

A Trip to Wonderland a Stage Play

A THESIS

APPROVED FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

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A TRIP TO WONDERLAND

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Cast of Characters

Alice-a thirteen year old girl constantly in a daydream

Lorina-eighteen year old sister of Alice

Dr. Scriber-longtime friend of the Liddell family. He supports the orphaned Alice and Lorina.

Tessa-Lorina's close friend who dreams of getting married.

Paul-a young Scottish man who Lorina falls for

Officer Seidler-an Austrian officer

Leowitz-an Austrian officer

Rauch-an Austrian outlaw seeking refuge in England

White Rabbit

Cheshire Cat

Tweedle-Dee

Red Queen

White Queen

Knight

Caterpillar

Mad Hatter

Mock Turtle

Girl#1

Girl#2

Nurse

Street Preacher

Cop

Seducer#1

Seducer#2

Seducer#3

Alice enters from stage left. A white rabbit follows her. He's carrying a pocket watch in his hands and looking at it. Alice stops center stage, causing the White Rabbit to bump into her.

WHITE RABBIT

Why on earth did you stop? We're going to be late for the meeting, Alice!

ALICE

I need to catch my breath.

WHITE RABBIT

Hang your breath! Your breath is not more important than the Queen's wedding.

ALICE

Wedding? I thought it was a party.

WHITE RABBIT

A wedding is a party.

ALICE

But isn't she already married?

WHITE RABBIT

No.

ALICE

But I'm sure I remember a king.

WHITE RABBIT

There was one. You asked if she's already married, not if she married already.

ALICE

What happened to him?

WHITE RABBIT

Who?

ALICE

The king!

WHITE RABBIT

He displeased Her Highness, so now he's without a head.

ALICE

Oh, well his head wasn't completely attached to begin with.

WHITE RABBIT

According to St. Stephen, you'll be needing to get yourself to class in a little while.

ALICE

But I thought we were going to the meeting for the wedding?

WHITE RABBIT

Very well. If you're alright with your sister yelling at you some more, then by all means, come with me.

ALICE

On second thought, maybe it's best to go to school. But I want to be at the wedding.

WHITE RABBIT

Then let's talk about how you're going to present yourself. You're quite vulgar as you are.

ALICE

What do you mean, Mr. Rabbit?

WHITE RABBIT

Look at that dirt you got on your skirt! Your Dr. Scriber wouldn't approve of you soiling that dress already. And your hair is not securely wrapped up in that tie. How will the Queen approve if even your peers would laugh at you? And the mud on your shoes-

ENTER GIRL

GIRL

Aren't you Alice Liddell?

ALICE

Yes. Forgive me, I was just talking to the White Rabbit.

GIRL

My friend warned me about you. She's says you're absolutely mad.

ALICE

I suppose I am.

GIRL

You admit something like that? How foolish are you?

ALICE

I'm not a fool. I'm a girl.

GIRL

I...what? What does that matter?

ALICE

It's what I am.

GIRL

Keep away from me. And my friend. You should be thrown into a madhouse.

EXITS

WHITE RABBIT

Well, now that that's settled... You saw how her dress looked? Nice and clean? Why can't yours be like that? And your teeth needs to be whiter. And your nose is too small. And-

ENTER LORINA but Alice doesn't notice

ALICE

Oh, alright. Must you pick apart everything?

LORINA

Alice.

ALICE

Oh! Lorina, I was just speaking with the White Rabbit.

LORINA

It's almost time for class, and you know the rules about Wonderland in school.

ALICE

I can't help it. Wonderland came to me this time. It's not my fault.

LORINA

Then whose is it? Your imaginary friends?

ALICE

They are not made up! They're real.

LORINA

So, you've been saying. But I know you don't really see them. It's this stubbornness of yours that will get you thrown in the asylum. Don't think I'll be coming to retrieve you once that happens. It would serve you right.

ENTER TESSA

TESSA

Oh, Lorina!

LORINA

What's wrong, Tessa? Did something happen? You're so downriden this morning.

TESSA

I have terrible news about Mama.

LORINA

Oh goodness. Is she okay? Is she ill? Oh please, Tessa. Tell me.

TESSA

She...she...

LORINA

Yes yes. Go on.

TESSA

She found my exam! Now she won't let me have a new dress.

LORINA

For goodness sakes! You had me in hysterics for reasoning like that?

WHITE RABBIT

Look at how your sister's friend has her hair. Do it like that before the wedding.

ALICE

I don't think I can make a bun as tight as that.

WHITE RABBIT

It's no different than baking rolls.

ALICE

I cannot bake either. Last I tried, I almost burned the house down.

Lorina and Tessa take no notice of the rabbit on stage.

TESSA

My reasoning is a good one. You remember Elizabeth? You do, right? Well, she's getting married and there's going to be a party to commemorate the event. How can I go without a new dress?

LORINA

But you have so many beautiful clothes you can wear.

TESSA

But I need a new, fresh and sparkling dress to be the most beautiful woman there!

LORINA

It's a party for the bride. That shouldn't be a concern you should have.

TESSA

But I need to see if I can get married too. The groom is bringing his young friends from his school, and I know I'll be able to find someone for myself. Who knows? Maybe this wedding party will produce a wedding of my own.

LORINA

How will a dress help you with that?

TESSA

Lorina, let's sneak into town after school. I can get my dress with the birthday money I saved up.

LORINA

I'm not going to get into trouble along with you. If you want to get into mischief like a toddler, then go ahead. Don't let me stop you.

TESSA

Oh, don't be like that. Please?

LORINA

Absolutely not. Besides, Alice and I just went out with you last weekend. Maybe you should've bought a dress then?

TESSA

Well, I was saving money for the soda fountain.

LORINA

Sodas don't cost that much, Tessa.

TESSA

Not for you. That chemist gave you yours for free. He was certainly handsome, now that I think about it.

(tilts head in thought)

Maybe you should go back there. If you got to know him better, maybe you'll soon have your own wedding.

LORINA

Quit with that nonsense.

WHITE RABBIT

Speaking of weddings, come right after school, Alice. Right after, you hear me?

ALICE

I understand.

TESSA

I beg your pardon? You understand what?

LORINA

She's in her little world again. Couldn't you tell?

TESSA

Oh, but Alice, you're thirteen now. Shouldn't you give that Wonderland of yours up?

LORINA

Yes, she should. Real friends are what she needs most. But maybe you should give up your imaginary land too, Tessa.

TESSA

What do you mean?

LORINA

I mean you're living in a fairytale, to think that a dress will get you a true love or something. Men don't just glance at a woman and decide to marry them. Relationships don't work that way. And besides, if it was that important to you, why didn't you study harder for that test?

TESSA

Oh, Lorina. You're the one in a fairytale. Exams don't mean a thing when it comes to love. You know who you'll marry once you see the person, and I got to make sure I look my best for him.

LORINA

You're hopeless. I swear to goodness. Now come on. The bell will ring any-

ENTER STREET PREACHER

Minute.

STREET PREACHER

Listen to me, all of you! Go straight to your professors and denounce them as your teachers. This foundation is based upon lies.

WHITE RABBIT

It's best to teach the young people lies, since the government lies all the time.

ALICE

Really?

WHITE RABBIT

Of course. Even the queen lies a lot-

(suddenly panics)

I mean. I said nothing! That itself is a lie!

STREET PREACHER

Leave this place immediately. You're lambs going to a slaughterhouse.

TESSA

Not this fool again.

STREET PREACHER

Fool, am I? You're the fool for listening to the sciences. They take God's credit. Trying to explain rain and creation. Darwin's madness. They try to teach all of that blasphemy.

LORINA

If you'll excuse us, sir. We really must be off.

STREET PREACHER

So eager to be damned?

LORINA

Please get out of my way. I'm in no mood for this.

TESSA

Please, sir. We really have to go to school, but we'll go to church this Sunday.

STREET PREACHER

That's not good enough! You must withdraw from this school immediately.

Bell chimes.

ALICE

We're late!

WHITE RABBIT

Not late! Anything but late! Get me cancer, or the plague, but don't get me late!

White Rabbit exits quickly and loudly. But only Alice notices.

LORINA

That's quite enough, sir. Let us pass or I'll have to report you to the authorities. Again.

STREET PREACHER

Mark my words. You will wish you had listen to me.

EXITS

1.2

Rauch runs off to and from the stage. Officer Seidler and Leowitz follows immediately after. Leowitz pauses at the center of the stage and starts panting for breath, while Officer Seidler keeps going until he's left the stage completely. Officer Seidler returns to Leowitz.

OFFICER SEIDLER

Hurry up. He's getting away.

Leowitz puts a finger up in the air, takes out a flask and drinks from it.

LEOWITZ

He's already gotten away. There's no way we'll find him in that forest.

OFFICER SEIDLER

But he's no doubt going to try to flee the country.

LEOWITZ

Then it relieves Austria of one less criminal, doesn't it?

OFFICER SEIDLER

Twenty victims dead, one of them his wife and you think he doesn't need to face justice

LEOWITZ

Now when did I say that?

OFFICER SEIDLER

When you hinted that you wanted him out of the country. He has to face the crimes he made in this land, not in any other.

LEOWITZ

Then by all means, go after him yourself. I, on the other hand, know a lost cause when I see one. I'm going back to town.

OFFICER SEIDLER

Go. A partner like you will only hinder me.

LEOWITZ

(muttering to himself)

A man who frequently goes on a monologue is the only hindrance to himself.

LEOWITZ EXITS

OFFICER SEIDLER

What a waste of uniform! How did he manage to climb the scales with his work ethic? What does the captain see in him? I trust the man's judgment more than anyone else's but I have no idea what he's thinking. Why hire this sloth?

(turns to look in the direction where Rauch escaped)

It doesn't matter. There's a worse man out there that deserves my immediate attention. I have to capture Rauch before he finds a way out of Austria. It's my duty.

1.3

Alice, Lorina and DR. SCRIBER are all seated at the table. There's the Mad Hatter close to Alice.

LORINA

Tessa told me about a party for Elizabeth. She says that it would start at 5 in the evening.

DR. SCRIBER

That's a very reasonable hour for you young ones.
Hopefully that Tessa will be okay on her own.

LORINA

Actually, I was wondering if I could go with her. I
would love to meet new people.

DR. SCRIBER

I see. Are there any adults chaperoning? I wouldn't be
able to accompany you because of work.

LORINA

Elizabeth's parents will be there. So, may I go?

DR. SCRIBER

You seem quite eager for this. I didn't think you
thought so much about partying.

MAD HATTER

Come on, doc. Tea parties are good for the youngyuns.

ALICE

I think it's just a party without tea, Mr. Hatter.

DR. SCRIBER

Alice, is the person to your right very visible?

ALICE

He's certainly not invisible.

LORINA

Alice, please stop making the doctor believe that you
can actually see these imaginary friends.

ALICE

I told you so many times before. I can see them

LORINA

She really cannot see them, Dr. Scriber. She's just trying to trick you.

DR. SCRIBER

Alice, you do know what will happen if someone happens to see you speaking to your friends?

ALICE

I suppose they'll think I'm mad.

DR. SCRIBER

They'll most certainly indeed. And say that person was a doctor, like me. More specifically, a psychologist like me. What do you think he might say?

ALICE

He might want me to go to an asylum.

DR. SCRIBER

So you realize the consequences of what would happen if people thought you mad?

ALICE

But I do see them. And it would be rude to see a person talk to you and not stop to communicate, right?

LORINA

Alice, you don't want to go to the asylum.

ALICE

Why not?

MAD HATTER

Yeah, why? It sounds like a bit of fun. I guess your sister doesn't know how to have fun. Specially if she's going to a party with no tea.

LORINA

An asylum wouldn't treat you very well. I've heard stories about it.

DR. SCRIBER

Most of them are false, I assure you. You don't really believe that I would do anything to hurt your sister, do you? Even since your mother's passing, I've tried my hardest to make sure you two have everything you need.

LORINA

I didn't mean it like that, Dr. Scriber. I know you've done a lot for us, and I cannot thank you enough. My sister and I owe everything to you. I just don't agree with you about the asylum.

DR. SCRIBER

Alice has shown signs of being schizophrenic for eight years now. It's started to occur more often after your mother's death a year ago. The headaches she gets are most likely tension headaches she gets from the stress of seeing these creatures.

MAD HATTER

I'm not a creature! Well, I suppose I'm a creature of habit...

ALICE

Why can't anyone else see you?

MAD HATTER

How should I know? I'm just here to sell hats. Speaking of which, are you interested in one?

ALICE

What would I do with a hat?

MAD HATTER

You can wear it.

LORINA

I hate to disagree with you, but you're most certainly wrong. Alice is just trying to seek attention, so she pretends to be mad. You yourself have talked about teenagers' desire to stand out, correct?

DR. SCRIBER

You're still a teenager too.

LORINA

Only for a little bit longer. Then, I'll be an adult. I'm practically a woman now.

DR. SCRIBER

I can see that. Well, let's not worry about the asylum anymore tonight. About that party-

LORINA

Yes?

DR. SCRIBER

You may go. But I'll pick you up at eight.

LORINA

Really? Thank you, Dr. Scriber.

She goes up and kisses Dr. Scriber on the head. The Mad Hatter is curious and goes up and does the same. Alice laughs.

1.4

Lorina and Tessa are among a crowd of young people. They are wearing pretty dresses.

TESSA

Oh! Look over there. Isn't he dashing?

LORINA

I suppose. I wonder who he is.

TESSA

He seems very smart. He's probably on his way to the uni.

LORINA

You can't know that just from looking at him. Why don't you speak with him and get his name?

TESSA

(pointing in a different direction)

He's handsome too.

LORINA

Weren't we just talking about-

TESSA

And his friend too. I wonder if he'd consider shaving that beard?

LORINA

Tessa, if you're here to get together with someone, then you can't just look at men. You have to talk to them.

TESSA

But Lorina, you should know better than that.

LORINA

What do you mean?

TESSA

I mean that men are the ones to take initiative. If a woman approaches him, it would seem quite vulgar.

LORINA

I don't think that's true.

TESSA

Oh my goodness! That man. He was from the soda station.

LORINA

Wait. He's the one who gave me that free drink.

TESSA

Oh! He's coming this way. He's smiling at you.

LORINA

Nonsense. He's smiling at both of us because he recognizes who we are.

TESSA

No, it's you he's looking at. Oh. I'll be back.

TESSA EXITS quickly.

PAUL ENTERS

PAUL

Good evening.

LORINA

Well, this is a bit of deja vu, isn't it? I guess my friend had to do somewhere in a hurry.

PAUL

Oh? She's here too. The one from the pharmacy?

LORINA

Yes, forgive me. I thought you saw her scurrying about.

PAUL

I haven't formally introduce myself. My name is Paul Mason.

LORINA

Your accent is quite charming. Irish?

PAUL

Scotland.

LORINA

Do forgive me. My name is Lorina Liddell. The two girls with me yesterday was my sister and my friend.

PAUL

How come I never saw you in the shop before?

LORINA

I rarely drink soda and I usually go to a different pharmacy. I live close to the country side.

PAUL

I'm no stranger to the outdoors meself. I used to live out in the country before my mother moved me into town. By the way, I couldn't help but notice how your sister would talk to herself. Is she trying to become an actress?

LORINA

No, she just has an overactive imagination. I'm trying to get her to stop.

PAUL

Really? Why? An imagination like that might turn her into a great writer.

LORINA

I thought of that too. But she hates to sit down for extended periods of time, so I'm not sure she can be the next Jane Austen. Are you friends with the groom?

PAUL

Not exactly. He's my employer.

LORINA

Employer? He works at the pharmacy too?

PAUL

No. He pays me to deliver favors to his mother. She's in the hospital and not a very charming woman when in pain, so he likes me to handle her food.

LORINA

So you work a lot then?

PAUL

I suppose. At least I can safely say that I don't have much time on my hands. But I'll be happy to make time for you.

LORINA

Thank you, Mr. Mason. You're very charming.

PAUL

I suppose I'll go greet the happy couple. Good day to you.

PAUL EXITS

TESSA ENTERS

TESSA

What was that?

LORINA

What do you mean?

TESSA

You brushed him off. That's why he left.

LORINA

I don't know what you're talking about. I've been nothing but polite to him.

TESSA

How do you expect to get married if you keep treating people like that?

LORINA

What are you talking about? I've been quite civil.

TESSA

Civil? More like cynical.

LORINA

How dare you?

TESSA

I'm simply stating to you what I saw with my own two eyes. He was trying to charm you and you failed to respond correctly.

LORINA

Then do tell. What is correctly?

TESSA

You should've giggled a little bit and thanked him. Maybe return the charm with your own witty remark.

LORINA

Such as?

TESSA

Maybe you could say, "Time passes too quickly when we're together. I'm afraid I'll ask too much time from you."

LORINA

I can't say anything like that to a boy a barely know.

TESSA

Look at how red your face has become.

1.5

Alice is seated at a table. The RED QUEEN comes into the room, so Alice goes and curtseys.

ALICE

Good evening, you're Highness.

RED QUEEN

I've come to talk to you about my upcoming wedding.
Will you be prepared to look your finest?

ALICE

Yes, you're Highness. Thank you for inviting me.

RED QUEEN

Of course! Everyone's coming, as they've been commanded
to do so. For years I've wanted to marry a soldier.

ALICE

What's his name?

RED QUEEN

Who?

ALICE

The knight.

RED QUEEN

Why would he need a name?

ALICE

To tell him apart from other knights.

RED QUEEN

That's an idiotic idea. What if I were to meet another
girl named Alice? Your name wouldn't help me to
identify you. Names are useless.

ALICE

Wait. What about you? Don't you have a name?

RED QUEEN

I'm the queen. I have no need for names.

ENTER CHESHIRE CAT

CHESHIRE CAT

Oh, there you are Alice.

ALICE

Were you looking for me, cat?

CHESHIRE CAT

I've spoken with the knight. He says that he's looking for a princess.

RED QUEEN

Nonsense. There is no princess of Wonderland.

CHESHIRE CAT

He says he rather marry a princess rather than a queen.

RED QUEEN

What?! You speak lies.

CHESHIRE CAT

Is that a command from my dear queen? Very well, from now on, I shall not speak lies.

RED QUEEN

That's good. So you've spoken with the knight?

CHESHIRE CAT

No, I have not.

ALICE

But you just said you did.

CHESHIRE CAT

I did no such thing. Do you have any proof?

ALICE

The Queen and I both heard you! Are you speaking lies now because you think the queen has command it?

CHESHIRE CAT

I'm only speaking the truth. I speak nothing but the truth. For instance, you are a man, Alice. And the Queen is a miserable cur.

RED QUEEN

Off with his head! Where are the guards?

ALICE

They're all busy getting ready for the wedding.

RED QUEEN

Then you must behead him.

ALICE

Wha...ah...me?

CHESHIRE CAT

Alice doesn't have a violent bone in her little body.

RED QUEEN

Fine. Then you're banished, Cat. Don't come to my wedding.

CHESHIRE CAT

I greatly regret what I've done.

CHESHIRE CATS EXITS. The Red Queen is not angry at Alice. She glances at her, annoyed.

RED QUEEN

What am I going to do with you, child?

ALICE

I'm sorry, you're Highness. I just couldn't do it. And he loses his head all the time anyway. He likes to talk without a body sometimes.

RED QUEEN

It's of no consequence. I'm worried about the knight. I can't let him think there's a princess out there he can marry. Even if there was, I wouldn't allow it. I know. You speak with him.

ALICE

If I may ask, why do I have to do it?

RED QUEEN

I find you to be a sensible girl, Alice. If anyone can pierce through the knight's madness, you can.

ALICE

Must I?

(pauses as the queen gives her a look)

Alright then.

RED QUEEN

I expect you to do this promptly.

Red Queen exits.

ALICE

Knight. Sir Knight? Where are you?

Enter Rauch who's just passing through when Alice stops him.

ALICE

Sir, have you seen a knight?

RAUCH

You still have knights here in your country?

ALICE

Oh, that accent? How fun! Is it Russian?

RAUCH

I am from Austria. I come for ze hospital.

ALICE

Are you sick?

RAUCH

Yes. Do you know vere hospital is?

ALICE

We have a clinic a few miles that way.

(points)

I think if you just head straight there, you'll find it.

RAUCH

Dank you.

ALICE

But you haven't seen a knight?

RAUCH

Are ze still in armor in England?

ALICE

Not this one. He's in disguise and running from the Queen.

RAUCH

(chuckles)

Oh, I see. Well, I'll look out for your fake knight.

ALICE

He's not fake. He's real.

RAUCH

Sure, young lady.

Rauch exits.

ALICE

Why does no one see them?

1.6

Leowitz and Officer Seidler enter from a train. They glance around.

LEOWITZ

Look at all this. So different from Austria, eh? I didn't know you knew English.

OFFICER SEIDLER

A little, at least. I'm more surprised that you knew the language.

LEOWITZ

Of course. My father insisted on me studying my books.

OFFICER SEIDLER

Captain Leowitz is a good man. With his help, we can find Rauch yet.

LEOWITZ

How are you sure he's here?

OFFICER SEIDLER

His alias has been reported. A Mr. Gilbert Muller was reported to have taken the Emmy to London, the day after we lost him.

LEOWITZ

London's a big place, friend. How will we find him?

OFFICER SEIDLER

He's most likely going to seek refuge in a mental institution. We'll start with the ones closest to the port and go from there.

LEOWITZ

Start? Are you mad? We can't search the entire city!

OFFICER SEIDLER

We'll have the law enforcement here aid us. They're as upset with the asylums as we are. For years English doctors have been sheltering men who deserve nothing but the rope. If Rauch finds himself a mental institute that will house him, they might not let us bring him to justice. The man considers himself a real misunderstood refuge.

LEOWITZ

I suppose. But it's a big place. There's no need to search right away. Let's go sightseeing. It's been a while since I've last traveled.

OFFICER SEIDLER

We're not here to tour. We're here strictly to find Rauch and take him back.

LEOWITZ

The captain doesn't know what we're doing or not doing. What does it matter if we don't get to work right away?

OFFICER SEIDLER

Please tell me you're joking.

LEOWITZ

You sound rather upset for some reason.

OFFICER SEIDLER

You're taking advantage of your father's position.

LEOWITZ

I'd watch what you say, partner. Let's be civil toward each other, eh?

OFFICER SEIDLER

...Fine. You go and do what you will. But I will start the search immediately.

LEOWITZ

Whatever you like. I'll meet you later tonight at the inn.

LEOWITZ EXITS

OFFICER SEIDLER

I'd love to kill him myself. He's almost as bad as Rauch. How could he be related to the captain? It doesn't matter. With him out of the way, I can get more done.

1.7

Alice and the Cheshire Cat are inside. Alice is petting a small cat that's sleeping in her lap.

ALICE

Oh, Dinah. You're so well behaved. So relaxed and polite. It's a shame the queen isn't more like you.

CHESHIRE CAT

I see you've been roped into speaking for the queen.

ALICE

I suppose so. Are you through lying?

CHESHIRE CAT

Naturally. I can't very well lie all the time. It would be tiring. Even I'm not creative enough to think up fibs every day.

ALICE

The White Rabbit may consider you a great politician. He told me that the greatest leaders learned to lie.

CHESHIRE CAT

I see. I'm afraid I don't share the same respect for him.

ALICE

Why on earth not?

CESHIRE CAT

I do not approve of him groveling to the queen like a frightened bunny instead of a full grown rabbit.

ALICE

I'm sure he has his reasons. She's very scary, so I don't even like to cross her. And I'm the only real person in Wonderland.

CESHIRE CAT

When did you decide others in Wonderland weren't real?

ALICE

No one else can see you guys. I know it's because I'm mad. I also know that unlike you, I'm real, because Lorina can see me.

CESHIRE CAT

So air isn't real?

ALICE

...I suppose not. Maybe politicians made up the story about air so that people wouldn't try to live in the ocean.

CESHIRE CAT

Now you're thinking.

ALICE

Why thank you, Cat.

CESHIRE CAT

Since you deemed yourself real, it's no wonder the queen chose you. Have you spoken to the knight yet?

ALICE

...No. But I will soon. I've just been busy with other things.

CESHIRE CAT

I'll let you know now. The knight told me that he's looking for a princess.

ALICE

I believe he's told everyone that.

CESHIRE CAT

And that he's found her.

ALICE

I beg your pardon? There is no princess in Wonderland.

CESHIRE CAT

He told me that he thought you were. Didn't you tell him that?

ALICE

Dear me! Of course not. I said nothing of the sort.

CESHIRE CAT

That's good. Because the queen is quite upset with you. It would be good if you spoke to the knight and sort out the misunderstanding. He told me that you said you were the princess.

ALICE

Well, he's a liar. Even worse than politicians. But...I can handle this. Sensibly and rationally. I will speak to him and get this all sorted out. Won't I, Dinah?

1.8

Dr. Scriber is speaking with a Nurse.

DR. SCRIBER

Make sure the room stays empty. I think we'll be getting our new patient in soon.

NURSE

Name?

DR. SCRIBER

Alice Liddell. Suffers from schizophrenia. Cannot tell between reality and fantasy.

NURSE

I'll let you know when I have the report, doctor.

DR. SCRIBER

Carry on.

Nurse exits and quickly re-enters.

NURSE

Doctor, a man's here to see you. He's some German flatfoot.

DR. SCRIBER

Let him in.

Nurse exits. Officer Seidler enters.

DR. SCRIBER

I was informed of you. You're investigating the serial murders in Austria, right?

OFFICER SEIDLER

That's right. My partner and I have found out he used an old alias to sneak into the country. We believe he might be trying to find sanctuary in an asylum like yours.

DR. SCRIBER

We haven't had any new patients from Austria come in.

OFFICER SEIDLER

He's been known to be able to fake a few papers.

DR. SCRIBER

You mean he would try to pose as an Englishman? Can he fake his accent? If you'd forgive my saying so, yours is quite obvious. So maybe his might be too.

OFFICER SEIDLER

It might. However, I don't want to take chances. Who are your new patients?

DR. SCRIBER

Officer Seidler, plenty of that information is confidential between doctor and patient only.

OFFICER SEIDLER

We're dealing with a killer here.

DR. SCRIBER

People with unstable minds can do terrible things.

OFFICER SEIDLER

Or he can just be evil.

DR. SCRIBER

Officer Seidler, my profession doesn't permit me to have such black and white thinking. The battle of good and evil exists solely in fairytales.

OFFICER SEIDLER

My profession doesn't permit me to have such convenient thinking. The less black and white for you, the better, isn't it?

DR. SCRIBER

Perhaps. But knowing about our patients probably wouldn't help you anyway. Most of them are women. And you cannot really fake that, now can you?

OFFICER SEIDLER

And what about the patients you're thinking of taking in? The ones in your system but you have yet to accept?

DR. SCRIBER

You mean our pending patients. We have a young girl who might be a new resident but we're not sure. Along with an elderly man. Neither of those sound plausible for you, right?

OFFICER SEIDLER

True. But there's one more thing I would like to ask of you.

DR. SCRIBER

Which is?

OFFICER SEIDLER

If, by the off chance, Mr. Rauch does come by with the intention of gaining sanctuary, will you let us know before you admit him?

DR. SCRIBER

You mean will I turn him in?

OFFICER SEIDLER

Yes. Will you turn the killer of twenty people in?

DR. SCRIBER

I understand you may be frustrated and I'm sorry. I can at least inform you if I see anybody suspicious. For the protection of my patients and employees. You understand, I'm sure. Now, I really must ask you to leave. I need to pick someone up from a party soon.

OFFICER SEIDLER

Fine. That's all I ask.

(to himself)

I wish I hadn't brought that Leowitz along. He was the only other officer who knows a little English. Why does my world have to fall apart on me?

DR. SCRIBER

Excuse me, officer. But who are you speaking to?

OFFICER SEIDLER

No one.

DR. SCRIBER

Would you like to talk about that trait?

OFFICER SEIDLER

No, doctor. I don't need a mental ward. It's my way of getting into Rauch's head.

DR. SCRIBER

I beg your pardon?

OFFICER SEIDLER

Rauch has been known to talk to himself a lot. That's why I do it too. Well, good day.

Exits

1.9

Alice is walking outside, along with the knight in full armor.

ALICE

The Cheshire Cat told me you spoke a lot about a princess. But you barely talk to me at all.

The knight says nothing.

ALICE

The Red Queen is quite on edge with me. She thinks I tricked you into falling for a princess. She thinks I intend to make you believe that I am the princess of Wonderland.

The knight pauses and turns his head to her.

ALICE

But I'm not a princess. I'm just Alice. I wish you wouldn't make the queen so upset with me, she's troubled enough as it is.

Enter Street Preacher, who catches Alice speaking.

STREET PREACHER

You there, girl. Are you talking to demons?

ALICE

No. I'm speaking with the knight. I suppose you can't see my friends either. My sister always tell me that it's not proper to speak to them in front of other people. She says that people might think I'm mad. Do you think I'm mad?

STREET PREACHER

No, I believe that you're talking to spirits.

ALICE

You do?

STREET PREACHER

Don't look so happy about it. God frowns upon the dead that walks the earth. These must be damned souls you are speaking with.

ALICE

Please calm down, sir. You're starting to scare me.

STREET PREACHER

You'll soul will need saving now. You've been contaminated by sin. Young lady, have you got a few shillings to spare for the Word?

ALICE

I'm sorry, sir. I have money but it's for candy tomorrow.

STREET PREACHER

Why you...Selflessness is what will save your soul, not candy.

ALICE

Is my soul in danger?

STREET PREACHER

Great peril.

ALICE

But I don't see how a few shillings will fix that? I think I'll have the sweets instead and not risk wasting money.

ENTER RAUCH

RAUCH

(to himself)

That's the girl who showed me to the wrong kind of hospital. I found an asylum but I cannot get there now that it's being watched by law. They will arrest me before I can be admitted.

STREET PREACHER

Every person should know that there's only one place where greedy people go. It's down in the fiery depths.

RAUCH

That's true.

STREET PREACHER

They belong in the same level of hell as the murderers and fascists.

RAUCH

A murderer...

STREET PREACHER

(to Rauch)

You there!

RAUCH

Yes?

STREET PREACHER

I know a doomed soul when I see one.

RAUCH

Vat?

STREET PREACHER

You have some unforgivable sin.

ALICE

But my preacher tells me we all sin.

STREET PREACHER

But some sins are more lethal than others. I can tell by the way this man holds himself that he has something deeply to be ashamed of. His sin will doom him if he doesn't repent.

RAUCH

You don't know that.

STREET PREACHER

Listen to me. You should pay your dues and give your money to the church. Only then will you be forgiven.

RAUCH

I ought to kill you for that remark.

Alice steps away from his tone but the Street Preacher does not.

STREET PREACHER

Idle threats. You shouldn't say what you don't mean.

RAUCH

Don't test me.

LORINA (O.S.)

Alice! Come back inside. It's too dark out there.

Alice hurriedly exits.

RAUCH

Maybe we should talk about souls somewhere more private.

STREET PREACHER

I would but I best be off.

RAUCH

Don't you want my money?

STREET PREACHER

The church needs it. I myself don't care for it. Why? Are you offering it?

RAUCH

Convince me that I should give it to you and it's yours.

STREET PREACHER

Very well. Let's talk in the church. It's a few blocks away and should keep us free to talk alone.

RAUCH

Grand.

2.1

Lorina is standing outside with Alice.

LORINA

You drank a lot of tea this morning. Can you handle that much caffeine?

ALICE

It helps with my headache.

Tessa enters quickly with a newspaper in her hands.

TESSA

Are you two alright?

ALICE

What's wrong with you now, Tessa?

TESSA

I heard about it from Father. There was a murder that-

LORINA

Tessa, don't speak anymore!

TESSA

-occurred so close to your house

ALICE

What about a murder? Lorina, why do you look so guilty?

LORINA

Er...no reason.

TESSA

I guess you already knew.

LORINA

For goodness sakes, Tessa!

ALICE

You knew? And you didn't tell me?

LORINA

I didn't want you to worry. Give me that newspaper, Tessa.

Alice grabs the paper instead and takes a look at it. She faints. Lorina and Tessa come to her aid. A blackout for a moment, then the lights show Alice where she was and the Cheshire Cat and the White Rabbit. Alice wakes up.

CHESHIRE CAT

I must admit. You're the clumsiest, most cowardly and dumbest of all the queen's escorts. I meant to tell you this much sooner.

WHITE RABBIT

How dare...Well you...well you stink. Your fur is full of mud!

CHESHIRE CAT

An elaborate response. Here's my retort. Your only strength is your ability to run away, and even then I would hardly call your talent running. You enjoy fleeing from danger so much that you practically sprint like a primary school student.

WHITE RABBIT

It's hopping, not skipping. I'm a rabbit.

ALICE

Are you still lying, Cat?

WHITE RABBIT

Of course he is. The miserable feline always lies. No good can come out of lying.

ALICE

But you said-

CHESHIRE CAT

Well, since I am a feline, I suppose no one would argue that I'm also a carnivore.

WHITE RABBIT

What are you getting at?

ALICE

It means he eats meet.

WHITE RABBIT

Confound it! I know what it means.

CHESHIRE CAT

Then you won't be too surprised if I do this.

The Cheshire Cat suddenly chases the rabbit out of the stage.

ALICE

Stop it, Cat! You're not like this! You're much more civilized. Stop that right now!

DR. SCRIBER ENTERS

DR. SCRIBER

Oh, Alice! You're awake. How are you feeling, my dear?

ALICE

Oh, doctor! Talk some sense into the cat. He's chasing the White Rabbit.

DR. SCRIBER

He? So I suppose you mean the Cheshire Cat and not Dinah.

(pauses)

Wait, he's chasing the rabbit? Why on earth would he do that? This is the first I heard of any of the beasts of Wonderland succumbing to their natural instincts.

ALICE

They were insulting each other and..and...What happened to me anyway? Last I remember, I was talking to Lorina and Tessa.

DR. SCRIBER

You gave your sister quite a scare. She notified me immediately after you fainted. She said it happened after you saw the killer.

ALICE

Is...is it true? A killer?

DR. SCRIBER

I admit that it's scary. I guess even the most natural parts of London aren't without their crimes. To think it happened just a few blocks from this very house. You must have been scared out of your wits when you saw the face of the killer.

ALICE

If they have his picture-

DR. SCRIBER

Well that's because he's already caused a lot of trouble in his native Austria for this same offense. Those police weren't doing a very good job if he managed to escape all the way here. I'm not entirely convinced it's the same man they're looking for. But try not to worry too much about it. From now on, I'll be picking you girls up from school, alright?

ALICE

That man in the picture...

DR. SCRIBER

Let's not worry about it anymore tonight, alright? It's best just to forget about our little scare and rest for now. How's your head? Does it hurt again? Let me get you some tea.

2.2

Paul is outside with a harmonica. He's playing a tune.
Lorina enters.

LORINA

Mr. Mason? Is that you?

PAUL

Greetings, Miss Liddell.

LORINA

I must insist you call me Lorina.

PAUL

Then I insist you call me Paul. Your dress is even
lovelier today than it was at the party.

LORINA

Really? My school outfit is more appealing to you than
that evening gown.

PAUL

Yes, or maybe it's you've that's grown more lovely.

LORINA

Many girls must be so fond to hear you speak.

PAUL

I wouldn't know. You're the only girl I've noticed.

LORINA

I don't think I've ever heard that tune before. What
are you playing?

PAUL

My grandmother taught me this tune. She wanted to be a
composer.

LORINA

I see. And she couldn't because she was a woman?

PAUL

No, she became a composer. Just not a well-known one. But she taught me this song when I was just a boy. Her best piece, she would tell me.

LORINA

What's it called?

PAUL

A World without Love.

LORINA

No, really. What's the real name?

PAUL

I'm not lying. That's the name.

LORINA

But how can that be? It was such a calm and sweet tune. Maybe a bit sad.

PAUL

My grandmother meant it to be sad. She wrote it when her husband left her.

LORINA

I see. I'm sorry to hear that. I know about losing a loved one.

PAUL

Who did you lose?

LORINA

My father and most recently my mother.

PAUL

No parents at all. I'm so sorry. I lost my father during the war, but I still have me mum. She's too weak to do any work, so I got to make sure I don't laze around too long. I'll need to get back to work soon.

LORINA

You're a bit away from the chemist, are you not?

PAUL

Oh, I'm not talking about that job. I mean my delivery job. I'm to report back that I've supplied the parlor with their normal stock. If I'm gone too long, me boss will think I've drowned in the alcohol.

LORINA

Do you have to go away this minute?

PAUL

No. I still have a bit of time. Why? Are you worried I'll leave?

LORINA

It's not that. I mean..it is that, I suppose. I didn't know you had two jobs. I knew the groom payed you to help with his mother, but I didn't realize you had a whole other job delivering.

PAUL

I have as many jobs as I can fit into me schedule. I used to be ashamed that I even have this much time. Though now, I'm happy I had enough free time to meet you.

LORINA

I'm happy to see you too. I was worried I offended you the other night.

PAUL

Of course not. What gave you that idea?

LORINA

My friend saw our exchanged and thought I drove you off.

PAUL

Why no. I was just going to speak with the groom. I'm sorry if I made you uncomfortable with my flirting. I figured a pretty lass like you would be used to men fawning over you.

LORINA

You're sweet. But it's not true. I'm glad to have found you again. After my sister fainted, I didn't know if I'd be able to ever laugh again.

PAUL

What happened to her?

LORINA

Dr. Scriber says she fell in shock from seeing that killer's face in the papers. You know the one I'm talking about?

PAUL

The one from Austria, right? I'm not surprised that immigrants from that condemned place turn to killing.

LORINA

My, Paul! That's quite a bit harsh, don't you think?

PAUL

Forgive me. I forgot I was in a lady's presence for a moment there. I guess the war is still a sensitive topic for me.

LORINA

I am sorry about your father. But at least that war made sure none other will occur.

PAUL

Are you so sure about that?

LORINA

It was the war to end all wars, wasn't it?

PAUL

Well, I suppose that's true. I need to get going before me boss wonders where I am. Good day to you.

2.3

Officer Seidler is speaking with a cop. There's a few red petals on the ground. The cop picks one up.

COP

This Rauch guy likes to place petals all over the body because...

OFFICER SEIDLER

Simple. Because he thinks he's poetic enough to do so. That his crimes are beautiful, I suppose. From what I gathered, red petals are what he uses when he kills out of passion, yellow when he's warning us away and purple for reasons I'm not so sure yet.

COP

Well, what victims of his got the purple petal treatment?

OFFICER SEIDLER

Only one. His wife.

COP

You would think she would have red.

OFFICER SEIDLER

So you would. But maybe he wanted to cast her death as something special by giving her a color no one else has.

COP

I'll be glad when this freak is gone from my country.

OFFICER SEIDLER

It looks an awful lot like what he would do. Maybe he is here.

COP

This man has been giving the locals trouble. I'm not so sure his death will be seen as a bad thing.

OFFICER SEIDLER

That's morbid.

COP

That's the truth.

OFFICER SEIDLER

Right. And there were no witnesses?

COP

Some people claim to see him walking with someone last night but it was too dark for any of them to make out the company's face.

OFFICER SEIDLER

Did they hear him speak? Detected an Austrian accent by chance?

COP

No. All of the witnesses said that they never heard the man's voice.

OFFICER SEIDLER

So, we're stuck.

COP

At the very least, I know the closest asylum here. It may be a start, if you're certain he's going to go there and claim insanity.

OFFICER SEIDLER

I am sure that's what the coward would do. We've had plenty of convicts do the same before and they're still resting safely in a mental sanctuary.

COP

I know you're upset with us Englishmen but us cops aren't so fond of the doctors either, my friend. If it were up to us, we wouldn't be wasting money medicating these men.

OFFICER SEIDLER

I'm glad that you agree. Where is this asylum?

COP

Keep west of here and it will be on the right, close to the chemist. The main doctor there is named Pond but if he's out, I'd ask for Scriber instead.

OFFICER SEIDLER

Forgive me for asking, but how do you know that so well?

COP

I've spoken with them about convicts before.

OFFICER SEIDLER

I see.

COP

They're not agreeable men, Officer Seidler. If they think they're helping a patient, they won't let you have him. And our government will back them up. Tell them what happened here and maybe they'll agree to turn Rauch in. But I doubt it.

OFFICER SEIDLER

I'll head over there and see if he's already there.

COP

Pray to God, he isn't. Once those doctors get a hold of a patient, they never let go.

2.4

Tessa and Lorina are at the table.

TESSA

So, was he still nice to you?

LORINA

He was agreeable. He said he wasn't offended.

TESSA

I could've sworn he was. I would think anyone would be if they were brushed off.

LORINA

Tessa.

TESSA

But maybe he fancies you too much to be upset with anything you do.

LORINA

You really think so?

TESSA

What's gotten into you? Normally when I tease you like that, you deny it. Now you act like you really like him.

LORINA

He's very charming.

TESSA

Oh, Lorina. I'm so happy for you. This is like something out of an Austen novel, falling for someone beneath your class. But it's still romantic.

LORINA

You shouldn't marry a man for his income. I don't know how many times I have to say this. Sometimes, you even less mature than Alice.

TESSA

Now that's not nice. But, how is she doing?

LORINA

She doesn't speak too much anymore, except to her Wonderland friends. I keep telling her that as long as Dr. Scriber is with us, we should feel at ease. I don't think she'll feel better unless Rauch is in jail.

TESSA

Are they even that sure it's the same man?

LORINA

The body had roses.

TESSA

Anyone can get their hands on roses. Maybe somebody liked what Rauch did and became a copycat.

LORINA

You sound just like Dr. Scriber. He was also sure it wasn't the same man.

TESSA

Well, maybe great minds think alike. Speaking of him, what would be say about your liking Mr. Mason?

LORINA

What do you mean?

TESSA

Do you think he'll oppose? He is like your father.

LORINA

I don't know about that. And I don't know why he would be against it. He likes sensible people, and Paul has a very good head on his shoulders.

TESSA

But what about Paul's income. Don't you think Dr. Scriber would want you to marry someone of your own

(CONT'D)

(CONT'D)

class? He would probably want you to live the life you've grown accustomed, instead of worrying about money.

LORINA

I don't think he'd worry that much. Besides, it's not like he would forbid me. And even if he did, I'll just wait until I'm an adult to date the man I choose.

TESSA

I can't help but feel he would forbid and maybe find a way to convince you not to wait for Paul. Dr. Scriber has been providing for you for a year now. He's so kind, and his position at the asylum is very secure, or so my father says. Dr. Scriber is a very good psychologist, he says. No wonder he's able to provide you with nice dresses like the one you wore to the party.

LORINA

Now you're speaking like I should marry Dr. Scriber instead.

Dr. Scriber enters.

DR. SCRIBER

Good afternoon, Miss Meyer.

TESSA

Greetings, Dr. Scriber. I was just speaking with Lorina.

DR. SCRIBER

I'm glad you two are so close. You're a very good friend for Lorina, Miss Meyers. If you don't mind, I would like to speak to Lorina alone.

TESSA

Alright.

TESSA EXITS

LORINA

Is it about Alice?

DR. SCRIBER

Actually. This is about you. You're going to be graduating from school soon. Have you thought about your future at all?

LORINA

Naturally. I want to teach primary school.

DR. SCRIBER

That's a good calling. But what about marriage?

LORINA

Strange you should ask. That's just what Tessa and I were talking about.

DR. SCRIBER

It's not that strange for young women. Especially when one of them is Miss Meyers. Have you thought about what kind of man you would like to meet?

LORINA

I...no, I haven't thought much about it.

DR. SCRIBER

You're a very sensible girl, Lorina. I'm sure you'll find one. But, if you need help with marriage, let me know.

LORINA

Have you checked in on Alice lately?

DR. SCRIBER

She was speaking to the Caterpillar last I checked. Their talk was so interesting that she forgot all about

(CONT'D)

(CONT'D)

me. They spoke of a knight. I don't remember a knight in Wonderland.

LORINA

I don't either.

DR. SCRIBER

Miss Liddell...you know I was fine friends with your father.

LORINA

Yes? What's this all of the sudden?

DR. SCRIBER

Well, I'll get to my point in a minute. When your father died, I was worried about your mother. But she was able to support you with the last of the savings. But when she died and your father's money depleted, I was so worried about you girls. And now I'm worried about you. How can you live the life you've grown accustomed if you don't marry the right man?

LORINA

What kind of man would you consider right?

DR. SCRIBER

A man that makes enough money for you. You're a sensible girl, so you realize how important it is to marry right.

LORINA

Of course I do. I always tell Tessa the reasons to marry sensibly.

DR. SCRIBER

So you plan on marrying sensibly.

LORINA

Yes.

DR. SCRIBER

Have you found a man that might be a good choice, yet?

LORINA

No, not yet. Why do you ask? Did you have anyone particular in mind?

DR. SCRIBER

Well, how about me?

LORINA

I beg your pardon?

DR. SCRIBER

Please don't act so offended. I'm merely trying to look out for you.

LORINA

I thought you supported Alice and me simply because you wanted to. Not that you would think you could get something out of it.

DR. SCRIBER

Please don't be so upset. I didn't mean-

LORINA

I need to leave.

DR. SCRIBER

Miss Liddell...

LORINA

Just for now.

2.5

A few women in revealing dresses are chatting. Leowitz enters.

SEDUCER # 1

Oh, a customer?

LEOWITZ

An officer.

SEDUCER # 2

What can we help you with, Officer?

SEDUCER # 3

You have such a charming accent. I wonder if you could almost pass for an Englishman.

LEOWITZ

My partner and I are looking for a killer. Have you seen this man?

(produces a paper that they look at)

SEDUCER # 1

No.

SEDUCER # 2

'Fraid not.

SEDUCER # 3

I haven't.

LEOWITZ

Well, now that that case is solved, are you women open?

SEDUCER # 1

Unfortunately, I'm full. But you shouldn't be a customer here, Officer. Not during work.

LEOWITZ

I'll make it worth your while.

SEDUCER # 2

Pay us well enough and we'll do the same for you.

LEOWITZ

Okay. But I would like to keep this a secret.

SEDUCER # 3

Must keep up good appearances, I suppose.

LEOWITZ

I would like to be with all of you.

SEDUCER # 1

All of us!

The prostitutes all whisper to each other.

SEDUCER # 2

You'll need to give us a few days.

LEOWITZ

I'm sure I can make time for you girls.

SEDUCER # 1

Make sure you bring the money.

2.7

Alice is with the Caterpillar. Instead of a hookah, the Caterpillar is holding a knife and twirling it instead of smoking it.

ALICE

Mr. Caterpillar. Where's your hookah?

CATERPILLAR

Never had one.

ALICE

Yes, you did. It was always with you. Don't you remember?

CATERPILLAR

It's your memory that needs adjusting, not mine. I've already told you that I never had one.

ALICE

Have you seen the knight lately?

CATERPILLAR

No one has. He's disappeared. The castle said he's left a note that stated he was going to search for a princess.

ALICE

Oh dear! The Queen must be so upset.

CATERPILLAR

Naturally. She killed everyone in the castle, including all her soldiers.

ALICE

That's mad!

CATERPILLAR

We're all mad here.

ALICE

Yes, but I didn't think we were that mad.

CATERPILLAR

What other mad did you think we were? If not *that* mad?

ALICE

I mean...I didn't think we were as mad as that. I thought the Queen at least wouldn't kill everyone that worked in her castle.

(pauses)

Wait a minute! Does that mean she killed the White Rabbit too?

CATERPILLAR

Of course not.

ALICE

Thank goodness.

CATERPILLAR

He was already dead. That Cheshire Cat ate him alive.

ALICE

No!

CATERPILLAR

Don't weep. I may have to kill you.

ALICE

But the White Rabbit was my friend.

CATERPILLAR

The word 'friend' means nothing more than a person you like. Get yourself another one. They're expendable.

ALICE

No, they're not. You're mean!

CATERPILLAR

How dare you? You're expendable too. Watch.

The Caterpillar comes with his knife raised threateningly.

DR. SCRIBER (O.S.)

Alice.

The Caterpillar runs off and exits. Dr. Scriber enters.

DR. SCRIBER

Is everything alright? I heard you yelling across the other room?

ALICE

Doctor...The Caterpillar told me that...that...

DR. SCRIBER

Calm yourself, child. Tell me what's wrong.

ALICE

The rabbit's dead.

DR. SCRIBER

I'm sorry?

ALICE

The White Rabbit's dead. The Cheshire Cat killed him.

DR. SCRIBER

I didn't realize they killed each other in Wonderland. Except for the Queen of Hearts, perhaps.

ALICE

They never killed before.

DR. SCRIBER

Why can't the White Rabbit just come back from the dead? It sounds like nonsense but isn't that the point of Wonderland.

ALICE

That's not nonsense, that's a miracle. I don't think this new Wonderland believes in something as good as that.

DR. SCRIBER

No more tears now, luv. Do you think that little scare you had with the murder had something to do with this?

ALICE

I don't know. Why would it?

DR. SCRIBER

You've seen the victim before. He appeared at your school until he overstayed his welcome. Maybe the death of the rabbit is representative of how quickly someone you know can leave. Why don't you read a nice book and think about something else. Now, I'm off. Someone wants to meet me at the asylum. Take care.

Dr. Scriber exits. Mock Turtle enters. He looks normal, so Alice smiles at him.

ALICE

I'm so glad to see you, Mock Turtle.

MOCK TURTLE

That's Mr. Mock Turtle to you. And of course you'd say that. You must feel sorry for me.

ALICE

Why would I do that?

MOCK TURTLE

Everyone says they hate to see me now. And now some are even trying to eat me. Will you try to eat me too?

ALICE

Of course not!

MOCK TURTLE

Then you're still the right kind of mad. Instead of, *that* mad. I was worried I wouldn't find another.

ALICE

I'm so glad I found you normal. Everyone else is so violent. Tell me, do you know what happened?

MOCK TURTLE

It has to be the knight. Ever since he came to Wonderland, nothing has made the right kind of nonsense.

ALICE

I think your explanation has more merit than Dr. Scriber's.

MOCK TURTLE

I don't know where he got his degree. Not anywhere under the sea. I'm sure of that.

3.1

Lorina and Alice have their totebags with them. Enter
Officer Seidler

OFFICER SEIDLER

Good morning, young ladies. Is this your house?

LORINA

Are you an officer around here?

OFFICER SEIDLER

I'm Officer Seidler, from Austria. We hadn't had a
chance to speak yet about the recent crime comitted
nearby.

LORINA

Oh, yes. I'm afraid we don't know anything.

OFFICER SEIDLER

Is something the matter with your sister?

LORINA

She's been having nightmares. No doubt the murder
hasn't helped with that.

OFFICER SEIDLER

So, do you know anything?

LORINA

I already told you we didn't.

OFFICER SEIDLER

I was speaking with your sister.

(to Alice)

Have you seen the man in the papers?

ALICE

Yes, sir.

OFFICER SEIDLER

And have you seen the face outside the papers?

LORINA

She fainted by the mere sight of the papers. Of course she hasn't seen him. Goodness knows what seeing the real man would do to her.

ALICE

Don't tell him that.

LORINA

Why not?

ALICE

You make me sound frailer than I really am.

LORINA

But you really did faint when you saw his picture.

ALICE

But you don't have to spread the word about that.

OFFICER SEIDLER

Please young ladies. Can you stay focused? We're still looking for a terrible man that's out there.

LORINA

I understand, but we'll be late for school. Can you let us pass?

OFFICER SEIDLER

As long as you're both sure that you haven't seen him. People's lives depend on it.

(to Alice)

You haven't seen him, correct?

LORINA

Please don't pester my sister anymore.

OFFICER SEIDLER

Please don't interrupt me.

Enter Paul

PAUL

Greetings Miss Liddell. Is something going on here?

LORINA

We're just talking to this officer. But we really should be going now.

OFFICER SEIDLER

You cannot leave until I get your sister's promise that she's seen no one.

PAUL

Why do you care? You can't possibly be an officer. Not with that accent. Are you an impostor?

LORINA

Paul!

OFFICER SEIDLER

Of course not. I am an officer from Austria, as I had told zis young lady already. Rauch iz from Austria, that's why I'm here. I assume you haven't read the papers?

PAUL

I've read them well enough to know that there's no guarentee the killer here is Rauch. You really traveled here on a simple guess?

OFFICER SEIDLER

Do you zink you can do my job better zan I can?

PAUL

You cannot blame me. You should've caught this man before he left your godforsaken country.

LORINA

Now Paul, no country is forsaken. Maybe you're being a bit harsh.

PAUL

I forsake it for the part it played in the war.

OFFICER SEIDLER

That's neither here nor there. I'm not here to discuss zat matter vith you.

PAUL

You're just here to waste everyone's time and cause these ladies distress.

OFFICER SEIDLER

I see I won't be able to get any questions answered today.

OFFICER SEIDLER EXITS

LORINA

Paul, don't you think you were a bit too rude?

PAUL

I was only trying to help. Next time I'll keep in mind that such assistance is unwanted.

LORINA

Stop that. I didn't mean it like that and you know it. I just meant that some of the things you uttered were unneccceary and unkind.

PAUL

What would those Germans know about things like that?

LORINA

Not German. Austrian.

PAUL

It's all the same to me. Just like it was all the same for my father.

ALICE

Maybe I could've said something to him...

LORINA

Why? You had nothing useful you could tell him.

PAUL

Besides, he might not even be here to catch Rauch anyway.

LORINA

Well why else would he be here?

PAUL

To sleep with our women. Or maybe to gain our secrets for another war.

LORINA

That's crazy. The war is long gone and we have no more reason to bear them ill will. Don't you think that perhaps your prejudice is clouding your judgment?

PAUL

Listen, I must be off. And I suppose you do as well.

LORINA

Fine. I guess I will see you at the wedding.

PAUL

Fine.

Paul exits

ALICE

Are you two never going to marry now?

LORINA

Alice. Who said anything about marriage?

ALICE

No one. But you were thinking it.

LORINA

You have no proof of that.

ALICE

Then why have you been trying to spend more and more time with him?

LORINA

I spend time with Tessa.

ALICE

But he's a boy.

LORINA

So, I have noticed.

ALICE

My teacher says that friendship between a boy and a girl is impossible. There's only one reason why they would ever speak to one another and that's marriage.

LORINA

Miss Hamilton is a bit too old fashioned, I'd say. Come now. Let's get to class before we both miss the bus.

2.6

Alice, Lorina and the Cheshire Cat are outside. The Cheshire Cat has some blood on his mouth.

CHESHIRE CAT

Still not talking to me, girl?

Alice says nothing.

LORINA

There's nothing to worry about, Alice. It's still bright daylight outside. We don't need to be so afraid.

ALICE

I'm not afraid.

LORINA

I see. Well, we need to get some things. You didn't use to be so against going to town.

ALICE

It will get dark soon.

LORINA

Not for a few hours yet. Don't worry. Why don't you talk to your friends?

ALICE

They're not my friends. They're just part of my Wonderland.

CHESHIRE CAT

Am I not your friend anymore, Alice?

LORINA

Your Wonderland? Does this mean that you're finally admitting you were just jesting everyone by pretending to be mad?

ALICE

No, of course not. I'm more mad now than I ever been.

CHESHIRE CAT

So you say you're now that mad? Well, that's wonderful. Hurry up and show me you're that mad. Hurt somebody. Maybe Lorina.

ALICE

Quiet. Please.

LORINA

Alice. That's enough. I know you miss Mother terribly, but that's no reason to get yourself thrown into the asylum.

CESHIRE CAT

That's wrong, isn't it? You hated your mother. She loved Lorina much more than she loved you. You were your father's daughter and Lorina was your mother's. Isn't that right?

ALICE

Please stop speaking.

LORINA

I will do no such thing, Alice. You need to hear me out. Mother's death was a shock to me too. But you need to be strong for her. You need to keep fighting.

CESHIRE CAT

You need to fight your sister. Hurt her.

ALICE

No! I won't Cat.

LORINA

What's gotten into you, Alice? What's happening?

Enter Girl.

GIRL

It's that mad girl again.

CESHIRE CAT

That mad, Alice. She said so herself.

ALICE

No, I'm not! I am not that mad!

GIRL

What's gotten into her?

LORINA

That's enough, Alice. You're making yourself out to be a fool.

CHESHIRE CAT

I'll fight her then.

GIRL

It's so funny. I can't take my eyes off this clown. The girl laughs for a while. The cat snarls.

CHESHIRE CAT

Destroy her!

Alice suddenly cries out and punches the girl. The girl cries out and runs away.

LORINA

Alice! Are you mad?

ALICE

Of course I am. As I've told you many times before. And now I'm that mad. That mad!

LORINA

Calm down. Please. Alice, what would Mother say if she saw you? Alice.

Alice comes up to fight her. Paul enters and tears her away. He holds onto Alice until she calms down.

PAUL

Are you alright, Lorina?

LORINA

She..she hit me! She actually hit me.

CHESHIRE CAT

Maybe you should chase her next, Alice? I love eating my enemies. They're dead so they won't bother you anymore.

ENTER DR. SCRIBER

DR. SCRIBER

What's the meaning of all this? Lorina, are you quite alright?

LORINA

Alice hit someone. Then she hit me.

PAUL

She's coming along now.

DR. SCRIBER

Is this true, young lady?

ALICE

The cat told me to do it.

DR. SCRIBER

I see. Well, that sounds like a need for the asylum if I ever heard one.

LORINA

She's not mad. She's just pretending.

DR. SCRIBER

She pretended to hit you?

PAUL

Sir, I have friends who hit a lot, and they don't need the asylum.

DR. SCRIBER

I'm a psychologist. I think I'll rely on my own expertise.

2.7

Lorina and Dr. Scriber are at the table.

DR. SCRIBER

We got her some medicine. She's asleep now, so she'll be good to go soon.

LORINA

Dr. Scriber...

DR. SCRIBER

Don't try to talk me out of it, this time. She needs to be placed in the asylum as soon as possible.

LORINA

Do you still want to marry me?

DR. SCRIBER

Hmm?

LORINA

Because...I've thought about it. I would like to marry you. You're right. It's better to be sensible about marriage.

DR. SCRIBER

That's not in good taste, Miss Liddell. You just want to change my mind about taking Alice to the asylum.

LORINA

You mean you won't? Even if I marry you?

DR. SCRIBER

Lorina, I'm not a bad man. I don't want to marry you because you think I'll hurt your sister otherwise. I wish you had more faith in me. I'm doing what's best as a psychologist. She hit someone and then she hit you. If we leave her like this and she hits someone else, she may wind up in jail as opposed to a mental institute.

LORINA

I didn't mean to offend. I just don't think this is right for her.

DR. SCRIBER

What do you believe is?

LORINA

Her family. I don't think she'll hurt anyone again, now that she knows the consequences. Can't we give her one last chance? I know she deeply regrets her outburst.

DR. SCRIBER

Well...

LORINA

Please, Dr. Scriber. I'm sorry about trying to propose marriage to solve this problem. But I know that Alice does not belong in an asylum.

DR. SCRIBER

Alright. We'll give her one more chance.

There is a knock. Dr. Scriber exits and returns with Tessa.

LORINA

I didn't know you would be coming over.

TESSA

Oh. I heard what happened to you.

LORINA

How?

DR. SCRIBER

I wired her parents. I thought you would need support from a friend.

TESSA

I didn't know Alice would ever hit someone. Where is she?

DR. SCRIBER

I gave her some sleeping draught. She'll be asleep for a while now.

TESSA

That's a relief.

LORINA

A relief? You don't need to make it sound like she's dangerous. She just got a bit excited.

TESSA

But that doesn't sound like anything a sane person would do. She is mad, after all.

LORINA

How dare you? My sister is perfectly fine.

DR. SCRIBER

Why don't we leave Lorina alone for a while, Miss Meyers?

TESSA

But I want to be here for her.

LORINA

I'd rather you not be here anyway. Please go along with Dr. Scriber.

TESSA

Fine.

2.8

ALICE

Where am I? Aren't you the knight?

The knight comes forward with a sword raised threateningly. Alice gets out of bed and backs away.

ALICE

Don't come any closer. I'll fight you.

The knight comes closer.

Lorina enters and the knight runs off. Alice comes sobbing into Lorina's shoulder.

LORINA

What's the matter?

ALICE

That knight that was just here. Tell me you saw him! He was going to hurt me.

LORINA

What knight?

ALICE

The one with the sword. He's the reason Wonderland's so messed up. He's the reason the White Rabbit's dead.

LORINA

Alice-

ALICE

He's turning everyone blood hungry. I don't even know what he's done to the queen. She was already mean enough without him ruining everything.

LORINA

Alice!

ALICE

I don't think he wants a princess at all. I think he just wants to cause trouble for me. It was the Cheshire Cat that egged me on earlier, you know? He was the one who told me to hit you. It's not my fault.

LORINA

That's enough, Alice! Stop pretending to be mad. I don't even know why you do that. How would Mother feel if you spent the rest of your days in an asylum?

ALICE

I don't care. Mother never loved me anyway.

LORINA

You don't mean that.

ALICE

At least, she didn't love me as much as she loved you. You two were always nagging at me together. Even before her death you were like a second nanny that was always displeased with me. Nothing I did was good enough.

LORINA

That's not true. We both loved you dearly, and we were simply trying to get you out of Wonderland so that you could enjoy the real world.

ALICE

Sometimes I'm not so sure that you even know what the 'real world' is. I think you're living in a fantasy too!

LORINA

Hardly. I know what the real world is. It's your world too, whether you like it or not.

ALICE

And the fact that you tried to make me leave Wonderland is proof that you don't love me. Neither did Mother.

LORINA

Is that so?

ALICE

Of course. I am Wonderland. It's a part of me that you two never loved.

There's a pause.

LORINA

I do try to compromise with you, you know? I only ask you not talk to yourself in front of others. Isn't that enough proof to show that I care?

ALICE

I don't know. I'm so confused. Ever since the knight made a mess of things, I've been having even more trouble concentrating.

ENTER TWEEDLE-DEE

ALICE

Where's Tweedle-Dum?

TWEEDLE-DEE

He's gone bloodthirsty, like most of the Wonderland creatures. It's absolutely frightening! What's worse is the knight.

ALICE

Why? What's he doing now?

TWEEDLE-DEE

He's going to kill the queen. He thinks that she's holding a princess hostage.

ALICE

Oh dear!

(to Lorina)

The knight's going to kill the queen! She doesn't deserve that, no matter what she's done. You got to help me, Lorina.

LORINA

Calm down. The queen doesn't have to die if you don't want her to.

ALICE

I didn't want the white rabbit to die, and that didn't prevent his death.

LORINA

Well, listen up. Find the police in Wonderland and report him. They're there to help you. Then, your queen will be safe.

ALICE

That's a wonderful idea. Why are you so supportive all of the sudden?

LORINA

Because I want you to know that we're sisters, and that I do love you.

ALICE

Oh..Alright. You know I love you too?

LORINA

Of course.

3.1

Lorina comes up to Paul, who is once again playing the harmonica.

LORINA

Is that another one of your grandmother's work?

PAUL

Not at all. This is a song of my own creation, Miss Liddell.

LORINA

Are you still upset with me?

PAUL

What makes you think that I'm angry?

LORINA

You're calling me Miss Liddell now.

PAUL

Only because I thought that's what you would want me to call you. I'm sorry. I didn't know if you were still put off by our last encounter. Well, two encounters ago. How is your sister doing?

LORINA

She almost went to the asylum. But Dr. Scriber gave her one last chance in the end. As long as she doesn't hurt anyone else, she should be fine.

PAUL

That's a relief. By the way, are you free next Saturday? If your guardian's not opposed and you're fine with it, would you like to go out to eat?

LORINA

Me and you?

PAUL

You and I.

LORINA

I would love to.

PAUL

Really? I'm so glad.

LORINA

By the way, could you teach me that song of your grandmother's one day?

PAUL

Of course. I'm glad you enjoy it, despite the title.

LORINA

Why give a title like that anyway?

PAUL

My grandma's thinking was that life is full of ups and downs. So if she gave a downer title to a upbeat song, she could replicate life with her songs.

LORINA

I think Alice would have gotten along well with your grandmother.

3.2

Leowitz is outside and Alice comes forward.

ALICE

Sir?

LEOWITZ

Yes? What is it?

ALICE

I...I think I saw the man you're looking for.

LEOWITZ

Vat?!

ALICE

Yes. I saw him the night he killed the preacher.

LEOWITZ

Vait. Why didn't you tell us this sooner?

ALICE

I was scared. And I wasn't sure. But now I am. He was there and I saw him leave with the preacher.

LEOWITZ

(aside)

I need one more day...Wat am I doing? I look like Seidler now.

(to Alice)

Do you know where he is?

ALICE

He was talking about going to the Keeper House.

LEOWITZ

I see. Vell, I'll let my partner know.

ALICE

Thank you.

Enter Knight along with Cheshire Cat

ALICE

You vile creature.

CESHIRE CAT

Are you addressing me or him?

ALICE

Both of you.

CESHIRE CAT

Then you should've used the plural form.

ALICE

I don't need any more advice from you. You're just a killer.

CESHIRE CAT

The rabbit got me angry.

ALICE

That's no excuse to kill anyone.

The knight starts to walk away.

ALICE

Stop! I know who you are. You're the reason for all this violence.

The knight turns and looks at her.

ALICE

You can't have a princess. Only the good, kind knights are worthy of a princess. You're the reason the White Rabbit is dead and that Tweedle-Dee and Tweedle-Dum are no longer together. You ruined Wonderland and our happy madness.

CHESHIRE CAT

We're that mad now.

ALICE

Well, then I order you to stop being that mad. You're my imagination, so I'll make you do as I say.

CHESHIRE CAT

I thought you were certain we were real? Or did you only pretend to be mad?

ALICE

I am mad. Just not that mad. I want you to go back to being the type of mad you were.

CHESHIRE CAT

You cannot make us.

ALICE

Yes, I can. Lorina assures me that you're not real, so I'll believe her.

Enter White Queen

WHITE QUEEN

Well, I think coming to that conclusion took a lot longer than necessary.

CHESHIRE CAT

Oh, wonderful. The queen who thinks she's too good for us.

ALICE

White Queen, how do I get the White Rabbit back? And get rid of him?

(points to knight)

WHITE QUEEN

Didn't you already beat him? You told a policeman, right?

ALICE

So he really is Rauch?

WHITE QUEEN

I'm not sure. You're the only real one here, so shouldn't you be the one to know for sure?

ALICE

What do you mean? Why does being real make one sure?

WHITE QUEEN

Because of certainty. Nothing is certain in Wonderland, so it should be the opposite in the real world.

ALICE

I wouldn't be so sure. I think I belong more in Wonderland.

WHITE QUEEN

No, you don't.

ALICE

Why would you say that? I thought you were the good queen.

WHITE QUEEN

I mean that I agree with your sister. You cannot escape reality, no matter what you do. You may as well just live your life.

ALICE

How dare you? Just because you're a queen, doesn't mean-

CHESHIRE CAT

Maybe you should kill her?

ALICE

That's quite enough of that, you terrible creature.

Alice exits

Cheshire Cat and White Queen exit.

Rauch enters

RAUCH

That girl. I saw her tell a policeman about me. And she gave me the directions to the wrong kind of hospital. She'll get purple flowers for her treachery. I'll be the last person she betrays.

Enter Paul

PAUL

Sir, is there something about that girl that fascinates you so much?

RAUCH

Oh...I...know her father.

PAUL

I doubt it, German liar. Her father's dead.

RAUCH

Well...she gave me directions. Now I want to dank her.

PAUL

I'd sooner eat a leech than believe the word of a German.

RAUCH

I'm Austrian.

PAUL

Austrian. German. It doesn't matter which you are. You're both a country of murderers.

RAUCH

How dare you? I am not a murderer.

PAUL

Since you're Austrian, you may be that Rauch fellow. How can I know if you're a killer or not? It's because he's with the Germans that Rauch is so bloodthirsty.

RAUCH

You're starting to put me on edge, you miserable runt. I've spent my time in war, so I know more about murder than you'll ever learn. I lost my senses, and then lost the war. Then I find my wife cheated on me while I was gone. You don't know anything about me.

He pulls out a knife from his back pocket and comes forward to Paul. The man backs away.

PAUL

Stay away.

Alice re-enters.

ALICE

Knight, stop! I told them already. They're coming by.

RAUCH

I saw you tell them, you hussie. I'll kill you.

He turns to Alice and Paul grabs Rauch from behind. They struggle while Alice stands and watch. Seidler enters with a pistol.

SEIDLER

Rauch, that's enough! You've lost.

3.3

Lorina is hugging Alice, while Paul watches with Tweedle-Dee.

LORINA

Thank you for saving her.

PAUL

Of course.

(to himself)

I'm just glad those Austrians are gone.

LORINA

I heard that, Paul. You know, Seidler turned out to be a good man.

PAUL

And his partner?

LORINA

True, he turned out to be a crook. But at least one of those women told about him. Otherwise, Seidler wouldn't have confronted him and find out what Alice said.

PAUL

Two out of three Austrians not being crooks isn't exactly...

LORINA

So, I see how it is. I am sorry about your father and I know the pain of your lost. My father died from a hansom that went out of control.

PAUL

I'm sorry.

ALICE

The driver was drunk.

PAUL

Oh?

LORINA

And Scottish.

PAUL

Oh.

LORINA

It was so long ago. But we still remember it like it was yesterday.

PAUL

I'm sorry for your loss, Lorina. I've known for a while that my prejudice is unfair. But every time I think back to my father, I can't help but be angry. And I can't think when I'm mad.

LORINA

I've live with my sister all her life, so I know a good deal about being angry. I can understand that we all have our faults we need to address.

PAUL

Lorina, I wonder if you wouldn't mind...

LORINA

Yes?

PAUL

Are we still going out Saturday?

LORINA

Of course. I wouldn't miss it for the world.

PAUL

That's wonderful. Erm...Forgive me for pushing me luck, but would you like to come to my church Sunday morning? Or I could go to yours if you want. As long as your guardian isn't opposed.

LORINA

Are you Catholic?

PAUL

Yes.

LORINA

I don't know how Dr. Scriber will feel about that. Then again, what he doesn't know won't hurt him.

PAUL

What makes you so sure he won't find out?

LORINA

He and my friend have gotten engaged.

PAUL

What? So soon?

LORINA

That's what I said. They both said they were worried about growing old. I suppose if they both agree, it won't be much of a problem.

PAUL

Oh, I see. Will he still support you?

LORINA

I'm not sure. But it's fine if he doesn't. He's decided that as long as Alice keeps her hands to herself, then she doesn't need to go to the asylum.

ALICE

What made him change his mind?

LORINA

Have you ever noticed that your delusions only occur when you have a headache?

ALICE

Yes. But what does that matter?

LORINA

That's not a sign of schizophrenia. As long as you drink caffeine, your headache goes away and so does your Wonderland. So, if you're not schizophrenic, then you have no need for the asylum.

ALICE

But I want to stay in my Wonderland.

LORINA

Then by all means, do so. Only when you're home alone. That's a pretty fair compromise.

ALICE

I don't think that's hardly fair at all.

3.4

Alice and the Red Queen are seated outside together. Alice has a tea cup close to her but she's not touching it.

RED QUEEN

Well, the knight's gone and my husband came back from the dead. But I suppose it could be worse.

ALICE

Maybe you shouldn't be so eager to chop people's heads off anyway.

RED QUEEN

How dare you?

ALICE

I'm the real one here. You cannot order me around.

RED QUEEN

Fair enough. Why aren't you touching your tea?

ALICE

Because I want to keep talking to you.

RED QUEEN

What for?

ALICE

I want to ask how the White Rabbit's doing. How come I haven't seen him lately?

RED QUEEN

He's been busy. We've been so focused on preparing for the wedding, now we're focused on taking all the decorations down.

ALICE

That must be no fun. I would love to see him again soon.

RED QUEEN

The cat might still be around.

ALICE

I don't want to talk to him.

RED QUEEN

What about Dinah?

ALICE

She's fine. By the way, now that I have more control over Wonderland, can I give you a name?

RED QUEEN

Why are you so fascinated with names?

ALICE

Because my name makes me Alice. And it gives me an identity. I would think the queen of hearts would want that.

RED QUEEN

Very well. Make sure the name is good.

ALICE

Alright. I'll call you Dinah, to make you more relaxed and polite as her.

Enter Girl#1 and Girl#2

GIRL#2

She really hit you?

GIRL#1

Yes. Be careful with her.

GIRL#2

Alice?

ALICE

Oh. Hello.

GIRL#2

We're having a picnic of our own. Over there. Would you care to join us?

ALICE

Sure, thank you.

RED QUEEN

I'll be here when you get back.

END