

Alice and the Rabbits of Wonderland

By Kate Bauer

Based on the Works of Lewis Carroll

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DEDICATION

To my students. Thank you for joyously embracing the spirit of theater! Keep the dream going.

Riley, Ella, Sam, Ayden, Meghan, Sydney, Caydence, Greta, Evan, Suzannah, Raven, Hunter, Sophia, Phe, Sude, Taryn, Caleb, David, Amelie, Kara, Elizabeth, Johanna, Ren, Emery Michael, Claudia, Emilee, Chloe, Olivia, Landen, Harlei, Ryan, Suzie, Alex, Anna, Kayli, Erin, Addison, Lily, Vinny, and Elliot

STORY OF THE PLAY

This show is a celebration of the works of Lewis Carroll. All the classic characters that audiences expect are featured including the Red and White Queens, Humpty Dumpty, the Cheshire Cat, Tweedledee and Tweedledum, and the talking Flowers. Additionally, the Borogoves give an added layer of poetry by Lewis Carroll from his other works. The script is extremely faithful to Carroll's original novel, oftentimes using his exact wording, yet the twist of following our rabbit heroes gives a refreshing new take on this classic tale.

When Alice becomes trapped in a game of chess, five rabbits swoop in to save her. Between solving riddles and fending off the evildoers of Wonderland, it is up to our rabbit team to keep little Alice safe. However, the risks are higher than Alice ever imagined. When the Chesire Cat attempts to steal Alice's sense, it is revealed that all humans who lose a chess game in Wonderland become rabbits forever. The Black Rabbit plans to get Alice, a pawn, to the eighth square thus promoting her to a queen and hopefully taking her out of the game. Meanwhile, the Brown Rabbit must make a choice: help the Cheshire Cat steal Alice's sense to turn himself human again, or help Alice win the game and her freedom. Black Rabbit's plan falls apart when they reach the eighth square only for Alice to be whisked away to the palace. The dream suddenly ends when Alice takes the Red Queen, the White Army wins, and Black Rabbit puts an end to the Cheshire Cat. In the end, to the relief of the rabbits, Alice wakes up at home safe and sound. About 90 minutes.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(3 w, 30 flexible, doubling possible)

(Minimum of at least 16 actors to produce this script)

PROLOGUE

ALICE

BOROGOVE 1 - 3: Thin, shabby-looking birds with feathers sticking out all round, created by Lewis Carroll.

WHITE BISHOP

WHITE PAWN

WHITE RABBIT: Human name is Albert.

WHITE QUEEN

SPOTTED RABBIT: Human name is Anthony. Controls Gerald, the puppet.

GERALD: Offstage voice for the puppet controlled by Spotted Rabbit.

MOME RATHS (PUPPETS): Flower-like creatures, created by Lewis Carroll.

BROWN RABBIT: Human name is Arthur.

BLACK RABBIT: Human name is Alexander.

GUARD

PASSENGER 1 - 5

TWEEDLEDEE

TWEEDLEDUM

CHESHIRE CAT

HUMPTY DUMPTY

RED RABBIT: Human name is Angelica.

RED QUEEN

SERVANT 1 - 3

FISH

MAD HATTER

MARCH HARE

MUTTON

PUDDING

NON-SPEAKING: BALL GUESTS / RED KING

*Those producing the show with actors of other genders may change the "human names" of the rabbits in the script to any names starting with the letter "A."

SET CONSIDERATIONS

There are many locations in Wonderland allowing for scaling of set complexity according to the needs of those producing the play. The original production used a simple forest backdrop adorned with rolling set pieces to represent the Mad Hatter's table, the palace hall, a Mome Rath hill, and Humpty Dumpty's wall. Simple benches were used to represent the train. A small house set was rolled on in front of the curtain to represent Alice's house.

A NOTE ON TRANSITIONS

This script features transitions performed by the Borogoves. In the original production, these were performed in the house of the theater providing time for the crew to change the set on stage. Those producing this show are encouraged to embrace this form of audience participation but should interpret the transitions in a way that best fit their production.

ACT I
Prologue

PROLOGUE:

A tale began in other days,
When summer suns were glowing -
A simple chime, that served to time
The rhythm of our rowing -
Whose echoes live in memory yet,
Though envious years would say "forget"

Scene 1: The Gardens

(The SPOTTED RABBIT and the BOROGOVES are performing "Jabberwocky" for the MOME RATHS. The Mome Raths throw in cries of "Oh!" and "Ooo!" as the scene plays out for their entertainment.)

BOROGOVE 1: *(Playing as the narrator.)*

'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe:
All mimsy were the borogoves,
And the mome raths outgrabe.

BOROGOVE 3: *(Playing as the father.)*

"Beware the Jabberwock, my son!
The jaws that bite, the claws that catch!
Beware the Jubjub bird, and shun
The frumious Bandersnatch!"

SPOTTED RABBIT: *(Playing as the hero.)*

He took his vorpal sword in hand;
Long time the manxome foe he sought—
So rested he by the Tumtum tree
And stood awhile in thought.

BOROGOVE 2: *(Playing as the jabberwocky.)*

And, as in uffish thought he stood,
The Jabberwock, with eyes of flame,
Came whiffing through the tulgey wood,
And burbled as it came!

SPOTTED RABBIT:

One, two! One, two! And through and through
The vorpal blade went snicker-snack!
He left it dead, and with its head
He went galumphing back.
(*Stopping to address BOROGROVE 2.*) You have to come
with me.

BOROGROVE 2: I'm dead!

SPOTTED RABBIT: But I have to take your head back!

BOROGROVE 2: Ugh!

SPOTTED RABBIT: He left it dead, and with its head

He went galumphing back.

SPOTTED RABBIT and BOROGROVE 2:

Galumph! Galumph! Galumph!

BOROGROVE 3:

And hast thou slain the Jabberwock?

Come to my arms, my beamish boy!

O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!

BOROGROVE 1:

He chortled in his joy.

'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves

Did gyre and gimble in the wabe:

All mimsy were the borogoves,

And the mome raths outgrabe.

MOME RATHS: (*General cheering as the actors bow.*) Wow!

Gah! O! OH! Woah! Woop!

BROWN RABBIT: (*Entering.*) Are you quite finished?

SPOTTED RABBIT: With the poem, yes. But we promised to
perform "The Hunting of the Snark" next and--

BROWN RABBIT: We are *not* having "The Hunting of the
Snark!"

MOME RATHS: (*Booing in protest.*) Meh! Meep! Gaaah!!!

BOROGROVE 1: Now look at what you've done!

BOROGROVE 2: What did the Mome Raths ever do to you?

BOROGROVE 3: He doesn't have poetry in his soul!

BROWN RABBIT: Ah! What bit me?

(*Turns to reveal GERALD stuck to his back.*)

GERALD: Meep!

SPOTTED RABBIT: Gerald!

BROWN RABBIT: Ah! Get it off me! Spots!

SPOTTED RABBIT: *(Collects GERALD.)* You don't bite! We
can do poems after he leaves.

GERALD: Grrrr...

BROWN RABBIT: You know there are other things to be
done besides poetry!

BOROGOVE 2: Name five!

BROWN RABBIT: Finding food, doing the washing, cleaning
house, making sure we don't get killed by a flip flap or any
of the hundreds of random and nonsensical monsters that
haunt this forest, and literally anything else that doesn't
drive me closer to the brink of insanity!

BOROGOVE 1: I see your survivalism and raise you one day
of fun!

*(BLACK RABBIT enters with a bundle of food which the
SPOTTED RABBIT and the BOROGOVES descend upon.)*

BLACK RABBIT: Dinner time!

BROWN RABBIT: Sir Black Rabbit! Help me out!

BLACK RABBIT: Are you on about how the kids should
knock off the poetry again?

SPOTTED RABBIT: He is!

BROWN RABBIT: *(Pointing at GERALD.)* That mome rath bit
me!

SPOTTED RABBIT: You were being mean!

BROWN RABBIT: I let them do the "Jabberwocky"! I just think
there are other things to do with their minds than sit here
and squawk at mome raths all day!

BLACK RABBIT: They're just kids, Brown. Come off it.

BROWN RABBIT: They won't become adults unless we
compel them to!

BOROGOVE 3: Why would we want to be adults? Aging
seems boring!

BROWN RABBIT: I certainly feel I'm aging by the second!
What between this land trying to kill us with its jubjubs and
its bandersnatches and you all conspiring to drive me mad!

BOROGOVE 2: Are you sure you aren't mad already?

BLACK RABBIT: Someone woke up on the wrong side of the bed!

BROWN RABBIT: Please, Sir Black Rabbit, I feel I am perfectly in the right to worry about us. This world is dangerous! This world is nonsensical! This world will kill us all if we aren't careful! And I have to deal with you two: a child who does nothing but recite poems and a reckless knight who seems to have no regard for our safety!

(WHITE RABBIT enters.)

WHITE RABBIT: *(Out of breath.)* There's a guman hirl! A guman girl in the hig bouse!

BLACK RABBIT: Don't forget an anxiety-ridden butler who can't speak.

SPOTTED RABBIT: It's just spoonerism! It's not hard!

BLACK RABBIT: What?!

WHITE RABBIT: There's a girl in the game! A guman hirl! Alice!

BROWN RABBIT: A guman hirl?

SPOTTED RABBIT: Human girl! You change the first sounds of the neighboring words!

BLACK RABBIT: A human! Where? When? How could this happen?

WHITE RABBIT: Just now! Her name is Alice! She came in through a looking glass in the hig bouse! I tried to get her back in, but the glass was locked up. Now the-- the quite when is coming and... oh - hurry! We need to go; we need to go!!

SPOTTED RABBIT: Oh, this is terrible!

BLACK RABBIT: Where is she now?

(ALICE enters. The RABBITS look on in horror.)

ALICE: Kitty! Kitty? Kitty, where did you go? Why, I think I've gone into the looking-glass house. Oh, what fun! I dare say they don't keep this room as tidy as the other...

ALICE: *(Cont'd. To WHITE RABBIT.)* Oh! Mr. Rabbit! Have you seen my kitty? I had her before I fell through the looking glass.

BLACK RABBIT: I can't believe it!

BROWN RABBIT: It's really a human girl!

SPOTTED RABBIT: Oh, no!

WHITE RABBIT: I told you! Everyone, this is Alice!

BOROGOVES: Hello!

ALICE: Hello! What are your names?

SPOTTED RABBIT: I'm called the Spotted Rabbit, but my friends call me Spots!

BLACK RABBIT: I'm so sorry, we really don't have time for this! I'm the Black Rabbit... but we need to get you home NOW!

BROWN RABBIT: Oh, this is going to be good. *(To ALICE.)* I'm the Brown Rabbit by the way.

ALICE: Oh, I see! It's so easy! *(Pointing to each in turn.)* Mr. White Rabbit, Mr. Black Rabbit, Mr. Brown Rabbit, and Spots? *(Looking to the MOME RATHS and BOROGOVES.)* But who are all these?

BLACK RABBIT: Alice, I would really love to stand around and make introductions, but you are in real danger! We need to get you back home!

ALICE: Why, what's the matter? I didn't mean to upset anyone. I hope I didn't cause any offense.

SPOTTED RABBIT: Oh! There's no offense! It's just...

WHITE RABBIT: *(Looking off stage.)* She's coming!!

BLACK RABBIT: I'm sorry! It's very important that we get you home as soon as possible. Did you try going back through the door you came in?

ALICE: Yes, but it was, well, I actually came through the looking glass.

BROWN RABBIT: Good luck! That portal only opens for minutes at a time!

BOROGOVE 1: What about the broom cupboard portal?

BOROGOVE 2: Or the fireplace!

BOROGOVE 3: We could tie a balloon to her and float her up the old rabbit hole!

WHITE RABBIT: *(Looking off stage.)* Everyone!! She's really coming!!

BLACK RABBIT: We need to hide!

ALICE: Hide? Why? Is it a game?

BROWN RABBIT: You could say that!

WHITE RABBIT: *(Looking off stage.)* Ah! Hide!!!

(EVERYONE jumps behind bushes and garden decor. ALICE is grabbed up by the BOROGOVES who stand around her to conceal her.)

WHITE BISHOP: *(Enters, crosses, and exits.)* Morning!

BOROGOVES: Morning!

ALICE: *(Popping out from behind the BOROGOVES.)* Why! Was that a White Bishop?

SPOTTED RABBIT: Alice! Stay down!

WHITE PAWN: *(Enters, crosses, and exits.)* Good morning.

BOROGOVES: Morning!

ALICE: *(Calling after WHITE PAWN as SHE comes out from behind the BOROGOVES.)* Good morning! Excuse me! Are you the White Pawn from my chess set? What on earth is happening?

(WHITE RABBIT pops out and tries to grab ALICE. The WHITE QUEEN enters without White Rabbit noticing.)

WHITE RABBIT: Alice! You really can't be out here! The queen is coming and... *(Notices the WHITE QUEEN.)* Your Majesty!

BOROGOVES: Hello, Your Majesty!

WHITE QUEEN: Rabbit! There is a little girl here!

WHITE RABBIT: Yes, Your Majesty!

(The WHITE QUEEN claps twice. The WHITE RABBIT runs to grab a tea tray for the Queen and holds it up for her for the remainder of the conversation.)

End of Freeview

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