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Product Code Y540-A

# ALLIE IN WONDERLAND

*What Happens When Alice Forgets How to Dream?*

An Adaptation of Lewis Carrol's Beloved Tale

by

Everett Robert

*Dedicated to my Grandmother, Jeanie Palmer,  
who encouraged my dreams*

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# Allie in Wonderland

by Everett Robert

**Characters:**

ALLIE

HATTER

HARE

RABBIT

DORMOUSE

TWEEDLEDEE

TWEEDLEDUM

DOOR

QUEEN OF HEARTS

CAT

CATERPILLAR

CARD #1

CARD #2

COOKIEMAN #1

COOKIEMAN #2

+ EXTRA CARDS AND COOKIE-PEOPLE AS NEEDED

**Setting:**

*Wonderland; a magical world sprung from the imagination of a young girl.*

**Time:**

*The Present.*

# Allie in Wonderland

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## ACT I: Scene 1

*(AT RISE: The stage is bare except for a single long table with a gray table cloth decorated for a tea party; tea kettle, tea cups, sugar bowl, etc. As fog rolls in, HATTER enters with the stumbling gait of an old man; his clothes torn and ruffled. He lacks the life and the laughter of the infamous Mad Hatter and has become a shell of himself. The atmosphere is somewhat eerie, accented by MUSIC which underscores the action. HATTER crosses to the table, sits down and the chair breaks. He sighs and begins to work on it. HARE enters next. He too shuffles along, his shoulders slumped over as he crosses to the table and picks up a teacup, only to have the handle break and fall onto the table.)*

HARE

I broke another cup.

HATTER

And I another chair. *(Beat)* Who are you?

HARE

I'm...I'm...well who are YOU?

HATTER

I asked you first.

HARE

I asked YOU first.

HATTER

No you didn't!

HARE

Yes I did!

HATTER

YES YOU DID!

HARE

No I did...wait.

*(They both look confused for a minute trying to recall what had happened.)*

HATTER

Who are you?

HARE  
Who are you?

HATTER  
Oh bother not THIS again! *(Beat)* Say, what's this?

HARE  
What's what?

*(CAT appears briefly, then continues, "Invisible" to HARE and HATTER. To achieve this affect, the lines may be delivered from offstage.)*

CAT  
*("Invisible" from off)* Check the cup.

HARE  
What's that?

CAT  
*(More forcefully)* Check the cup! Your cup!

HARE  
My cup?

CAT  
The cup you broke.

HATTER  
Say, I think you should check the cup.

HARE  
You know, I think I WILL check the cup.

*(HARE checks under the cup that just broke.)*

HARE, *Continued*  
It says I'm Hare, so there!

HATTER  
Hair?

HARE  
Hare!

HATTER  
Well I guess that makes sense, you are pretty hairy.

*(HARE picks up a mirror, looks at himself and nods in agreement.)*

HARE

I guess so. (*Sets down mirror*) Now, who are you?

HATTER

Drat, I'm...I'm...?

CAT

(*Exasperated*) Check the chair.

HATTER

Check what chair?

CAT

(*Becoming more exasperated to the point of anger*) The chair! The chair! The chair! The chair you sat in and broke! (*Quieter, almost to himself*) Why do I have to do this every day?

HARE

(*Pointing to the broken chair*) My mother used to say, "Always trust mysterious, strange voices."

(*HATTER bends down to pick up the bottom of the chair.*)

HARE, *Continued*

Or was that NEVER trust mysterious, strange voices? (*Realizing his error*) QUICK drop it!

(*HATTER drops the chair and spins around, holding his fists up in a classic boxing pose looking around.*)

HATTER

What is it?

HARE

Um, never mind. What did you find out?

HATTER

It said "Hit Her".

HARE

Hit Her? Hit who?

HATTER

I don't know... Hit you?

(*HATTER hits HARE who hits him back.*)

CAT

Not "hit her"— Hatter!...Hatter!!

HATTER and HARE, *Together*

Oh!

*(HARE and HATTER nod in understanding then pause and look at each other in confusion, realizing they don't really know what he's talking about.)*

HATTER

So I guess that makes us Hit-her and Hairy.

CAT

*(Fed up)* Hatter and Hare! Hatter and Hare!

*(HATTER and HARE are confused over the difference.)*

CAT, *Continued*

Oh, never mind.

HARE

What happened here, it's so...drab? Where's the laughter?

HATTER

The fun?

HARE

The mayhem?

HATTER and HARE, *Together*

THE TEA!

*(HATTER and HARE begin looking in the tea kettle, under the table, the chairs, everywhere for tea. As they do RABBIT enters through the audience. He is not in a hurry. This once hyperactive rabbit has been tempered and calmed. He looks blankly at his watch.)*

HARE

Hello.

*(There is no response from RABBIT so HATTER crosses closer, yelling directly into his face.)*

HATTER

Heeeeeellllllloooooooo!!!!

RABBIT

What? Oh! Oh hello!

HATTER

What's that?

*(HATTER looks at the watch curiously.)*

I don't know? RABBIT

What's it do? HARE

It ticks. RABBIT

It *TICKS!* HATTER and HARE, *Together*

Mother always said never trust a ticking thing. HARE

Smash it. HATTER

Smash it? HARE

Smash it! HATTER

*(HARE reaches under the table and pulls out a large cartoon-like mallet as HATTER snatches the watch from RABBIT and puts it on the table. HARE hefts the mallet and begins to bring it down. As he does, RABBIT snatches the watch out of the way and the mallet smashes the table with a loud gong. Suddenly the table jerks up slightly and DORMOUSE crawls out from under, rubbing his head with one hand and rubbing his eyes with the other.)*

What was that ticking sound? It woke me up. DORMOUSE

I don't know? RABBIT

Did you smash it? DORMOUSE

*(Disappointed)* No. HARE

You should have—Never trust ticking things; they wake you up. DORMOUSE

Aw, you've been sleeping too long. HATTER

CAT

*(Invisible; remaining off)* You've all been sleeping too long...just as she has. You need to wake her up! Can't you see, Wonderland is DYING! And, by the way, it's a watch. It's supposed to tick.

*ALL, Together*

OHHHH.

*(HATTER, HARE, RABBIT and DORMOUSE nod and smile as if they understand, but then look confused.)*

RABBIT

How?

HATTER

Yes, how does it tick?

RABBIT

Not the ticking, how are we supposed to wake her up?

HARE

I...I think I remember. Rabbit, you did it before, do you think you can do it again?

RABBIT

What did I do? How did I do it? Where do I go? Oh My Oh My Oh My!

CAT

Go, go, go, down the road through the door and you'll see her, bring her here.

HATTER

And we will gather up those that haven't left.

*(Suddenly there is a mad flurry of activity. RABBIT runs off in one direction; HATTER, HARE, & DORMOUSE in another. In their excitement, they cross paths, bumping into each other, turning each other around and then exiting off.)*

## **ACT I: Scene 2**

*(CAT enters from off as the curtain, if used, closes.)*

CAT

Wonderland...no longer a wonder...the place where EVERYONE was mad has been tempered. Wonderland; born in a girl's imagination, fueled by her dreams, now suffering from a drought of fantasy. Our solution lies with her.

*(ALLIE enters wearing iPod headphones, bopping along to some unheard tune. She is dressed in black sneakers, blue jeans, and a white shirt. Her hair is brown and pulled back in a ponytail and she is carrying a backpack over one shoulder. She walks past CAT not even paying attention to his presence. She flops down and pulls out a laptop and begins typing on it.)*

CAT

She prefers to be called Allie now, Alice is just too old fashioned. Long ago, on this riverbank, she looked at a book with big words and no pictures and began to dream. But Allie has forgotten HOW to dream.

*(CAT slowly exits and should be completely off stage by the time his last words are spoken. ALLIE, still oblivious to everything around her, sighs and closes her laptop with a thud.)*

ALLIE

I HATE English homework! I wonder if anyone is online?

*(ALLIE opens her laptop again and sighs. She pulls out a cell phone, begins texting, pauses, frowns and looks down again at her phone.)*

ALLIE, Continued

Really? No wireless signal, no service! Am I living in the dark ages here? *(Looks around, frowning)* Where AM I? None of this looks familiar.

*(Suddenly RABBIT comes running up the aisle and through the audience.)*

RABBIT

Oh dear! Oh my, where is she, where is she? *(Addressing a girl in the audience)* Pardon me are you her? No, you're not. *(Then another)* Are you? No, you're not her either. Are you sure you're not her? No, I guess not.

*(RABBIT continues to search through the Audience looking for ALICE. Meanwhile ALLIE watches curiously from the state.)*

ALLIE

What is that? It, it looks like...no, it can't be?

*(RABBIT notices ALLIE and jumps onto the stage.)*

RABBIT

No...you can't be...oh dear oh my oh dear...this...this...this is no good.

*(RABBIT looks intently at ALLIE, shakes his head and sadly begins to walk off. He stops and opens his pocket watch and gasps.)*

RABBIT, Continued

Oh, oh, oh! I'm late, I'm late, I'm late!

*(RABBIT runs off through the audience, while ALLIE shakes her head.)*

ALLIE

Okay, I did NOT just see a giant rabbit running around. I did NOT just see a giant rabbit running around. Really come on Allie, pull yourself together. Shakespeare isn't THAT hard to understand.

*(ALLIE crosses back to her laptop, looks at it, then looks up.)*

ALLIE, *Continued*

But wow, what a serious case of deja vu or something...very...curious... *(Looks out at RABBIT who continues to search in the audience)* and getting curiouser. *(Calling to RABBIT)* Hey quit harassing them.

*(RABBIT stops and looks at ALLIE and begins to run off. ALLIE chases after RABBIT; calling.)*

ALLIE, *Continued*

Wait, wait! *(Stops)* Allie what are you doing? Are you crazy—You're chasing a white rabbit in a vest... Are you going insane? *(Beat)* Well I guess there is only one way to find out. *(Chasing after)* Wait! Please Rabbit...Mr. Rabbit! Wait!

*(ALLIE chases RABBIT through the audience and then off.)*

### ACT I: Scene 3

*(CATERPILLAR enters very slowly, almost at a snail's pace. A large pipe hangs out of his mouth. When he reaches CS, he stops, settles down, and begins puffing on his pipe, watching with bemusement as a soap bubble comes out of his pipe. He does this again, and again, and again. As CATERPILLAR enjoys his bubbles, DORMOUSE scampers onto stage. He is out of breath and isn't paying attention. He collapses next to the CATERPILLAR, almost leaning on him.)*

DORMOUSE

*(Panting, still oblivious to CATERPILLAR)* Where is he at?

*(DORMOUSE stands, yawns, and begins looking aimlessly about the stage and even into the audience.)*

CATERPILLAR

Just WHO are you looking for?

DORMOUSE

*(Yawning)* The girl, she is returning.

*(DORMOUSE passes by CATERPILLAR several times, ignoring him.)*

CATERPILLAR

The GIRL? WHICH girl? You surely don't mean THE girl, do you?

DORMOUSE

*(Yawning)* Where is the Caterpillar? *(Yawning bigger)* I don't see him anywhere; I guess he's not here. *(Yawns again and slowly begins wandering off)*

CATERPILLAR

I am right HERE! How can you NOT see ME?

*(CATERPILLAR throws up his hands in exasperation as he watches DORMOUSE wandering about. He slowly shakes his head and follows DORMOUSE off.)*

### ACT I: Scene 4

*(As CATERPILLAR exits, HARE runs in, looking back off in the direction from which he came.)*

HARE

Hurry up, you two. Let's go, let's go!

*(HARE impatiently taps his foot waiting on someone to enter.)*

TWEEDLEDEE, *Off*

I saw it first.

TWEEDLEDUM, *Off*

Saw it first, yes you did.

TWEEDLEDEE, *Off*

Then I would get to catch it first.

TWEEDLEDUM, *Off*

First you get to catch it, then I get to catch it.

TWEEDLEDEE, *Off*

So after me, you're first.

*(HARE rolls his eyes dramatically and taps his foot ever more impatiently. He shifts his weight and begins tapping with the other foot. Finally, he has had enough.)*

HARE

Get out here both of you or you'll miss the party!

THE TWEEDLES, *Off*

PARTY?

*(TWEEDLEDEE and TWEEDLEDUM, a matching pair who agree with each other on everything, forget what they were playing and run onto stage jumping up and down with excitement.)*

TWEEDLES, *Together*

A party? You promise?

HARE

Yes, I promise you, we're having a party.

TWEEDLEDEE

Yay, a party!

TWEEDLEDUM

A party, yay!

*(TWEEDLEDEE and TWEEDLEDUM run off followed by HARE.)*

## ACT I: Scene 5

*(If employed, the curtain opens revealing the same table as appears in Scene 1 except that now the tablecloth has changed from gray in color to dirty pink. HATTER sits at the table with his face and nose pressed to the table cloth, examining it.)*

HATTER

Hare! You have to see this. I...think it's changing. Oh bother, where is he? HARE, I think Rabbit's doing his job. HARE!

*(DORMOUSE crawls out from under the table, rubbing his eyes and yawning.)*

DORMOUSE

Hello Hatter, is it time for the party?

HATTER

What? No, no, no Dormouse, go back to sleep. Wait weren't you supposed to go get someone?

DORMOUSE

Was I? I...I think so? Who was I supposed to get?

CATERPILLAR

*(As entering) Me you ninny, you were supposed to get ME! (As always, CATERPILLAR is rude, impatient, sarcastic and short with everyone around him. He is overly intellectual and does NOT use contractions.)*

CATERPILLAR

You came wandering around talking about the girl returning, then you started to fall asleep and wandered away. I'm glad I decided to investigate for myself. *(Beat)* Just ***what is this?***

HATTER

What is what?

CATERPILLAR

Please do not bore me with your trivial, nonsensical questions. I am a riddling master!

DORMOUSE

A riddling master?

HATTER

Or a master riddler?

DORMOUSE

Can you give us an example?

CATERPILLAR

Fine, fine. *(Beat)* I am white in the air and yellow on the ground, what am I?

HATTER

*(Interrupting)* That's a good one but I've got a better one, what's in my...

CATERPILLAR

*(Interrupting)* Well if you are not going to take this seriously!

DORMOUSE

*(Yawning)* Okay, I'm bored wake me up when she gets here please, I don't want to miss the party. *(Crawls back under the table)*

HATTER

Dormouse, don't go.

*(HATTER suddenly goes a little mad and begins speaking in various voices, carrying on a conversation with himself.)*

HATTER, *Voice 1*

Don't worry we're with you.

HATTER, *Voice 2*

Yes we're with you.

HATTER, *Normal Voice*

Alright then, sock it to me.

CATERPILLAR

Fine, I will try again. *(Clears throat)* I am white in the air and yellow on the ground, what am I?

HATTER, *Normal Voice*

Oh, that's an easy one.

HATTER, *Voice 1*

Yes an easy one.

HATTER, *Voice 2*

Oh, yes, very easy, it's a banana.

HATTER, *Voice 1*

A banana? Are you insane, it's not a banana.

HATTER, *Normal Voice*

Then what is it?

HATTER, *Voice 1*

A cucumber.

HATTER, *Voice 2*

Oh, yes, a cucumber. I like cucumbers.

HATTER, *Normal Voice*

A cucumber!

CATERPILLAR

It is NOT a cucumber. *(Turns and addresses the audience)* Do you happen to know?

*(CATERPILLAR improvises responses to answers called out by members of the audience. If someone gives the correct number, lots of kudos. If no one calls out the correct answer in a reasonable length of time, the answer is given; an egg.)*

CATERPILLAR

Would you care to have second chance Hatter?

HATTER, *Normal Voice*

Yes.

HATTER, *Voice 1*

Yes.

HATTER, *Voice 2*

Yes.

HATTER, *Normal Voice*

A cucumber!

CATERPILLAR

*(Clears his throat again)* When is a door not a door?

HATTER, *Normal Voice*

When it's a boot!

CATERPILLAR

Are you positive?

HATTER, *Normal Voice*

Let me check. Are you sure?

HATTER, *Voice 1*

Positive.

HATTER, *Voice 2*

Absolutely.

HATTER, *Normal Voice*

Yes, ad door is not a door when it is a boot!

*(At this point, it is hopeful that the audience calls out the correct answer. If not, CATERPILLAR once again improvises as needed and gives the correct answer; a jar.)*

CATERPILLAR

I will give you one more chance, but this is the toughest one of all. Are you ready?

HATTER

*(Quickly)* Getsetgo!

*(CATERPILLAR rolls his eyes dramatically.)*

CATERPILLAR

Feed me and I live, give me something to drink and I will die, what am I?

*(HATTER begins pacing back and forth, thinking out loud.)*

HATTER, *Normal Voice*

Well, it could be me because I eat to live.

HATTER, *Voice 1*

Yeah, that's it. Go with that one.

HATTER, *Voice 2*

But you'll die if you drink and that means no...

HATTER, *Normal Voice*

TEA!

HATTER, *Voice 1*

I still think it's talking about you. Because you can die if you drink too much, you'll drown!

HATTER, *Voice 2*

Oh, good point.

HATTER, *Normal Voice*

Yes, I agree, good point. Then we are all agreed?

HATTER, *Voice 1*

Yes.

HATTER, *Voice 2*

Yes.

HATTER, *Normal Voice*

Yes. It's ME!

CATERPILLAR

No.

*(CATERPILLAR turns to the audience and improvises once again, gesturing for them to guess the answer. If the correct answer is forthcoming, CATERPILLAR congratulates the audience. If not, he provides the answer himself; a fire. CATERPILLAR then turns to Hatter and smirks.)*

CATERPILLAR

HA! I win!

HATTER

*(Back to normal, not paying attention)* What? Yes, whatever...HARE!

CATERPILLAR

*(Trying to get Hatter's attention)* Hey, excuse me!

HATTER

*(Ignoring Caterpillar)* HARE!

CATERPILLAR

I said I won!

HATTER

*(Continuing to ignore Caterpillar)* HARE!!

*(HARE enters with TWEEDLEDEE and TWEEDLEDUM.)*

TWEEDLEDEE

I don't see a party, is this a party brother?

TWEEDLEDUM

I don't see party, so I wonder is this a party?

TWEEDLEDEE

We were promised a party, were we not?

TWEEDLEDUM

A party yes, that is what we were promised.

*(HATTER crosses to HARE as TWEEDLEDEE and TWEEDLEDUM continue to agree.)*

HATTER

And people think WE'RE mad.

HARE

They've been like this since I went and got them for the party, agreeing with everything the other one says.

CATERPILLAR

Is this supposed to be a party? If so then, where is the guest of honor?

HATTER

Oh great frackity brackity! You keep going back to that and I keep telling you she's not here yet!

CATERPILLAR

Humph, well then I shall return when she does get here!

*(CATERPILLAR exits.)*

TWEEDLEDUM

I believe that I will have some tea.

TWEEDLEDEE

Yes, tea would be nice.

*(TWEEDLEDUM picks up the teapot and stares into the spout, then begins to tip it up as if pouring it into his eye, his head back. HATTER snatches the teapot back from TWEEDLEDUM, opens up the top, looks in and shakes his head.)*

HATTER

Patience, my agreeable friends, patience! For the teas have not yet arrived, but soon they will.

*(HATTER sits down on his chair which again collapses under him.)*

HATTER, *Continued*

Drat! I thought it was working.

TWEEDLEDEE

You told us it was working, does that look like it's working?

TWEEDLEDUM

No, brother it doesn't look like it's working not one bit.

*(CAT enters and watches the four. He shakes his head, crosses between the brothers and smiles.)*

CAT

Why, I do believe the sun is rising. Doesn't that mean it's time for a battle?

TWEEDLEDEE

A battle?

CAT

Oh yes a battle, don't you remember?

*(CAT clears his throat and begins reciting.)*

CAT, *Continued*

Tweedledum and Tweedledee  
Agreed to have a battle;  
For Tweedledum said Tweedledee  
Had spoiled his nice new rattle.

TWEEDLEDEE

You did spoil my rattle.

TWEEDLEDUM

Then we must battle. Agreed brother?

TWEEDLEDEE

I do agree. Let us battle.

TWEEDLEDUM

And battle let us.

*(TWEEDLEDEE and TWEEDLEDUM square off and begin to circle each other menacingly; moving clockwise, then shifting counter clockwise, they circle each other, finally one taking a swipe at the other, followed by the other taking a swipe, neither one making contact. As they are doing this, CAT crosses to HARE and HATTER.)*

CAT

Look, the magic is beginning to work! The colors are changing and things ARE stronger, but, she hasn't fully accepted that she is here. Now, we need to get *HER*, we need to fetch the Queen...

*(SFX: Bird's screech; the TWEEDLES scream.)*

TWEEDLEDUM

Bird!

TWEEDLEDEE

I hate birds!

TWEEDLEDUM

I hate birds too!

TWEEDLES, *Together*

Agggghh!

*(TWEEDLEDEE and TWEEDLEDUM scream and begin to run around the stage bumping into each other, into the table, falling down and getting back up. Finally, they run off. CAT, HATTER, and HARE look at one another.)*

HARE

Hey Dum Dums! While you're that direction, do you mind fetching Her Majesty? Thanks!

*(LIGHTS DOWN.)*

## ACT II: Scene 1

*(AT RISE: A door set in front of the closed curtain. The door has a face, and it appears to be sleeping. RABBIT and ALLIE enter through the audience.)*

RABBIT

Come on, come on or we'll be late, late, LATE!

*(TWEEDLEDEE and TWEEDLEDUM scream from offstage.)*

ALLIE

Wait, where are we and what was that?

*(The screams are heard again and RABBIT listens.)*

RABBIT

Oh that, that's just the Tweedles, they must have seen a bird.

ALLIE

A bird? The Tweedles? You don't mean? *(Pauses and looks around)* Where are we?

RABBIT

Why, we're almost home! Now, drink this.

*(RABBIT throws ALLIE a small bottle full of red liquid.)*

ALLIE

What is it, some kind of energy drink?

RABBIT

Drink it or we won't be able to enter.

*(RABBIT crosses onto the stage and to DOOR. He knocks on DOOR which lazily opens one eye.)*

DOOR

What?

*(ALLIE fusses with her phone, holding it up, trying to get a signal.)*

ALLIE

Where exactly are we? The GPS on my phone isn't working.

RABBIT

*(To DOOR)* She's come back.

ALLIE

Oh come on GPS lady. You're always telling me where to go and where to turn, so, why aren't you working? I can't even get a single bar!

RABBIT

Quit playing with that thing will you!

DOOR

*(Watching Allie)* Are you SURE that's her?

*(ALLIE thumps and shakes her phone. RABBIT and DOOR watch.)*

RABBIT

*(Sadly)* Yes that's her. She has...forgotten who she is.

ALLIE

I give up. Hey that door has a face!

DOOR

I have a face really? Are you sure? Are you sure I'm not a face with a door?

RABBIT

(*To ALLIE*) Door has been asleep...a long time. He's a grump when he first wakes up. Ignore it. Let's go.

DOOR

No.

RABBIT

Why not?

DOOR

She hasn't drunk it yet.

RABBIT

Why haven't you drunk that yet?

ALLIE

I was told not to drink strange drinks!

RABBIT

Just drink it.

ALLIE

What is it?

RABBIT

We are so late, just drink it! It's safe I promise!

(*ALLIE looks at it dubiously.*)

RABBIT

It's – what did you call it – an...in-er-gy drink? Yes it'...um...Wonder Juice. Yeah that's it! Wonder Juice, one drink and you'll wonder where it's been.

ALLIE

But, I don't LIKE energy drinks, they always taste funny. Does this have ginseng in it? I like ginseng.

RABBIT

(*Frustrated*) Yes it has ginseng, you sing, we all sing. Now, please just DRINK IT!

ALLIE

O-K.

(*ALLIE looks at it again then takes a long drink and shudders.*)

ALLIE

EW! I don't taste any ginseng!

*(ALLIE collapses. RABBIT crosses to ALLIE, crouches over her, shielding her from the audience.)*

DOOR

What's wrong with her?

RABBIT

I don't know? I've never seen this before.

*(ALLIE stands up revealing her transition into the traditional Alice, her dark pony tail now hanging blond and loose, thanks to a wig.)*

ALLIE

*(Touching the long strands; examining the color)* What...my hair it's blond! It hasn't been blond in years! That...that was? I...what...?

*(RABBIT smiles as ALLIE stammers. DOOR opens itself inward and RABBIT pulls ALLIE through.)*

## ACT II: Scene 2

*(The curtain, if used, closes on DOOR as CARDS #1 & #2 enter, each carrying a paint can and paint brush. They are nervous and keep looking about as if they are about to be detected at any moment.)*

CARD #1

Oh bother, bother, bother. Do you think she'll notice?

CARD #2

She hasn't yet.

CARD #1

Yes, but how long can we hide this from her?

CARD #2

I don't know. *(Pause)* How long have we been doing this?

*(The two CARDS look at each other, confused. They try to count off the days on their fingers, but to no avail.)*

QUEEN OF HEARTS, *Off*

What! WHAT! WHAT! What is this?

*(The QUEEN, dressed in a long, fancy, gown, storms unto the stage holding a rose as the CARDS cower together trying to hide their paint cans and brushes. She looks at them suspiciously. The vain and arrogant QUEEN presents herself as loud, rash, rude, crude, socially unacceptable and totally in command.)*

QUEEN OF HEARTS

What are you two doing?

*(The CARDS drop their cans and brushes behind them.)*

CARD #1

What's the matter your Highness?

CARD #2

Yes, your Majesty, what seems to be the problem?

QUEEN OF HEARTS

*(Thrusting a rose toward them)* The problem!?! The problem!?! My ROSES!

CARD #2

Your roses? What seems to wrong with your roses?

QUEEN OF HEARTS

There is something wrong with the color!

CARD #1

They look red to me. Don't they look red to you?

CARD #2

Right! Red as rain.

*(CARD #1 looks at CARD #2 with confusion, as if something about that statement doesn't quite make sense. CARD #2 just shrugs. Then the two CARDS vigorously nod their heads in agreement while continuing to try to hide their paint cans and brushes. Meanwhile, the QUEEN looks at her roses with the same look of suspicion that she gave the CARDS. With careful precision, she draws a finger across the petals of the rose and holds it up to her to examine it.)*

QUEEN OF HEARTS

*(Whisper)* Paint? *(Turns to the two CARDS, her anger rising, yelling)* PAINT! You dare to paint My roses!

*(The CARDS hold one another and tremble.)*

CARD #1

They weren't...

CARD #2

*(In a hushed voice)* Don't!

CARD #1

They weren't...

QUEEN OF HEARTS

*(Interrupting)* THEY WEREN'T RED! *(Frightfully controlled)* They weren't red, were they?

CARD #1

*(Terrified, barely able to speak)* No.

CARD #2

Well not BRIGHT red.

CARD #1

*(Trying to be helpful)* Neither were the whites.*(CARD #2 elbows CARD #1 trying to get him to shut up and not draw further attention to their activities.)*

QUEEN OF HEARTS

*(Pausing for a moment to look around)* Yes it does seem...dreary here. My roses are almost pink. I HATE Pink!*(TWEEDLEDEE and TWEEDLEDUM enter nervously.)*

TWEEDLEDEE

Your Majesty, please pardon us.

TWEEDLEDUM

Yes, please pardon us your Majesty, but we have a very important message.

TWEEDLEDEE

A VERY important message for you, your Majesty.

TWEEDLEDUM

An important message indeed.

TWEEDLEDEE

Indeed an important...

QUEEN OF HEARTS

*(Interrupting)* Oh hush up you two and tell me what it is.TWEEDLES, *Together*

Oh yes, yes of course.



TWEEDLEDEE  
She IS coming back

TWEEDLEDUM  
She HAS come back.

*(The TWEEDLES, having switched their lines, look at one another again and shrug.)*

QUEEN OF HEARTS

That's it, I've had enough. Off with your heads!

*(TWEEDLEDEE and TWEEDLEDUM scream and begin to run off, first through the audience and then back onto the stage and off.)*

TWEEDLES, Together

*(Calling as they run off)* HATTER!

*(The QUEEN, followed by the CARDS, give chase to the TWEEDLES, exiting after.)*

### ACT II: Scene 3

*(The curtain, if employed, opens revealing HATTER gluing his chair back together. He examines it closely, pursing his lips, poking at it, and making sure it is steady. HATTER now wears a top hat that is much cleaner and shinier. HARE enters sporting a more colorful, cleaner vest. As before, there is a tea set on the table which is now covered with a red tablecloth.)*

HARE

Hatter! Look, look!

*(HATTER stands, bumping his head on the bottom of the chair. He winces as he crosses out from under the chair, adjusting his hat as he does.)*

HATTER

I say, you look different. Did you...get a new vest?

HARE

I did, so glad you noticed. And, why look at you Hatter and your new HAT!

HATTER

I know!

*(HATTER and HARE link arms and begin an intricate dance that includes some Rockette-style kicks as they hum something that sounds suspiciously like "New York, New York".)*

HARE and HATTER, Together

*(Singing)*

*Start spreading the news,  
She's coming today...*

*(The festive mood is rudely disrupted by the QUEEN who can be heard screaming off.)*

QUEEN OF HEARTS, *Off*

Where is she? You said she was here!

*(TWEEDLEDEE and TWEEDLEDUM enter backing up, nervously.)*

TWEEDLEDEE

We said she was coming, we did.

TWEEDLEDUM

Yes, yes not that she was here. That's not what we said, we said she was coming.

CATERPILLAR, *Off*

I was told that she was not here yet. Who knows if she is here yet?

*(The QUEEN storms on-stage. She now brandishes an axe [or a scythe], something that she could use to take off someone's head. The QUEEN is accompanied by an entourage of PLAYING CARDS who react to everything she does, but out of fear, remain silent.)*

QUEEN OF HEARTS

Where is she? I want her head! Off, I say, off with her head!

HARE

Greetings your GREATNESS.

HATTER

Yes welcome to our tea party your royal Bigness...highness.

QUEEN OF HEARTS

WHAT? *(Turns to HARE and HATTER)* What was that? Are you implying that I'm FAT!

HATTER

You, fat? Never Your Royal Largeness.

HARE

It must just be that dress.

QUEEN OF HEARTS

My dress? You think this dress makes me fat?

HARE

No! Well yes.

HATTER

And the dress seems to agree. *(Leaning forward, as if listening to the dress)* Yes, yes, the dress says while you aren't fat, it makes you look fat. Yes, yes that's it, the dress says it makes you look fat.

HARE

But we should ask for a second opinion. *(Tapping on table)* Oh Dormouse. *(Beat)* Dormouse!  
*(Beat; louder)* DORMOUSE!

*(DORMOUSE crawls out from under the table, rubbing eyes.)*

DORMOUSE

*(Waking up)* What?

HATTER

The Queen wants to know if she's fat.

DORMOUSE

A cat! The Queen is a cat?

*(DORMOUSE runs about shrieking at the thought of a cat. HARE grabs DORMOUSE.)*

HARE

Not a cat. Fat, fat.

DORMOUSE

Who's fat? Well, besides her, in the red dress. Wow, she looks like a giant tomato or an apple or...a rutabaga. Yes, that is a giant rutabaga. But don't take my word for it, *(Pointing to the audience)*, ask them what they think.

HATTER

*(Looking around at everyone but the audience)* Who?

DORMOUSE

THEM! Out there! Hey, yoohoo, do you think she looks fat?

*(At this, HARE, HATTER and DORMOUSE improvise with the people in the audience, attempting to convince them to say "Yes, she looks fat.")*

QUEEN OF HEARTS

Oh HUSH all of you or...or...it's off with YOUR HEADS!

*(The QUEEN threatens the audience with ax, along with HATTER, HARE and DORMOUSE. As she does, RABBIT enters with ALLIE following, still trying to get her cell phone to work. The action stops, and all goes quiet as ALLIE enters.)*

DORMOUSE

*(Whispers)* That's her?

*(HATTER creeps forward slowly to take a close look at ALLIE.)*

HATTER

Your...your hair?

ALLIE

*(Self-conscious)* What about my hair? I know it's blond and it hasn't been that since...

HATTER

Oh not that, it just needs cutting.

ALLIE

You sound like my mother.

HATTER

Well I don't know about your mother, but your hair says it needs to be cut.

ALLIE

WHAT? My hair says? You're... You're mad!

CAT

*(Invisible, speaking from off)* We're all mad here.

QUEEN OF HEARTS

*(Looking around)* Show yourself Cat or...or...or it's OFF WITH YOUR HEAD!

*(CAT grinning from ear to ear, enters and stands behind the QUEEN tapping her on the shoulder. The QUEEN turns around swinging the axe, but CAT dodges out of its way.)*

CAT

Missed me, missed me, now you gotta kiss me.

*(The QUEEN, angrier than ever, swings again, and once again CAT manages to dodges the axe.)*

CAT

Strike two.

*(The QUEEN, now furious, charges after CAT who sidesteps and watches as the Queen runs past out of control and stumbles offstage with a tremendous thud. The sound is followed with SFX: Birds chirping.)*

CAT

*(Like a baseball umpire)* And you're OUT!

CARD #1

Oh ouch!

CARD #2

*(As they look off)* She hit her head quite hard on that tree didn't she?

CARD #1

I suppose...

CARD #2

Yes we should go help her.

*(The CARDS exit to tend to the QUEEN.)*

ALLIE

Will she be back, I mean okay?

CAT

Oh I gather she'll be back...as soon as she wakes up. *(Points to the TWEEDLES)* You two go fetch her.

TWEEDLEDEE

You want us to get HER?

TWEEDLEDUM

You want US...to go get HER?

CAT

Yes, you two, go get her.

*(TWEEDLEDEE and TWEEDLEDUM shake their heads "no.")*

CAT

Why, look at that pretty bird.

TWEEDLES, *Together*

BIRD!

*(TWEEDLEDEE and TWEEDLEDUM run off screaming. ALLIE watches curiously.)*

ALLIE

Are they okay?

HARE

Just ignore them.

HATTER

Alice, would you like something to drink? This is, after all, a party for you.

ALLIE

It's Allie, not Alice, and this party is for me? I don't know...well I guess so, um a cappuccino?

HARE

A cap full of chinos?

HATTER

I think it's a chap wearing chinos?

HATTER

*(Beat)* I...don't know? Maybe she said a cup full of lean-O's?

ALLIE

Now that doesn't make ANY sense! There is no such thing as a lean O.

HARE

Especially the Queen, she's definitely not a lean-o.

*(The OTHERS laugh while ALLIE looks confused.)*

CAT

The Queen is very...vain and is always concerned that she looks too...large for her tastes. These two egg her on.

ALLIE

Oh...well...okay, whatever. Do you have a...latté?

HARE

A lot-a what?

HATTER

A lot-a tea? Tea! We have all sorts of teas; we have white tea, black tea, green tea, orange tea, red tea, blue tea, and MAUVE TEA! We also have novel-tea, serendipi-tea, banali-tea...wait no we don't have banali-tea but we do have absurdi-tea!

HARE

Nudi-tea?

HATTER

Hey now, this is a family show.

ALLIE

Well what about Chai Tea?

HARE

Is that like kara-tea?

*(HARE and HATTER begin to strike karate poses and mock spar each other.)*

ALLIE

No, no, no! Just...just give me some regular tea. Is everyone here as kooky as you?

HARE

Cookie?

ALLIE

Oh sure I'd like a cookie.

HATTER

We'd like one, too. *(Beat)* Where are they?

ALLIE

What do you mean?

HARE

The cookies, where are they?

ALLIE

I don't have any cookies.

HATTER

You mean you came to this party and didn't bring any cookies?

DORMOUSE

She didn't bring any cookies? How rude!

HARE

Who comes to a party and doesn't bring cookies?

ALLIE

I didn't even know I was coming to this party. How was I supposed to know to bring cookies?

HATTER

*(Quite matter of fact)* Everyone brings cookies.

ALLIE

Who knows that?

DORMOUSE

EVERYBODY! I bet even THEY *(Pointing to the audience)* know that you have to bring cookies, right?

*(DORMOUSE encourages the audience to agree with him.)*

DORMOUSE

See? They know that and they're just a bunch of silly kids. *(Substitute "people", "adults", "parents", etc. depending on audience make-up.)*

*(A groan is heard off stage and RABBIT runs off to check it out and quickly back in.)*

RABBIT

She's coming back!

*(The QUEEN stomps in with TWEEDLEDEE and TWEEDLEDUM close behind, cowering in her wake.)*

QUEEN OF HEARTS

*(Pointing at ALLIE)* You! You are the cause of...ALL THIS TROUBLE! It's OFF WITH YOUR HEAD!

*(The QUEEN advances menacingly toward ALLIE. HARE picks up a bucket and hands it to TWEEDLEDEE who hands it to TWEEDLEDUM who hands it to DORMOUSE who hands it to HATTER who hands it to ALLIE.)*

HATTER

*(As handing the bucket to ALLIE)* Here, use this.

*(ALLIE, without question, throws the contents of the bucket on the QUEEN, but it only contains confetti.)*

QUEEN OF HEARTS

*(Furious)* WHAT...WAS...THAT?

ALLIE

*(To HATTER)* What was that?

HATTER

Well it worked for Dorothy.

ALLIE

This isn't Oz! *(Turns to CAT)* Is it?

*(CAT shakes his head "no" as the QUEEN recovers and advances once again.)*

CAT

No, Alice, this is Wonderland...your Wonderland. *(Whisper)* Now, personally, I'd run.

QUEEN OF HEARTS

OFF...WITH...ALL THEIR HEADS!

*(The QUEEN explodes with anger, chasing ALLIE and the OTHERS across the stage and through the audience. There is general mayhem with lots of squeals, shouts and screams. At one point, ALL but ALLIE and CAT run off as the curtain, if employed closes behind them.)*

**ACT II: Scene 4**

*(ALLIE and CAT alone on stage.)*

ALLIE

What did you mean this is MY wonderland?

CAT

You created this – US – a long time ago.

ALLIE

I don't remember creating you or this.

CAT

Of course you don't remember and that was the problem. That's why we had to bring you back.

ALLIE

*(Confused)* I don't understand.

CAT

Alice...Allie...we only exist because you imagined us. You were losing your imagination, your sense of wonder. We had to bring you back to regain that—It's your most important trait. You just have to believe.

ALLIE

But I can't believe impossible things!

**This is Not the End of the Play**  
**Ending Intentionally Omitted for Security Purposes**

*Continue to next page for Author's Notes*

## AUTHOR'S NOTES

One of my favorite movies is ***THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD***, which stars Vincent D'Onofrio as Robert Howard, the 1930s pulp fiction writer who created characters such as Conan the Barbarian and Solomon Kane. There's a scene in that movie in which Howard's friend Novalyne Price (Renée Zellweger) and some of her girlfriends watch him walk down the street, acting out one of his stories, lost in his own imagination. Price's girlfriends, along with others in his small West Texas town, mock Howard, because they don't understand him. It's a scene that speaks to me, because often that is me, someone lost in his own imagination. My parents often joke that all it took to entertain me as a child was a stick. I was the type of kid that couldn't just ride his bike, I had to be involved in a *Speed Racer* like adventure, or battling the forces of COBRA, or something. When this variation of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* began to develop in my mind and in conversations with friends, I felt a strong connection to it, because I see and know people who get lost in the real world and forget how to imagine. Or I see people discourage or make fun of those that have a healthy and active imagination. One of my favorite, and yet one of the saddest, lines I wrote in this play was "She has forgotten how to dream". My hope is that none of us forgets how to dream, and this is an encouragement to the lovers, the dreamers, and you. *Allie in Wonderland* is dedicated to my Grandmother, Jeanie Palmer, who encouraged my dreams and passed away the night it premiered.