

ALICE

by

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Do you hear the call of the flowers?  
Remember when you'd play outside for hours?  
Dancing in the pouring rain  
Riding a Gryffon, clinging to his mane.

**ACT 1****SCENE 5: THE LOBSTER QUADRILLE**

*Alice emerges on stage fascinated by the beauty of Wonderland.*

**ALICE:** This place.  
So magnificent.  
Curious.  
Beautiful.  
Strange.

**FLOWERS:** Remember.  
You are a universe made of stars.

*Singing like little forest fairies, nymphs, and sprites, they swirl around Alice and gather 'round her. They shush her. She peeks through them (as if peeking through a curtain). Wonderland Creatures emerge from the forest. They look around nervously to ensure they aren't being watched. Then they pair up to dance, but there is an odd number; so one dances alone. Music only at first. The flowers notice the creature dancing alone, so they swirl around Alice and take her to him/her/them. Alice joins the dance as the singing begins.*

**WONDERLAND CREATURES:**

“Will you walk a little faster?” Said a whiting to a snail.  
“There’s a porpoise close behind us, and he’s treading on my tail.  
See how eagerly the lobsters and the turtles all advance!  
They are waiting on the shingle -- will you come and join the dance?  
Will you, won’t you, will you, won’t you, will you join the dance?  
Will you, won’t you, will you, won’t you, won’t you join the dance?”

“You can really have no notion how delightful it will be  
When they take us up and throw us, with the lobsters out to sea!”  
But the snail replied ‘Too far, too far!’ And gave a look askance --  
Said he thanked the whiting kindly, but he would not join the dance.  
Would not, could not, would not, could not, would not join the dance.  
Would not, could not, would not, could not, could not join the dance.”

**ALICE:** That was lovely.  
The most fun I’ve had all day.  
Thank you for the dance!

*Creature who danced with Alice bows. Alice bows in return. All creatures bow to Alice. Alice bows in return.*

**GRYPHON:** I haven’t seen you before.  
Who are you?

**ALICE:** My name is Alice.  
A.L.I.C.E.  
Appreciative, Learning, Intuitive, Curious, Earnest

**GRYPHON:** A pleasure.  
And what brings you so deep into the forest?

**ALICE:** I was following a White Rabbit so that I can play croquet with the Queen.

**WONDERLAND CREATURES:**  
*(Gasp!)* No, dear.  
You mustn't go that way.  
The Queen will ...

*Creatures hear people coming and hide. Alice looks around, confused. A creature leaps out and moves her to the flowers who surround and hide her.*

**CARD CAPTAIN:** Left, Right, Left, Right,  
Left, Left, Step Ball Change, Halt!  
Attention unsophisticated, ordinary, denizens of our Queen's Wonderland.  
Up you get!

*Wonderland Creatures emerge timidly. Alice begins to emerge, also, but a nearby Creature pushes her back into her hiding spot. The Card Captain addresses the Creatures.*

Disgusting!  
Are you enemies of our Queen?

*Creatures shake their heads no, vehemently.*

Demonstrate.  
Positions.  
Now!

*Wonderland Creatures do a different form of the Quadrille Dance.*

**CARD CHORUS:** Will you, won't you?  
Will you won't you?  
No matter, we'll force you.  
Oh, yes, we will.  
The Queen demands you dance  
The Lobster Quadrille.

Step left, then right.  
Spin once, now strike.  
Grin through the pain.  
That's what she likes.

Avert your eyes.  
You know the drill.  
The Queen demands you dance  
The Lobster Quadrille.

Faster, faster, demands your Master.  
Slower, lower, on your knees.  
Get lower still.  
The Queen demands you dance  
The Lobster Quadrille.

**CARD CAPTAIN:** Your devotion to Her Majesty is noted.  
The Queen will be pleased.  
Faces to the ground until we've passed.  
Remember, freedom is submission.

*Cluster chord to allow this line to "speak". Cards march away.*

Left, Right, Left, Right,  
Left, Left, Step Ball Change

*After the army has passed out of sight, Alice helps Wonderland Creatures up off the ground while others recover from the dance. Alice shouting to the Card Captain.*

**ALICE:** Have you no heart?

*Card Captain turns, looks at his chest, touches his heart and considers, turns back around and walks off with his army.*

That was awful!  
Is anyone hurt?

*Hints of Wake Up Wonderland play.*

When I find the Queen, I'll implore her to stop!

**WONDERLAND CREATURE:**  
The Queen!?  
That old, bloated husk.

**ALICE:** You should go a different way.  
I suppose you're right.  
I don't think I'd like to encounter Her Majesty.  
But, I don't know which way I should go.  
If only I could see the path.

*Wonderland Creatures point in many different directions. Alice sits on the ground.*

I suppose I'm lost.

*Wonderland Creatures take a seat on the ground.*

**WONDERLAND CREATURES:** Alice, we are all lost.

**FLOWERS:** Whenever they call your name,  
Whatever they tell you that you are,  
Remember.

**ACT 2****SCENE 4: THE CROQUET GAME**

**CHORUS:** One goes here and one goes there.  
It's topsy-turvy, everywhere!  
Topsy-turvy, woah!  
Topsy-turvy, woah!

Our Queen stands poised,  
She strikes her ball.  
We believe she'll win it all!

Rolling onward.  
Round the bend.  
Her Majesty strikes the ball again!  
Hooray, your Majesty!

**QUEEN:** Your turn, girl. How well can you play?  
I hope you're ready to lose today.

**CHORUS:** Bom, bom, bom, bom. Hiss! Boo!  
If this strange girl only knew!  
Boo! Hiss! She strikes her ball!  
Boo! Hiss! We all know she's sure to miss!  
Boo! Boo! Hiss! Boo! Boo!  
She strikes her ball.  
She strikes her ball.  
Boo! Hiss! Boo! Hiss! Boo! Hiss!  
She will lose!

**ALICE:** I don't think you play fairly at all!  
It's hardly worth finishing the game at all!

**QUEEN:** Off with your head!

**ALICE:** This is madness!

**KING:** Oh, my darling Queen,  
Perhaps it's rash to react so harshly and so fast.

*(To Alice)* What are you thinking?  
Have you lost your mind?  
You're getting us all into quite a bind.

**ALICE:** This whole game is bizarre.  
Why is everyone playing along?  
They need to wake up!

**KING:** Then you must keep your head.

**WHITE RABBIT:** Apologize to her Majesty and avoid a great travesty.  
Now, now, now, now, before it's too late.  
She has the power to seal your fate.

**ALICE:** Your Majesty, if you please...  
Perhaps I'm not accustomed to *your* game of croquet.

**QUEEN:** You are quite sweet in a simple-minded way.  
Did you really think you could beat me?  
What are you? Some kind of idiot?  
Isn't she terrible?

*The Queen and Cards laugh at Alice.*

Everyone! Dance the Lobster Quadrille!  
Places! Will you? Won't you!?

**ALICE:** You are a tyrant!

**QUEEN:** *(To the King)* Are you going to allow her to speak to me like this?  
Apologize!

**CHORUS:** Of course she will apologize for telling awful lying lies.  
This girl is dense and dim and dull.  
Does she have brains inside her skull?

**ALICE:** This is madness!

**QUEEN:** How dare you!  
Off with your head!

**ALICE:** Oh, you can't just go around offing people's heads without a trial.

**KING, WHITE RABBIT, & CHORUS:**  
Yes, yes, a trial.  
We must have a trial.

**CHORUS:** The King demands a trial, he said.  
 We're sure he wants to keep his head.  
 You never know if sneeze or cough,  
 Will cause your head to be cut off.

An enthralling trial would be so grand.  
 Justice succumbs to our Queen's demand.  
 Let's hear from those who Alice crossed  
 And then let's see her head cut off!

**KING:** Wiser words have n'er been said.  
 My Queen, your subjects have spoken.

**ALICE:** This isn't fair!  
 They have already decided my fate.

**KING:** *(To Alice)* Just play along my dear.  
 Tell the Queen what she wants to hear.  
 When the Queen gets angry and her mouth is agape,  
 That is when you must not make a mistake.

**ALICE:** Why are you trying to help me?

**KING:** Because I have a daughter,  
 But the Queen took her head.  
 You must keep your wits about you.

**QUEEN:** Very well, a trial it shall be.  
 And in the end we all shall see  
 What a horrid, ungrateful, misfit you are.  
 After you and I verbally spar,  
 I'll gather my rage! Imbue you with dread.  
 Then delight all my subjects because it's  
 Off with your head!

**CHORUS:** Off with her head!  
 After the trial she'll lose her head!  
 Off with her head!

**KING:** White Rabbit, prepare the courtroom.  
*Chop, chop, chop, chop, everyone!*  
 Let the spectacle begin... *(clap! clap!)*

**ACT 2**

**SCENE 5: THE TRIAL (Excerpt)**

**ALICE:** A mysterious cat.

**CHORUS:** Oooh!

**ALICE:** A silly Hatter, both mad and grand!

**CHORUS:** Ha, ha, ha, ha!

**ALICE:** A Card Captain who has forgotten his heart.

**CHORUS:** The Lobster Quadrille.

**ALICE:** A Queen.

*Alice bows to the Queen.*

Wandering, wondering who am I?  
 I lost myself.  
 Alone. Growing. Changing.  
 My path uncertain like gazing in a foggy looking glass.  
 But, I finally see more clearly, me!  
 Wake up!  
 Wake up, Wonderland!

**CHORUS:** Wake up!  
 Wake up! (*Together with Alice*)

**ALICE:** My path now unveiled,  
 I must listen to my own true voice!

**QUEEN:** Enough! That is quite enough!  
 I have been the most perfect picture of a patient, kind and gracious host.  
 How does she repay me?  
 Bullying and trickery!  
 Off with her head!  
 Off with their heads!

**ALICE:** Wake up, Wonderland!

**QUEEN & CHORUS:** Quiet! Off with her head!

**ALICE:** Wake up, Wonderland!

*Alice reaches down to help the Hatter stand. She twirls him as they break into “Let’s Have Some Tea.”*

**MAD HATTER & CHORUS 1:**

Let’s have some tea!

**QUEEN & CHORUS 2:** Off with her head!

Off with their heads!

**QUEEN:** Silence! Silence! You little snake!  
I’ll eradicate every trace of you.

**ALICE:** I’m not afraid of you!

**QUEEN:** I am the Queen!  
And you are nothing!

**ALICE:** No! My name is Alice! And I am...

**QUEEN:** Awful!

**ALICE:** Adventurous!

**QUEEN:** Liar!

**ALICE:** Limitless!

**QUEEN:** Insolent!

**ALICE:** Imaginative!

**QUEEN:** Criminal!

**ALICE:** Curious!

**QUEEN:** ENOUGH!

**ALICE:** ENOUGH!  
We are not who you say we are!  
Wake up, Wonderland!

**CHORUS:** Wake up!

*The chorus rises to a climax as the Queen realizes she has been overtaken. Wonderland merges into the opening scene of the real world, now transformed. The real world is no longer separate from Wonderland.*

**FLOWERS:** Whenever they call your name,  
Whatever they tell you that you are,  
Remember.  
Your life is a daisy chain,  
Neverending.  
Ever growing.  
You are a universe made of stars.  
Your story is yours to reclaim.  
Hear it in the whisper of the wind.  
Remember.

*Trees humming along with Flowers.*

**ALICE:** My name is Alice.

*Alice places her crown back on her head, turns around, and walks confidently back into the forest.*