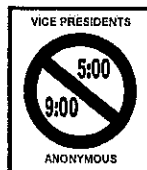




# Alice in Credit Land

An

**Official  
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Publication**



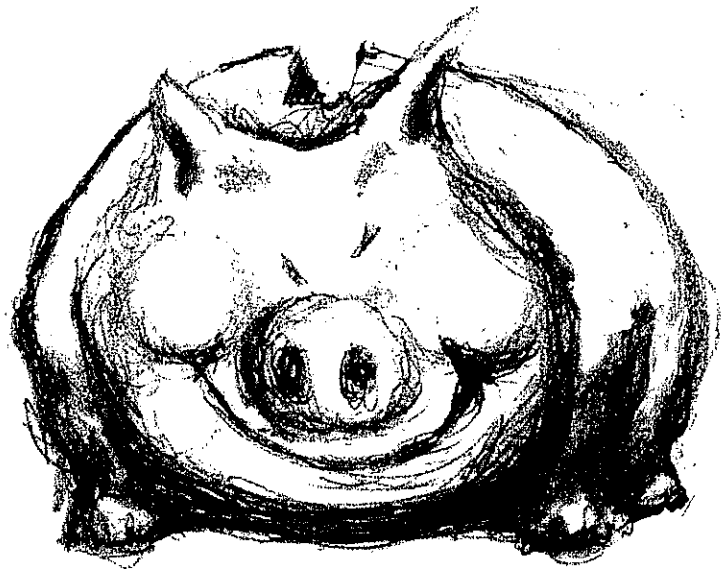


Once upon a time, there was a girl named Alice, who saved all of her pennies to buy a house.





She put all of her pennies in a Piggy Bank





One day she found the house of her dreams.





The house came with a real estate agent.





The real estate agent came with a mortgage broker.





Alice didn't have enough pennies to buy the whole house.

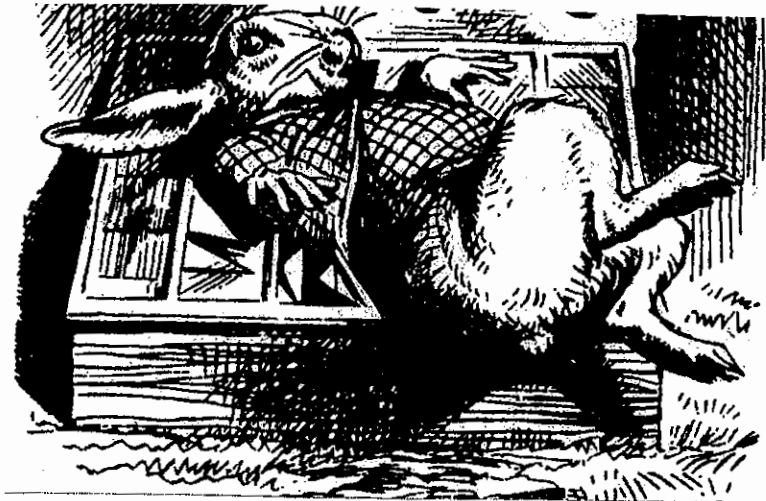
"No problem!" said the mortgage broker. "You give us 50 pennies right now from your piggy bank, and we'll find the other 9,950 pennies you need to buy the whole house."

"You're so wonderful!" said Alice.

"All you have to do is give us 100 pennies a month for the next 40 years," said the mortgage broker.

"But I only make 50 pennies a month."

*"THAT's ALL?!"* screamed the real estate agent.





"No Problem," soothed the mortgage broker. "Just give us 30 pennies a month."

"That's all?" asked Alice.

"Well, not exactly," said the mortgage broker. "It's only 30 pennies a month – *for the first year.*"

"What happens after that?" asked Alice.

"The payments go up," said the mortgage broker.

"How much?" asked Alice.

"We don't know," said the real estate agent and the mortgage broker.







“What if I don’t have enough pennies when the payments go up?”

***“But you will!!!!”*** screamed the mad broker. ***“You’ll get a raise. Or you’ll get a new job! Just wait and see! Everyone does it!”***

***“And prices for houses are going up,”*** yelled the real estate agent. ***“If you don’t buy now, you’ll never have a chance to own your own home – never, ever again!”***





So Alice gave them her savings to go find a mortgage.

All 50 pennies of it.





And the mad broker went off to Wall Street to find a mortgage for Alice.





That night, Alice went to the Happy Hope Executive Retraining School to find a job that pays more.

It was very inspiring. She heard about all sorts of careers that paid lots of money:

***“FULFILL YOUR DREAMS! MAKE MORE MONEY!”***

***“JD, MD, PhD, MBA, RA, MAI, CPA, CFA, DDS! Online!”***



It sounded so good that Alice signed up.



The next day the real estate agent and the mad broker returned with the mortgage from Wall Street.

“Well, you don’t make enough money right now to qualify for the best mortgage. So we are going to have to charge you 40 pennies a month,” said the mad broker.

“Instead of 30 pennies a month,” said the real estate agent.

“For the first year,” said the mad broker.





“But I can’t afford 40 pennies a month. I won’t be able to eat or buy gas.”

“My dear girl, that’s what credit cards are for. And now that you have a mortgage, it’s so easy to get one,” said the real estate agent.

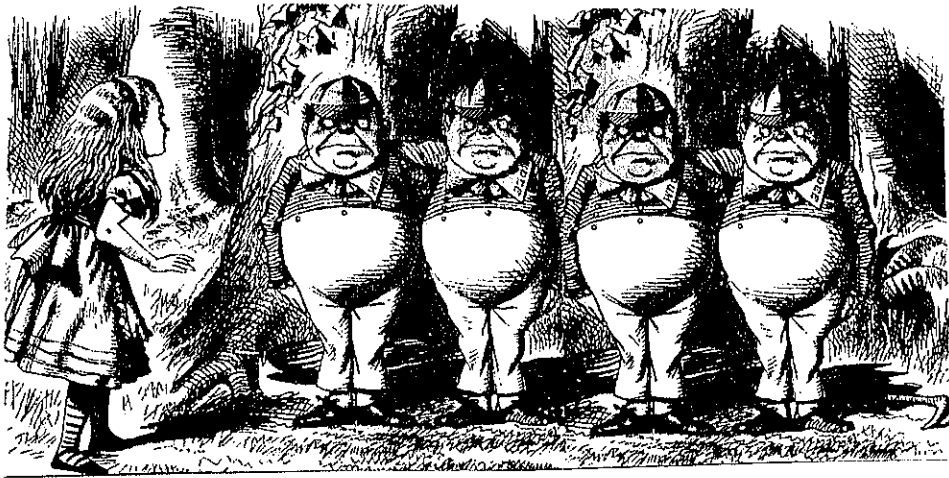
“Or two or three or four!” said the mad broker.





So Alice went to the banks and got some credit cards.

She was so very happy she got them, because the very next day all of the food and gas prices went up.



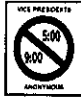


It wasn't too long after that when the King and Queen decided that subjects throughout the kingdom had far too much credit card debt.

So it was decreed that all credit card debt should be paid back to the banks twice as fast.







The monthly payments on all of Alice's credit cards went from 5 pennies a month to 10 pennies a month.

And all of a sudden, Alice discovered that she didn't have enough pennies to make payments on all the credit cards.

This made her credit card banks very unhappy.



***"Not having enough money to pay our credit card is not an acceptable excuse!!!!!"***



So the credit card banks doubled the interest rates on Alice's cards and charged her great whopping default fees.

This raised her credit card payments from 10 pennies a month to 20 pennies a month.

It actually made it harder for Alice to make the payments.





Then the King and Queen determined that subjects throughout the kingdom were still borrowing too much money. So they decided to raise interest rates to discourage people from borrowing more.

The interest rates on Alice's credit cards could not go up any higher because there's a law. That was the good news.

The bad news was that the interest rate on Alice's mortgage went up to 100 pennies a month.



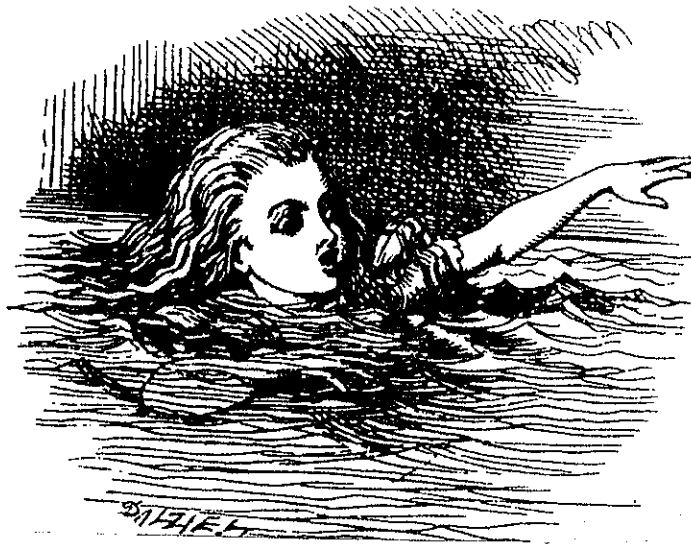


Then the house of cards blew down.



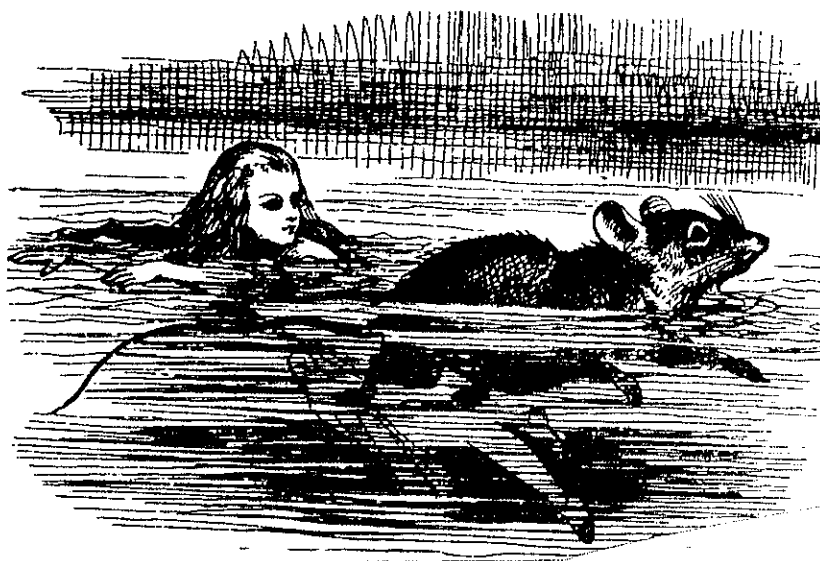


And the creek rose.





And the Happy Hope Executive Retraining School  
went away.





The Real Estate Agent and the Mad Broker showed up to help solve Alice's problem.



***“We’ll refinance! We’ll increase the mortgage to 20,000 pennies and pay off all of your credit cards. Just pay us 50 pennies right now!”*** said the mad broker.

“But all my pennies are gone,” said Alice.

***“YOU DON’T HAVE ANY MORE PENNIES?!”*** asked the real estate agent.



“My Piggy Bank is empty,” said Alice.

***“THEN YOU WON’T BE NEEDING YOUR HOUSE!”***  
screamed the real estate agent.

“But where will I live?” asked Alice.

“No Problem! There aren’t any pennies in the Piggy Bank – ***am I right?!***” asked the real estate agent.

“Y-y-y-yes” ventured Alice.

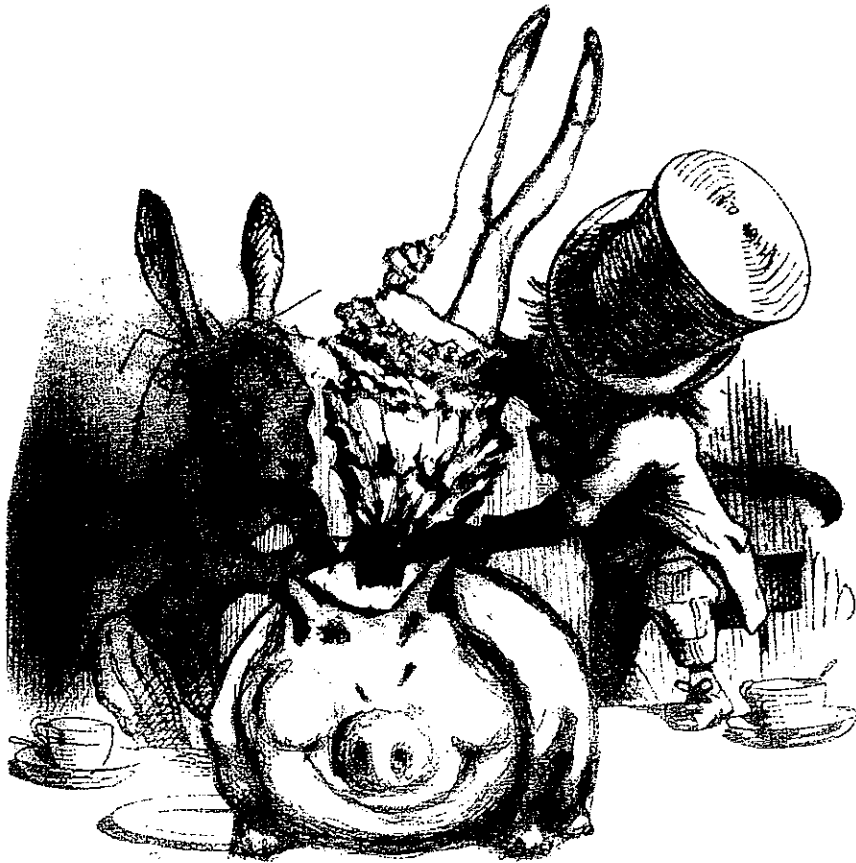
***“THEN THERE’S PLENTY OF SPACE IN IT – FOR YOU!”*** screamed the real estate agent.

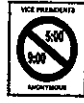






And with that, they took the deed to Alice's dream house  
and stuffed her into the Piggy Bank.



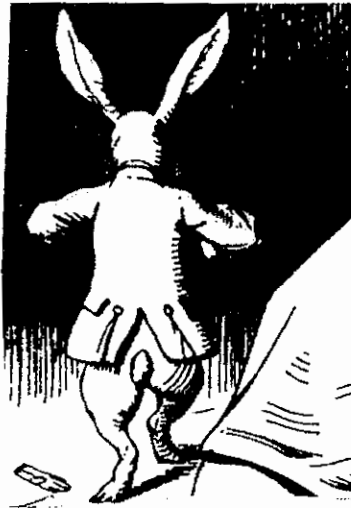


Alice did not think this was fair.  
From inside her Piggy Bank she yelled,  
**“I want my pennies back!”**





*"Ingrate,"* sputtered the real estate agent, as he fled to his next customer. "She's got a place to live – what's to complain about?"



*"Go talk to Wall Street."* suggested the mad broker helpfully, as he headed out over the hill.





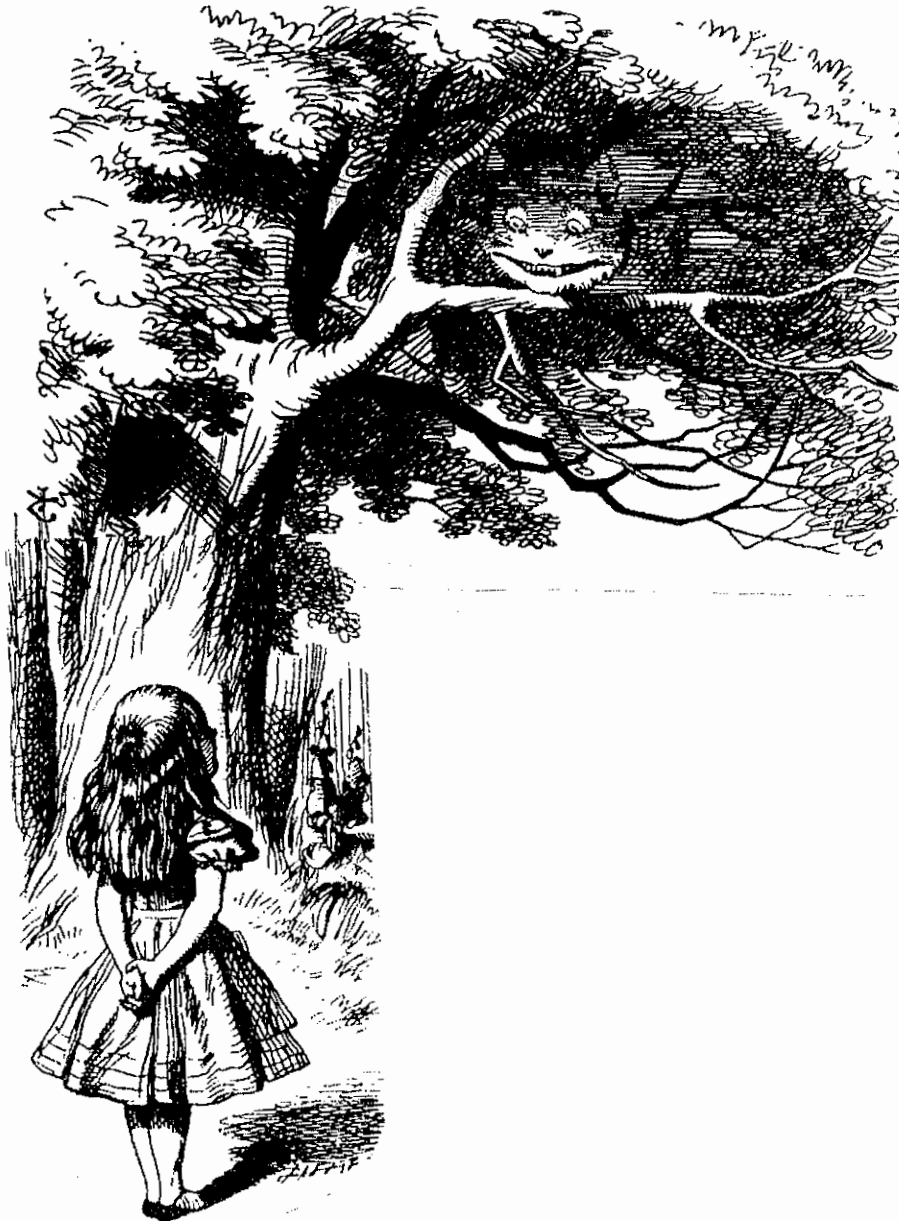
So Alice went to ask Wall Street for her pennies back.

“I want my pennies back,” said Alice.





But Wall Street had nothing to say.





So Alice went to the government to complain.

"I want my pennies back."



**"Get in line."**

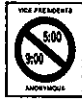


Alice got in line.

There were many people in line.

They were all waiting to see the King and Queen





There was a lot of weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Great painful wailing came from way up at  
the head of the line.







The wailing came from Slow Otto who couldn't sell cars,  
and Fast Banx who had invested in bonds.

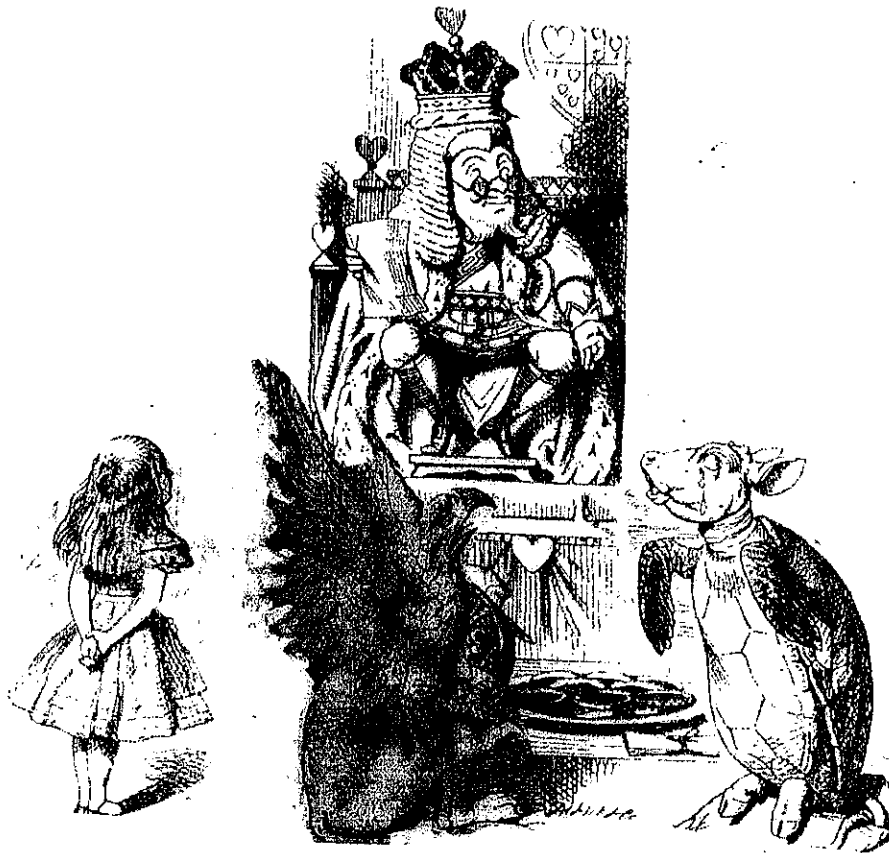
They wanted some pennies too.

Trillions.





At last Alice got an audience with the King.





**"WHO ARE YOU?"** asked the King.

"I'm Alice and I want my pennies back" said Alice.

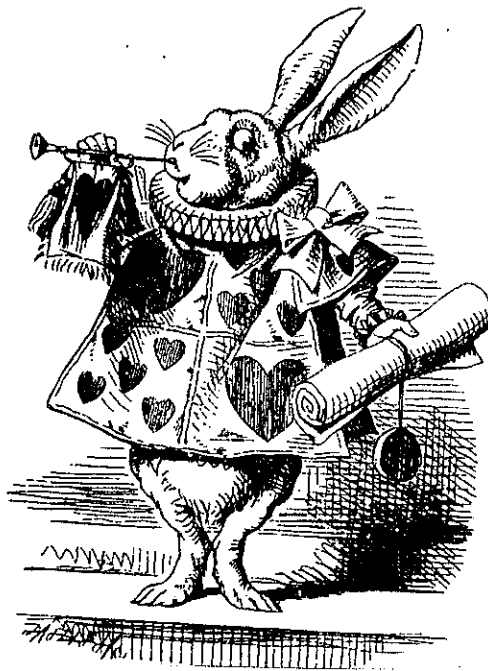
"How many pennies?" asked the King.

"50."

**"WHAT? YOU COME INTO OUR PRESENCE ASKING  
FOR SUCH A PITTANCE?"** roared the King.

"I'm hungry," mumbled Alice.

So the King ushered Alice over to see the Queen.





"SHE SAYS SHE'S HUNGRY," said the King.

"I'm hungry," said Alice.

**"OFF WITH HER HEAD!"** said the Queen.





Suddenly a great quiet fell on the crowd.

Wall Street appeared in the sky.



There was much whispering.



Finally, the King spoke,

**"THE SENTENCE OF DEATH IS COMMUTED. YOU  
NOW HAVE PERMISSION TO KEEP YOUR HEAD."**

And then the Queen decreed:

**"YOU ARE NOW REQUIRED TO BUY  
THINGS."**





But Alice didn't have any pennies to buy anything with.

So the Queen gave Alice a new credit card.





And Alice lived happily hand-to-mouth ever after.

