

THE ADVENTURES OF ALICE IN WONDERLAND

By Gayann Truelove and Tammy Jane Barton

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SYNOPSIS: A whimsical romp down the rabbit hole! Join Alice as she discovers a magical land full of zany characters and lots of fun. Along the way, Alice meets the mysterious Cheshire Cat who is forever changing colors and the rhyming Caterpillar who loves to blow his bubble pipe and say strange things. She goes to a very MAD un-birthday party with the outrageous Mad Hatter and befriends a paranoid Egg along her journey to find the illusive White Rabbit. Wonderland is run by the hilarious Queen and King of Hearts who challenge Alice to an unusual game of croquet with two blind moles, Maude and Marty. Throw in ten dancing cards and a pair of bumbling brothers and it's no wonder why Wonderland is so wondrous.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(FLEXIBLE CAST OF 23: 4 WOMEN, 3 MEN, 16 EITHER GENDER)

- ALICE (F)**.....A girl who dreams of a wondrous place that she visits in her sleep. *(71 lines)*
- DINAH (F)**.....ALICE's fluffy white kitten. *(18 lines)*
- WHITE RABBIT (M or F)**.....A furry white rabbit who is always in a hurry. *(11 lines)*
- CHESHIRE CAT (M or F)**.....A mysterious cat who is part of the wonder or Wonderland. *(12 lines)*
- HUMPTY DUMPTY (M or F)**.....A nervous, jittery egg. *(12 lines)*
- ROYAL CARDS (M and F)**.....A group of cards who work for the QUEEN OF HEARTS. (Ace of Hearts through 10 of hearts.)
- CATERPILLAR (M or F)**.....A groovy worm who speaks in rhyme. *(15 lines)*
- MARTY (M)**.....A blind mole who is married to Maude. *(20 lines)*
- MAUDE (F)**.....An elderly mole with thick glasses and is married to Marty. *(19 lines)*
- MAD HATTER (M)**.....A crazy little man who LOVES to party! *(12 lines)*
- QUEEN OF HEARTS (F)**.....The ultimate ruler of Wonderland. She says JUMP, everyone does! Loves red roses. *(34 lines)*

KING OF HEARTS (M).....A short fella who loves his Queen, but is under her command, for sure! What the Queen says, GOES! (22 lines)

TWEEDLE DEE (M or F).....DUM's twin. The twins argue over everything, and they love to entertain. (31 lines)

TWEEDLE DUM (M or F)DEE's twin. (30 lines)

DANCE NUMBER MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

NOTE: MUSIC GENRE AT THE DIRECTOR'S DISCRETION

- **Royal Cards Dance:** A march.
- **Mad Hatter's Tea Party/Celebration Dance:** Music with a driving beat and fast tempo.
- **Croquet Game:** Slow and methodical. Perhaps something similar to the theme from Chariots of Fire.
- **Tweedle Dee and Dum's Funny Dance:** Something funny, upbeat, circus-like.
- **Final Dream Dance:** Light and whimsical music with mysterious undertones.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

EPILOGUE

ACT ONE, SCENE 1: WONDERLAND FOREST

ACT ONE, SCENE 2: WONDERLAND FOREST

ACT ONE, SCENE 3: THE CASTLE GARDEN

ACT TWO, SCENE 1: BACK IN WONDERLAND FOREST

EPILOGUE

ON APRON:

Alice and Dinah come onstage and walk to center. Alice is carrying a large book.

ALICE: Honestly, Dinah, this book is so boring. It's all about the earth. It says here that the earth is round. Now, why would anyone have to write about that? Even a cat like you knows that the earth is round.

DINAH: Meow. *(Shakes head as if to say yes.)*

ALICE: Now, if I were to write a book it would be quite different. I would only write about things people don't know. Like, what does it look like inside of a rabbit hole? Or, why do roses have red petals and green stems. Or, who was the man who thought up parties. Now wouldn't that be much more interesting?

DINAH: Meow. *(Shakes head as if to say yes.)*

ALICE: *(Yawning.)* I've had enough of this boring book for one day. I think I'll take a little nap. *(She lies down. Dinah curls up next to her.)*

White Rabbit enters from right. He is dressed in a vest and carries a very large pocket watch. He checks it often.

WHITE RABBIT: *(Speaking to himself.)* I'm late! I'm late! Why am I always late? *(Notices Alice and Dinah.)* What have we here? Looks like someone might be as late as me if she doesn't wake up soon. I have no time to wake her now. *(He goes to left and pulls out a big map.)* Let's see. I am sure I took the correct turn. *(Studies map.)* No! No, maybe not. *(While he's reading the map, Alice and Dinah wake up. They watch the rabbit with surprise.)* Maybe if I took a shortcut down the rabbit hole it would save some time. Yes! That is a good decision. The rabbit hole it is! *(He starts to fold up the map as Alice talks to Dinah.)*

ALICE: It's a White Rabbit. Where do you suppose he is off to in such a very big hurry?

DINAH: Meow. *(Shrugs shoulders as if to say, "I don't know." Rabbit exits left.)*

ALICE: Come on Dinah let's follow him. *(They run off after the rabbit.)*

Blackout. END OF EPILOGUE.

ACT ONE, SCENE 1
WONDERLAND FOREST

Curtain opens on Wonderland Forest. White Rabbit hurries across the stage, checking his large watch.

WHITE RABBIT: Late! Late! But sliding down the rabbit hole saved a few minutes. I might make it on time yet. *(Alice and Dinah enter from stage left.)*

ALICE: That was an adventure sliding down that rabbit hole.

DINAH: *(Clearly upset and rubbing backside.)* Meow! Meow!

ALICE: Now Dinah, you know it wasn't that bad. You landed on all four feet. Of course, cats always do.

DINAH: *(Rubbing up against Alice.)* Meow.

ALICE: Where do you suppose we are?

DINAH: Meow? *(I don't know.)*

ALICE: This certainly is a strange looking place. It's nothing like home. The colors are so bright. Do you suppose the White Rabbit lives here?

DINAH: Meow? *(Cheshire Cat with pink stripes appears.)*

CHESHIRE CAT: *(He is very mysterious.)* What have we here? You don't look like you belong! No! I'm quite certain I have never seen you before.

ALICE: *(To Cheshire Cat.)* My cat, Dinah, and I followed a White Rabbit down a very deep hole and you are what we found at the end.

CHESHIRE CAT: Is that so! I am the Cheshire Cat. I don't believe you should be here. In fact, I am quite certain you are out of place.

DINAH: I only wanted to follow the White Rabbit, to see where he was going. I meant no harm.

CHESHIRE CAT: I find following anyone a waste of time. Come to think of it—talking to *you* is a waste of my time. *(He quickly disappears off stage.)*

ALICE: My, people come and go quickly here. Come on, Dinah. I want to find that White Rabbit. *(They hurry off stage.)*

Ten cards, all heart suits, enter carrying pails and paint brushes. They dance a **Royal Cards Dance**. After dance, they begin to argue.

ACE: (To Three of Hearts.) I can't believe you planted the wrong roses!

CARD THREE: Always my fault!

CARD TWO: Well, I think the one who plants the flowers has to take the blame.

CARD FOUR: They're right, you did the planting.

CARD FIVE: Therefore you made the mistake.

CARD SIX: No doubt about that.

CARD THREE: All right, I admit I made a boo-boo. Now let's get busy and do the job right this time.

CARD SEVEN: Why does the Queen always insist on Red roses?

CARD EIGHT: You would think she would choose yellow once in a while.

CARD NINE: Or pink!

ACE: Yes, pink is close to red, only softer.

CARD TWO: It's not for us to question the Queen of Hearts.

CARD FOUR: She's always right. She's never wrong.

CARD FIVE: At least that's the way she sees it.

ACE: Come along! Those roses won't paint their-selves, you know.

Cards start to march off. Alice and Dinah enter.

ALICE: Those are some strange looking chaps. They seem to be in a hurry.

DINAH: (Agreeing.) Meow. (Cards notice Alice and Dinah. They stop.)

ACE: Who are you?

ALICE: My name's, Alice and this is my cat, Dinah.

CARD SIX: We don't like cats!

CARD SEVEN: They like to eat cards!

ALICE: Dinah would never do a thing like that. She is very well behaved.

CARD EIGHT: Nevertheless, we will keep a close eye on her. (Dinah and Card Eight lean together, nose to nose. Dinah moves quickly away and sides up to Alice.)

DINAH: Meow! (Annoyed.)

ALICE: What are you doing with that red paint?

CARD NINE: We're going to paint all the roses red.

ALICE: Why are you painting all the roses red?

CARD TWO: What other color would we paint them?

ALICE: There are lots of other colors. Yellow, pink...even lavender.

CARD THREE: The Queen of Hearts would never stand for it, I'm afraid.

ALICE: But roses of different colors make a much lovelier bouquet.

CARD FOUR: Don't let the Queen hear you talking that way.

CARD FIVE: She will cut off your ear.

ALICE: (*Stepping back and grabbing her ear.*) She wouldn't dare. I need both of them to hear properly.

CARD SIX: The Queen won't care about your hearing, my dear.

CARD SEVEN: She only cares about her red roses.

ACE: Well, we need to get to those roses.

CARD EIGHT: The Queen will have something *else* for us to do soon.

CARD NINE: The Queen always has something *else* for us to do.

(*They leave in a marching military fashion.*)

ALICE: They were odd. I'm beginning to think there are a lot of odd things around here.

DINAH: (*Agreeing.*) Meow.

Caterpillar enters while Alice is talking to cat. He blows on a large bubble pipe. He speaks slowly and in rhyme and very distinctly.

CATERPILLAR: A cute little face. An interesting case. A girl and a cat. What do you make of that?

ALICE: Oh my! Who are you?

CATERPILLAR: Who are you? In your dress of blue. I have been here all along. But you two don't belong.

ALICE: I'm just a little girl and I'm following a large white rabbit.

CATERPILLAR: Did he carry a time piece? Was his coat full of fleece? Was he in a big hurry? Was he soft and furry?

DINAH: Meow. (*Yes!*)

CATERPILLAR: Did he wear a vest of red? Was there ears of pink on his head? Did he run and never stop? Hardly had time to hop?

ALICE: (*Excitedly.*) Yes! That describes him to a tee.

CATERPILLAR: I've never seen the gentlemen!

ALICE: That's silly—you must have. You described him perfectly.

CATERPILLAR: You're the one who is silly. My little filly-dilly. I'm much too busy blowing my pipe. To get involved in your life.

ALICE: What kind of pipe is that?

CATERPILLAR: It is a bubble pipe. My little mite. Blows soap bubbles you see. *(Leaning down very close to Alice.)* And they all belong to me.

ALICE: Who would want your old soap bubbles? What good are they?

CATERPILLAR: You are a strange miss fit. You just don't get it. They ease my cares and woe. When my bubbles over flow.

ALICE: Well, I guess everyone has to like something.

DINAH: Meow! Meow! Meow *(She has been trying to catch bubbles throughout the conversation.)*

CATERPILLAR: That's right. Now I'm out of sight. I must refill my pipe. That's the story of my life. *(He leaves.)*

ALICE: Come on, Dinah. Let's see if we can find someone who makes some sense around here.

Alice and Dinah exit. END OF ACT ONE, SCENE 1. Curtain.

ACT ONE, SCENE 2

SAME LOCATION: A FEW SECONDS LATER

On Apron, a few trees are added to apron. Egg enters. He backs in slowly. He is a very nervous character...always afraid he will break.

EGG: *(Checking himself over.)* I know if I look close enough I will find a crack. Yes, I feel a slight draft coming up my leg— *(He checks leg.)*—well, that seems ok. I feel a slight tingle coming from my arm. *(He checks arm.)* OK, too! An egg must always be on his guard. One can never be too careful *(As he says the next lines, he makes certain motions as to describe the condition of each egg. Alice and Dinah enter and watch from afar.)* Some of my family has ended up scrambled! Some of them fried! My uncle was hard-boiled! I just want to remain a normal egg.

ALICE: Excuse me? Have you seen a large White Rabbit?

EGG: *(Startled.)* YIKES! No! I can't say that I have. *(At this point, two moles, Marty and Maude, enter. Both are quite blind, but Marty*

believes that he can see just fine and does not wear glasses but constantly runs into things, while Maude wears a pair of large lens glasses that keep slipping off her nose. They are an old Jewish couple with thick accents. They have been together for years.)

MAUDE: Come along, Marty! We will be late to the party!

MARTY: I'm coming dear! Are you sure this is the way? I thought the invitation said it was in the Forest Glen not here in Sunrise Valley. *(He runs into a tree.)*

MAUDE: This IS the Forest Glen, Marty! And you just ran into a tree! Why don't you wear your glasses like the doctor ordered?

MARTY: Because they make me look old. Besides, my eyesight is perfect! *(He talks to the tree, not Maude.)* Now, let's get moving. *(He moves right and runs into Egg, who is quite concerned with this collision.)*

EGG: Yikes! Please be careful.

MARTY: Oh, so sorry lady! I didn't see you standing there! Nice dress!

ALICE: *(To Maude.)* Hello, I'm Alice!

MAUDE: Hi! I am Maude and this here is my husband, Marty.

MARTY: We're moles! *(Looks at Alice very, very closely.)* What are you?

ALICE: I'm a little girl! I'm trying to find the White Rabbit. Have you seen him?

MAUDE: Marty hasn't seen anything in years! *(White Rabbit enters from right. He is in a hurry, as usual.)*

WHITE RABBIT: I'm late! I'm so late for my very important date. No time to say hello...so goodbye! I'm late. I'm late. I'm late. *(He hits Egg as he runs past him and sends him into a spin.)*

ALICE: Mister Rabbit, please wait. I have some very important questions to ask you.

WHITE RABBIT: Well, I would love to be of some assistance. But you see, I am very late for a very important un-birthday party with the Mad Hatter. I must go. *(White Rabbit starts out and bumps into Mad Hatter coming on stage.)*

MAD HATTER: *(Laughs.)* Silly Rabbit! You're not late! The party is right here.

WHITE RABBIT: It is? *(Turns to Alice.)* In that case, what is it you wanted again?

MARTY: *(Goes to Hatter. Looks very closely at him.)* Excuse me, Mr. White Rabbit! There is a little girl who has been looking for you. She is right over there. *(He points in opposite direction of Alice.)*

MAUDE: For goodness-sakes, Marty! That's not the White Rabbit. *(She pushes her glasses up onto her nose. Walks over to White Rabbit.)* This is the Rabbit!

MARTY: *(Looks Hatter right in the face. .)* Then who is this?

MAD HATTER: No time for questions now. We must CELEBRATE! *(Curtain opens to reveal the Mad Hatter Tea Party Scene. Hatter goes to Alice and swings her around.)* Happy un-birthday to you!!!

All enter the scene.

ALICE: *(To Maude.)* This is a very unusual place indeed. What is an un-birthday?

MAD HATTER: *(Laughs.)* Why my girl, everyone has but *one* birthday a year. But here in Wonderland we LOVE parties so much we celebrate "un-birthdays." That is, every day that is "not" your birthday is your un-birthday. *(Laughs.)* Isn't that great!

EGG: It's like this. Everyone has only one birthday a year but we all have 364 un-birthdays. The Mad Hatter enjoys parties so much he has decided to celebrate them instead.

MAD HATTER: If you think about it long enough it does make sense.

ALICE: *(Thinking.)* Yes! I guess you're right.

MAD HATTER: Now let's begin the party. *(All sit around table for party. Marty goes opposite direction and sits on bench away from others.)*

MARTY: I will just sit right here until the Hatter arrives. I don't want to start the party without the host. Would be rude!

ALL: He's right here, Marty! *(All point to Hatter! Maude goes over and moves Marty to table with others.)*

MAD HATTER: *(Going to each character.)* A little spot of tea for you. A crumpet and some cake that's blue. A party is so fun you see. It's fun for him, and you and me. I could party all day through. I could party every day, could you? Eat. Eat. Eat until your fat. Try some candy do you like that?

MAUDE: Yes, very much! Thank you. Such a gentleman!

MARTY: What a splendid party this is. *(He picks up cake, thinks it is tea pot and offers to wife.)* Can I pour you some more tea, dear?

ALICE: I do believe I like un-birthdays.

WHITE RABBIT: I never miss one of Mad Hatter's parties. They are the best in Wonderland.

They are all laughing and having a grand time. Mad Hatter takes a large sip of tea.

MAD HATTER: *(Yells out suddenly as he spits tea (water) all over group.)* DANCE!

ALL: What?

MARTY: *(Looks up into sky.)* Is it raining?

All: No!

MARTY: Really? I know I saw raindrops!

MAD HATTER: We must dance. What would a party be without DANCING?

ALICE: I suppose you're right. A dance would be such fun!

*They all get up and take their dance places as music begins. **Mad Tea Party Dance:** Use any lively music. Marty has a little trouble seeing and bumps into others from time to time throughout the dance. At end of the dance, all are tuckered out and fall to the floor in various places except the Mad Hatter who is still raring to go. He carries on with the many moves of the dance.*

ALICE: That was a spirited dance.

WHITE RABBIT: Yes, that was more tiring than the bunny hop

MAD HATTER: What's wrong with all of you? The party's just beginning. Get up! Get up! We still have to play pin the tail on the donkey, the clothespin drop, have balloon races and, of course, open presents!! *(He jumps around the room, trying to get people to stand and continue to dance.)*

EGG: You go ahead, Hatter. I think I'll just stay safely over here and rest. *(Egg moves away from group.)*

WHITE RABBIT: Oh my! I'm late for my next date. *(He gets up and hurries out.)*

MAUDE: Yes, dear. We need to go as well. What time was our next appointment again?

MARTY: *(Takes card out of pocket and holds it far away from his face, turns it over and over again trying to read it.)* Let me see! I believe it is at 3:00 sharp and is a pie-eating contest with the Earl of Strawberry... *(Looks again.)* No! It is a barbeque with the Prince of Pineapple...now let me be sure...I think it's a go-cart race with The Count of Corteze...no, I am certain it's a surfing lesson with the Duke of Kowabunga! *(Maude moves to Marty and pulls the card from his grasp.)*

MAUDE: Marty you really are blind as a bat. *(She looks at card.)* Oh, my! It's a croquet game with the Queen and King of Hearts and it starts... *(She scans the card and pushes her glasses back up on her nose. Terrified.)* NOW! *(Marty and Maude run off.)*

MAD HATTER: *(Looks around.)* Well! It seems that the party is definitely pooping out here! So I guess it's on to the next one. *(Curtain closes. Hatter starts out through the audience wishing everyone a happy un-birthday and shaking hands with everyone as he goes.)* Happy un-birthday to you! Happy un-birthday to you too! Happy un-birthday to ALL OF YOU!

He is out. END OF ACT ONE, SCENE 2. Blackout.

ACT ONE, SCENE 3 THE CASTLE GARDEN

The scene begins on the apron. We hear the Queen, King and all of the cards enter from the audience. Alice and Egg enter from left. The King and Queen carry mallets in order to play croquet made to look like flamingos.

QUEEN OF HEARTS: *(Pushing through the cards.)* Out of my way!!!
Out of my way!! Cards halt! *(Cards halt and stand at attention.)*
Did you finish painting my roses red?

ACE: Yes, your majesty!

CARD TWO: Just as you ordered

CARD THREE: They should almost be dry!

CARD FOUR: Only a few more moments and you can view them, your majesty.

QUEEN OF HEARTS: *(Demands!)* I want to see them NOW!

KING OF HEARTS: Now, don't get impatient my sugar-plumb. You know how the smell of wet paint makes you sneeze.

QUEEN OF HEARTS: *(To cards.)* Next time use quicker drying paint!

CARD FIVE: Card Three bought the paint, your majesty.

CARD THREE: And here we go again! Always my fault.

QUEEN OF HEARTS: *(Advancing on Card Three.)* You simple little piece of cardboard! Can't you do anything right?

KING OF HEARTS: Now, pookie! Card Three did *try* to do the right thing...let's give him some credit for effort.

QUEEN OF HEARTS: *(To King.)* Silence you, little man! When I want your opinion I will give it to you!

CARD SIX: *(Runs on stage announcing.)* The roses are ready for her majesty's inspection! *(All applaud. Queen gives them a mean look and they instantly return to attention.)*

QUEEN OF HEARTS: Let's not celebrate just yet. *(Commands.)* To the Royal Gardens. *(The curtain opens to reveal the Royal Gardens, covered in red roses. Alice and Egg enter and look on as Cards, Queen and King enter garden.)*

CARD SIX: Do they not look splendid, my Queen?

KING OF HEARTS: *(Excited.)* Oh, they do look lovely! Don't you think so, lovey?

QUEEN OF HEARTS: *(As she examines a few buds.)* Yes, they do seem to be acceptable! They compliment my Croquet Court nicely! *(Looking around.)* Where are my guests? The game **MUST** begin precisely at three o'clock! *(She sees the Egg and Alice.)* What is that egg doing on my Croquet Court?

KING OF HEARTS: *(Following Queen, close behind.)* Maybe someone mistook him for a ball, Snookers. After all, he is white and round.

QUEEN OF HEARTS: Yes! Come to think of it he would do nicely as a ball. Grab him, cards, we will use him in our play. *(Egg tries to escape, but is grabbed by two of the cards.)*

EGG: Oh, your majesty. I wouldn't make a very good ball. You know I am not perfectly round—in fact, I'm not round at all. I am an oval shape .

QUEEN OF HEARTS: Be quiet! You will do nicely. Just be sure you cooperate with the Queen. *(Maude and Marty enter...announcing their arrival.)*

- MARTY:** We have arrived, your majesties! So sorry for the late hour.
- MAUDE:** We were detained at the Mad Hatter's Tea Party.
- MARTY:** (*Goes to King.*) You are looking ravishing this afternoon your Majesty. (*He kisses King on his hand.*)
- MAUDE:** (*Curtsies and glasses fall off. She moves to Queen.*) And your highness...we are honored to be playing with the King on this fair day.
- QUEEN OF HEARTS:** Who invited these bumbling, blinded buffoons to my Royal Croquet game?
- KING OF HEARTS:** You did, my sweet. (*He takes her aside.*) You said, "What they can't see...they can't hit!"
- QUEEN OF HEARTS:** Yes, Yes! I am a genius, aren't I!
- KING OF HEARTS:** My precious Queen must ALWAYS win!
- ALICE:** Look, Dinah. That's the Queen of Hearts!
- DINAH:** Meow. (*Moving back behind Alice.*)
- ALICE:** She doesn't look too mean.
- ACE:** Be careful dear.
- CARD TWO:** She would take that as an insult.
- CARD THREE:** Yes, she likes to be mean.
- CARD FOUR:** It's her claim to fame.
- CARD FIVE:** Mean is her middle name.
- CARD SIX:** Mean, mean, mean!
- CARD SEVEN:** She lives to make others UN-happy!
- CARD EIGHT:** She makes US un-happy!
- CARD NINE:** Don't make her mad! You'll be sorry.
- CARD TEN:** Very sorry!
- Queen notices Alice and the Dinah.*
- QUEEN OF HEARTS:** Someone else is on my court! This is unacceptable—off with her ears.
- KING OF HEARTS:** Now, my dear. Perhaps we should talk to her first. She looks quite harmless, pumpkin.
- QUEEN OF HEARTS:** Very well. Bring her to me! (*Two cards bring Alice to Queen.*)
- ALICE:** (*Curtsies.*) Your majesty, my name is Alice. I was following a White Rabbit. I followed him down a rabbit hole and went to a tea party with him, but he keeps running away from me. But, I don't suppose you know where he is either.

QUEEN OF HEARTS: Nonsense! The queen knows everything!

KING OF HEARTS: My pussycat knows everything!

QUEEN OF HEARTS: The Queen knows all the answers.

KING OF HEARTS: Lovey knows all the answers.

QUEEN OF HEARTS: The Queen can solve any problem!

KING OF HEARTS: My sweetness can solve any problem.

QUEEN OF HEARTS: *(Turning to King.)* Will you keep quiet! I can speak for myself. *(She glares at the King.)* Well, aren't you going to say anything?

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