

PLAYS FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

a partnership of Seattle Children's Theatre and Children's Theatre Company-Minneapolis

2400 THIRD AVENUE SOUTH
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55404
612-872-5108
FAX 612-874-8119

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

Story by
Lewis Carroll

Adaptation by
Deborah Lynn Frockt

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland was first presented by Seattle Children's Theatre for the 1996 season. All Rights Reserved.

A Note About Casting:

The original production at Seattle Children's Theatre used six actors playing multiple roles as well as puppets. None were gender specific, except for Alice, who was a young woman. The roles were divided as follows:

Actor #1: CATERPILLAR, CHESHIRE CAT, GRYPHON, WHITE KNIGHT, KING

Actor #2: LORY, DAISY, DUCHESS, MOCK TURTLE, DORMOUSE

Actor #3: MOUSE, TIGER LILY, TWEEDLEDUM, MAD HATTER, HUMPTY DUMPTY, KNAVE

Actor #4: PAINTER, WHITE RABBIT, DODO, ROYAL PAINTER

Actor #5: DUCK, ROSE, COOK, TWEEDLEDEE, MARCH HARE, QUEEN

Actor #6: ALICE

Act I

Lights come up on a very large portrait frame with nothing in the space where a canvas would be. Alice and the Portrait Painter are down stage of the frame, with the Painter painting as if a canvas were there. He holds a palette and paintbrush. He is fixing Alice in a certain pose (for the hundredth time) when the lights come up.

Alice

It feels better the other way.

Painter

But it looks nicer *this* way.

Alice

What do I care how it looks?

Painter

Don't you want the portrait to turn out nicely, Alice?

Alice

I shouldn't care either way.

Painter

But it will exist for posterity.

Alice

You think I don't know what that word means, but I do. My vocabulary is quite large for someone my age. Everyone says so.

Painter

I think it's quite nice that your parents wish to have this picture painted.

Alice

Of course *you* think it's nice... they pay *you*. Of course *they* think it's nice... *they* don't have to sit here all day long.

Painter

What would you rather be doing?

Anything. Alice

Like what thing? Painter

Like anything. Alice

Name one thing. Painter

Well, I could... Alice

Yes? Painter

And then there's... Alice

Uh huh? Painter

Or I could always... Well, anything at all would be better. Alice

Certainly. Painter

What's taking so long anyway? I am, after all, not a very large girl. Alice

Large enough. Painter

Painting *me* shouldn't be taking this long. Alice

It shouldn't? Painter

Alice

I should think not. If it takes you this long to paint one rather small girl/

Painter

All you see in the painting is yourself?

Alice

Isn't that all you're supposed to be painting? Me? I don't think they'll pay you for extra if you're spending time on things you shouldn't.

Painter

What do you see in this picture?

Alice

I see an outline of me. All you've done of me is the outline? We'll never be done.

Painter

Is that all you see?

Alice

And the chair I'm sitting on. There's nothing else there.

Painter

Funny. I see many other things I've painted...and some I haven't.

Alice

That's nonsense.

Painter

Maybe you're right. Eye of the beholder and all.

Alice

That's crazy. (Pause) What else do you see?

Painter

When I look at this bluish bit right here, it looks very much like the sea. In fact, I can just make out the waves crashing against the shore, and I can even discern a smallfish making its way through the surf.

Alice

I don't see that at all.

Painter

And when I look at this bit of yellow right here, I see a flash of the crown.

Alice

You mean like a queen's crown?

Painter

Very much so.

Alice

But a queen's crown has a special shape and shine, and there are always many jewels in it.

Painter

Perhaps that's usually the case, but I don't think the queen who wears this crown is the usual kind of queen.

Alice

But how do you know? You're just saying that because you painted the picture, so you can make her up anyway you wish.

Painter

That would be true if I had made her up, but I didn't. She's there of her own very strong volition.

Alice

Well, I don't see her.

Painter

That doesn't mean she's not there. You do see the Rabbit, don't you?

Alice

The smell of paint has gone to your head. There is no Rabbit. There is no queen. There is no seashore.

Painter

He's very pale...even looks white. And it's most peculiar.

Alice

What is?

Painter

He has a pocket watch (HE PULLS A POCKET WATCH FROM HIS WAISTCOAT) quite like this one.

Alice

And I suppose he's also wearing a smock just like yours?

Painter

Don't be silly. He's wearing a waistcoat. He's moving so quickly, it's nearly impossible for your eye keep up with him.

Alice
It's your imagination run wild.

Painter
He's saying something.

Alice
I don't hear a thing.

Painter
Do you mind? I'll have to move in more closely if I want to understand him clearly. (HE HANDS HER HIS PAINT BRUSH)

With that, the painter steps through the frame and disappears into blackness.

Alice
Where did he... Of all the...

Alice examines the space in the frame where the Painter walked through it.

Pictures with imaginary things in them don't exist. They don't. There's no fish in the sea or queen with a crown or rabbit with a pocket watch. There's no way to disappear through a picture. No way. You can't simply walk into a picture.

Alice simply walks into the picture, just as the Painter did. She gasps in great surprise.

ALICE
(Speaking to the painter who is no longer there) I see what you're up to. Very funny. It's very funny, but I should like to sit still and finish my portrait now. Come on now. If we don't, I'll be posterity myself before it's finished.

A white rabbit puppet comes racing on.

White Rabbit
Oh dear! Oh dear!

Alice
A white rabbit in a waistcoat!

Rabbit examines his pocket watch.

Alice
With a pocket watch!

Rabbit
I shall be too late.

Alice
Where have I come to?

Rabbit
It will never do.

Alice
Sir, if you would just tell me where have I come to?

From the Doorway

Rabbit
I'm late!

Rabbit
Oh, my ears and whiskers, how late it's getting!

Rabbit disappears through the doorway and it slams shut behind him. Alice scrunches down and tries desperately to pull the door open - when she can't...

Alice
I can't have come all this way only to be locked out of wherever it is I'm supposed to be going.

A tiny golden key is thrust at her feet from underneath the door. She takes it, and when she opens the door, there is a burst of music.

Alice
This is the loveliest place I've ever seen.

Alice struggles mightily to fit her too big body through the too small door.

Alice
It seems that I might... If only I could... Oooh! I wish that I could shut up like a telescope!

From out of nowhere comes a bottle that reads "Drink Me".

Alice

"Drink Me." Somewhat suspicious is what I'd say. The fact is, if you grab a red-hot poker, however innocent it might appear, it will burn you if you hold it too long. Furthermore, if you cut your finger very deeply with a knife, it usually bleeds. And, in conclusion, if you drink from a bottle marked "poison", especially a suspicious one, it's almost certain to disagree with you. (AGAIN EXAMINING THE BOTTLE) But this bottle, although suspicious, is *not* marked "poison." (SHE DRINKS FROM THE BOTTLE) A delightfully curious taste of cherry tart, custard, pineapple, roast turkey, and/

Alice grows to a gigantic size.

Alice

I didn't shut up at all. I seemed to have opened all the way up. My feet are so far away they'll probably begin to walk their own direction. (With a sad look to the tiny door far below her) I shall never get in now. Perhaps I am no longer even I. But if I know the things I used to, then I'm certainly still myself. Four times five is twelve. Four times six is thirteen...London is the capital of Paris, Paris is the capital of Rome...I must no longer be myself.

Alice begins to weep enormous tears. We hear the sound of Big Drops of Water Falling.

And if I am no longer myself, who have I become? And my feet are getting soaked from my very own tears. And if I don't stop crying, I shall soon be drowned. And...And...(A SMALL CAKE SAYING "EAT ME" IN CURRANTS FLOATS UP TO HER) and this cake looks delicious. (SHE READS THE CAKE) "Eat me." I don't think I can trust this pastry one bit, but there's no other choice.

Alice bites the cake. She shrinks to her normal size as a large door, exactly the same as the small door, is revealed. Alice begins to swim to stay afloat.

Alice

I was certain I didn't notice any water in the picture, but now it seems that I'm swimming in a sea that I couldn't even see.

Mouse swims up humming a tune, rather smugly.

Alice

Excuse me, Mouse. Mr. Mouse. Sir. I'm trying to find the tiny door. The door the White Rabbit went through, and...Perhaps it doesn't understand English. Perhaps it is a French Mouse. (CLEARING HER THROAT IMPORTANTLY) Ou est ma chatte?

The Mouse gives a frightened yell and leap.

Alice

Oh, pardon me. I quite forgot you don't like cats.

Mouse
Would you like cats if you were me?

Alice
Perhaps not.

Mouse
Indeed not.

Alice
You needn't be rude. It was an honest mistake.

Mouse
My mortal enemy you dismiss as a mistake?

Alice
You speak a bit dramatically, don't you think?

Mouse
The dander, the claws, the teeth, the pounce, the hisssss. I think I speak with great restraint.

Alice
If only you met my cat, you would not speak ill of cats. Dinah sits and purrs so nicely, licking her paws and washing her face - and she's such a capital one for catching mice - (MOUSE HAS A VIOLENT REACTION TO THIS) oh I do beg your pardon. We won't talk about her any more if you'd rather not.

Mouse
We, indeed. As if *I* would talk on such a subject. Our family always *hated*... cats: nasty, low, vulgar things! Dinah, Dinah, Dinah! Don't let me hear the name again!

Alice
Wait! Please wait! We don't have to talk about cats or dogs or anything else. If you'd just ...
Mouse pulls a key out and opens the door. Everything flies away and Wonderland is revealed. The Caucus Race is in progress with the Dodo, Lory, and Duck. Alice should notice the world around her.

Alice
(To the Mouse as he rounds the corner she's standing in) We could have talked of something else. You needn't have run off like that.

Mouse
I'm otherwise occupied... in case you hadn't noticed.

Dodo
You may join us, if you like.

Lory
Please do. It's quite refreshing.

Alice
But what on earth are you doing?

Duck
Isn't it obvious?

Mouse
She's not very bright and rather rude.

Dodo
It's a Caucus Race.

Alice looks puzzled.

Lory
You know, for drying yourself.

Dodo
When you're wet.

Duck
(REFERRING TO THE DODO) He's not very bright either.

Mouse
She's not interested. Doesn't seem to understand the simplest facts of things and talks of such unsavory subjects to boot.

Alice
I understand. You're all running.

Mouse
In a circle.

Alice
I see that.

Mouse
Very quickly.

Lory
To dry yourself.

Dodo
When you're wet.

Mouse
(TO ALL BUT ALICE) She's not a bit polite, I tell you.

They all run for a bit, no one getting any dryer.

Alice
I don't think it's working.

Duck
She's right. It's not working

They stop.

Dodo
(TO THE MOUSE) Tell us that story. Tell us your tale.

Mouse
You've heard it so many times before.

Duck
We could use just a bit of entertainment while we rest.

Mouse
The entire thing?

Dodo
Please.

Lory
Since *she's* never heard it.

Mouse
I'll need some room. (TO ALICE) That means you too.

Lory
Move out of the way.

Alice
He's only telling a story.

Dodo
It's his *tail!*

Lory and Duck move Alice clear of the Mouse. With a flourish of horns, the Mouse unravels his tail with the help and reads a poem from it. Dodo's

Mouse
Fury said to a mouse, that he met in the house,
'Let us both go to law. I will prosecute *you*-
Come, I'll take no denial; we must have a trial,
For really this, morning I've nothing to do.
Said the mouse to the cur,
Such a trial, dear Sir, With no jury or judge,
would be wasting our breath.'
'I'll be judge I'll be Jury,'
Said cunning old Fury:
'I'll try the whole cause, and condemn you to death.'"

Alice
It's going on a bit long.

Mouse
What did I tell you? Just as I said. Rude, rude, rude! I've no time for someone barging in and then not understanding a thing as simple as the Caucus Race then complaining about the complimentary entertainment.

The Mouse stalks off in a disgruntled huff. The Dodo stays until the Mouse gives him a look which says "Follow me...or else"

Alice
I'm still all wet.

Duck
As am I

Lory
Then it's back to the race.

The birds begin running again.

Lory
Your just standing there.

Alice
It doesn't work.

Duck
The trick is to beat your wings, arms, tail, what have you as rapidly as possible as you move about.

The birds demonstrate for her. Alice giggles.

Lory
You find something funny?

Alice
No.

Dodo
You're laughing.

Alice
Feather in my throat.

Lory
Don't just stand there. RUN!

Alice joins the race.

Duck
It does work best if you take it seriously. It's the only way you possibly have a chance of winning.

Alice
What can I win?

Lory
Anything you like, I should think.

Alice
I would like to win a map. I need it to find the Rabbit.

Duck
Don't know any Rabbits.

The Rabbit goes racing by them in full view. Only Alice seems to notice him.

Lory

It's usually just us fowl around here.

The Rabbit races by again.

Dodo

We stick to our own kind.

We see the Rabbit again.

Duck

It's neater that way.

Alice

You didn't just see him?

Lory, Duck and Dodo

Who?

Alice

The White Rabbit.

Duck

Miss, I think you should run faster and think less.

The birds begin an even more frantic run. As they catch wind of what Alice is saying, they wander off, one by one, quite appalled at her observation. The dodo is, of course, the last one to get it and go.

Alice

Oh, if only my Dinah were here to see this sight. She loves to watch the little birdies flap their wings madly about, preparing to fly. She's my cat, you see. It gets her so excited when they're flapping about, she goes right after them. Why she'll eat a little bird as soon as look at it. (NOTICING SHE'S ALONE). Where've they gone? They don't seem to have much patience at all around here. How will I ever find my way all alone?

Caterpillar

Alone?

Alice

Yes.

From the set emerges a Blue Caterpillar lounging on a giant mushroom, languidly blowing enormous bubbles

with a bubble wand.

Alice

Who are *you*?

Caterpillar

Who are *you*?

Alice

I hardly know, sir.

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 don't see.

Alice

I'm afraid I can't put it more clearly because I can't understand it myself. Being two different sizes in one day is very confusing.

Caterpillar

It isn't.

Alice

Perhaps you haven't found it so yet, but when you have to turn into a chrysalis - quite a big word for a small girl, don't you agree - and then into a butterfly, I should think you'll feel it a little queer, won't you?

Caterpillar

Not a bit.

Alice

Your feelings may be different. All I know is, it would feel very queer to me.

Caterpillar

You! Who are you?

In frustration, Alice begins to walk away, deciding it better to be alone than annoyed.

Caterpillar

Come back! (SHE STOPS) I've something important to say. (SHE TURNS TO HIM) Keep your temper.

Alice
Is that all?

Caterpillar
Isn't that enough?

Alice
Frankly, I don't think it is. I need more than a scolding right now. I need assistance.

Caterpillar
So you think you've changed, do you?

Alice
I don't just think it. I know it. I can't remember anything I used to know and I don't keep the same size for ten minutes.

Caterpillar
Can't remember what things?

Alice
Arithmetic, Geography, Vocabulary.

Caterpillar
Try Poetry. Begin with, *'You are old, Father William'*

Alice folds her hands, clear her voice and recites

Alice and Caterpillar
'You are old, Father William,' the young man said,

Alice
'And your hair has become very white;
And yet you incessantly stand on your head -
Do you think, at your age, it is right?

Caterpillar
Never mind. None of it said right.

Alice
Not *quite* right, I'm afraid. Some of the words have got altered.

Caterpillar

It's wrong from beginning to end.

Alice

Although I am trying very much to be polite, you, Sir, can be quite contrary.

Caterpillar

If you were not so contrary, perhaps you might be more content. Are you content?

Alice

Since you ask, no I am not.

Caterpillar

Well, you'll get used to it in time.

The Caterpillar starts to slinks away.

Alice

You're leaving? Wait! Just one moment! Please! No one stays in one place for very long here. You just get to talking and off they go, and there's nothing I hate more than not having anyone to talk to. (Noticing flowers) Maybe you should tell me all about this strange place.

Tiger Lily

What would you like to know?

Alice

You can talk?

Tiger Lily

Of course I can talk.

Rose

As can I.

Daisy

Me too.

Alice

You can talk?

Rose

When there's anybody worth talking to.

Tiger Lily

We can talk as well as you - and a great deal louder.

Rose

It isn't manners for us to begin, and I was really wondering when you'd stop yammering to yourself and speak to us. I said to myself, 'Her face has got *some* sense in it, even though it's not a clever one.

Tiger Lily

If her petals curled up a little more, she'd be all right.

Rose

Yes, yes. Just a bit more around the edges, I'd say.

Alice

I have quite a clever face. Everyone says so.

Daisy

But your petals... they are a bit...

Alice

I think my petals are just fine, thank you very much.

Rose

If you think so, dear.

Alice

You're planted out here all alone, are you?

Tiger Lily

Just us girls here.

Alice

Aren't you afraid?

Rose

Why would we be afraid?

Alice

Who's to take care of you?

Daisy

We take care of ourselves. We're wild flowers.

Alice

Still...(LEANING TO THEM BOTH IN A THREATENINGLY PICKING WAY) Someone

might come along and pluck you up.

Daisy

There's that tree right over there.

Rose

What else is it good for except protection.

Alice

(GOING FOR THE DAISY) And what would the tree do if I was going to pick you?

Daisy

It would bark!

Rose

It's branches would say bough-wough!

Tiger Lily

Didn't you know that?

All the flowers laugh uproariously.

Alice

If you don't hold your tongues, I shall pick you all!

There is a frightened silence.

Alice

Now. I would like to know why it is that I have been in many gardens, and I have never ever heard the flowers- any of them- talk. Can you tell me that?

Rose

Feel the ground, dear.

Alice

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 the flowers are always asleep.

Alice

But who made the beds so hard?

On comes the Queen's Royal Painter with paint cans and ladders.

Painter

Why that would be me. And who wants to know? And why?

Alice

The beds just sound unusual so I/

Painter

Of course they're different. They're the Queen's beds.

Alice

The Queen? The one with the crown?

Painter

That's usually what a queen wears... a crown.

Alice

You know the Queen?

Painter

I work for the Queen.

Rose

We're royal.

Tiger Lily

Didn't you notice?

Painter

(TO ALICE) You see what you've done. Their heads are swelled. You've just made my job much harder.

Alice

Do you know a Rabbit?

Painter

White?

Alice

Yes.

Painter

Waistcoat, pocket watch?

Yes. Alice

Always in a hurry? Painter

Yes. Alice

Don't know him. Sorry. Painter

But/ Alice

Miss, I've got a job to do. I can't stand around all day talking about your imagination. Painter

What job is that? Rose

You know what job. (HE WILDLY WAVES A PAINT BRUSH DRIPPING RED PAINT) Painter

Who says it must be done? Tiger Lily

(MEANING THE QUEEN) *She* does. Painter

She can't mean it. Daisy

You don't think so? My orders are to make you all red as red. So. Shall we start? Painter

It's crass to all be one color. It just isn't done. Tiger Lily

Why are they all to be red? Alice

I do the job. I don't ask questions. Painter

Alice
Well maybe you should ask questions.

Painter
Then it's off with my head.

Rose
You wouldn't be losing much.

Painter
And then it'd be off with all your heads too. Shall we get started, ladies?

Painter attempts to begin to paint them, but has a very difficult time managing his equipment and himself.

Painter
Miss?

Alice
Yes?

Painter
You're just standing there.

Alice
Yes.

Painter
I might be able to use a hand.

Tiger Lily
Don't!

Alice
Don't what?

Daisy
Don't help him with his dastardly deed!

Painter
Miss, are you going to stand there talking at the shrubbery/

Rose
Shrubbery!

Painter

Or are you going to talk to me?

Alice

They don't seem to want to change colors.

Painter

You think they know what they want? They're botanical objects. They don't know what they want!

All flowers

Different colors. We want each to be our own special different color.

Alice

They're obviously quite headstrong and fiercely independent.

Painter

(Handing her a paint brush) You say you're looking for a Rabbit.

Alice

I am.

Painter

I might be able to help you out. (Hands her the paint bucket)

Alice

You said he didn't exist.

Painter

(Handing her the ladder) Maybe he does, maybe he doesn't. Maybe I know something. Maybe I don't. You know how it is. One hand washes the other. You scratch my back, I'll scratch yours. Go along to get along. Comsi, comsa. (Now that he has unloaded all his equipment on her leaving her to paint the flowers.) So, we have a deal.

Painter exits.

Alice

Excuse me?

Rose

It's a back-room deal, dear.

Alice

I never made any deal.

Rose

Nonetheless, it seems you've been caught with your hand in the proverbial paint jar. (To the other flowers) Not a bit of sense, I say.

Alice

You mean he wants me to paint you?

Tiger Lily

Don't do it!

Daisy

Please! We're begging you!

Rose

(To the Daisy) Don't beg! With dignity, dear Daisy. With dignity. (To Alice) We'd each prefer to remain our own unique color.

Alice

You are all so brilliantly different.

Daisy

That's right.

Tiger Lily

Gently put down the paintbrush and the paint can.

Daisy

That's it. Nice and easy.

Rose

Now. Slowly back away and we'll all forget this shameful little incident ever happened.

Tiger Lily

Mum's the word.

The flowers laugh hysterically.

Alice backs away very slowly and as she does, the Rabbit
come backing right into her.

Rabbit

You!

Alice

I've been looking for you.

Rabbit

I've been looking for you, too. I'm late.

Alice

So you've said.

Rabbit

So! You!!! Fetch me a pair of gloves. Find me a fan. She'll have my head, indeed she will.

Alice slowly approaches the Rabbit, but he darts off just as she gets close enough to touch him.

Rabbit

Quick, now. Fetch my things or it's off with your head!

The scene shifts when we hear an enormous sneeze and then see a plate fly across the stage and hear it break into many pieces. Lights up on the Duchess holding a baby and the Cook stirring a gigantic cauldron.

Duchess

There's too much pepper in that soup.

Another plate comes crashing across stage. We see it is thrown by the cook.

Cook

Mind your business.

Duchess

I say there's too much pepper in that soup.

Cook

And how many soups have you stirred?

Duchess

I have never stirred a soup.

Cook

So how do you know about the pepper?

Alice has been sneezing throughout this exchange, with no one paying any mind to her.

Alice

It seems the pepper is making us sneeze.

Duchess

Even my little baby seems ready to sneeze it's head off.

Cook

That baby's a pig.

Alice

That's a dreadful thing to say.

Cook

Have you seen that baby?

With that, the Cook throws another piece of dishware
right at the Duchess and the baby.

Alice

Oh, please mind what you're doing! There goes his precious little nose.

Cook

I tell you, that baby is nothing but Pure D pork.

Duchess

If everybody minded their own business the world would go round a deal faster than it does.

Alice

Which would *not* be an advantage.

Duchess

I say it would.

Alice

But just think what work it would make with the day and night! You see, the earth
takes twenty-four hours to turn round on its axis/

Duchess

Talking of axes - chop off her head. (AND THE DUCHESS SNEEZES)

Cook

(To the Duchess)I should say that somebody else's head was supposed to be chopped off. I think
it was yesterday...or maybe tomorrow. Why don't you ask the Queen?

Alice
Do you know the Queen?

Duchess
Best of friends, we are.

Alice
She wears a crown?

Cook
Of course she does?

Alice
(TO HERSELF) So she *is* real.

Cook throws another plate at Duchess, adds more pepper to the stew.

Alice
Is the Queen near?

Duchess
Ever so.

There is a knock .

Cook
You get it.

There's another knock.

Duchess
You're the cook.

There's another knock.

Cook
That's right, and I'm cooking.

There's another knock.

Duchess
Well, it certainly wouldn't be right for me, a Duchess/

There's another knock. Alice answers the knock to reveal a royal

looking message that has been left. She reads it aloud.

Alice
"To the Duchess"

Duchess
Yes?

Alice
"Her majesty the Queen requires your presence at court this afternoon."

Duchess
(TO ALICE) You see. I'll be visiting with her, as I always do.

Cook
(TO ALICE) She won't if she knows what's good for her.

Duchess
(TO THE BABY) Time to sleep. (SHE SINGS A LULLABY)

*Speak plainly to your little boy
And tweak him when he sneezes.
He only does it to annoy,
Because he knows it teases.*

Duchess and Cook

Because he knows it teases.

Duchess
*I speak plainly to my boy,
I tweak him when he sneezes;
For he can thoroughly enjoy
The pepper when he pleases!*

Duchess and Cook
The pepper when he pleases.

Duchess
(TO ALICE) Here! You take the baby now. Toss him around and have loads of fun. I must be off to visit with the Queen. She'll have my head if I'm late. Ta!

Alice
But I should like to meet the Queen as well! I've heard about her even before I even got here!

As she leaves, the Cook tosses one more pot at her for good measure. Alice is left with the baby. The baby starts to cry, gently at first, but as Alice tries to comfort it, its cries sound more and more like grunts, then full-blown snorts.

Alice

(TO THE BABY) Hush, little baby. (TO THE COOK) I would like to meet the Queen. (TO THE BABY) There, there, Oh little, precious. (TO THE COOK) Royalty *is* quite something. (TO THE BABY) Now, try not to grunt so. That grunting is not at all a proper way of expressing yourself. Please stop grunting.

Alice looks at its face. She pulls away the blankets to reveal what is most certainly a pig.

Alice

If you're going to turn into a pig, my dear, I'll have nothing more to do with you. Cook? Cook!

Cook

Yes, miss?

Alice

This baby seems not to be a baby at all. It seems to be a pig.

Cook

That's what I said awhile ago, but you weren't having any part of me then, now were you?

Alice

I don't think it will make a proper child at all, do you?

Cook

I should think not.

Alice

But it might grow into a rather handsome pig.

Cook

Indeed it might.

Alice

Perhaps it should go into the wood to become a pig.

Cook

Perhaps it should go into the stew to become dinner.

Alice

I think I shall take it outside after all.

Cook

Suit yourself then. I've always got more pepper to add.

Pig and pepper in the stew,

Stir it up, a tasty brew

Have some later, have some now

Hurry up it's time to chow!

With that, the Cook starts adding huge quantities of black pepper that send Alice into a fit of coughing and drive her outside, where the Pig leaps out of her arms and goes scurrying off. Alice wanders right under the slowly undulating tail of the Cheshire cat. When the tail starts to tickle her, Alice looks up to see the enormous smile of the Cat.

Alice

Kitty, why do you smile so?

Cheshire

I'm a Cheshire Cat.

Alice

I didn't know that cats could grin.

Cheshire

Of course we can. Why couldn't we?

Alice

What do you have to smile about?

Cheshire

I'm a Cat. 'Nough said.

Alice

(CHANGING HE SUBJECT) Could you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?

Cheshire

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

Alice

I don't much care where-

Cheshire

Then it doesn't matter which way you go.

Alice

So long as a I get *somewhere*.

Cheshire

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

Alice

What sort of people live about here?

Cheshire

(POINTING RIGHT) In *that* direction lives Tweedledee; and in that direction (POINTING LEFT) lives Tweedledum. Visit either you like. They're never far apart. Will you be seeing the queen today?

Alice

I'd very much like to, but I haven't yet been invited.

Cheshire

You will be. She always needs more loyal heads. (THE CAT BEGINS TO DISAPPEAR) By-the-bye, what became of the baby?

Alice

It turned into a pig.

Cheshire

I thought it would.

Alice

But how do you know about the baby?

Cheshire

Did you say pig or fig?

The Rabbit appears where Alice does not immediately see him.

Rabbit

She said pig!

Alice

I did say pig. (SHE TURNS AND SEES THE RABBIT) Wait! I've got your fan and gloves

now. Here they are (THE RABBIT DISAPPEARS) (TO THE CAT) Can you help me catch up to that Rabbit?

But the Cheshire Cat is already disappearing.

Cheshire

What Rabbit?

Alice

The one who just said pig. The one who was just here.

Cheshire

I don't know who you mean.

Alice

Wait! Didn't you see?..Where are you going? Quite alone again. No Cheshire Cat. No White Rabbit. Alone.

Alice wanders right into Tweedledum and Tweedledee. They are in the midst of an argument. They are physically connected at the legs, though this is not necessarily clear at first.

Dum

Nohow!

Dee

Contrariwise!

Dum

You will!

Dee

I will not!

Dum

You must!

Dee

I can't!

Dum

You must agree to have a battle!

Dee
(To Alice) Is he speaking to me?

Alice
I think he must be.

Dee
Are you certain?

Alice
I'm afraid I am.

Dee
So that's how it is, is it? (Again to Alice) What are you staring at anyway?

Dum
Yeah, what are you looking at anyway?

Alice
I was just/

Dum
If you think we're the entertainment, you ought to pay, you know. Entertainment ain't made to be looked at for nothing. Nohow!

Dee
Contrariwise, if we're not entertaining, you needn't stay.

Alice
I'm not planning on staying. I'm just passing through. I'm on my way to find/

Dum
You can't go! Not yet! Nohow!

Dee
Contrariwise, she can if she wants.

Dum
She must help us with the/

Dee
Yes, you must! You must!

Alice
What must I help you with?

When you arrived/ Dum
we were having a bit of a/ Dee
Misunderstanding. Dum
Disagreement. Dee
Tiff! Dum
Altercation! Dee
Battle! Dum
War! Dee
You see, that's what it's come to. A war! Dum
And we're relations. Dee
Blood relations! Dum
What a shame! Dee
A crying shame! Dum
What seems to be the basis of the...misunderstanding? Alice
Dum

(Pulling out a pair of pants, identical to the ones they wear). These.

Alice

You're warring over pants?

Dee

He's always trying to get a leg up on me.

Dum

Were they not given to me?

Dee

They were not. They were given to me.

Alice

Won't you need to be sharing them in any case?

Dum

Not the point, nohow!

Dee

Contrariwise, it ain't!

Dum

The only solution is a knock-down, drag out, good old-fashioned fight. (To Dee) Will you agree?

Dee

I will. On the condition that she referee.

Dum

You must. After all, you started the whole thing.

Alice

I did no such thing.

Dum

There's only one sword, but you can have the umbrella. It's every bit as sharp.

Just before they strike each other...

Dum

Do I look very pale?

Dee

You do.

Dee

How's my toothache?

Dum

Awful. Still, 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. Watch carefully.

Dum

And judge well.

They look to Alice who blows the whistle to begin. They each strike one blow to each other and fall down in agony. When they don't move for a moment, Alice goes to them and begins to fan them. They pop up together. As they talk, they indicate that she should keep fanning.

Dee

I won, don't you think?

Dum

There isn't a doubt that I was the winner.

Alice

You both were very brave, but I would have to say...

She is saved from making a decision by the Rabbit, he scurries on, but slows down quickly. He has finally grown tired.

Rabbit

That looks so refreshing. Would you mind...(HE INDICATES THAT HE WANTS TO BE FANNED)

Dum

Go right ahead.

We've got to get home.

Dee

It's getting as late as it can.

Dum

Only later.

Dee

They exit into their house. Alice is fanning the Rabbit.

This is very kind of you.

Rabbit

I don't mind. I'm happy to help now that you've stopped to talk to me. I've been trying to get you to stop since I arrived.

Alice

When did you arrive?

Rabbit

A long time ago.

Alice

It only seems long ago.

Rabbit

But why have you been running so incredibly fast?

Alice

Do you know the Queen?

Rabbit

I haven't yet had the pleasure.

Alice

The Queen rules this place.

Rabbit

If she rules this place, then she can explain the rules. If she can explain the rules, then she can make sense of things. If she can make sense of things, then she can be a big help to me. I must see the Queen.

Alice

Rabbit

You don't know the Queen.

Alice

No, I don't. So I will go with you to meet her.

Rabbit

Miss, I really must warn you...

Queen's voice

If you are late, I shall have your head. Off with it at once!

The Rabbit is sent into a panic, grabs the fan, and runs off faster than ever. Alice runs furiously after him.

Alice

Wait for me!! Please!!

End Act I