

# Alice

## THE MUSICAL

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### ACT ONE

**WELCOME** (Lewis Carroll, Cards) Audience are shown to the lift by characters.

**1. MEADOW** (Lewis Carroll, Alice, Edith, White Rabbit, Birds, Flowers, Dinah)

Lewis Carroll Many a fairy tale had been told to these two little maidens. Yet none of these many tales got written down, they lived and died, like summer midges, each in its golden afternoon, until there came a day when one of my listeners begged that the tale be written out for her ...

**ALL IN A GOLDEN AFTERNOON** CD Track 2

**All in a golden afternoon  
Under the skies of cloudless blue,  
Leisurely gliding time away,  
Heading upstream to find some shade,  
Sleepily drifting on our way that dreamy English summer's day.**

**All in a golden afternoon  
Eager for stories wild and new,  
Three little ladies named 'Liddell' Longed for a fable to be told.  
What can a single voice avail against three tongues that beg a tale?  
*Tell us a story, tell us a story, tell us a story.***

**All in a golden afternoon Tales of imagination grew.  
Alice the dream-child took our hands  
Through many adventures, all unplanned.  
Slowly the tales of wonderland did come to us as now they stand.  
*Tell us the story, tell us the story, tell us the story please.***

Lewis Carroll Full many a year has slipped away since that 'golden afternoon', but I can call it up almost as clearly as if it were yesterday – the cloudless blue above, the flowers as they waved so sleepily to and fro, and the two eager faces, hungry for news of fairyland. Alice was beginning to get very tired of sitting by her sister on the bank and of having nothing to do.

Edith Why do you keep peeping into the book I am reading?

Alice What is the use of a book without pictures or conversation in it?

Lewis Carroll      Suddenly, a white rabbit with pink eyes ran close by her.

**I'M LATE!** CD Track 3

**I'm late! I'm late!  
I'm getting in a terrible state,  
I'll have to hurry.  
Better get a move on 'cause  
I'm running out of time.  
I'm late! I'm late!  
I haven't got a moment to waste,  
I'm getting worried. What am I to do?  
I'm going out of my mind!**

**I'm late! I'm late!  
If the Duchess has a minute to wait she'll have my head off.  
Better get a move on 'cause I'm running out of time.  
I'm late! I'm late!  
If I cannot keep this crucial date there'll be no let off.  
What am I to do? I'm going out of my mind! ..... I'M LATE!!**

Lewis Carroll      Burning with curiosity, Alice ran across the field after it. Fortunately, she was just in time to see it pop down a large rabbit-hole under the hedge. Alice went down after it, never once considering how in the world she would get out again. Come on everyone!

2. RABBIT HOLE (Alice, White Rabbit, Rabbits, Lewis Carroll)

DOWN, DOWN, DOWN CD Track 4

CHORUS

*Down, down, down – I feel I'm falling through the ground.  
Down, down, down – I'm falling, slowly falling down.  
Down, down, down – my world is turning all around.  
Down, down, down – I'm feeling sleepy feelings now.*

What's going to happen?  
It seems I've been falling  
For miles unending  
And when will it stop?

CHORUS

Falling in darkness  
Past cupboards and bookshelves  
I'm looking around me  
At pictures and maps.

CHORUS

Where am I going?  
I can't get my bearings  
I've gone such a distance  
Where will I end up?

Lewis Carroll     Down she came upon a heap of sticks and dry leaves and the fall was over. Alice jumped onto her feet in a moment. It was dark overhead and in front was another long passage. The White Rabbit was still in sight, hurrying along it.

White Rabbit     Oh my ears and whiskers! How late it's getting! (*Exits into Library*)

**3. BOTTOM OF RABBIT HOLE** (Lewis Carroll, White Rabbit, Alice, Bottle, Doorknob, Cake, Alice Leg 1, Alice Leg 2, Tears)

Alice           What an unusual hallway! I do believe I'm in the rabbit's house. Oh, he's left a key. I wonder if it opens this door.

Doorknob       Alas! Either the locks are too large, or the key is too small. At any rate, it won't open me. Look through the keyhole.

Alice           The loveliest garden you ever saw!

**MY LOVELY GARDEN** CD Track 5

**Who can find my lovely garden?  
It's the place I'd really like to be.  
Safe inside my lovely garden  
With the sunlight streaming down on me.**

***Fountains pure and grass so green.  
I can hear birds singing in the trees.  
I must find my lovely garden,  
It's the place I visit in my dreams.***

**INSTRUMENTAL BACKING UNDER DIALOGUE:**

Alice           How I wish I could get out of this dark hall and wander about among those beds of bright flowers and those cool fountains, but I can't even get my head through the doorway.

Doorknob       And even if your head would go through, it would be of very little use without your shoulders. *(Sighs)* If only you could find a way!

**CHORUS**       ***Fountains pure and grass so green.  
I can hear birds singing in the trees.  
I must find my lovely garden,  
It's the place I visit in my dreams.  
It's the place I visit in my dreams.***

Alice           I wish I could shut up like a telescope. Perhaps I might find a book of rules that would show me how. *(Walks back to the table)* This little bottle certainly wasn't here before.

Bottle          'Drink Me!' – look first and see whether I'm marked 'poison' or not. Anything marked 'poison' is sure to disagree with you sooner or later if you drink too much of it. I look OK though.

Alice           *(Drinks from it)* Mm! Very nice! A mixed sort of flavour – cherry tart, custard, pineapple, roast turkey, toffee and hot buttered toast. *(Drinks some more)* Delicious! You must all try some!

What a curious feeling! I must be getting smaller!

Lewis Carroll And so it was indeed. She was now only ten inches high. After a while, finding nothing more happened, she decided to go to the garden at once. But alas for poor Alice! When she got to the door, she found she had forgotten the key. And when she went back to the table to get it, she couldn't possibly reach it. Try as she might it was no use. Alice sat down and cried.

Doorknob There's no use in crying like that! I advise you to leave off this minute.

Lewis Carroll Suddenly, she noticed a small cake beside her.

Cake Eat me! If I make you grow larger, you can reach the key, and if I make you grow smaller, you can creep under the door. Either way you'll get into the garden.

Alice Well I shall eat it! (*Eats some more*) Curiouser and curiouser! Now I'm opening out like the tallest telescope that ever was! Goodbye feet!

Lewis Carroll Alice was now more than nine feet high. At once, she took the little golden key and hurried off to the garden door. To try and get through was more hopeless than ever. She sat down and began to cry again.

Door Knob You ought to be ashamed of yourself – a great girl like you, to go on crying like this. Stop this moment, I tell you!

Lewis Carroll But she went on all the same, shedding gallons of tears until there was a large pool of tears all around her. Suddenly she heard a little pattering of feet in the distance.

White Rabbit Oh! I'm late! I'm late!

Alice If you please, sir ...

White Rabbit (*Startled*) I can't stop now. I'll be late! (*Hurries off, dropping gloves and fan*)

Alice (*Picks them up*) Dear, dear. How queer everything is today. (*Fans herself and starts to shrink*) Goodness! I'm shrinking again. It must be the fan. (*Throws it on the floor*) I never was so small as this before, never!

Lewis Carroll As she said these words her foot slipped and in another moment...

Tears Splash!

Lewis Carroll She was up to her chin in water. At first she thought she'd somehow fallen into the sea, but soon realised that she was in the pool of tears which she had wept when she was nine feet high.

#### 4. POOL OF TEARS/CAUCUS-RACE (Lewis Carroll, Alice, Duck, Dodo, Lory, Curious Creatures)

- Lewis Carroll The pool was getting quite crowded with birds and animals that had fallen into it. There was a duck and a Dodo, a Lory and several other curious creatures. Alice led the way and the whole party swam to the shore. What a queer- looking party they were, assembled on the bank. The first question of course, was how to get dry?
- Alice I'm as wet as ever.
- Dodo In that case, I vote for the immediate adoption of more energetic remedies.
- Lory Speak English! I don't know the meaning of half those long words and what's more, I don't believe you do either!
- Dodo I was going to say that the best thing to get us dry would be a Caucus race!
- Alice What is a Caucus race?
- Dodo Why, the best way to explain it is to do it. Here is the racecourse (*marks out a sort of circle*) – the exact shape doesn't matter. Stand where you like, begin to run when you like, and leave off when you like.

#### CAUCUS RACE CD Track 8

##### CHORUS

***In the Caucus Race you choose a starting place,  
You can then begin and end exactly where you like.  
In the Caucus Race you run at your own pace,  
You'll be guaranteed to win a prize!***

**If your fur and feathers are a sorry sight, If  
you're feeling cold and wet.  
Come and join the race and you'll get dry,  
There's no need to be upset!**

##### CHORUS

**It won't really matter how you play the game, Make  
up any rules you like.  
If you get it wrong, well that's OK, Don't  
think anyone will mind.**

##### CHORUS PART TWO:

**All this busy running gets you dry and it is funny  
But it's really quite exhausting going round and round!  
(Repeat)**

##### CHORUS AND PART TWO PART

##### THREE:

**Once you've started you've no worries,  
There's no reason to be hurried.  
Take it easy, stay light-hearted, In the**

**Caucus Race.**

**PARTS TWO AND THREE  
CHORUS, WITH PARTS TWO AND THREE**

Dodo            The race is over!

All             But who has won?

Dodo            Everybody's won!

White Rabbit Oh my dear paws! Oh, my fur and whiskers!

Alice            Follow that rabbit!

## 5. MUSHROOMS (Alice, Caterpillar, Mushrooms 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

Lewis Carroll Alice looked all round her at the flowers and the blades of grass. There was a large mushroom growing near her, about the same height as herself. She stretched herself up on tiptoe and peeped over the edge of the mushroom. Her eyes immediately met those of a large blue caterpillar.

**WHO ARE YOU?** CD Track 11

**'Who are you?' said the Caterpillar  
In such a lazy mood, he hardly bothered to stir.  
Lackadaisical and laissez-faire  
Was the little fella's attitude.**

**'Who can say?' Alice had to reply  
'It's been a strange old day, and I keep changing my size.  
It's not easy to explain (I've tried)  
But I'm really not myself today!'**

Caterpillar What do you mean by that? Explain yourself!

Alice I can't explain myself, I'm afraid sir, because I'm not myself you see.

Caterpillar I don't see.

Alice I'm afraid I can't put it more clearly, for I can't understand it myself to begin with; being so many different sizes in a day is very confusing.

Caterpillar It isn't!

Alice Well, perhaps you haven't found it so yet, but when you have to turn into a chrysalis – you will some day you know, and then after that into a butterfly – I should think you'll feel it a little queer won't you?

Mushroom 1 Not a bit!

Alice Well, perhaps your feelings may be different. All I know is it would feel very queer to me.

Caterpillar You? Who are you?!

**'Come back here!' called the Caterpillar.  
(He sounded quite sincere, and so it mattered to her.)  
'I've got something that you ought to hear  
And it's this ... KEEP YOUR TEMPER!'**

Alice Is that all?

Mushroom 2 No! So you think you're changed do you?

Alice I'm afraid I am. I can't remember things as I used to and I don't keep the same size for ten minutes together.

Mushroom 3 Repeat 'Father William'.

Alice 'You are old Father William' the young man said,  
'And your hair has become very white.

Mushroom 4 And yet you incessantly stand on your head, Do you think at your age it is  
right?'

Mushroom 5 'In my youth' Father William replied to his son, 'I feared it might injure the brain.  
But now that I'm perfectly sure I have none, Why I do it, again and again'.

**'That's not right!' said the Caterpillar  
'If I can be precise, I've never listened to worse.  
Not a solitary line or verse  
Has the meaning that I thought it might.'**

Alice Nothing's right today. One doesn't like changing so often, you know; but I should  
like to be a little larger, sir, if you wouldn't mind. Three inches is such a wretched  
height to be.

Caterpillar It's a very good height indeed!

**'I don't know what is wrong with your size,  
You shouldn't worry so, you shouldn't criticize.  
You'll get used to being inches high,  
It's the perfect height, and I should know!  
Please excuse me now, I have to go!'**

Alice How puzzling all these things are. I'm never sure what's going to happen from one  
minute to another! Anyway, I've got to get into that beautiful garden – how is it to be  
done I wonder?

## 6. MAD HATTER'S TEA PARTY (Lewis Carroll, Alice, Hare, Hatter, Dormouse, other guests)

Lewis Carroll She had not gone much further before she came in sight of the house of the March Hare. She thought it must be the right house because the chimneys were shaped like ears and the roof was thatched with fur. There was a table set out under a tree in front of the house where the March Hare and the Hatter were having tea. A Dormouse was sitting between them, fast asleep. (*Alice approaches table*)

Hare & Hatter No room! No room!

Alice There's plenty of room! (*Alice sits down*)

Hatter Your hair wants cutting.

Alice You should learn not to make personal remarks – it's very rude.

Hatter Why is a raven like a writing desk?

Alice I believe I can guess that.

Hare Do you mean you think that you can find the answer to it?

Alice Exactly so!

Hare Then you should say what you mean.

Alice I do. At least I mean what I say. That's the same thing you know.

Hatter Not the same thing a bit! You might just as well say that 'I eat what I see' is the same as 'I see what I eat'.

Hare You might just as well say that 'I like what I get' is the same as 'I get what I like'.

Dormouse You might just as well say that 'I breathe when I sleep' is the same as 'I sleep when I breathe!'

Hatter It is the same thing with you! The Dormouse is asleep again. (*Pours tea on his nose*)

Dormouse Of course, of course; just what I was going to remark myself.

Hatter Have you guessed the riddle yet?

Alice No – I give up. What's the answer?

Hatter I haven't the slightest idea!

**MAD AS A HATTER CD Track 15**

**CHORUS**

*I'm mad as a hatter!  
I've never felt better,  
It's hard to believe that I'm out of my mind,  
But I'm mad as a hatter!  
So pass me the butter,  
'Cause life is a tea-party all of the time!*

*He's mad as a hatter! He's never felt  
better, Etc ...*

*HATTER*

**Ravens are rather like desks.**

**Tell me if you think it's true.**

**You won't be able to guess.**

*DORMOUSE & HARE (or ALL)*

**(A riddle! A riddle!)**

**(Tell him, do tell him!)**

**(He'll have to tell you!) I've really not got a**

**CHORUS**

*He's mad as a hatter! ...*

**It was the middle of March,  
I had a quarrel with time.  
Now he does nothing I ask,  
listens) He was a good friend of**

**(The middle! The middle!)**

**(Yes, we remember!)**

**(He never**

**CHORUS**

*He's mad as a hatter! ...*

Hatter

I want a clean cup! Let's all move one place on!

**I find it hard to explain,  
Thoughts that go round in my head.  
Dormouse you're sleeping again!  
You'd better go back to**

**(A puzzle! A puzzle!)**

**(No rhyme or reason)**

**(Yawn. Twinkle twinkle)**

*(Hatter stuffs dormouse into teapot!)*

**CHORUS**

*He's mad as a hatter! ...*

**Wahay!**

Alice I'll never go there again! It's the stupidest tea party I ever was at in all my life!

## 7. Forest (Alice, Cats 1-9, Lewis Carroll)

- Alice Please would you tell me why you grin like that?
- Cat 1 I'm a Cheshire Cat and that's why.
- Alice I didn't know that cats could grin.
- Cat 2 They all can and most of them do.
- Alice I don't know of any that do.
- Cat 3 You don't know much and that's a fact.
- Alice Cheshire Puss! Would you tell me please, which way I ought to go from here?
- Cat 4 That depends a good deal on where you want to get to.
- Alice I don't much care where ...
- Cat 5 Then it doesn't matter which way you go!
- Alice What sort of people live about here?
- Cat 6 In that direction lives a hatter and in that direction lives a March hare. Visit either you like, they're both mad!
- Alice But I don't want to go among mad people!
- Cat 7 Oh, you can't help that, we're all mad here. I'm mad, you're mad.
- Alice How do you know I'm mad?
- Cat 8 You must be or you wouldn't have come here. Do you play croquet with the Queen today?
- Alice I should like it very much, but I haven't been invited yet.
- Cat 9 You'll see me there.

### WONDERLAND CD Track 13

**White rabbits with strange habits  
That run round in a mad panic,  
Never having time to turn around.  
Long hallways with small doorways  
Are there sometimes, but not always,  
Curious indeed – the things I've found.**

#### **CHORUS**

***Alice, Alice, please understand***

*These are the things that happen in a wonderland. (Repeat)*

**Loud sneezing and brain-teasing,  
Where words take on a new meaning,  
Everyone it seems must disagree.  
Rude manners and bad grammar  
The Frog Footman, a Mad Hatter!  
It's the strangest place I've ever been!**

## **CHORUS**

Lewis Carroll      With that, the Cheshire Cat slowly vanished, beginning with the end of the tail and ending with the grin, which remained some time after the rest of it had gone.

Alice                Well! I've often seen a cat without a grin, but a grin without a cat! It's the most curious thing I ever saw in all my life.

**8. BEAUTIFUL GARDEN** (Alice, Lewis Carroll, Cards, Queen of Hearts, Cheshire Cat, Executioners)

Lewis Carroll      She found herself at last in the beautiful garden. A large rose-tree stood in the garden. The roses growing on it were white, but there were gardeners there, busily painting them red.

Cards              The Queen! The Queen!

**CROQUET SONG** CD Track 17

**It's such a lovely day for playing croquet,  
Show me a better way to spend your time.  
Really I have to say that life is OK,  
Out on the lawn today, it's just divine!**

**I have been practising with my flamingo.  
It's not an easy thing to keep in line.  
I am delighted in the way my swing goes,  
It needs some polishing, but I'll be fine.**

**Croquet is not so cool when you're a  
hedgehog! Using us for a ball, it's so unkind.  
If we don't curl up small, they'll knock our heads off!  
Since they don't care at all,  
we'll run and hide!**

**This is an awful game if you're a soldier!  
I've never been the same since first I tried.  
I can't describe the pain in my left shoulder,  
All doubled-up for days – it's such a crime!**

***Whenever you play croquet then your neck is on  
the line, We should all be glad just to stay alive!***

Queen              Stop! Stop! Stop! *(To audience)* Now, it's about time the rest of you did some singing. You should know the tune by now. Now, woe betide anyone who doesn't join in. Your head will be removed! Executioners, to your places!

**It's such a lovely day for playing croquet,  
*(It's a beautiful day for a game of croquet.)*  
Show me a better way to spend your time.  
*(It's a wonderful way to be spending your time.)*  
Really I have to say that life is OK,  
*(Life is quite OK playing croquet!)*  
Out on the lawn today, it's just divine!**

**REPEAT LAST VERSE**

***Whenever you play croquet then your neck is on the line,  
We should all be glad just to stay alive!  
We should all be glad just to stay alive!***

Queen              *(As she exits)* Off with her head! Off with her head! And off with his head!

Alice            They're dreadfully fond of beheading people here. The great wonder is that there's any one left alive!

Cheshire Cat   How do you like the Queen?

Alice            Not at all! She's so extremely ... (*Queen enters*) ... likely to win, that it's hardly worth finishing the game.

Cards            Off with her head!

Alice            Who cares for you? You're nothing but a pack of cards!

*Cards scatter everywhere, guiding audience out into the playground.*

**9. MEADOW** (Alice, Edith, Lewis Carroll)

Lewis Carroll      She found herself on the bank with her head in the lap of her sister, who was gently brushing away some dead leaves that had fluttered down from the trees upon her face.

Edith              Wake up Alice dear. Why, what a long sleep you've had!

Alice              Oh, I've had such a curious dream!

**WONDERLAND (Reprise) CD Track 22**

**Fierce ladies with pig babies,  
And strange games played in weird places.  
How can I describe the things I've seen?  
Mad juries, the Queen's fury,  
The Mock Turtle, and sad stories.  
How can I believe it's just a dream?**

**CHORUS**

***Alice, Alice, please understand,  
These are the things that happen in a wonderland. (Repeat)***