

# *Alice in Wonderland*

**A Pantomime**

**KATE PARRY  
and  
KAREN DOLAN-SMITH**



***Jasper Publishing***

*Alice*  
*in*  
*Wonderland*

A Pantomime

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## LIST OF CHARACTERS

**Gladys.** Alice's mother. A traditional, boisterous dame with a big heart and an eye for the gentlemen!

**Alice.** Principal girl. Quite a feisty young lady who will always try and help her friends.

**Prince Valentino.** Principal boy. Agreed to an "arranged" marriage in order to rescue his father. Honourable young man.

**Tweedle Dum.** Half of comedy double act. Scares easily and bungles any task given.

**Tweedle Dee.** Slightly less "thick" half of double act. Looks after Tweedle Dum and tries to keep them on the right side of the Queen - but usually fails!

**Queen of Hearts.** Evil queen who plots to gain control of Wonderland. Has little patience with anyone, including her daughter. Plays one entire scene as Cilla Black.

**Princess Incontinenta.** Snobbish, lisping, spoilt, ghastly princess - rather like Violet Elizabeth from "Just William"!

**Billy.** Prince's valet. Loyal friend who falls in love with Alice but does not try to compete with Prince. Happy, comical person who needs to interact well with most of the cast. (and the audience!)

**Ernest Compost.** Palace gardener - is really the King of Wonderland who has been put under a spell. Steadfast and trustworthy - he is the object of the Dame's desire. Needs to be able to convincingly play both a down-to-earth, slightly slow, commoner and a King with authority and presence.

**White Rabbit.** Traditional character who provides links between scenes. Slightly scatty, always in a rush.

**Mad Hatter.** One scene only - traditional character, ie: he's quite mad!

**Dormouse.** One scene only - restricted dialogue (he's generally asleep!)

**March Hare.** One scene only - traditional character.

**Cheshire Cat.** Supercilious, conceited know-it-all. If played in full animal costume, must be able to move gracefully in feline fashion.

**Executioner.** One scene - limited dialogue and action.

**Mummy.** Brief appearance for chase routine.

**Voice of the Jewel.** To provide voice for the Queen's magic sceptre. Speeches must be clear, and rhythmic.

**Old Alice.** Brief appearance for "senior" female.

**Young Alice.** Brief appearance for very young child - as small as possible but able to deliver two lines!

**Spooks.** Dialogue and action in one scene.

**Comper.** Voice over in one scene.

**Adult Chorus.** Several appearances as different characters. Choreographed routines to songs. Some dialogue.

**Children's Chorus.** Several appearances as different characters. Choreographed routines to songs. Some dialogue.



# Alice In Wonderland

## ACT ONE

### SCENE ONE

*White rabbit appears in auditorium, running through audience.*

**RABBIT** Oh, dearie, dearie me; I'm late! I'm late! Hello, hello boys and girls. *[arrives on stage]* Oh goodness me, what a rush! Well here I am at last, all the way from Wonderland! Now then, that nice man at the *[name of dramatic society]* has asked me to come here to tell you a story. That will be nice won't it? It will be just like Jackanory! I say, I'm showing my age now - is that still on television these days? Well, anyway, would you like to hear the story about a girl called Alice? Good, then I'll begin. Once upon a time, when I was just a young fluffy bunny, Wonderland was a very different place than it is now; it was - well, now how can I describe it? I know, I think the best way would be for you all to come and see for yourselves! Would you like that? Yes? Come on then, come back in time with me, and see how the story began. Come and meet Alice and follow her on her amazing adventures in Wonderland!!!

*Rabbit exits. Alice and her mother enter carrying bags/pushing a hand-cart.*

**DAME** Oh Alice, Alice, I'll have to stop. I've got blisters on my blisters. *[sits down on the ground and begins rubbing her feet]*.

**ALICE** Very well, but only a short rest. We must find somewhere to stay before it gets dark.

**DAME** Oh, what are we going to do? That it should come to this - nowhere to live, and all our worldly goods on one cart/in these bags. *[begins to sob noisily]*

**ALICE** There there mother, don't worry. Things will be alright, you'll see. It's not your fault that our miserly landlord threw us out. I still don't understand it, I mean we paid our rent didn't we?

*DAME looks shift.*

**ALICE** We did, didn't we?

**DAME** Well, yes of course, but...

**ALICE** But what mother?!

**DAME** Well, I was a bit short last week so I raided your monopoly game and paid him out of that!

**ALICE** What? You gave him pretend money?

**DAME** Yes, well I thought he might pretend not to notice because he felt sorry for me.

**ALICE** And did he?

**DAME** No, he told me to go directly to jail and not to collect £200 for passing GO!

**ALICE** Oh mother!!

**DAME** I know, I'm sorry, but you never liked it there anyway. It was much nicer when we stayed at the *[local hotel/B&B]*.

**ALICE** Oh well, I suppose we had better make the most of it. At least this is an adventure! We can make a new life for ourselves. We could go anywhere!

**DAME** Well I don't mind where we go as long as there's a chemist so I can get some plasters for these blisters.

**ALICE** Oh mother *[laughing]*. You do make me laugh.

*White rabbit darts across the stage and off the other side.*

**DAME** Ooh, what was that?

**ALICE** I don't know, it looked like a big rat to me!

*Rabbit re-appears.*

**RABBIT** A rat!! The cheek of it.

**ALICE** Oh, I'm sorry, I thought... wait a minute, you're talking!

**RABBIT** Oh, very well observed.

**DAME** Well I never did! A talking rabbit. I must have sunstroke. *[fans herself]*

**ALICE** How very peculiar. I've never spoken to a rabbit before. I'm Alice.

**RABBIT** And I'm late, goodbye. *[starts to go, then stops and turns]* Did you say "Alice"?

**ALICE** Yes.

**RABBIT** *[to himself]* Oh, the prophecy - could it be? No, surely not... but maybe...!

Alice - yes! Hair like spun gold - yes! Carrying a heavy load - yes!! It must be true!

**DAME** Is he speaking to us?

**RABBIT** Where are you travelling to?

**ALICE** Nowhere exactly. Where are you from?

**RABBIT** Ah, the most wonderful place you can imagine - only it's not so wonderful at the moment. Will you help me?

**ALICE** Us, help you? How?

**RABBIT** Where I come from we are at the mercy of cruel queen and the prophecy states that only a girl named Alice with hair like spun gold can save us, and she will enter Wonderland carrying a heavy load.

**DAME** Heavy load? Does he mean me? The cheeky little...!

**RABBIT** No madam, of course not. I meant your luggage.

**DAME** Oh, I see, that's alright then.

**ALICE** But what can I do to help?

**RABBIT** I don't know, but you must come with me - please! If you are looking for a better life then you must come to Wonderland.

**ALICE** Wonderland?

**RABBIT** Yes, please come with me.

**DAME** Is there a chemist there?

**ALICE** Oh mother! *[to rabbit]* Yes, we'll come, after all I did want an adventure.

**RABBIT** Come then, follow me into the magical kingdom of Wonderland!

## SCENE 2

*Opens with SONG/CHORUS ROUTINE. "Happiness", "Walking on Sunshine". With chorus as colourful and fantastic characters. Billy and Ernest participate. Towards the end the White Rabbit, Dame and Alice enter from upstage and wind their way through the dancers who greet them, shake hands, swing them round etc. All take final position for applause.*

**DAME** Oh dear, we have only been here two minutes and I am exhausted already. Look at my poor feet now; I've got blisters on my blisters on my blisters!

**BILLY** Pardon me for saying, but you should really get them seen to. Have you ever considered getting them plastered?

**DAME** Oh, I don't mind if I do. *[takes a hip flask from her pocket and has a swig]*

**ALICE** Oh Mother, don't show me up!

**RABBIT** Now, now before we all get carried away it's time for some introductions, so listen everybody. I want you all to meet Alice and her mother Gladys. They have come to stay for a while.

*Everyone gathers round.*

**CHORUS MEMBER** Alice? Is that your name?

**ALICE** Yes. How do you do.

**CHORUS** *[speaking to each other]* Alice? Alice! Look, she's got hair like spun gold. It's the prophecy!

**DAME** What are they doing? Don't they know it's rude to whisper?

**RABBIT** Exactly. Come on you rabble - get about your business. Don't be rude to our visitors. You'll see them again later. Off you go.

*Chorus/dancers exit chattering excitedly.*

**RABBIT** Now then Alice, Gladys, this is Billy. He works at the Palace.

**BILLY** Very pleased to meet you *[bows]*.

**ALICE** Hello Billy.

**DAME** Top of the morning to you young man.

**RABBIT** And this is Ernest. He is the palace gardener.

**ERNEST** *[to Alice]* Welcome to Wonderland Alice. *[to Dame]* Madam, what a pleasure it is to meet you *[kisses her hand]*.

**DAME** Ooh, I say, what a charmer! *[to Rabbit]* Gardener you say? Well he can hoe my onions any day of the week.

**ERNEST** I'd rather wheel you away in my wheelbarrow!

**DAME** Well it might come to that if my blisters don't get better soon.

**ERNEST** Oh you poor fragile thing; let me help you. *[takes her arm]* I think you and I should pay a visit to the *[local chemist]*. They will soon fix you up.

**DAME** Oh, alright then. I'll see you later Alice. Will you be alright on your own?



**BILLY** Of course she will - I'll make sure of that.

**ALICE** Thank you. Bye mother - behave yourself.

**ERNEST** Oh, I hope she doesn't!

*Dame and Ernest exit.*

**RABBIT** Now then Alice, come along with me. I want you to meet someone else.

**ALICE** But what about our luggage?

**RABBIT** Oh, Billy will you keep an eye on it for Alice please?

**BILLY** Yes, of course.

**ALICE** Thank you. Perhaps I'll see you later?

**BILLY** Yes - I hope so.

*Rabbit and Alice exit.*

**BILLY** Oh, she's beautiful. I've often dreamt of meeting a girl like her. If only she would notice me, but as soon as that rabbit introduces her to the Prince she'll be smitten. Oh, when will I ever find someone to love.

### SONG

*"Somebody to Love", "When I fall in Love". Upon applause (hopefully) he "notices" the audience.*

**BILLY** Oh, hello. I hadn't seen you all there until now. Oh I feel a bit daft now singing away to myself like that! Why didn't you stop me? Most people usually do! But I'm afraid my feelings ran away with me after meeting Alice. She is lovely isn't she? Do you think she could ever like someone like me; after all I'm just the Prince's valet. Never mind, if she would only be my friend that would be something. Now what can I do to make her like and trust me? Oh, I know, she wants me to look after her luggage. I can do that easily... oh, no I've got to get back to work soon and I can't take it with me. What can I do? Can you think of a way of helping me? Would you? No I don't know you well enough to ask... but could you? No I'm being cheeky oh what the heck I'll ask. Would you help me please? If I leave the luggage here would you look after it for me please? You would? Oh that's great. Thank you very much. I tell you what we'll do. If you see anyone go near it or mess about with it, you just yell 'BAGGAGE' and I'll come a-running. OK? Shall we try that now? I'll pretend to try and steal that suitcase OK? *[sneaks over to the luggage and starts to pick up a case]*

**AUDIENCE** BAGGAGE!

*Dame enters being pushed in a wheelbarrow by Ernest.*

**DAME** Hey, who's calling me baggage? And what are you doing with my suitcase you light-fingered rascal.

**BILLY** No, you don't understand. Alice asked me to watch your luggage for you and I've enlisted the help of all my new friends out there.

*Dame sees audience and Ernest tips her out of the barrow.*

**DAME** Owch! Ooh, I think you've just damaged my credentials! Help me up will you? *[grabs onto Ernest's belt and his trousers are pulled down as she tries to get up]* Oooh I say!

**ERNEST** Do you mind?!!

**DAME** Sorry love. You want to get yourself a new belt Ernest. That's a right tatty thing you've got there - you've lost the buckle! Now then, hello out there! So you're Alice's new friends are you? Well she never did have good taste! Oh I'm only joking, you look a happy lot really - well apart from this lady/gentleman *[indicates someone in the front row]*. What's the matter with you? Have you lost a pound and found a penny? I lost a pound once, but I soon found it again after only one cream cake! Well I hope you all enjoy yourselves here, I think I'm going to have fun. That Ernest is a bit of alright isn't he? I think I'm in there don't you? But we seem so well suited - I mean he's a rugged, earthy, man of the soil and I'm a blooming, delicate rose!

**BILLY** You're a bloomin' something alright, but I wouldn't go as far as rose.

**DAME** Oh be quiet, what do you know about it anyway? In fact what do you actually do in this town Billy?

**BILLY** I work at the place for the Prince Valentino; I'm his valet. But I think my job description is changing because I've been asked to think of something fun and exciting to keep all the children in Wonderland amused when they are not at school.

**DAME** Oh, well why don't you run a crochet and knitting class?

**ERNEST** No, they would always be able to pull the wool over his eyes. Why not show them the delights of organic farming with horse manure.

**BILLY** No, we've "dung" that already!! What we are really hoping to do is start a youth club for them but we need to find someone who is hip and happening and who has got their finger on the nub of youth!

**DAME** Look no further - you've found her!

**BILLY/ERNEST** You!!!

**DAME** Why not? I love children, although I couldn't eat a whole one. Yes, I could look after them.

**BILLY** You haven't met them yet have you?

**DAME** No, why?

**BILLY** Oh nothing; they are just a lively bunch that's all. I think you'll like them.

**ERNEST** Don't be silly Billy.

**BILLY** She'll have to learn Ern.

**BILLY/ERN** It won't be that bad Glad.

**DAME** Oh I'm not worried! I had better get and sort myself out then. Bye!! *[Exits]*

**BILLY** Come on, we had better make sure she doesn't get into trouble.

*Billy and Ernest exit as curtains close.*

## SCENE 3

*White Rabbit enters from left and crosses stage with Alice following him.*

**RABBIT** Hurry up, we're going to be late. Stop lagging behind dear.

**ALICE** I'm sorry but I'm tired. Can we stop for a minute?

**RABBIT** No, come on. *[runs off to the right]*

**ALICE** Oh dear. *[starts to follow him but drops her handkerchief and stops to pick it up]* Wait a minute Mr Rabbit. *(rabbit has gone)* Oh bother, where has he gone. Oh that silly rabbit! How am I supposed to know where to go now? *[sees the audience]* Oh hello, maybe you can help me. Did you see which way he went? This way? Oh thank you very much. I'm Alice by the way. Are you all visiting Wonderland too? Isn't it an exciting place? Right then, I had better go and look for this rabbit hadn't I? Thank you, I'll see you soon hopefully. *[backs off towards the right exit and bumps into the Prince Valentino who is rushing on]*

**BOTH** Ouch!

**PRINCE** Oh I do apologise.

**ALICE** No, it was my fault; I wasn't watching where I was going.

**PRINCE** Well I should not be rushing like that. I'm looking for someone you see.

**ALICE** Oh, so am I. Now, this may sound like an odd question but have you seen a white rabbit in a blue coat go by?

**PRINCE** Yes, he was in a hurry too.

**ALICE** Oh dear, I'm supposed to be with him. I am Alice and he was going to take me to meet the Prince Valentino.

**PRINCE** Was he now? Why was that?

**ALICE** I'm not really sure; I think he's introducing me to all his friends, but I'm not really looking forward to meeting the Prince as he's sure to be awfully ugly and a terrible bore.

**PRINCE** What makes you say that?

**ALICE** Well all the princes in my country are like that.

**PRINCE** Well you never know, you could be surprised.

**ALICE** Do you know him?

**PRINCE** Well, yes, very well actually. But let's not talk about him. What brings you to Wonderland?

**ALICE** Well I suppose you could say we were just taking a chance on a better life. We were homeless and poor so we just packed our things and started travelling. Then we met the White Rabbit and he invited us into Wonderland.

**PRINCE** Well I for one am very glad that he did. I have never met anyone quite like you before. I hope you are going to stay for a while - life suddenly looks much brighter now.

## SONG

*"Take a Chance on Me" / "Love Lift Us Up Where We Belong" / "Perfect Moment"*

**PRINCE** That was fun. I have almost forgotten what I came here for now.

**ALICE** Yes, and me. I am supposed to be looking for that silly white rabbit. Who were you looking for?

**PRINCE** My val... *[starts to say valet then stops himself]* err, my very good friend, but he's not here. *[looks around and sees the luggage]* Oh, what's this? *[goes over]*

*Billy enters to audience shouts.*

**BILLY** Thank you, you're doing very well. Hey, what do you think you are... Oh it's you sir.

**ALICE** Sir??!!

**BILLY** Oh, I'm sorry - Your Majesty!

**ALICE** What? Who do you mean?

**BILLY** Why, the Prince of course.

**ALICE** The Prince! *[looks at the Prince in shock]*

**PRINCE** Yes, I am sorry. I hope you didn't find me too ugly or such an awful bore.

**ALICE** No, not at all - but you should have told me. Fancy letting me say all those things about princes, and sing that song with you. I feel so embarrassed.

**PRINCE** Well I enjoyed singing with you.

**ALICE** So did I, but that was still a mean trick to play. It just makes me think that Princes can't be trusted!

**BILLY** Alice! *[horried]* You can't speak to his majesty like that!

**PRINCE** Yes she can. It was quite refreshing to speak to someone who appeared to like me just for being me, and not for being a prince.

**ALICE** I do like you.

**PRINCE** *[takes her by the hand]* Oh you have no idea how much those words mean to me.

*Billy rushes between them.*

**BILLY** Stop right there! I can see where this is leading. You've got to tell her.

**ALICE** Tell me what?

**BILLY** You must sir, it's not fair on either of you.

**PRINCE** Yes, you're right. Alice, there's something I must tell you before my heart rules my head. Come and sit down. *[takes her over to bench/swing]* As you now know I am Prince Valentino and up until 3 years ago my father was King. He threw a big party for my 18th birthday and invited Kings and Queens from other countries to bring their daughters so I may have the chance of meeting someone I wished to make my bride. Unfortunately we had an uninvited guest - the Queen of Hearts - who presented her daughter to my father as a possible wife for me.

**ALICE** What was she like?

**BILLY** *[laughs]* Like a cross between a chipmunk and a bloodhound - with a weird personality to match!

**PRINCE** Billy, hush! Now the Queen wanted us to marry to unite our two families to give her more power but my father only wished me to marry for love and not for convenience, so he turned her down. The Queen was very angry and cast a spell on my father. He disappeared and no-one has seen him since.

**ALICE** But that's terrible! Isn't there anything you can do to get him back?

**PRINCE** Well yes. I had to agree to marry the Princess on my 21st birthday and forfeit my rights as future King. Then and only then will my father be returned to his home, but not as King, merely as one of the Queen's subjects.

**ALICE** I see. *[pause]* So you are in fact betrothed to another?

**PRINCE** Yes, but not for love. If only I had met you before. But you must understand that I have to try to save my father, even if it means a life time of misery for myself.

**ALICE** Yes, I see that, but there must be a way to help without you having to marry this princess. Is she really so awful?

**BILLY** Yes! Her name will give you a clue - she's the Princess Incontinental!

**ALICE** Oh dear.

**PRINCE** Yes, oh dear. But please Alice, will you remain my friend, even if that's all we can be?

**ALICE** Of course; and I'm not giving up this easily. I'll try and find a way to help you get your father back without having to agree to the Queen's nasty bargains. I haven't met her yet, but I'll give her a piece of my mind when I do!

**BILLY** What a girl!

**PRINCE** Come on, let's find this white rabbit. He's probably tearing his whiskers out with worry about you.

*They all exit and curtains open.*

#### SCENE 4

*Queen's Castle - red and black scenery. The Queen is seated on a throne being waited on by chorus members (dressed as playing cards) as they perform a CHORUS ROUTINE (rap/chanting song, sycophantic lyrics). Two chorus members are cooling her with big fans; two are manicuring her nails; one is brushing her hair; two are at her feet. The song ends when one of the chorus members breaks one of the queen's nails.*

**QUEEN** You stupid fool! Look what you have done.

**CHORUS** I'm sorry your majesty; please forgive me.

**QUEEN** Get out of my sight you imbecile. I see I cannot trust you to do this simple task properly - get and work in the kitchen! *[pushes the chorus member with her foot and the whole chorus topples over like dominoes]* Don't just lie there you lazy lot! Go and see if you can manage to get the princess ready. I want her to begin her beauty treatment in preparation for the wedding celebrations.

**CHORUS** Yes your majesty, your highness.

*They exit bowing and scraping, the Queen stops the last one.*

**QUEEN** You! Bring me my sceptre.

**CHORUS** At once your highness, your eminence, your majestic being.

**QUEEN** Get out! *[roars]*

*As last chorus member exits, the queen turns and sees the audience.*

**QUEEN** Oh! What have we here? Have you all missed your last bus home? Or have you come for the Bingo? Oh, I know - you must have all come to feast your eyes on the beautiful Princess Incontinenta.

*Band sniggers.*

Silence!! Who rattled your cage?

**BAND** Oh come on, I mean "Incontinenta". What kind of name is that?

**QUEEN** A regal and powerful name. Why, my late husband chose it himself. It was about the only good suggestion he ever had - dear old Sean.

**BAND** Sean who?

**QUEEN** Sean de Leer!

*Band laugh again.*

**QUEEN** Enough! I command you to be silent or else I'll come down there and snap your drumsticks! And you lot can shut up too *[to audience]*. Don't you know I am the most powerful being in this land?

**BAND** Oh no you're not.

**QUEEN** Oh yes I am *[sweetly]*.

**ALL** Oh no you're not.

**QUEEN** Oh yes I am. *[slightly peeved]*

**ALL** Oh no you're not.

**QUEEN** Oh yes I am, and don't you dare argue with me you pathetic commoners. *[shouts]*

*Chorus member bring on the sceptre.*

**QUEEN** Aha, now you will see how powerful I am. None of you will have ever seen anything like this before. Bring it here my child. *[sweetly]*

*Chorus member moves very slowly towards her.*

**QUEEN** *[snaps]* Today if possible, you miserable creature. *[takes the sceptre and holds it aloft]* Get out of here - this is not for your eyes.

*Chorus member exits hurriedly.*

Jewel of the night as you start to glow;  
Tell me all that I wish to know.

*The jewel on the end of the sceptre begins to glow.*

**JEWEL** I hear you oh mistress and I obey;  
What is it that you wish to hear today.

**QUEEN** Merely that all is well and nothing has happened to upset my plans. Is the Prince still going to marry my daughter?

**JEWEL** Yes, this is true but all is not as it seems;  
Your daughter is no longer the girl of his dreams.

**QUEEN** Just as I thought... wait what did you say? *[shakes the sceptre]* Do you need new batteries? Tell me again!

**JEWEL** A girl named Alice has stolen his heart;  
But for his father's sake they have agreed to part.

**QUEEN** Oh, well that's alright then! Why did you waste my time telling me this? This Alice is probably some low-down scullery maid that has caught his eye; but he isn't going to let his father down now. Jewel, be silent.

*The light fades from the sceptre and she places it in its stand.*

**QUEEN** Now do you see how strong my power is? With my magic jewel I can find out anything about anybody. I could find out what you had for tea last night [to member of audience]; or I could even get next week's lottery numbers. But if I did, I wouldn't tell you. *[laughs evilly]* Now I think it is time you met my daughter. Please be careful how you behave in her presence; she's very highly strung you know. *[calls off stage]* Incontinenta... darling... come here sweetie!

**INCONT** *[from off stage]* Coming mother.

*She enters by skipping on and cavorts around the stage singing. She is a plain looking girl with lots of freckles, pig-tails and protruding front teeth.*

**QUEEN** Darling, come here for a moment. Incontinenta, please. Darling... WILL YOU COME HERE GIRL!

**INCONT** Don't shout at me mother because you know what I will do.

**QUEEN** Oh don't be so childish dear. Remember you will be a married woman soon.

**INCONT** Ooh, rather! Then I can lie around the house all day stuffing cream buns and ginger beer!

**QUEEN** Yes, that's right dear. But you must remember why you are marrying him. You will have responsibilities as part of the family which rules this land.

**INCONT** Oh whizzo! I think it will be an awful wheeze being married to the Prince err, what's his name again?

**QUEEN** Valentino!! Now listen, I want you to meet some people. *[indicates the audience]*

**INCONT** *[looks distastefully at the audience]* Well, I'm not really interested in meeting them. They look like common oiks to me. I'm more interested in what is in these cases. Are they presents for me? *[goes over to the luggage and audience shouts]*