

ALICE@WONDERLAND—THE MUSICAL

Prologue

1 AT RISE: MUSIC CUE 1: “Alice@Wonderland-Prologue”

ENSEMBLE: (*ENTERS and sings.*) Alice at Wonderland

With her latest and smartest phone in hand.

Alice at Wonderland.

5 She is tweeting and texting in a whirl.

When out of the blue comes

Oh, you-know-who to

Push all the buttons of this girl,

Taking her down into another world

10 That shapes and morphs,

It shrinks and dwarfs that

Alice at Wonderland!

Out of range, out of touch, no wireless band.

Alice at Wonderland!

15 Signals all busy, leaves her in a tizzy.

Too dizzy to understand!

Alice at Wonderland!

Way beyond anything that she had planned.

Alice at Wonderland!

20 Meeting creatures and characters bizarre!

With clocks madly spinning,

Cats slyly grinning.

No GPS says where you are.

Eggs getting cracked,

25 And subjects getting hacked.

In fact, even the doors react to

Alice at Wonderland!

No dot net, no dot org and no dot com.

Just Alice at Wonderland!

30 Faking her way, while acting with aplomb,

She takes the stand.

She is Alice at Wonderland! (*ENSEMBLE EXITS. MUSIC OUT.*)

End of Prologue

ACT ONE

Scene One—Alice on the Bank

LIGHTS UP on ALICE speaking on her cell phone.

35 **ALICE:** (*Giddy.*) It... has... everything! Blazing speed, unlimited text and talk! (*Beat.*) Well, sure it has apps. What's the use of a smart phone without apps?

- 1 **WHITE RABBIT:** *(ENTERS and passes by in a frenzy.)* Oh, dear! Oh, dear! I shall be late!
- ALICE:** Ugh, hold on a sec. *(To WHITE RABBIT, snarky.)* Hey, can you pipe down? I'm on the phone—thanks.
- 5 **WHITE RABBIT:** I'm late! I'm late!
- ALICE:** Seriously? Take it down a notch. *(WHITE RABBIT rushes OFF. ALICE returns to her phone.)* Hey, you still there? Great. Now, my phone's dead. Thanks a lot, rabbit! *(Sighs and puts her phone away.)*
- 10 **WHITE RABBIT:** *(ENTERS again, darting about. He pauses, checks his pocket watch, demurs.)* Oh, dear! Oh, dear! *(Travels about the stage in a tizzy.)*
- ALICE:** *(Follows him.)* Hey, bunny! Do you know where I can recharge my phone?
- 15 **WHITE RABBIT:** Oh, my ears and whiskers! How late it's getting!
- ALICE:** Is there a café close by? Somewhere I could plug it in? What's your rush, rabbit? *(MUSIC CUE 1a: "The Storm." The weather becomes ominous. CHORUS ENTERS dressed in black to represent the storm. Speaks.)* Lost in the woods—no phone, no GPS. This
- 20 like rain. Oh, what an ugly storm! *(CHORUS grumbles at the insult as ALICE slogs through the storm, chasing after WHITE RABBIT. Speaks.)* Hey, bunny! I'm talking to you! Why don't you slow down?!
- (At last, CHORUS shifts into a semi-circle formation, creating a rabbit hole, which WHITE RABBIT crosses into and briskly scampers OFF, out of sight. ALICE stands before the rabbit hole, contemplating. Speaks.)* What's this?
- 25 **CHORUS:** *(Speaks.)* What's it look like?
- ALICE:** *(Speaks.)* A rabbit hole...
- 30 **CHORUS:** *(Muttering various ad libs.)* Whiz kid. Genius. A real Isaac Newton.
- ALICE:** *(Speaks.)* Is it safe?
- CHORUS:** *(Speaks.)* Safe enough.
- ALICE:** *(Speaks.)* I should Google it.
- 35 **CHORUS:** *(Speaks.)* No time! *(CHORUS grabs ALICE and pulls her into the hole. They lift her up, spin her about, then place her on her feet. [If this is not possible, CHORUS can twirl ALICE to and fro.] CHORUS then splinters off and spaces out, as ALICE is propelled around the stage. She is in free fall, bouncing and ricocheting off one actor and*
- 40 *toward another, like a pinball.)*
- ALICE:** *(Speaks.)* I seem to be falling...

- 1 **CHORUS:** (*Begins to softly chant.*) Down, down.
ALICE: (*Speaks.*) In fact, I'm sure I'm falling...
CHORUS: (*Softly chants.*) Down, down.
ALICE: (*Speaks.*) There seems to be no end! (*Shouts.*) Echo!
- 5 **CHORUS:** (*Shouts.*) Echo... echo... echo... echo... echo...
echo... echo...
ALICE: (*Shouts.*) Alice!
CHORUS: (*Shouts.*) Alice... Alice... Alice... Alice... Alice...
Alice... Alice...
- 10 **ALICE:** (*Speaks.*) I must be getting somewhere near the center! That's like 4,000 miles down! I wonder if I'll fall right through the earth! Then, I'd be really far from home, and I bet the reception is awful down here. (*Checks her phone.*) What luck! No power and no service! Ugh! Verizon is the worst!
- 15 **CHORUS:** (*Chants.*) Down, down! Down, down!
ALICE: (*Speaks.*) I'm still falling.
CHORUS: (*Chants.*) Down, down! Down, down!
ALICE: (*Speaks.*) When will it end?
CHORUS: (*Chants.*) Down, down! Down, down!
- 20 **ALICE:** (*Excited.*) I see the bottom.
CHORUS: (*Chants.*) Down, down! Down, down! Down, down! (*Abruptly, turns out to AUDIENCE and proclaims in full-voice.*) Thump! Thump! (*MUSIC OUT.*)
ALICE: (*Drops to her knees, awake and alert. Stillness at last.*) Where am I? Where have I landed? Is this New Zealand? Or Australia?
- 25 **CHORUS:** (*Announces to AUDIENCE.*) The hall of strange doors.

End of Scene One

ACT ONE

Scene Two—The Hall of Strange Doors

DOORS ONE, TWO and THREE leave the CHORUS and transform into doors, becoming rigid and standing in a row. Each pulls out a doorknob and holds it in their right hand.

- 30 **ALICE:** Achoo!
DOORS: Bless you.
ALICE: Achoo! Achoo!
DOORS: Bless you. Bless you.
ALICE: Thanks. Hey, doors aren't supposed to talk.
- 35 **DOOR ONE:** And young girls...
DOOR TWO: ...aren't supposed to sneeze...

1 **DOOR THREE:** ...without covering their yappers.

ALICE: I must've caught cold in that ugly storm. Say, I wonder where you doors might lead. *(Tries to open each door, but the knobs won't budge. After each attempt, the DOORS, in their distinct voices, announce the word "Locked.")* Then, how am I supposed to get out of here? *(DOORS shrug and mumble uncertainties, as a key on a string is lowered from above. [See PRODUCTION NOTES.])* Where did this come from? Maybe this key will open one of you... *(Starts to reach for the key, but stops when DOORS start talking.)*

10 **DOOR ONE:** Not me.

DOOR TWO: Not I.

DOOR THREE: Not us.

ALICE: Well, then, I'll just have to break one of you down. *(DOORS are appalled and frightened at the prospect.)*

15 **DOOR ONE:** Awful girl!

DOOR TWO: That would hurt!

DOOR THREE: How unladylike!

ALICE: Which one of you shall it be? *(DOORS begin pleading their cases all at once.)*

20 **DOOR ONE:** He's best.

DOOR TWO: No, she's best.

DOOR THREE: I'm really much too sturdy.

TINY DOOR: *(Leaves the CHORUS and lines up with the other doors, also with a doorknob. TINY DOOR should play this from the knees, making TINY DOOR as small as possible. In a pitiable squeal.)* What about me?

25

ALICE: *(Sees that a fourth door has appeared.)* What about you?

TINY DOOR: It's my secrets that the key unlocks.

DOORS: *(Sigh with relief. Ad lib.)* Thank heavens! That was close! This girl's cray-cray! *(Etc.)*

30 **ALICE:** But you're such a tiny door... What secrets could you have?

TINY DOOR: Secrets of the other side.

ALICE: What will I find there?

TINY DOOR: A most magnificent garden, full of white roses and tiger lilies. It's called Wonderland. *(MUSIC CUE 1b: DANCE PARTY MUSIC. EVERYONE dances wildly. [NOTE: Throughout the play, whenever the word "Wonderland" is uttered, this party music blares and EVERYONE onstage dances wild and furious. This lasts a few seconds, then the music cuts abruptly and the actors go right on with the scene.] MUSIC OUT.)*

40

1 **ALICE:** What just happened?
TINY DOOR: What do you mean?
ALICE: Everyone started carrying on for no reason.
TINY DOOR: I didn't notice.

5 **ALICE:** You didn't notice the music and dancing?
TINY DOOR: Oh, that. By decree of the queen—
ALICE: By decree of the queen?!

QUEEN OF HEARTS: (*APPEARS in her own SPOTLIGHT.*) By decree of the Queen—that is, by decree of me—whenever a particular word is mentioned, there shall be music and dancing! Anyone who fails to obey this decree, who fails, at the utterance of the word, to heed the music and dance like a raving loon—it's off with your head! (*SPOTLIGHT OUT.*)

10 **ALICE:** That's some stiff talk.

15 **TINY DOOR:** You'll be stiff if you don't obey it.
ALICE: What's the word?
TINY DOOR: I'd rather not say.
ALICE: But you must have just said it.
TINY DOOR: Shrewdly observed.

20 **ALICE:** Is it roses or lilies?
TINY DOOR: Apparently not.
ALICE: What about white or tiger?
TINY DOOR: If it were, I'd be dancing, wouldn't I?
ALICE: Then, the word must be... Wonderland? (*MUSIC CUE 1c: "Dance Party Music." Everyone dances. MUSIC OUT.*)

25 **TINY DOOR:** So now you know.
ALICE: One word has all that power.
TINY DOOR: Please don't say it again. My knees are killing me.
ALICE: Describe what Wonder—er... that place is like. (*MUSIC CUE 2: "It's A Wonderful Place."*)

30 **TINY DOOR:** (*Speaks.*) It's a land of nonsense and make-believe, of danger, beauty and imagination.
(*Sings.*) It's a wonderful place
In a wonderful world.

35 If you walk through my door,
You'll see puzzlement unfurled.
We've got felines who grin,
Caterpillars who smoke,
And an egg who knows every word

40 That one has ever spoke.

- 1 **TINY DOOR/CHORUS:** *(Sing.)*
We've got flowers who talk
As they bicker and brag.
We've a frog and a fish
5 Who both hawk the daily rag.
With a hatter and hare
Both as mad as can be.
Step inside to a place beyond
What you will ever see.
- 10 Though we are confusing,
We're amusing nonetheless.
Choosing what is certain with a guess.
We quite like to befuddle
As you muddle through our mess.
15 Discombobulation's our success!
It's a wonderful place
Full of wonderful twists.
It's a paradise of paradox
For psychoanalysts.
- 20 Lots of riddle and rhyme
And a flummox of time.
Be our guest. Let our fantasies
Be your new paradigm. *(The following stanzas are sung as a duet between TINY DOOR with CHORUS ONE and CHORUS TWO.)*
- 25 **TINY DOOR/CHORUS ONE:** *(Sings.)* One big conundrum
Reigning in the kingdom.
CHORUS TWO: *(Sings.)*
It's a conundrum with one Tweedledee and Tweedledum.
Numbers don't quite add up to their sum.
- 30 **TINY DOOR/CHORUS ONE:** *(Sings.)* Tweedledee and Dum.
What a sum.
CHORUS TWO: *(Sings.)*
Dreams are never what they seem and less what they become.
So come and join in our delirium!
- 35 **TINY DOOR/CHORUS ONE:** *(Sings.)* Nevertheless,
Meaning's anyone's guess.
CHORUS TWO: *(Sings.)* Though we are confusing,
We're amusing nonetheless,
Choosing what is certain with a guess.
- 40 **TINY DOOR/CHORUS ONE:** *(Sings.)* Muddling through our mess
Is success.

- 1 **CHORUS TWO:** *(Sings.)*
We love to befuddle as you muddle through our mess.
Discombobulation's our success!
- ALL:** *(Sing.)* More or less!
- 5 **TINY DOOR:** *(Speaks.)* May your presence grace this wonderful place!
- ALICE:** *(Speaks.)* Thank you, I'm delighted to be here... I think. Does Wonderland have a place where I can charge my phone?
- TINY DOOR:** *(Speaks.)* I think it has a Starbucks now, yes. *(MUSIC OUT.)*
- ALICE:** Perfect. But how will I fit? I'm too big to go through your
10 frame. *(Another string is lowered from above. This one has a small bottle tied to the end and includes a note with the words DRINK ME in large letters. ALICE takes the bottle and note.)* What's this?
"Drink me."
- DOOR ONE:** May be poison.
- 15 **DOOR TWO:** Could be poison.
- DOOR THREE:** Probably poison.
- ALICE:** It isn't marked poison.
- TINY DOOR:** If it was marked poison, no one would drink it.
- ALICE:** Well, that would be the point, you see?
- 20 **TINY DOOR:** There's only one way to be sure. Down the hatch!
- ALICE:** Here goes... *(Drinks from the bottle.)* There now. Tastes like Skittles!
- DOOR ONE:** Oh, I can't bear to watch.
- ALICE:** Relax. Nothing's happening.
- 25 **DOOR TWO:** *(Astounded.)* What do you mean nothing's happening?
You're... you're...
- ALICE:** I'm what?
- DOOR THREE:** Vanishing!
- ALICE:** My hands—they're shrinking! And my feet—the size of dimes!
30 And my voice, too—it's... *(High-pitched.)* I sound like a Christmas elf! What a curious feeling!
- DOOR ONE:** This isn't pretty.
- DOOR TWO:** Shut up like a telescope.
- DOOR THREE:** Hardly a foot tall.
- 35 **ALICE:** What'll I do now?!
- TINY DOOR:** Look on the bright side.
- ALICE:** What bright side? I'm ten inches high!
- TINY DOOR:** Now, you're the right size to go through me and enter the lovely garden.

1 **ALICE:** Yes! That's right! I am!
TINY DOOR: But you'll need the key.
ALICE: The key... *(Turns for the key, but it has been raised, dangling just out of her reach.)* No, no, don't tell me! *(Jumps for it, but is*
5 *unable to grasp it.)* Now, I'm too small to reach the key!
DOOR ONE: That's a pity.
DOOR TWO: A crying shame.
DOOR THREE: One should plan ahead before shrinking.
ALICE: I could just cry!

10 **TINY DOOR:** Now, now, no use for that. Something will turn up.
ALICE: Like what? *(A string is lowered with a small box tied to the end. The box is marked with the words EAT ME.)* What's this?
DOOR ONE: A balanced meal.
DOOR TWO: I bet it's a pizza roll.

15 **DOOR THREE:** Or a hushpuppy.
ALICE: *(Opens the box and removes a crumb of cake.)* It's cake. Should I eat it?
TINY DOOR: That's what it says.
ALICE: The food here is very bossy.

20 **TINY DOOR:** Don't complain. There are starving children in the world.
ALICE: I'll eat it. If it makes me larger, I can reach the key. If it makes me smaller, I'll creep under the door. Either way I'll get into the garden. *(DOORS mutter their approval at her reasoning.)* Let's hope it's gluten-free. *(MUSIC CUE 2a: "Alice's Transformation." Eats the cake. Waits. Speaks.)* Which way? Which way? It seems I'm
25 remaining the same size.
TINY DOOR: *(Speaks.)* This is what generally happens when one eats cake.
DOOR ONE: *(Speaks.)* Wait a moment!

30 **DOOR TWO:** *(Speaks.)* Her face is fattening!
DOOR THREE: *(Speaks.)* Her thighs are bulging!
ALICE: *(Speaks.)* Curiouser and curiouser!
TINY DOOR: *(Speaks.)* By George, she's swelling!

35 **ALICE:** *(Speaks.)* Oh dear! I'm growing so tall! My toes—they're moving so far from my fingers! I'll never touch them again! And my voice—it's... *(Deep-voiced.)* I sound like my father! Oh, what an awful way for a girl to go through life! Ten feet tall and the voice of a longshoreman! *(MUSIC OUT.)* I'll never get through the door now, and I can just forget about prom!

- 1 **WHITE RABBIT:** (*ENTERS, ever in a scurry.*) Oh, the Duchess! Won't she be savage if I've kept her waiting!
- ALICE:** You again! (*WHITE RABBIT sees "giant" ALICE and screams girlishly and rushes OFF.*) Rabbit, wait! (*He's gone.*) What a weird
- 5 little bunny! Things are too strange here. From one moment to the next, you can never be sure—
- DOOR ONE:** Who you are.
- DOOR TWO:** Where you're going.
- DOOR THREE:** How you'll get there.
- 10 **TINY DOOR:** Or who you'll meet along the way.
- ALICE:** (*Notices that TINY DOOR has now stood up and is a normal size, as is she now. Back to normal voice.*) How did you do that?
- TINY DOOR:** Do what exactly?
- ALICE:** We're suddenly the same size. You've grown.
- 15 **TINY DOOR:** Or maybe you've shrunk.
- ALICE:** But you used to be tiny.
- TINY DOOR:** And you were once a giant.
- ALICE:** But now we're both normal.
- TINY DOOR:** There's no such thing as normal, my dear. Not in your
- 20 world, nor in mine. It's all about where you're standing, and how closely you're paying attention. The key, if you please? (*ALICE takes the key, which she can now reach. She hands it to TINY DOOR, who "opens" to let ALICE through.*) You may pass. (*The DOORS become sentimental with their goodbyes.*)
- 25 **DOOR ONE:** Bye, young lady.
- DOOR TWO:** Thanks for not breaking us down.
- DOOR THREE:** Don't forget to write.
- DOOR ONE:** We love you.
- DOOR TWO:** We don't love her.
- 30 **DOOR THREE:** We've known her five minutes.
- DOOR ONE:** Sorry.
- DOOR TWO:** You always gush.
- DOOR THREE:** So embarrassing.
- TINY DOOR:** Forgive them. They haven't been opened in centuries.
- 35 **ALICE:** I guess I'm off, then. To this place—what is it you call it? Wonderland? (*MUSIC CUE 2b: "Dance Party Music." EVERYONE dances. CHORUS and DOORS take this opportunity to dance OFF, leaving ALICE alone in Wonderland. At MUSIC OUT, CATERPILLAR APPEARS smoking a hookah. [See PRODUCTION NOTES.]*)

End of Scene Two

ACT ONE

Scene Three—Encounter with a Caterpillar

- 1 ALICE halts abruptly when she notices CATERPILLAR.
CATERPILLAR: Who are you?
ALICE: I was told there'd be a garden.
CATERPILLAR: A garden?
- 5 **ALICE:** And a Starbucks.
CATERPILLAR: Explain yourself!
ALICE: A caterpillar smoking a hookah. What a status update you would make!
CATERPILLAR: I said explain yourself!
- 10 **ALICE:** I've been so many sizes today, I wouldn't know where to begin. You really shouldn't smoke, you know.
CATERPILLAR: It soothes me.
ALICE: Studies show that smoking actually causes more stress than it relieves.
- 15 **CATERPILLAR:** Are you a doctor?
ALICE: I read about it online.
CATERPILLAR: Then spare me.
ALICE: But you're not even out of the larvae stage. You're still a teenager like me.
- 20 **CATERPILLAR:** Waiting to become a butterfly.
ALICE: Smoking can stunt your growth.
CATERPILLAR: Then, I suppose I'll remain a caterpillar forever.
ALICE: That's too bad. Everyone should grow up at some point.
CATERPILLAR: And how do you plan to grow up? Into a butterfly?
- 25 **ALICE:** Well, being a girl, I'll soon grow into a woman.
CATERPILLAR: Does a woman have wings?
ALICE: No, a woman looks very much like I do, except more developed in places.
CATERPILLAR: Please, there are things a caterpillar doesn't need
- 30 to know.
ALICE: Sorry. TMI.
CATERPILLAR: TMI?
ALICE: Too much information.
CATERPILLAR: Why not simply say, "too much information"?
- 35 **ALICE:** It's an abbreviation.
CATERPILLAR: You've wasted my time. A caterpillar's life isn't long.
(MUSIC CUE 3: "Too Much Information")

- 1 **ALICE:** (*Speaks.*) Abbreviations are meant to save time.
CATERPILLAR: (*Speaks.*) But if you have to explain them, they're more
trouble than they're worth.
- ALICE:** (*Sings.*) Too much information,
5 Creates a situation
And a nervous anticipation
So we say "T-M-I."
- CATERPILLAR:** (*Speaks.*) "T-M-I?"
ALICE: (*Speaks.*) "T-M-I."
- 10 **CATERPILLAR:** (*Sings.*) Too much information,
When you don't need clarification
And want to get back to relaxation
So you say "T-M-I."
- ALICE:** (*Speaks.*) That's right. Check it out...
15 (*Raps.*) Abbreviations save you time
When you're countin' letters and they're on your dime.
Texting, tweeting, every kinda greeting
Short and snappy, it's an uphill climb.
So, A-P-P means application.
- 20 G-A-S, greetings and salutations.
CATERPILLAR: (*Raps.*) A shorthand for communication.
ALICE/CATERPILLAR: (*Rap.*)
And sometimes they're even fun to rhyme!
(*Sing.*) Too much information
- 25 **ALICE:** (*Sings.*) We trim down explanation.
CATERPILLAR: (*Sings.*) And you save all the consternation.
ALICE/CATERPILLAR: (*Sing.*) When we say "T-M-I."
CATERPILLAR: (*Speaks.*) Hmm, interesting.
ALICE: (*Raps.*) We're just cutting to the chase.
- 30 **CATERPILLAR:** (*Raps.*)
I see. Take a bunch of letters that you just erase
ALICE: (*Raps.*) Acronyms and cryptic symbols,
Saving keystrokes 'n' saving space.
S-K-8-R, that means skater.
- 35 **CATERPILLAR:** (*Raps.*) And C-U-L-A, see you later, alligator.
ALICE: (*Surprised that he's picking it up so quickly. Raps.*) Check out
the new communicator.
ALICE/CATERPILLAR: (*Rap.*) In the race, you gotta keep the pace!
(*Sing.*) Too much information,
- 40 **CATERPILLAR:** (*Sings.*) L-N-T, lost in translation.

- 1 **ALICE:** (*Sings.*) G-R-A-T-Z, congratulations.
ALICE/CATERPILLAR: (*Sing.*) And we say “T-M-I.”
Too much information.
ALICE: (*Sings.*) Q-S-O, our conversation.
- 5 **CATERPILLAR:** (*Sings.*) T-F-T-I, thanks for the invitation.
ALICE/CATERPILLAR: (*Sing.*) Gotta say “T-M-I.”
That is why we simplify
To “T-M-I!” (*MUSIC OUT.*)
- ALICE:** I think we should agree to disagree.
- 10 **CATERPILLAR:** I think we should agree that I’m right and you’re wrong.
ALICE: It’s probably best that I get going.
CATERPILLAR: I don’t like you.
ALICE: I don’t particularly like you.
CATERPILLAR: You’re being snippy now.
- 15 **ALICE:** Can you point me toward the garden?
CATERPILLAR: If I knew where the garden was, I would have eaten it
by now. (*FROG-NEWSIE and FISH-NEWSIE ENTER peddling dueling
newspapers, as the CATERPILLAR moves OFF.*)

End of Scene Three

ACT ONE

Scene Four—Read All About It!

- FROG-NEWSIE:** Read all about it!
- 20 **FISH-NEWSIE:** Hot off the presses!
FROG-NEWSIE: Queen to play croquet!
FISH-NEWSIE: Queen invites Duchess for game of croquet!
FROG-NEWSIE: Get your Daily Toad!
FISH-NEWSIE: Get your Trout Tribune!
- 25 **FROG-NEWSIE:** Extra! Extra!
FISH-NEWSIE: Breaking news!
FROG-NEWSIE: Croquet today!
FISH-NEWSIE: In the garden!
FROG-NEWSIE: Details inside!
- 30 **FISH-NEWSIE:** Extra! Extra!
ALICE: In the garden! I’ll take one of those!
FROG-NEWSIE: One of which, kitten face?
FISH-NEWSIE: Clearly, she wants a Trout Tribune.
FROG-NEWSIE: I think she’d prefer a Daily Toad.



- 1 **FISH-NEWSIE:** Would you rather have a paper that gives you the news,
or one that gives you warts?
FROG-NEWSIE: For the last time, frogs don't cause warts!
FISH-NEWSIE: Which'll it be, sweetkins?
- 5 **ALICE:** Well, what's the difference between the two papers?
FROG-NEWSIE: One's written by a frog.
FISH-NEWSIE: The other's written by a fish.
ALICE: Those aren't really selling points.
FROG-NEWSIE: What're you trying to say?
- 10 **FISH-NEWSIE:** You being a bigmouth?
ALICE: Tell you what—just give me one of each.
FROG-NEWSIE: Hey, hey, you got it! That'll be two flies.
ALICE: Two flies?
FROG-NEWSIE: Costs two flies a copy.
- 15 **ALICE:** But I don't have two flies. (To *FISH-NEWSIE*.) How much for
yours?
FISH-NEWSIE: Two worms, but I'll come down to a worm and a half.
FROG-NEWSIE: I'll match his price.
ALICE: I'm afraid I don't have any flies or any worms.
- 20 **FROG-NEWSIE:** What do you got?
ALICE: I'm afraid I've nothing to offer you.
FROG-NEWSIE: So long, popsicle. You're out of luck.
FISH-NEWSIE: See you later, bright eyes.
ALICE: Wait. The garden where the queen's croquet match is to
25 take place, I must find it. It's one of the reasons I've come to
Wonderland. (*MUSIC CUE 3a: "Dance Party Music." EVERYONE
dances. MUSIC OUT.*)
FROG-NEWSIE: Quickest way is through the woods there.
FISH-NEWSIE: Straight shot.
- 30 **FROG-NEWSIE:** But be careful...
FISH-NEWSIE: There are some strange characters in those woods.
ALICE: Stranger than a frog and fish selling newspapers?
FROG-NEWSIE: Yup. (*They start to leave, their voices trailing off.*)
FISH-NEWSIE: Read all about it!
- 35 **FROG-NEWSIE:** Hot off the presses!
FISH-NEWSIE: Get your Trout Tribune!
FROG-NEWSIE: Get your Daily Toad!
FROG-NEWSIE/FISH-NEWSIE: Queen to play croquet! (*They're OUT.*)

- 1 **ALICE:** Print is so dead. Hey, wait, come back! Which way through the woods? (*Begins to chase after them but is run over head-on by WHITE RABBIT, who ENTERS in high gear, as always.*) Crazy rabbit!
- WHITE RABBIT:** I'm late! I'm late!
- 5 **ALICE:** That's no reason to run me over!
- WHITE RABBIT:** The queen's to play croquet! She's to play croquet!
- ALICE:** I know already. Chill. Aren't you going to help me up?
- WHITE RABBIT:** (*Checks his pocket watch.*) No time! No time!
- ALICE:** Then, at least let me follow you to the garden.
- 10 **WHITE RABBIT:** You wouldn't be able to keep up. I'm terribly tardy as it is!
- ALICE:** You know, maybe you should take Xanax. My mom says—
- WHITE RABBIT:** No time for pharmaceuticals! I'm off! I'm off! I'm off to the queen's croquet! (*Races AWAY.*)
- 15 **ALICE:** Hang on a sec! Rabbit! (*Thinks about running after him, but he is too fast. She walks ahead. As she does, trees and shrubs are brought ON, transforming the stage into the woods.*)

End of Scene Four

ACT ONE

Scene Five—The Cheshire Cat

- Within these woods, CHESHIRE CAT APPEARS, grinning widely at ALICE. CHESHIRE CAT should be played by two actors, costumed identically.
- 20 When one appears, the other disappears behind strategically placed trees and shrubs—two actors as one cat. This will help capture the elusive, vanishing quality of the cat. As the CHESHIRE CAT should be continuously disappearing and reappearing elsewhere, the lines should be divided up between the two CAT actors based on how the
- 25 scene is staged.
- ALICE:** (*To herself.*) Now what? A cat? (*To CHESHIRE CAT.*) Here, puss, puss. What are you doing out in these woods?
- CHESHIRE CAT:** I should ask you the same thing.
- ALICE:** Oh, you can speak.
- 30 **CHESHIRE CAT:** This is news to you?
- ALICE:** My cat Dinah, she can't speak.
- CHESHIRE CAT:** I'll wager that she can, but chooses not to.
- ALICE:** Oh, she tries, but whenever she opens her mouth, all that comes out is—
- 35 **CHESHIRE CAT:** Meow?
- ALICE:** Yes!

- 1 **CHESHIRE CAT:** Oldest trick in the book. It's not that she doesn't talk.
It's that she doesn't talk to you.
- ALICE:** That's a very cruel thing to assume.
- CHESHIRE CAT:** I assume nothing.
- 5 **ALICE:** Can you tell me which way I ought to go from here?
- CHESHIRE CAT:** That depends a good deal on where you want to get to.
- ALICE:** At this point, I don't much care where—
- CHESHIRE CAT:** Then, it doesn't matter which way you go.
- 10 **ALICE:** —so long as I get somewhere.
- CHESHIRE CAT:** Oh, you're sure to do that if you only walk enough.
In that direction lives a Hatter, and in that direction lives a March Hare. Over there is the house of Tweedledum and Tweedledee, and along that way you 'll find Humpty-Dumpty on his wall. Visit any you like. They're all mad.
- 15 **ALICE:** But I don't want to go among mad people.
- CHESHIRE CAT:** Oh, you can't help that. (*MUSIC CUE 4: "We're All Mad." KITTY KAT CHORUS ENTERS. Speaks.*) We're all mad here. I'm mad. My Kitty Kats are mad... You're mad.
- 20 **ALICE:** (*Speaks.*) How do you know I'm mad?
- CHESHIRE CAT:** (*Speaks.*) You must be, or you wouldn't have come here.
- | | |
|--|--|
| CHESHIRE CAT: (<i>Sings.</i>) | KITTY KAT CHORUS: (<i>Sings.</i>) |
| Well, have you heard the | Meow. |
| good news? | |
| 25 Could be it's really bad news. | |
| No news is good news 'less | Meow. |
| it's bad news | |
| Or the other way around. | |
| Our news is most astounding | Meow. |
| 30 And often quite dumbfounding. | |
| It makes a stray cat wanna | Meow. |
| just sing the blues. | |
| News full of contradictions. | Meow. |
| Headlines with bold predictions. | Meow. |
| 35 Always distorting their reporting | Meow. |
| With a purpose to confound. | Meow. |
| Though always disagreeing, | Meow. |
| One thing I'm guaranteeing, | Purr, purr! Meow. |
| There's one description that will | Scratch, scratch! Meow. |
| 40 Surely amuse. | Bite, bite! Meow. |
| | Meow, meow. |

1	We're all mad!	All mad!
	Every last one of us is	
	quite mad!	Quite mad!
	Don't assume for a minute	
5	you're immune.	
	We're all mad!	All mad!
	It's a fact, can't refuse it!	
	Jabbering, jibbering mad!	Jabbering, jibbering mad!
	And we're just about to lose it	And we're just about to lose it!
10	Some news is idiotic	Meow.
	Absurd, a bit psychotic	Meow.
	Harebrained and silly, willy-nilly	Meow.
	It's how tightly we are wound.	Meow.
	Like watches, springs a-popping,	Meow.
15	We're hopping, never stopping.	Purr, purr! Meow.
	Like rabbits, frogs and cuddly	Scratch, scratch! Meow.
	Pink kangaroos.	Bite, bite! Meow.
		Meow, meow.
	We're all mad!	All mad!
20	Every last one of us is	
	quite mad!	Quite mad!
	Don't assume for a minute	
	you're immune.	
	We're all mad!	All mad!
25	It's a fact, can't refuse it!	
	Jabbering, jibbering mad!	Jabbering, jibbering mad!
	And we're all about to lose it!	And we're all about to lose it!
	Yes, we're all mad!	All mad!

CHESHIRE CAT/ KITTY KAT CHORUS: *(Sing.)*

30	Every last one of us is quite mad!
	Don't assume for a minute you're immune.
	We're all mad!
	It's a fact, can't refuse it!
	Jabbering, jibbering mad!
35	And we're all about to lose it!

KITTY KAT CHORUS: *(Spoken softly.)* Meow.

ALICE: *(Speaking.)* Can't you be still?

CHESHIRE CAT: *(Speaks.)* Be still?

KITTY KAT CHORUS: *(Sings.)* Meow.

40 **ALICE:** *(Speaks.)* You keep coming and going like bad Wi-Fi. It's very rude.

1 **CHESHIRE CAT:** (*Speaks.*) What can I say? I'm mad.
KITTY KAT CHORUS: (*Speaks.*) We're all mad. (*They giggle.*)
CHESHIRE CAT/KITTY KAT CHORUS: (*Sing.*) Meow. (*MUSIC OUT.*)
CHESHIRE CAT: Do you play croquet with the queen today?
5 **ALICE:** Oh, I'd like to very much! But I wasn't invited.
CHESHIRE CAT: Have you played before?
ALICE: Never. I hardly know the game at all.
CHESHIRE CAT: Well, you needn't an invitation, so long as you have
the proper equipment.
10 **ALICE:** A mallet and ball?
CHESHIRE CAT: A hedgehog and flamingo.
ALICE: I don't see what those have to do with croquet.
CHESHIRE CAT: How would you know if you haven't played?
ALICE: I'm getting a headache talking to you.
15 **CHESHIRE CAT:** Is it my purr?
ALICE: It's your grin.
CHESHIRE CAT: I'm of the opinion that more cats should grin. We'd
have a much rosier reputation.
ALICE: I somehow doubt that. (*MUSIC CUE 5: "Tea Time." [NOTE: This
20 cue continues into the following scene.]*)
CHESHIRE CAT: (*Speaks.*) Ah, the tea party's underway. I wonder if
they've saved me a seat. No matter if they haven't. I can never
stay. It's just nice to be thought of. I'll be on my way now, and I'll
be taking my grin with me! (*EXITS with KITTY KAT CHORUS. ALICE
25 watches the cats go as chairs and a table with settings for tea are
brought ON.*)

End of Scene Five

ACT ONE

Scene Six—A Mad Tea Party

MAD HATTER and MARCH HARE sit at one end of the table. DORMOUSE
sits between them and is half asleep.
MAD HATTER: (*Sings.*) Tea time!
30 **MARCH HARE:** (*Sings.*) Tea time!
DORMOUSE: (*Sings.*) Tea time!
MARCH HARE/DORMOUSE/MAD HATTER: (*Sing.*)
Sippin' a hot cup of tea.
We're civilized as can be.
35 Pinky salutes, dressed in our best suits
As we lift up our cups daintily.

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