

This is the entire ACT ONE

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ALICE LEAVES THE GARDEN

This script was written to accompany the songs which had been composed for an earlier work called ALICE'S WORLD with no libretto.

The show was performed by members of Kbis, a children's theater school, as part of their Christmas show and later in the Brighton Fringe Festival at the Unitarian Church.

The script and music were submitted to the 2011 Moondance International Film Festival where it won **First Prize** in the Children's Theater category, under the title ALICE'S WORLD.

Author's Goals

My goal in putting Lewis' beloved characters in a modern setting with insane substitute parents is to champion Alice against authoritarian absurdity. I would like to develop this idea by adding more anachronistic and modern references. I intend to extend their adventure on the beach in the Second Act where they interact with sea creatures and I would like to further explore the relationship between the two grown-ups who come to a realization in Act Two.

Lyricist and Composer's Goals

the varied sea creatures. They are almost homesick for the garden when a gigantic wave sweeps them under the sea. In a scene set under the sea, Alice and the Dormouse find a magic lantern that allows them to view the garden.

Back in the garden their absence has sobered the Madhatter and the White Rabbit who halt their constant mania long enough to take lessons in depression and real emotion.

Alice and the Dormouse miss their crazy friends when they discover a message from the deep, from which they learn

they are drowned. About to cry over this they surge to the surface and are saved.

Returning to the garden, Alice reveals she is no longer dependent on her erratic care-givers. When the Dormouse joins her, they look forward to the kind of reality which is blessed by friendship.

CAST

ALICE — a young girl

DORMOUSE — a young boy

MADHATTER — a tall unkempt man

WHITE RABBIT — a buxom woman

RED QUEEN — played by Madhatter

WHITE QUEEN — played by the White Rabbit

Cast Breakdown

Alice is a young lady who knows her own mind but has no one who cares about what she says or thinks. Although she is well-dressed and fed, she is at that point in her teenage years when she is trying out all sorts of rebellion.

Dormouse is a graceful and energetic teenager who is ambitious although he too does not know where his ambition should take him. He is stronger and simpler than Alice.

MADHATTER is past forty, trained as a teacher and now pressed into caring for Alice. He is bored and amuses himself by writing but he is unable to control his writing mind which tries to entertain at the expense of sense.

WHITE RABBIT is his partner but generally not acknowledged as such. She has not been trained as a home-maker so finds herself at a loss. Although fond of Alice she is so neglected by the Madhatter and the world that she retreats into odd fancies and even odd language.

RED QUEEN, an alter-ego who is superior to everyone.

WHITE QUEEN, an alter-ego who is the embodiment of anger.

ALICE LEAVES THE GARDEN

***a musical for all ages
based on four Lewis Carroll characters***

***book by eliza wyatt
music and lyrics by David Ingledew***

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ALICE LEAVES THE GARDEN

Overture

At rise: THE GARDEN. Alice is waking up. The Madhatter can be seen in the garden but he is at a garden furniture desk and is totally absorbed in writing on large pieces of paper.

ALICE (to audience, over music)
Around four in the afternoon I'd get up from my nap, tie on my dress and petticoat, or someone did, put on my ribbons tie them in bows and prepare for tea which lasted until dinner time. It was all pretty boring!

ALICE (Sings)

Chasing a ball, run on a hill
Like the world spins around
Lost in this time

Fruit on the tree, magic of green
And the taste is so sweet
Soft daisy chains

As my mind it runs away
Silent dreams gently play
Half asleep and half awake the tide turns round

What is this dream this mystery drift away to another land
What is this dream let it take me falling down to another world

What is this dream this mystery drift away to another land
What is this dream let it take me falling down to another world
What is this dream as it turns and tumbles, moves and rumbles
Me out of my life.

Down, down, down...do cats eat bats? Do bats eat cats?

(During this song, FAIRIES appear and ALICE follows them as they dance round her, making her turn in circles until she becomes dizzy. ALICE stumbles and falls. The WHITE RABBIT enters and picks her up.)

WHITE RABBIT (in usual flustered state)
Only too happy to help. Help's my middle name, can't remember the others.

(Beams at her, she nods a thank you and ALICE turns away and goes to audience)

ALICE (whisper to audience)
Have you ever had imaginary friends?
The kind you grow out of?

WHITE RABBIT
Oh yes, children imagine things you know. Because they're mad. Yes, totally insane. You my dearest may think I'm imaginary but I'm as real as a purple elephant. The only difference between me and a purple elephant being, I have lost my memory. It's completely gone. The day, for instance, I can't remember what date it is. Do you know?

ALICE
I don't know.

WHITE RABBIT
That's the answer we seek then. Do we truly know what date it is? What century even we're living in? Must find out...

(SHE runs out crossing with MADHATTER)

Ah now you're a schoolteacher aren't you? Isn't that convenient! Can you tell me what era we are living in?

MADHATTER (from a long way off)
Did someone ask an important question?

(He looks vaguely around which annoys the WHITE RABBIT, who exits)

ALICE (resigned)
No, we didn't ask any questions.

MADHATTER

Good because I haven't got time for lunch, I'm writing a book. All about you and your imaginary friends.

(HE waves paper and pencil at her)

ALICE

I don't want to sound boring, but the trouble is I don't have any imaginary friends. Except for you and the White Rabbit.

MADHATTER

Nonsense, we are real. At Least, we are on some days.

ALICE

And the other days?

MADHATTER

Ah the other days, we're...not quite so real. No, you're right there. But...but no one can be real every day! That would be an awful lot of effort. And be quite tiring.

ALICE

You are always making excuses. Have you built me a boat yet? You promised to build me a boat and take me rowing?

MADHATTER

I'm beginning to imagine a boat. That's the first step. What kind of boat do you want?

ALICE

I've heard about a pea green boat.

MADHATTER

Then let's imagine that.

(Music starts)

ALICE

Oh, a boat's quite easy to imagine, but not where this boat goes!

MADHATTER

Er, let me think if I've written anything about a...

(MADHATTER consults his papers but gradually leaves them on the table as he goes into his recitation of Lewis Carroll's poem.)

MADHATTER (to Alice and audience)
A boat beneath a sunny sky
Lingering onward dreamily an evening in July

Children three that nestle near
Eager eye and willing ear
Pleased a simple tale to heart

Long has paled that sunny sky
Echoes fade and memories die
Autumn frosts have slain July

Still she haunts me, phantom-wise
Alice Liddell moves under skies
Never seen by waking eyes

Children yet, the tale to hear
Eager eye and willing ear
Lovingly shall nestle near

In a wonderland they lie
Dreaming as the day goes by
Dreaming as the summers die....

*(ALICE has fallen asleep.
MADHATTER starts to write. WHITE
RABBIT enters and wakes ALICE up)*

WHITE RABBIT
Can I help you? Hey, are you awake? (NOW she is) Can I
help you little girl?

ALICE
I don't want to be called 'little girl'.

WHITE RABBIT
Oh you know what you want, do you? Umm, belly
interesting! Belly good!

ALICE
I know what I don't want. I don't want to live in
this garden. I want a boat, a boat to sail on a river or
even the sea.

WHITE RABBIT
The date! Have we found out what date it is?

ALICE

Look, you just asked me a question, and you haven't listened to my answer!

WHITE RABBIT

It's very important, before answering or even asking questions, to know what era you're living in!

ALICE

What does 'era' mean?

WHITE RABBIT

Drat! Drat and again DRAT! Sounds to me very very suspiciously, that you may be living in THIS generation.

(SHE shudders)

ALICE

Is that so bad? Can I live in another?

WHITE RABBIT

Try, try my dear, try. Try and live in an era we know something about. Then perhaps I can be of help. And don't forget to vote.

(MADHATTER is interested)

MADHATTER

Vote for you? What party are you running for?

WHITE RABBIT

A pyjama party! Run rabbit run. (to ALICE) If you're going to grow up, you'll have to learn how to run.

ALICE

That sounds depressing.

WHITE RABBIT

But I'll arrange lessons in running with the Red Queen. Don't worry, I'm an expert in making things happy for no reason. I hope I can help you.

ALICE

You always ask, can I help you?

WHITE RABBIT

I know. I've remembered my lines perfectly....it wasn't easy!

ALICE
But you never DO HELP ME!

WHITE RABBIT
You don't want to leave the garden! You want to move maybe, move to a new house?

ALICE (Suspiciously)
A new house would be nice, but what kind?

WHITE RABBIT
A large house?

ALICE
By the sea!

WHITE RABBIT
By the sea? Oh dear, no one can afford that unless we're living before 1950's. How else can I help?

ALICE
By disappearing?

WHITE RABBIT
You can always rely on me!!
(WHITE RABBIT runs out)

ALICE (to audience)
You can be very lonely in a garden
with only the flowers to talk to
I've tried and tried but they don't talk back to you!
And pretty soon they fade and go limp and die!

(MADHATTER joins her)

MADHATTER
Now my dear I have to tell you something sad. Summer comes to an end, it finishes, just like that. And no one knows why.

ALICE (to audience)
At least when you're in the garden, you're outside but suddenly, without so much as a polite invitation, WINTER arrives. A long lonely winter and the only

company you have is the fire.

MADHATTER (reciting a Lewis Carroll poem to ALICE and audience. While he is doing this, ALICE tries to read what he has been writing.)

In winter, when the fields are white
I sing this song for your delight

In Spring when woods are getting green
I'll try and tell you what I mean.

In summer when the day's are long
Perhaps you'll understand the song

in Autumn, when the leaves are brown
Take pen and ink and write it down.

ALICE
Rain and storm and nothing to look forward to!
(SHE throws paper down)

MADHATTER
Don't forget the rain goes pitter and patter, nothing matters.

ALICE
Not if you're a Madhatter, but I want it to.

MADHATTER
How very contrary of you!

(MADHATTER goes back to his papers.)

ALICE
If only I wasn't so lonely.

MADHATTER
Don't forget the rain goes pitter, patter, nothing matters.
(TRACK TWO)

ALICE (sings)
I call you up on a telephone made of string
From my house in the trees
I see the world as it stares back at me
In my new ballet shoes.
Cold winds blow

We'll get snow
Swim the sea and ride the waves
Swim the sea these summer days.

I had a wish that would give me everything
Come the winter the leaves all fall
Cold winds blow
We'll get snow
Swim the sea and ride the waves
Swim the sea and sail away

*(During this song, ALICE sees her
dream and tries to dance her
sadness away)*

MADHATTER (bustling back)
I know what you want. You want to play a game of Snap!

ALICE
But you don't know how to play Snap.

MADHATTER
Of course I do. (HE starts twirling around) SNAP! SNAP!
SNAP!

ALICE
That's a dance, not a game.

MADHATTER
A dance is a game and a game is a dance.

ALICE
That's really not how you play Snap. (To audience) IS IT?
(to Madhatter) You see, they agree with me.

MADHATTER
CUCKOO! CUCKOO!

ALICE
That's what I'm gonna become if I stay much longer in this
garden with you.

MADHATTER
Your mistake is in thinking we're your imaginary friends.

ALICE
Aren't you?

MADHATTER

No, you're one of mine. I'm an intensely creative person.
I write books, poems and e-mails.

ALICE

TOADSTOOL!

MADHATTER

I beg your pardon?

ALICE

I see a toadstool, don't you? There! (She points)

MADHATTER (not seeing it)

You're trying to trick me.

ALICE

Which proves — if I can see things you can't — then I'm
the one who's real.

MADHATTER

Are you trying to trick me? You are trying to trick me. Oh
heavens, you're trying to destroy my belief in myself! My
belief in myself is the only belief I have. Oh, it's too
much to take...

(HE retires to his desk)

ALICE

Sorry, sorry. Seems like I'm always saying something to
offend him.

(WHITE RABBIT enters)

WHITE RABBIT (Disapprovingly)

Have you heard? Randomness has broken out. People are
roaming around all over the place. It's called a travel
bug, and what's worse I hear it's catching.

ALICE

Oh is that what I've got? The travel bug? Yes, that's it.
What's the symptom?

WHITE RABBIT (reluctantly because of the innuendo)

I'm not sure you're old enough to know.

ALICE

But I've got it. I've got the Travel Bug.

WHITE RABBIT

Ah, well, I hate to say. Because it can be taken the wrong way. But...the symptom is a terrible itch!

ALICE (scratching herself)

Where? Everywhere?

WHITE RABBIT

In your nose. But there's a wonderful cure. Sneezing! Try it. Go on. Sneeze!

ALICE

Atishooo!

WHITE RABBIT(to audience)

What do you think? Will she make it to the Sneezing Olympics? No, I'd give her seven out of ten. We'd like a bit more...shooo, to make it a ten. ATISHOO!

ALICE (realising she's been tricked)

But I don't want the cure, I WANT to travel, leave this garden.

WHITE RABBIT

No, you wanted a new house. But there was a size problem. A house too small and your head, which is fairly big, won't fit in it. A house too big and you'll forget you ever had a head and that's a really serious problem.

(THE MADHATTER jumps up, delighted)

MADHATTER

Someone has a serious problem? Consult me. I'm working on a theory to explain Everything.

WHITE RABBIT

That badly needs explaining, but we don't seem to be able to measure her head.

MADHATTER

Well, that depends on how much she KNOWS!

ALICE

I don't want any more lessons.

WHITE RABBIT (to ALICE)

Don't worry, I'll manage him. (To MADHATTER)

No advanced math! Keep it simple...

MADHATTER

Something simple then, like...infinity?

ALICE

What's that?

MADHATTER

No! That's not infinity. It's not a that, it's more a non-that. You've failed the first lesson. But I'll give you one more chance.. Supposing I chase you round the garden.

(HE tries that, Alice runs)

ALICE

Oh, oh!

MADHATTER

That's it. Right answer! Infinity. TWO O's. DOUBLE O!!

WHITE RABBIT

Ten out of ten...

(MADHATTER writes two 'O's' on the board)

ALICE

I don't understand...

WHITE RABBIT

Ah, you go up one grade for saying you don't understand.

ALICE (To WHITE RABBIT)

I think you're confusing me.

MADHATTER (To WHITE RABBIT)

That's wrong of you, that's very wrong of you.

WHITE RABBIT

Sorry, I'm trying to help. I don't mean to confuse her.

MAD HATTER

I hope not. That's MY job!

ALICE

Why can't I leave the garden? Can you answer that question?

MAD HATTER

No! Oh no, that would spoil the anticipation. Yours and mine!

WHITE RABBIT (to MADHATTER)
I'm not sure you're the teacher she needs. What course
did you excel in?

MADHATTER
Reeling and writhing and ambition, distraction,
uglification and derision.

WHITE RABBIT
Ummm... I have a degree in Laughing and Grief.

ALICE
Great! Then maybe, if you're both so clever and have so
many degrees, then can you tell me how to get out of this
garden?

MAD HATTER
That's simple. Invite people in!

ALICE
I don't see any people
*(Pleased with themselves, they
exit, leaving a lonely ALICE)*

ALICE (sings)
(TRACK THREE)
Running to you
Running to you
Come to play, the days away
Come the night the stars shine bright

Running to you
Running to you
The perfect host, the mirrors ghost
At times it seems you haunt my dreams.

*(Because she is singing ALICE
does not see the Dormouse
enter, he is wearing a backpack
and cannot decide whether to come
or go, stay or leave.)*

ALICE
Oh who are you? Look what I've found.

DORMOUSE (Looking around)
What have you found?

ALICE
You!

DORMOUSE
You can't find me because I wasn't lost.

ALICE
Ah, but how do you know you're not lost?

DORMOUSE
Oh, I don't feel lost. I'm on my way. I just haven't got there yet.

ALICE
Where are you going?

DORMOUSE
I'm not sure where I'll end up.

ALICE
Me neither, and I'm completely lost.

DORMOUSE
I keep telling you, I'm not lost.

ALICE
Please don't be grumpy!

DORMOUSE
I'm not GRUMPY, I'm the Dormouse! This isn't SNOWWHITE!

(He almost sulks. Alice waits)

ALICE
Excuse me for staring, but I've never seen anyone like you before.

(She inspects him)

DORMOUSE
Like, what?

ALICE
Like...as quite as...quite as....quiet! My friends never stop talking.

DORMOUSE
I've been thinking about where I want to go. When I started off I thought I'd go round the world in eighty days but that's impossible. Then I had an idea it might be fun

to go back in time. Do you know what I mean? Back when there were dinosaurs.

ALICE

Oh yes, that would be fun. But do you know what century is now, which century we are living in?

DORMOUSE

You must be joking.

ALICE

No, I was hoping you'd tell me.

DORMOUSE

Very funny! I like a girl who jokes. One thing I know, it's not the future because I went there in a plane full of electronic equipment which did a number on my brain. And airports, they're full off people in uniform. (He looks around.) This is a nice secluded garden. Can I stay here?

ALICE

You won't be happy here. It looks a picturesque garden but that's what it is, bound by two hedges a brick wall and a fence...

DORMOUSE

I see what you mean. But at least you know where you are. (Sighs) Well it was nice meeting you. Goodbye.

ALICE

You don't have to go.

DORMOUSE

I must get on my way, even if I don't know where I am going.

ALICE

You've got the travel bug too then?

DORMOUSE

I've got it really badly. I came down with it last year and still haven't recovered. I just have to go, go go.

(TRACK FOUR)

DORMOUSE (sings)

I'd like to go one a cruise
I'd like to go but cannot choose
What to take and what to loose
Think I've picked up the blues

Got to dust off my old shoes...
Traveling, traveling
Which way shall I go?

Traveling traveling
Through the wind rain and snow

I don't know what which to go
So why don't I stay here?

I take a step it's such a task
I've got me sardine sandwiches and me flask
Standing in a queue I'm always the last
upon a plane it's all so fast
I'm always thinking of the past

*(MADHATTER and WHITE RABBIT have
entered, and join them in the dance.
DORMOUSE suddenly takes up his
backpack; he doesn't like them.)*

DORMOUSE — to ALICE
It's hello goodbye I'm afraid.

WHITE RABBIT(to ALICE)
Don't worry he's not going anywhere.
He likes imagining, which doesn't make him
crazy, but it does make him LAZY!

ALICE — to DORMOUSE
You don't have to go.

DORMOUSE
I'm afraid I must get on with my travels.

WHITE RABBIT (to ALICE)
Don't hold your breath.

ALICE
I won't, because if I did that...

MADHATTER
You'd be a plate of bread and butter.

ALICE
Really, sometimes you're so crazy you embarrass me.

(SHE turns away from them)

DORMOUSE

Do you want to come with me?

ALICE

No, I want you to come with me. I'm leaving too, for the sea. Wouldn't it be fun to run away to sea?

MADHATTER

You don't know half enough to go anywhere.

DORMOUSE

I don't think that's true.

WHITE RABBIT

Who knows what is true? Besides, it's too late in the day for truth. It must be time for Tea!

DORMOUSE

Now you're talking! That's more like it! What's for tea?

MADHATTER

Questions again. Well, there's T for Trauma, T for Toothpaste, T for temper tantrums! Isn't it my son?

DORMOUSE

I'm sorry, but I'm not your son.

MADHATTER

I like him. To me, he's like a son.

*(WHITE RABBIT is passing round
cups and pouring glitter from a
a watering-can)*

WHITE RABBIT (to ALICE)

Do you want more tea?

ALICE

I haven't had any tea yet.

MADHATTER

Then you can hardly have less.

DORMOUSE

I don't see any tea.

MADHATTER

That must be, young man, because we don't have any tea.

ALICE

Then it's not very nice of you to ask, is it?
(to Dormouse, taking him aside) Let's go somewhere else for tea.

WHITE RABBIT

I'm on my way to the kitchen now
to bake Alaska.

MADHATTER

I believe the Queen of Hearts has made some tarts.
(to WHITE RABBIT) Hasn't she?

WHITE RABBIT

Yes, belly good tarts, belly good. I'll get them.

(WHITE RABBIT exits)

MADHATTER(calling after her)

Make sure they're strawberry with gold rings. You'd like them, my son.

(DORMOUSE takes ALICE aside)

DORMOUSE (to ALICE)

I wish he wouldn't keep calling me his son.

ALICE

You should be flattered. He's a brain. He thinks two or three streets ahead of a Sat.Nav.

DORMOUSE

My advice is, don't listen to him. Or her!

(MADHATTER approaches them)

MADHATTER

One lesson you haven't learned I'm afraid. You haven't learned how not to listen.

ALICE

HOW NOT TO LISTEN!

DORMOUSE

Why would we want to learn that?

MAD HATTER

Why? Because you don't want to hear about the madness of others. People are only interested in madness if it's their own.

ALICE

You should know. But now I think I'm free to leave!

MAD HATTER

You are, he will have a problem.

DORMOUSE (to ALICE)

There's too many places to choose from I can't decide what holiday will hit my spot, what bike hike, what sleigh ride; when it comes to leaving there's too many choices to choose from.

MADHATTER

His mind is teeming, you see, with possibilities. He could be my son.

DORMOUSE

I'm not your son!!!! I have a father, and I don't want another one.

(MADHATTER exits)

ALICE

Oh, now you've offended him.

DORMOUSE(Whispering to Alice)

I don't want to be rude about your relatives, but I do think they're a few cards short of a deck.

ALICE(Whispering to him)

I don't think I'm related to them, I'm an orphan.

DORMOUSE(singing under his breath)

Oh good, I mean not good, but you know what I mean.

ALICE

The only way to be rid of them is to disappear. Run away to sea.

DORMOUSE

That's a relief, I was hoping you weren't planning to take them with us.

ALICE
Does that mean you've agreed?

(SHE is about to hug him)

DORMOUSE
You can swim, I hope.

WHITE RABBIT
Still talking about the sea? What is all the fuss about?

(SHE pulls WHITE RABBIT aside)

ALICE(to WHITE RABBIT)
You're really not helping me.

WHITE RABBIT
Sorry, sorry. I do apologize, please forgive me. I am trying to help. The important thing to remind you of is the sea is full of worrying uncertainties. Why don't you just go on the web-site?

MADHATTER(bustling in)
Forget the sea, everyone runs away to sea. What's the sea? A little stretch of water. Why don't you going somewhere bigger and more magnificent?

WHITE RABBIT
What's bigger than the sea?

MADHATTER
The sun AND the moon, but especially the sun! Full of FIRE! Hot enough to scorch your pants!

WHITE RABBIT
Of course! Sorry! How stupid of me!

ALICE
The sun's a bit far away!

DORMOUSE
Um, I don't think so. Too much sun isn't good for you. As is obvious with SOME! (He indicates MADHATTER)

WHITE RABBIT
I know. I have the solution. Get a ride with the astronauts. Go to the moon!

MADHATTER

Yes, they've done the maths for that already. But the sun does get very jealous of everyone going to the moon.

WHITE RABBIT

Is that so? Tell us about how jealous she gets.

MADHATTER

(recites the Lewis Carroll poem)

The sun was shining on the sea
Shining with all his might.
He did his very best to make
the billow smooth and bright
And this was odd, because it was
The middle of the night.

The moon was shining sulkily
Because she thought the sun
Had got no business to be there
After the day was done-
It's very rude of him, she said,
To come and spoil the fun.

ALICE

I'm getting too old for this nonsense.

WHITE RABBIT

Too old? What is she saying...she's much younger than me.
You can't leave before you've become a queen, like me.

ALICE

I'm not sure I want to be a queen.

DORMOUSE

She's quite sure she doesn't want to be a queen like you.

ALICE

Besides which, we're running away to sea.

WHITE RABBIT (As she exits)

If you're not a queen you won't get very far, unless you have special running lessons.

MADHATTER

That's right. The Red Queen taught me and I'm going to teach you.

(MADHATTER takes ALICE and DORMOUSE

*by the hand and runs very fast, in
place, until they are exhausted)*

ALICE
Slow down...

MADHATTER
You have to run or you won't get anywhere.
This whole country is too slow for me. Come on, keep up.

DORMOUSE
We've run and run but we still seem to be in the same
place.

MADHATTER
Here it takes all the running you can do to keep in the
same place. If you want to get anywhere, you must run twice
as fast.

ALICE
Why do queens have to run?

MADHATTER
There's always someone after them.

ALICE
Then I won't become one.

ALICE
STOP! STOP! Enough games, too many games. I don't want to
imagine anything any more. I am too old to play games.

(Thunderclap)

MADHATTER (stops running, shocked)
Too old to play games! I don't believe it. Too old to play
games? That's nonsense. No, it's worse, it's NOT
NONSENSE! The whole idea makes me feel ill.

ALICE (Taking care of him as he collapses)
Sit down.

MADHATTER
Makes me feel quite queasy!

DORMOUSE(to ALICE)
Quick, now we can get away.

(BIG ENTRANCE. WHITE RABBIT enters dressed as the WHITE QUEEN, smudged with red jam)

WHITE QUEEN
Okay, okay! Who dunnit? Who's the CULPRIT?

ALICE
Oh no, you've changed! (To Dormouse) I'm sorry, but she's changed character. She wants to play murder mystery!

WHITE QUEEN
No, I don't. I'm not playing. I AM the Queen of Hearts and someone's stolen my tarts.

ALICE
I don't want to play that.

WHITE QUEEN
Then find them for me. Find those tarts!

DORMOUSE
That sounds like a good idea. Where are they? I think we need a House Detective.

ALICE
No I don't want to play.

DORMOUSE (playing Detective)
Er...where did you have them last?

WHITE QUEEN
They were last seen near the baby.

DORMOUSE
What baby?

WHITE QUEEN
The baby pig, or was it a piggy baby.

DORMOUSE
And did you make these tarts yourself? I mean, if you bought them maybe we could go shopping and buy some more.

WHITE QUEEN
You mean Liddells? That's where I bought them.

ALICE
That's my name, she probably wants to blame me.

WHITE QUEEN
Guilty!

ALICE
Don't look at me.

DORMOUSE
Don't look at me.

WHITE QUEEN
If you're standing in front of my eyes, I have to look at you, don't I? OFF WITH YOUR HEAD.

DORMOUSE
She makes the Madhatter seem almost normal.

WHITE QUEEN
Off with his head!

DORMOUSE
I don't want to go to bed.

ALICE
No, it's worse than that, she said...OFF WITH YOUR HEAD!
Now it's all going haywire.

*(ALICE screams. MADHATTER enters
as the RED QUEEN wearing a
red barrister's wig)*

RED QUEEN (A high pitched wail of a voice)
Silence in Court. What's the complaint?

ALICE
She keeps saying, OFF WITH YOUR HEAD.

RED QUEEN(quietly to ALICE)
But that's no problem. No head? You'll be much more comfortable without it.

DORMOUSE (Taking ALICE aside)
How can you put up with them?

ALICE
They're my friends!

DORMOUSE

With friends like that, you don't need missile defense systems.

RED QUEEN (to WHITE QUEEN)

Do you want them locked up?

DORMOUSE

He ought to be locked up. Yes, I'm talking about you. You may be the judge, but you ought to be locked up and given a good long sentence.

RED QUEEN

I do like long sentences. (to ALICE) What's your defense?

ALICE

What's my defense? Oh why am I imagining all this? Why can't I stop it?

DORMOUSE

How can you?

ALICE

But I must!

DORMOUSE

You're not Harry Potter, are you?

RED QUEEN(to Dormouse)

Who are you?

DORMOUSE

A minute ago, I was your son! But let us work out who is who.

ALICE

Who IS who?

WHITE QUEEN

I am who...I am, naturally.

DORMOUSE

You can't reason with them!

RED QUEEN (to ALICE)

You stand accused of being YOU.

ALICE

And you stand accused of NOT being you. Please change back.

WHITE QUEEN
Someone's stolen my tarts. The raspberry ones with gold rings on.

RED QUEEN
I can solve that problem. Simple! All we have to do is... go back in time when you had them.

WHITE QUEEN
You mean, I'm not in the right time zone?

(ALICE and DORMOUSE play tag)

RED QUEEN
No, no, you can't be. You've advanced to a time when the tarts have disappeared

WHITE QUEEN
I don't want to advance. Can I go back to when I Had them!

RED QUEEN
Impossible! At least, before breakfast!

WHITE QUEEN
I won't be happy until someone's charged, arrested and convicted.

DORMOUSE
Without a trial?

RED QUEEN
He wants a trial. He must have one. Jury? Plaintiff, the guilty person, or persons. A clock, a calendar, what else do we need?

(The stage is surround by clocks)

ALICE
Just go back to being who you used to be. I've got guests. And this is making me look foolish in my own garden! Please go back to being the Madhatter.

MADHATTER
Reverend hatter, to you.

ALICE
And I much prefer the White Rabbit to you! Please change back.

WHITE QUEEN
I don't know what you're talking about. I am who I am, I'm
sorry you don't approve. I don't particularly like you.

DORMOUSE
Then leave us alone.

WHITE QUEEN
You're accused!

DORMOUSE
Me?

WHITE QUEEN
And come to think of it, WHO ARE YOU?

(the clocks do a crazy dance)

ALICE
Please, please, please!

DORMOUSE (to ALICE)
If I stay here much longer, I'll go mad!

ALICE(to DORMOUSE)
Do you want to?

DORMOUSE
Go mad? Are you mad?

ALICE
Not me, but if you want to go mad, the Madhatter will help
you.

DORMOUSE
I'm sure he could! He's not a judge!

ALICE
Oh he is, he loves judging.

(TRACK SIX)
(Music is THE MAD REFRAIN)

RED QUEEN (trying to arrange the court)
Silence in Court
You must obey
The rules and regs won't go
Mad they may seem to you

WHITE QUEEN
It's true it's true Attisshoo.....

RED QUEEN
Stand in the box, undo your locks
And keep an eye on that clocks
It never stops!

WHITE QUEEN
Hickory Dickory dock
Silence in court, take off your hat
Now tell me before we start,
who's the one who stole the tarts?

WHITE QUEEN
It's true, it's true Attisshooo....

RED QUEEN
Consider this plea, as you stand before me
in the dock, read the charge, wind up the clock!
Clocks, clocks, the court must have more clocks!

WHITE QUEEN(to audience)
You're all invited to Alice's Birthday Party!

ALICE
It's not my birthday! Surely I should know if it was my
birthday.

WHITE QUEEN
Only if you've been born already, and I'm not sure we've
got to that page of the book.

DORMOUSE (desperately throwing himself on his knees)
AHHHH!

ALICE(following his example)
Ahhhhh!

WHITE QUEEN
Hickory Dickory Dock

ALICE (sings with cast)
Sit yourself down
Start to unwind

WE'RE ALL MAD NOW
WE'RE ALL MAD NOW
WE'RE ALL MAD NOW

*(MAD REFRAIN to be sung by
everyone, overlapping each other)*

ALICE (singing)
This is the end!

DORMOUSE(singing)
I'm off my Head!

WHITE QUEEN
I put my heart into those tarts

ALICE
Pretend and pretend...

DORMOUSE
I'm off to bed, if that's what you said.

WHITE QUEEN
I put my heart into those tarts

ALICE
Just give me a minute

RED QUEEN
We're all mad Now, We're all mad now and how! We're all
mad now and how!

DORMOUSE
Traveling, traveling, which way shall I go. Traveling,
traveling, which way shall I go? etc.

WHITE QUEEN
I put my HEART into those tarts, etc.

*(ALICE and DORMOUSE push RED QUEEN
down onto her small-sized chair)*

ALICE
This trial's not fair. Just nonsense and air. This trial's
not fair, just nonsense and air, etc.

DORMOUSE
Traveling - which way shall I go? Baby face! Baby face,
etc.

WHITE QUEEN
I put my heart into those tarts, etc.

DANCERS as MAD CLOCKS
Tick toc, tick toc. Off with your Block, Off with your
Socks, etc.

RED QUEEN (trying to stand up but pushed back down)
Stop, I cannot for the life of me judge if you don't stop
still for a minute.

ALICE, etc.
We don't want to be judged.
We're not going to stop.

DORMOUSE
Traveling, traveling...

WHITE QUEEN
Change, change, change, we can change more times than
clocks do chime. No one wants to stop.

RED QUEEN
No one wants to grow-up.

WHITE QUEEN
Not me!

RED QUEEN
Not you, not me. Not me!

ALICE (throwing herself on her knees)
AHHHHH!

DORMOUSE (throwing himself on his knees)
AHHHHH!

END OF ACT ONE

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