorted things out.

**ALICE**

But we're back to the same size we were before.

**CATERPILLAR**

Exactly. The perfect size. My dear, I wish you a very good day.

THE CATERPILLAR GIVES ALICE A LITTLE BOW, KISSES HER HAND, PICKS UP HIS MUSHROOM AND DEPARTS.

**ALICE**

Good bye Mr Caterpillar. It was such a pleasure to make your acquaintance.

THE SCREEN CHANGES TO SHOW A HOUSE.

**ALICE**

Well, I didn't see that before. It looks like a perfectly nice normal house. Perhaps at last I shall find some people.

THE DUCHESS IS HOLDING SOMETHING SWADDLED IN BLANKETS. A COOK IS STIRRING A POT OF SOUP AND SHAKING PEPPER INTO IT, BOTH HE AND THE DUCHESS SNEEZE EVERY TIME. *ON ONE OF THE SCREENS A CAT APPEARS GRINNING FROM EAR TO EAR.*

**ALICE**

Hello, excuse me?

THE COOK THROWS MORE PEPPER INTO THE SOUP. ALICE, THE COOK AND THE DUCHESS ALL SNEEZE VIOLENTLY

**ALICE**

I think there might be too much pepper in that soup.

**COOK** (in a heavy French accent)

And what do you know about it? I am Le Chef de Cuisine. I say how much pepper goes into the Duchess's soup.

ALICE TAKES A SIP AND SNEEZES

**COOK** (very fast in French)

Ma chère Duchesse, je ne peux tout de même pas cuisiner pour un palais aussi peu raffiné! Cette fille ne connaît rien au grand art de la cuisine française. "*Trop de poivre*", dit-elle ! Devrais-je rester là, sans rien dire, pendant que mon plat est critiqué par... UNE ANGLAISE?!

**ALICE**

Monsieur, I'm sorry I don't understand.

**COOK** (in English now)

You are right. You understand nothing. Once I was the Chef Patron of my very own restaurant, Le Poivre Dore.

**DUCHESS** (to Alice)

The Golden Peppercorn.

**ALICE**

I've never heard of it

**COOK**

Never heard of it! What about my signature dishes? Steak Au Poivre? Poulet Au Poivre? Poisson au Poivre? And of course, my *pièce de résistance*, le Poivron ... au Poivre.

**ALICE**

What happened to your restaurant?

**DUCHESS**

It went bankrupt.

**COOK** (in French)

"Trop de poivre", ont-ils dit. Trop de poivre pour les critiques au ventre fragile. Trop de poivre pour les clients au nez trop sensible.

**DUCHESS**

Luckily he was able to find a new employer with a taste for the finer things.

**ALICE**

So, you became the Duchess's cook?

**DUCHESS**

Finally, a chef who knows how to properly season a dish. Now girl what brings you to my house?

**ALICE**

I've been having a very confusing day. And I was hoping you could tell me where I am

**DUCHESS**

Well, you're here of course, in the kitchen.

SHE WHISPERS TO THE COOK

I think this girl is an imbecile.

**ALICE**

I can hear you, you know. And it's very rude to whisper about a guest.

**COOK**

I don't see how you're a guest when you just walked into my kitchen uninvited and insulted my soup.

**DUCHESS**

The cook makes an excellent point. Are you sure we shouldn't just chop off your head and be done with you?

**ALICE**

I'm very sure thank you. And I'm sure we could all be friends if we just start again.

**DUCHESS**

Very well then. Start again.

**ALICE**

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

**DUCHESS**

It's a Cheshire Cat. That's why.

**ALICE**

I didn't know cats could grin.

**DUCHESS**

They all can, and most of 'em do.

**ALICE**

I don't know any that do.

**COOK**

Yes you don't know much and that's a fact.

**DUCHESS**

Here make yourself useful and look after the baby. If he gets upset just give him some more pepper. And sing him the pepper song.

THE DUCHESS THROWS THE BABY TO ALICE

**ALICE**

I'm afraid I don't know the pepper song.

**DUCHESS**

I find that very hard to believe. It's a classic lullaby.

**DUCHESS** (Singing)

Please speak softly to my boy

And just ignore his sneezes

He does it to annoy

Because he knows it teases.

**DUCHESS AND COOK** (doing the pepper dance!)

Ooh la la la pepper makes it better

Ooh la la la nothing nice as pepper

Spicy nicey peppercorns

Keep your baby snug and warm

Ooh la la la lovely, lovely pepper

**DUCHESS**

I speak softly to my boy

And bless him when he sneezes

For he can thoroughly enjoy

The pepper when he pleases

**DUCHESS AND COOK AND ALICE**

Ooh la la la pepper makes it better

Ooh la la la nothing nice as pepper

Spicy nicey peppercorns

Keep your baby snug and warm

Ooh la la la lovely, lovely pepper

**DUCHESS**

Put more pepper in the pot

Tastes too spicy? No, it's not!

Everybody likes it hot

Sprinkle on the pepper

**DUCHESS, COOK, ALICE**

Ooh la la la pepper makes it better

Ooh la la la nothing nice as pepper

Spicy nicey peppercorns

Keep your baby snug and warm

Ooh la la la lovely, lovely pepper

**DUCHESS**

Ahhhhh- chooo!

Right, I must go and play croquet with the Queen. Help yourself to pepper.

DUCHESS AND COOK EXIT. ALICE UNWRAPS THE BABY, IT IS A PIG.

**ALICE**

Cheshire Cat Sir. Can you please tell me which way to go?

**CAT**

*Well, that depends on where you want to get to.*

ALICE

I don't really care where-

**CAT (INTERRUPTING)**

*Then it doesn't matter which way you go.*

**ALICE**

As long as I get SOMEWHERE.

**CAT**

*Oh, you're sure to do that. If you walk long enough.*

**ALICE**

What sort of people live around here?

**CAT**

*In that direction (WAVES HIS RIGHT PAW) lives a Mad Hatter and in that direction (WAVES LEFT PAW) lives a March Hare. Visit either. They're both mad.*

**ALICE**

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

**CAT**

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

**ALICE**

How do you know I'm mad?

**CAT**

*Well, you're here aren't you? Do you play croquet with the Queen today?*

**ALICE**

I'd like to but I haven't received an invitation.

**CAT**

*You'll see me there.*

HE VANISHES. THEN SUDDENLY APPEARS AGAIN.

**CAT**

*By the way, what became of the baby?*

**ALICE**

It's turned into a pig.

**CAT**

*Ah I thought it would.*

HE VANISHES. THEN SUDDENLY APPEARS AGAIN.

**CAT**

*Did you say pig or fig?*

**ALICE**

Pig and I wish you wouldn't keep appearing and disappearing so quickly.

**CAT**

*All right.*

*THE CAT VANISHES VERY SLOWLY BEGINNING WITH THE TAIL AND ENDING WITH THE GRIN, WHICH REMAINS SOME TIME AFTER THE REST OF IT HAS GONE.*

**ALICE**

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

*THE GRIN FINALLY FADES AWAY*

THE MAD HATTER, DORMOUSE AND THE MARCH HARE ENTER.

ALICE ENTERS

**MAD HATTER & MARCH HARE** (as they see Alice approaching)

No room! No room! Go away!

**ALICE**

Nonsense there's plenty of room.

**MARCH HARE**

Have some wine.

**ALICE**

I don't see any wine.

**MARCH HARE**

There isn't any.

**ALICE**

Then it wasn't very polite of you to offer it.

**MARCH HARE**

It wasn't very polite of you to sit down without being invited,

**MAD HATTER**

Why is a raven like a writing desk?

**ALICE**

Oh, a riddle, I love riddles. I think I can guess that.

**MARCH HARE**

Do you mean that you think you can work out the answer?

**ALICE**

Exactly so.

**MARCH HARE**

Then 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 as well say "I see what I eat" is the same thing as "I eat what I see".

**MARCH HARE**

You might as well say that "I like what I get" is the same as "I get what I like".

**DORMOUSE** (still almost asleep)

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

**MARCH HARE**

It is the same thing with you!

**MAD HATTER**

What day of the month is it?

HE TAKES A POCKET WATCH OUT , SHAKES IT AND HOLDS IT TO HIS EAR.

**ALICE**

It's the fourth.

**MAD HATTER**

Two days wrong!

ALICE LOOKS AT THE WATCH

**ALICE**

What a funny watch. It tells the date but not the time.

**MAD HATTER**

Nothing funny about that. Can't you see it's always teatime here?

**ALICE**

How can the time not be changing? Surely it's ticking away as we speak?

**MAD HATTER**

If you knew time as well as I do you wouldn't be calling him "it". It's "him".

**ALICE**

I don't know what you're talking about.

**MAD HATTER**

Of course you don't. I daresay you never even spoke to Time.

**ALICE**

Of course not. Are you saying you speak to Time?

**MAD HATTER**

Not anymore. We had a quarrel last March. Just before he (gestures to the MARCH HARE) went mad. It was at the grand concert for the Queen of Hearts and I had to sing

THE HATTER SINGS TO THE TUNE OF TWINKLE TWINKLE LITTLE STAR

**MAD HATTER** (singing)

“Twinkle Twinkle Little Bat,

How I wonder where you’re at.”

You know the song perhaps?

**ALICE**

I’ve heard something like it but I think it should be “little star”!

**MAD HATTER**

Don’t be ridiculous. It goes on like this:

HE SINGS

**MAD HATTER**

“Up above the world so high,

like a tea tray in the sky.”

Well, I’d hardly got through the first verse when the Queen bawled out “He’s murdering the time, off with his head!” And ever since, Time won’t do a thing I ask. It’s always six o’ clock now.

**ALICE**

So that’s the reason that so many tea things are set out?

**MARCH HARE**

Yes, it’s always teatime and there’s no time to wash the things in between.

**ALICE**

So, you just keep moving round I suppose?

**MARCH HARE**

Exactly so, as the things get used up.

**MAD HATTER**

No time to tidy up . Or do anything else at all. I haven't made a hat for months.

**ALICE**

It doesn't seem too bad. I mean everyone likes teatime.

**MARCH HARE**

Not too bad! It's a terrible curse.

**DORMOUSE**

Yes it's awful. When you think of all the wonderful things we could be doing,

**ALICE**

I don't want to be rude but like what?

**MAD HATTER (sings)**

I could write the great American novel

**MARCH HARE (sings)**

I could design and weave a splendid tapestry

**DORMOUSE (sings)**

I could row the Channel backwards on a shovel

**MAD HATTER/DORMOUSE/MARCH HARE (sing)**

But not right now because it's time for tea.

**ALICE (speaking)**

Oh, I see.

**MAD HATTER (sings)**

I could learn to speak Swahili at my leisure

**MARCH HARE** (sings)

I could take employment in a factory

**DORMOUSE** (sings)

I could paint a portrait like the Mona Lisa

**MAD HATTER/DORMOUSE/MARCH HARE** (sing)

But not right now because it's time for tea

It is always tea time

No more me time

Rush to eat another currant bun

It is always teatime

No more free time

It seems as though this meal is never done

**MAD HATTER** (sings)

I would like to take a trip up to the mountains

**MARCH HARE** (sings)

I would like to take a trip down to the sea

**DORMOUSE** (sings)

I would like to take a letter to the post-box

**ALL (INC ALICE)** (sing)

But not right now because it's time for tea

**MAD HATTER**(sings)

We get to eat an awful lot of pastry

**MARCH HARE** (sings)

And some is sweet and some is savoury

**DORMOUSE** (sings)

We would like to eat a tasty roasted chicken

**ALL** (sing)

But not right now because it's time for tea

**MAD HATTER** (shouts)

More tea? Everybody move round.

**ALL** (chanting quietly)

Tea tea sandwiches cake

More little pastries then move on one place

Tea tea there's more in the pot

And there's plenty more sandwiches like it or not

**ALL** (sing)

It is always tea time

No more me time

Rush to eat another currant bun

It is always teatime

No more free time

And nothing else will ever end up done

**MAD HATTER**

More tea?

**MARCH HARE**

Meh, I'll take a cup.

**ALICE**

But what happens when you come to the beginning again?

**MAD HATTER**

You ask a lot of questions.

**MARCH HARE**

Let's change the subject.

**DORMOUSE** (yawning)

It's time for another nap isn't it?

THE DORMOUSE FALLS ASLEEP

**MAD HATTER** (to Alice)

Have you got an answer to the riddle yet? Why is a raven like a writing desk?

**ALICE**

No, I don't think –

**MAD HATTER**

Well then you shouldn't talk.

**ALICE**

How rude! That's quite enough.

ALICE GETS UP AND STALKS OFF. AS SHE GOES SHE SEES THE MAD HATTER AND THE MARCH HARE TRYING TO PUT THE SLEEPING DORMOUSE INTO THE TEAPOT.

**ALICE**

Well, I'll never go there again. It's the stupidest tea party I've ever been to.

ALICE WALKS ON. *SCREENS SHOW GARDENERS; ONE DRESSED AS THE FIVE OF SPADES AND ONE AS THE SEVEN OF DIAMONDS AS THEY TEND A LARGE ROSE BUSH. WE SEE THAT THE ROSES ARE WHITE BUT THE GARDENERS ARE PAINTING THEM RED.*

*ON FILM*

*SEVEN*

*Look out Five! You're splashing paint everywhere.*

**FIVE**

*I can't help it. You jogged my elbow.*

**SEVEN**

*That's right, blame me!*

**ALICE**

Excuse me, but why are you painting the roses?

**FIVE**

*Well, the thing is Miss, this should have been a red rose tree and if the Queen finds out that we put a white one in by mistake she would have our heads cut off.*

*A FANFARE SOUNDS*

**SEVEN**

*The Queen! The Queen is coming!*

*THEY THROW THEMSELVES TO THE GROUND AND BECOME JUST FLAT PLAYING CARDS.*

THE QUEEN OF HEARTS ENTERS WITH THE WHITE RABBIT BEHIND HER.

**QUEEN** (to the White Rabbit)

Who is this?

**WHITE RABBIT**

I don't know your Majesty. (pointedly looking at Alice) I've never seen her before.

**QUEEN**

What is your name child?

**ALICE**

My name is Alice, so please your majesty.

**QUEEN**

Very good. Can you play croquet?

**ALICE**

Yes I can.

**QUEEN**

Well, come along then, come along.

THE GRYPHON ENTERS, GIVES ALICE "THE RULE BOOK" AND THEN FOLLOWS THE QUEEN

**ALICE** (to the White Rabbit)

Never seen me before eh?

**WHITE RABBIT**

It's a very fine day isn't it?

**ALICE**

Where's the Duchess? She said she was going to play croquet with the Queen.

**WHITE RABBIT**

She's under sentence of execution.

**ALICE**

What for?

**WHITE RABBIT**

She boxed the Queen's ears.

ALICE LAUGHS

**WHITE RABBIT**

Hush! The Queen will hear you. You see the Duchess was very late and the Queen said –

**QUEEN**

Get to your places!

THE WHITE RABBIT RUSHES TO HAND OUT FLAMINGOES AS MALLETS AND CURLED UP HEDGEHOGS AS BALLS. THE GRIFFIN SHOOT. THE QUEEN TAKES A SHOT.

**GRIFFIN**

Oh bravo your majesty. Lovely shot !

**ALICE** (throwing away The Rule Book)

Well so much for The Rule Book !

ALICE TAKES HER SHOT AND IT IS PERFECT.

**QUEEN**

Now it is time for audience participation. Mr Griffin, take it away.

**GRIFFIN**

Everyone stand up, take your invisible magic pink flamingo from under your chair and your invisible hedgehog too. You take your shot at the count of three. Your majesty please do the honours.

**QUEEN**

1, 2, 3.

Rebound ! Very well my subjects, you all did very well. Except you (pointing to a member of the audience), I know you broke my window. Off with his head! Actually, no. Off with all their heads !

**ALICE**

I've never seen such a curious game in my life!

*THE CHESHIRE CAT APPEARS ON SCREEN.*

**CHESHIRE CAT**

*How are you getting on?*

**ALICE**

I don't think they're playing at all fairly.

**CHESHIRE CAT**

*How do you like the Queen?*

**ALICE**

Not at all. She's so extremely-

ALICE REALISES THE QUEEN IS STANDING RIGHT BEHIND HER

**ALICE**

....likely to win that it's hardly worth finishing the game.

THE QUEEN LOOKS PLEASED AND MOVES OFF

**KING** (approaches Alice and regards the Cat)

Hello, who's this then?

**ALICE**

It's a friend of mine. May I introduce the Cheshire Cat.

**KING**

I don't like the look of it at all. But it can kiss my hand if it likes.

**CHESHIRE CAT**

*I'd rather not.*

**KING** (calling to the Queen)

My dear, I wish to have this cat removed.

**QUEEN**

Very well. Off with his head!

*THE CHESHIRE CAT'S BODY DISAPPEARS. LEAVING JUST HIS HEAD ON SCREEN.*

**KING**

But it hasn't got a body. How can we cut off the head if there's nothing to cut it off from?

**CHESHIRE CAT**

*And what if I didn't even have a head?*

*THE CHESHIRE CAT FADES AWAY*

**ALICE**

Well, that settles that I suppose.

THE QUEEN TAKES ALICE BY THE ARM

**QUEEN**

My dear, have you met the Mock Turtle yet?

**ALICE**

No, I don't even know what a Mock Turtle is.

**QUEEN**

It's the thing that mock turtle soup is made from.

**ALICE**

What's mock turtle soup?

**QUEEN**

Well.... it's not *turtle* soup.

**ALICE**

Well, that applies to almost everything. Everything except turtle soup I suppose.

**QUEEN**

The mock turtle is a most charming fellow.

**ALICE**

Why are you going to make him into soup then?

**QUEEN**

I'm not going to make him into soup. Well not today anyway. Come, let me introduce you and he can tell you his history.

**QUEEN**

Gryphon? (Screams) Gryphon! Gryphon!

**QUEEN**

May I present Miss Alice. Alice meet the Gryphon.

**ALICE**

Pleased to meet you Sir.

**QUEEN**

Now please take this young lady to meet the Mock Turtle. I must get back to see to today's executions. I believe we have a pretty full schedule.

THE QUEEN EXITS

**GRYPHON**

Oh, what fun!

**ALICE**

What's fun?

**GRYPHON**

Why the queen. It's all in her imagination you know. She never executes anyone. Come on. Let's call the Mock Turtle. Hellooooo, hellooooo, Mock Turtle.

ALICE LOOKS AT HIM BAFFLED

**GRYPHON**

Please join in the call.

**ALICE AND GRYPHON**

Hellooooo, hellooooo!

THE MOCK TURTLE ENTERS

**GRYPHON**

Here you are. My fine fellow. May I present Miss Alice. She has come to hear your history.

**MOCK TURTLE**

Well then I will tell it to her.

THE MOCK TURTLE WIPES HIS EYES AND SNIFFLES A BIT.

**ALICE**

Oh, poor thing, is he crying?

**MOCK TURTLE** (very sadly)

I will tell you my story, but not a word until I have finished.

THERE IS A LONG AWKWARD SILENCE.

**ALICE** (to the Gryphon)

I don't see how he can ever finish, if he doesn't begin.

**GRYPHON**

Ssshhhh

**MOCK TURTLE**

Once I was a real turtle. (he starts to sob). We went to school in the sea. We had the best education. We went to school every day.

**ALICE**

I've been to school too you know. You needn't be as proud as all that.

**MOCK TURTLE**

With extras?

**ALICE**

Yes we learned French and music.

**MOCK TURTLE**

We learned French and music and washing.

**ALICE**

Washing? At the bottom of the sea? Ridiculous!

**MOCK TURTLE**

You obviously haven't lived under the sea very much.

**ALICE**

I haven't no.

**GRYPHON**

And so, you may never have met a lobster?

**ALICE**

I think I once ate-

SHE BREAKS OFF AS SHE SEES THEIR HORRIFIED FACES

**GRYPHON**

Would you like the Mock Turtle to sing you a song?

**ALICE**

Please if the Mock Turtle would be so kind.

**GRYPHON**

Why don't you sing her the Turtle Soup song old fellow?

THE MOCK TURTLE DRAWS HIMSELF UP AND SINGS IN A VOICE CHOKED WITH TEARS.

**MOCK TURTLE** (sings)

Beautiful soup so rich and green

Waiting in a hot tureen

Who for such dainties would not stoop

Soup of the evening beautiful soup

Beee-ootiful soup, beeee-ootiful soup

Soup of the evening beautiful soup

Beee-ootiful soup!

ALICE IS A BIT TAKEN ABACK BY THE PERFORMANCE

**MOCK TURTLE** (sings)

Beautiful soup who cares for fish

Meat or any other dish

Who would not want to join our group

For soup of the evening beautiful soup

Beee- ootiful soup, beeee-ootiful soup

Soup of the evening beautiful soup

Beee-ootiful soup

A SHOUT IS HEARD FROM A DISTANCE.

**VOICE OFF STAGE**

The trial is beginning! The trial is beginning!

**ALICE** (seizing the excuse)

Oh, I'd better go then. I don't want to miss the trial.

**GRYPHON**

Are you sure? I mean the Mock Turtle is about to sing another verse.

**ALICE**

Oh, that's very kind of him but really there's no need.

**GRYPHON**

Well, come on then. Let's get you to the trial.

GRYPHON AND ALICE RUSH OFF. THE MOCK TURTLE IS OBLIVIOUS AND CONTINUES

**MOCK TURTLE** (sings)

Beautiful soup is piping hot

Bubbling in a massive pot

Show me the man it does not suit

Soup of the evening beautiful soup

Beee- ootiful soup, beeee-ootiful soup

Soup of the evening beautiful soup

Bee-ootiful soup

Bee-ooo-ooo-ooo-oooo-ooo-ooo-ooo-tiful soup

THE MOCK TURTLE BOWS DEEPLY. AND LOOKS UP TO REALISE HE'S ON HIS OWN.

**MOCK TURTLE**

Oh. Where did everybody go?

HE EXITS

THE KING ENTERS WEARING A JUDGE'S WIG. *ON THE SCREEN ALICE SEES A COURTROOM AND ANIMALS AND BIRDS IN TWO ROWS OF SIX.*

**ALICE**

Well, that must be the jury I suppose.

*AND ON THE OTHER SCREEN IS THE ACCUSED: THE KNAVE OF HEARTS. WEARING HANDCUFFS, IN THE DOCK*

**KING**

Let us begin the trial of the Knave of Hearts. (handing Alice a scroll)

Read the accusation.

**ALICE** (reads )

"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 quite away”

But this is just a nursery rhyme!

**KING**

Jury, consider your verdict.

**ALICE**

Not yet surely. I don't even know what the crime is.

**KING**

The crime? The stealing of the Queen's tarts of course. Beautiful tarts they were. And as the indictment clearly states the Knave of Hearts, stole those beautiful tarts. Which I might add we were going to have for tea.

**ALICE**

I see. Pastry theft. That does sound serious.

**QUEEN**

I hope this child is not making fun of the proceedings in the court.

**KING**

I fear she is. Off with her head my dear? Would that delight you my dear?

**ALICE**

Now wait a minute. I'm not the person on trial here. Do we have any witnesses?

**KING**

An excellent idea. Call the first witness.

VOICE ECHOES OFF “CALL THE FIRST WITNESS, CALL THE FIRST WITNESS”

THE MAD HATTER ARRIVES, CARRYING A CUP OF TEA.

**MAD HATTER**

I beg your pardon your Majesty, I haven't quite finished my tea.

**KING**

You ought to have finished by now. When did you begin?

**MAD HATTER**

Fourteenth of March, I think it was.

**KING**

That doesn't make any sense. Ask him to take the oath

**ALICE**

Errrm, will you take the oath?

**MAD HATTER** (removing his hat and holding it in front of him)

I swear that the evidence I shall give, is evidence that I shall give, given by me, in evidence.

**QUEEN**

Very good then, let's get on with it.

**KING**

Yes, carry on, what happened on the summer's day in question? when the Queen of Hearts had made her tarts?

**MAD HATTER**

Well I had only just started my tea. It began with tea.

**KING**

Of course, tea begins with a T. What are you talking about?

**MAD HATTER**

Why teatime of course.

**KING**

But it's well past teatime now.

**MAD HATTER**

It's always teatime at my house.

**KING**

In the metaphorical sense of always being a warm welcome and a cup of tea offered to a guest?

**ALICE**

No, that's not it at all. It's literally always teatime. He's stuck in time. Him and his friends the Dormouse and the March Hare. Two of them are quite mad and the other one is always asleep.

**MAD HATTER**

You are a very rude girl.

**ALICE**

And you were very rude to me when I visited for tea.

**MAD HATTER**

There's no need to say "when I visited for tea". Everyone visits for tea. It's impossible to visit at any other time. Strike that last remark from the record.

**ALICE**

I'm not sure there even is a record if I'm honest.

**QUEEN**

Oh, you must be honest, this is a court of law.

**KING (To Alice)**

Right. Your witness.

**ALICE**

I don't have any questions; what do I know about it?

**QUEEN**

In that case you should say “no further questions my Lord”. Don’t you know anything about court procedure?

**ALICE**

I’m very sorry your Majesty. No further questions my Lord.

**KING (to MAD HATTER)**

Well, if that’s the best you can do you can stand down.

**MAD HATTER**

I’m on the floor already, I can’t go any lower.

**KING**

In that case you may go back to your tea.

THE MAD HATTER SCUTTLES AWAY.

**KING**

Call the next witness, the Duchess.

**VOICE OFF : CALL THE DUCHESS, CALL THE DUCHESS.**

THE DUCHESS ENTERS, CARRYING A LARGE PEPPER POT.

**KING**

Give your evidence.

**DUCHESS**

No. I won’t.

**ALICE**

In that case you need to cross examine the witness your Majesty.

**KING**

Well, if I must, I must. Ummmm....what are tarts made of?

**DUCHESS**

Pepper mostly. I'd say about eighty percent pepper.

**ALICE**

No that's not right. That's far too much pepper.

**DUCHESS** (furious)

Too much pepper?! I never heard the like. It's simply not possible to have too much pepper.

SHE WAVES HER PEPPER POT AT ALICE

**ALICE**

No thank you. Not just now.

THE DUCHESS SHRUGS AND EMPTIES THE PEPPER BOX INTO ALICE'S POCKET

**DUCHESS**

Something for later.

**ALICE**

Oh no. I don't want my pockets full of pepper.

**KING**

Right. Time for the next witness. Call Alice.

**ALICE**

I am Alice! And why call me? What do I know about it?

**KING**

It seems to me that your fingerprints are all over this case.

**ALICE**

That's not true, I've never even been here before today.

**QUEEN**

A likely story, I don't believe a word of it.

**KING**

In that case let the jury consider their verdict. And let me say young lady I hope they throw the book at you.

**ALICE**

But I'm not even the one on trial.

**QUEEN**

We'll see about that. And in any event sentence first, verdict afterwards.

**ALICE**

Stuff and nonsense! The idea of having the sentence first!

**QUEEN**

Be quiet!

**ALICE**

I won't!

**QUEEN**

Off with her head then. Guards! Guards!

**ALICE**

This is nonsense. I won't listen to any of you a moment longer. Why, now I look at you properly you're all nothing but a pack of cards!

A GASP FROM THE COURT.

**ALICE**

That's right, you heard me.....just a pack of stupid cards.

NOISE OF RAISED VOICES "Absolute outrage, off with her head etc" AS EVERYONE LEAVES THE STAGE EXCEPT FOR ALICE.

*AS THE NOISE DIES DOWN THE SCREENS CHANGE TO A LOVELY SUMMER TWILIGHT COUNTRY SCENE AS THE STAGE LIGHTS COME UP. ALICE IS LAYING ON THE GROUND, TOSSING AND TURNING AS IF HAVING A NIGHTMARE*

**ALICE**

Just a pack of cards! A pack of cards.

ALICE WAKES UP PROPERLY AND SITS UP

**ALICE**

Oh, my word. What's happened? That was very strange.

ALICE LOOKS AROUND HER BUT THERE IS NO ONE THERE

**ALICE**

Hello! Hello Mr Rabbit? Excuse me Duchess? Mr Caterpillar? Is no one here? Not even the Cheshire Cat?

ALICE BEGINS TO REALISE WHAT HAS HAPPENED AS THE MUSIC STARTS TO PLAY

**ALICE**

It's got so late. I must have been asleep for hours.

**ALICE** (sings sadly)

On summer nights like these

The sun is sinking through the trees

There are no voices on the breeze

And I begin to understand

That as the sunset falls across the stream

That all of this was just a crazy dream

And life goes back to normal and it seems

There's no such thing as Wonderland

There are no magic creatures here

No more King of hearts to fill my heart with fear

No Dodo, Mouse or Caterpillar dear

And it's all becoming clear

That as the twilight steals across the scene

Yes all of this was just a crazy dream

And life goes back to normal and it seems

There's no such thing as Wonderland.

ALICE IS ALMOST CRYING NOW. HER VOICE IS BREAKING A LITTLE

**ALICE** (singing)

Yes life goes back to normal and it seems

There's no such thing as Wonderland

ALICE REACHES INTO HER POCKET AND PULLS OUT HER HANDKERCHIEF TO DAB HER EYES.

**ALICE**

Ahhhhhh-choooo!

ALICE STARES AT THE HANDKERCHIEF. THEN PUTS HER HAND IN HER POCKET AGAIN AND BRINGS IT TO HER FACE.

**ALICE**

It can't be. It's pepper!

THE MUSIC CRASHES INTO THE PEPPER SONG.

**DUCHESS/ MOUSE/CATERPILLAR**

Ooh la la la pepper makes it better

Ooh la la la nothing nice as pepper

Spicy nicey peppercorn stops you feeling so forlorn

Ooh la la la let's all have some pepper

**DUCHESS**

Never lose your faith my dear

The world has more surprises

And Wonderland is there to see

Just open up your eyes-es

**DUCHESS/ MOUSE/CATERPILLAR/ ALICE**

Ooh la la la pepper makes it better

Ooh la la la nothing nice as pepper

Spicy nicey peppercorn stops you feeling so forlorn

Ooh la la la let's all have some pepper

**DUCHESS/ MOUSE/CATERPILLAR/ ALICE**

You can find your way to magic lands

Before the sun arises

**CATERPILLAR**

And you'll meet many old friends there

And some of perfect sizes

**DUCHESS/ MARCH HARE/ CATERPILLAR / ALICE**

Ooh la la la pepper makes it better

Ooh la la la nothing nice as pepper

Spicy nicey peppercorn stops you feeling so forlorn

Ooh la la la let's all have some pepper.

**DUCHESS**

Come with us to Wonderland

Let me take you by the hand

Find it hard to understand

Have a bit more pepper

THEY SING AS THEY DANCE OFF

**DUCHESS/ MARCH HARE/ CATERPILLAR / ALICE**

Ooh la la la pepper makes it better

Ooh la la la nothing nice as pepper

Spicy nicey peppercorn stops you feeling so forlorn

Ooh la la la let's all have some pepper.

**THE END**