

The 25-Minute or so Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

By Lewis Carroll

Creatively modified by

Angela M. Herrick & Brendan P. Kelso

13 - 21+ Actors

CAST OF CHARACTERS:

ALICE: a seriously confused little girl

¹SISTER: Alice's older sister

WHITE RABBIT: he's always late!

²DOOR: a Door, yes, a talking door!

³MOUSE: a mouse with a sad tale or is it tail?

⁴DODO: a wise bird

⁵EAGLET: baby eagle

⁶DUCK: a kind duck

⁷LIZARD BILL: White Rabbit's friend

⁸BLUE CATERPILLAR: a rude but helpful caterpillar

⁵COOK: cook who uses a LOT of pepper

CHESHIRE CAT: a grinning and vanishing cat

MAD HATTER: mad maker of hats, likes tea

¹MARCH HARE: friends with Hatter; also mad

³DORMOUSE: a very sleepy mouse

⁶QUEEN OF HEARTS: our wicked villain

⁷KING OF HEARTS: Queen's husband

²KNAVE OF HEARTS: works for the Queen

⁴EXECUTIONER: works for the Queen; very busy!

⁸CARD SOLDIER 1: works in the Queen's garden

CARD SOLDIER 2: also works in the Queen's garden

Additional actors can be **ANIMALS** and **CARD SOLDIERS**. Three different sized actors can play **ALICE** as she changes size.

The same actors can play the following parts:

¹SISTER and **MARCH HARE**

²DOOR and **KNAVE**

³MOUSE and **DORMOUSE**

⁴DODO and **EXECUTIONER**

⁵EAGLET and **COOK**

⁶DUCK and **QUEEN**

⁷LIZARD BILL and **KING**

⁸BLUE CATERPILLAR and a **CARD SOLDIER**

ACT 1 SCENE 1

Down the Rabbit Hole

(enter ALICE and SISTER with book)

SISTER: Alice, time for your history lesson.

ALICE: No, it's soooo boring! What's the use of a book without pictures or conversations or tales of far off adventures?!

SISTER: Silly, girl. Don't you want to be smart like me?

ALICE: Like YOU? I'm not so sure! Kidding! I wish I was BIG like you, so wouldn't have to do this boring stuff!

SISTER: Just sit and listen. *(SISTER reads)* William the Conqueror, whose cause was favoured by the pope... blah, blah, blah...

(ALICE dozes; enter WHITE RABBIT; exit SISTER and ALICE wakes)

WHITE RABBIT: I'm late! I'm late! *(looks at watch)* Oh no! So LATE!!!

ALICE: Wow! A talking rabbit! Now, THAT'S something you don't see every day! *(WHITE RABBIT runs around and ALICE chases him; RABBIT exits)* He went down that deep, dark hole. I'm going in! What could possibly go wrong?! *(to audience)* This could be a HARE-raising adventure. Come on! *(exits)* AHHH!!!

ALICE: *(offstage)* I'mmmmm stilllllll faaaaaaalllllllllling! AHHH!!!

ACT 1 SCENE 2

(ALICE and DOOR enter)

DOOR: Open me! Open me!

ALICE: Who said that?

DOOR: Down here!

ALICE: You're a talking door!?

DOOR: Yep! You are going to find A LOT of strange things in the next 15 minutes! Get used to it!!

(ALICE tries to open DOOR)

ALICE: You're locked. Knock-knock.

DOOR: Seriously? A knock-knock joke? Because I'm a door, right? Hilarious.

ALICE: I thought you'd be OPEN to a good joke. No? Then let me in!!

DOOR: Fine! My key's over there on the table.

(ALICE gets key and "opens" DOOR)

ALICE: It's the loveliest garden ever! Oh, no! I'm too big to get through. *(returns to table; sets key down)* Hmm, there's a bottle that says "Drink Me."

DOOR: Definitely do that!

ALICE: What if it's poison?

DOOR: You're the main character and the play just started. Probably not poison.

ALICE: Good point! You're so a-DOOR-able! Get it?

DOOR: Yes, I'm a door. Drink!

ALICE: OK, bottoms up! *(drinks and gets down on knees)* Hey! I shrank to the right size! *(tries to open the door)* You've locked again?!

DOOR: Where's my key?... Whoops, you left it on the table!

ALICE: Ah, man.

DOOR: Hey, look there's some cake with a note.

ALICE: Oh, I like cake! *(picks it up)* It says, "Eat me."

DOOR: Maybe it'll help you grow. If it doesn't, you still get to eat cake!

ALICE: Good point, Door! *(aside to audience)* Wait. I'm taking advice from a door?!

DOOR: I told you, better get used to strange things from here on out!

ALICE: Oh well! *(takes a bite)* It's yummy! *(grows taller by standing on tiptoes or a step stool)* Curiouser and Curiouser! I'm huge! *(cries)*

(enter WHITE RABBIT)

WHITE RABBIT: I'm late! I'm late! Oh, the Queen will be savage if I've kept her waiting! *(sees ALICE)* AHH! GIANT! *(drops gloves and fan; exits)*

ALICE: Wait! I'm not a giant! I'm Alice. *(cries and fans herself with fan; then "shrinks")* Oh, I'm shrinking!

DOOR: You're tiny now. Watch out, you've made a big pool of water with those giant tears!

ALICE: I made a what? Whoa! SPLASH!

(ALL exit "swimming")

ACT 1 SCENE 3

The Pool of Tears

(ALICE enters "swimming")

ALICE: I wish I hadn't cried so much, I'm all wet! *(MOUSE swims by)* A mouse! O' Mouse! *(MOUSE ignores her)* HEY MOUSE! Maybe he doesn't understand English. Perhaps he's French? Ou' est ma chatte?

MOUSE: Did you just ask me where your CAT is?!

ALICE: Sorry, that's all the French I know. Are you afraid of cats?

MOUSE: I'm a mouse! Would you like cats if you were me?

ALICE: I love cats! My cat Dinah is the best. I love the way she purrs, and she's great at catching mice.

MOUSE: Mice? Nice. I'm outta here!

ALICE: Oh, I beg your pardon. I won't talk about Dinah anymore. Do you like dogs? Our neighbor has a wonderful dog. He catches all the rodents!

MOUSE: Do you not see that I'm a mouse? Humph! *(exits)*

ALICE: Touchy, touchy... Wait! Come back! *(exits saying...)* Let me tell you about snakes!

ACT 1 SCENE 4

The Caucus Race and the Long Tale

(enter DODO, EAGLET, and DUCK)

DODO: Where did all the water come from? I'm soaked!

EAGLET: *(cries)* Me too!

DUCK: *(to EAGLET)* There, there. We're back on dry land.

(enter MOUSE and ALICE)

ALICE: Please do come back! We won't talk about cats or dogs either if you don't like them!

DODO: I say, you're dripping wet. Did you get caught in the pool, too?

MOUSE: Yes. I'm soaked. It's awful.

DUCK: *(to ALICE)* Are you okay, dear?

ALICE: Well, I'd be better if I were dry and... *(looking around)* I just realized I'm talking to a mouse, an eaglet, a duck, and a dodo? Everything is so confusing here! Wherever here is!

DODO: Who you calling a dodo?

ALICE: You. Dodo bird.

DODO: Oh, yeah.

MOUSE: I've got it! You want dry, then I'll tell you all the driest thing I know. William the Conqueror, whose cause was favoured by the pope...

ALL: UGH!

ALICE: Not again!

DUCK: Is everyone dry?

ALL: No!

EAGLET: That was the wrong kind of dry.

DODO: In that case, we'll try energetic matters.

EAGLET: Huh? I don't understand.

DUCK: Me neither! *(points at audience)* And I don't think they understand. Especially that guy.

DODO: The best thing to get us dry is a caucus race.

ALL: A WHAT?!

DUCK: No wonder you're extinct!

DODO: What?!

DUCK: Nothing! Go on!

DODO: You'll see. Follow me. *(ALL run around)* All done. Questions?

EAGLET: Who won?

DODO: You're all dry so everybody has won!

ALICE: What? This is so confusing!

DUCK: You really are a dodo.

MOUSE: Alice, I'd like to explain why I am so frightened of cats and dogs. Gather round. *(melodramatically)* My tale is a long and sad one.

ALICE: *(looking at his tail)* It IS a long tail, but why do you call it sad?

MOUSE: My tale. My story. Not my tail!

ALICE: You have a knot in your tail? Let me help to undo it!

MOUSE: Ugh! You're not listening! I'm going to take my tale and my tail and go! *(exits holding tail)*

ALICE: Oh, he keeps running off. I wish Dinah were here to fetch him!

DUCK: Who's Dinah, dear?

ALICE: My cat! She's great at catching mice.

EAGLET: She is?

ALICE: Yes, and birds, too! Why she'll eat a bird as soon as look at it!

(ALL gasp and start to leave ALICE)

DODO: Ha! Who's the dodo now?

(ALL exit except ALICE)

ALICE: I wish I hadn't mentioned Dinah!
(exits)

ACT 2 SCENE 1

The Rabbit Sends in Lizard Bill

(WHITE RABBIT enters)

WHITE RABBIT: I'm STILL late! I'm late, and now I've lost my gloves.

(ALICE enters)

WHITE RABBIT: Why, Mary Ann, what are you doing out here? Run home this moment and fetch me a pair of gloves!

ALICE: Hey! That's not my name!

WHITE RABBIT: It doesn't matter! All servant girls are called Mary Ann in 19th century England.

ALICE: Ahh, first of all, I'm not your servant! Secondly, this is not England. And as far as I can, tell there are no rules here.

WHITE RABBIT: Fetch my gloves, NOW, Mary Ann!

ALICE: Okay! Okay! *(to audience)* I should get Dinah to take care of this one! *(WHITE RABBIT exits; ALICE walks across stage)* Here's a little house that says White Rabbit on the door. This must be it. *(exits; returns with bottle; to audience)* I found another bottle that says "Drink Me." Of course, I'm going to, because something interesting is sure to happen! *(she drinks and DODO enters placing a "roof" on her head and "walls" with window/armholes on each arm)* Uh oh!