

Jam Tarts

T Dwyer

Alice in Wonderland

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## Cast of Characters

<u>ACE:</u>	1st Guard to Knave of Hearts
<u>DER:</u>	2nd Guard to Knave of Hearts
<u>TRIOS:</u>	3rd Guard to Knave of Hearts
<u>QUARTER:</u>	4th Guard to Knave of Hearts
<u>FIFTH:</u>	5th Guard to Knave of Hearts
<u>ALICE:</u>	A young child lost in the world of her dreams
<u>KNAVE:</u>	Brother to the Queen of Hearts. A selfish, greedy person.
<u>RABBIT:</u>	Wise White Rabbit, who is a friend to everyone.
<u>CAT:</u>	The Cheshire Cat, watchful and all knowing.
<u>INSECT 1:</u>	A friend of the caterpillars.
<u>INSECT 2:</u>	A friend of the caterpillars.
<u>INSECT 3:</u>	A friend of the caterpillars.
<u>CATERPILLAR:</u>	Pillar to their friends and head of the garden.
<u>HATTER:</u>	A cheery, tea drinking friend to Hare. Seems a bit crazy at times.
<u>HARE:</u>	A tea loving friend of Hatter's. Just wants to eat cake and drink tea.
<u>DORMOUSE:</u>	A friend to Hatter and Hare, seems to know everyone. Does not say a lot but sleeps a lot.
<u>DEE:</u>	Dum's best friend. Not always sure what is happening.
<u>DUM:</u>	Dee's best friend. Not always sure what is happening.

CARD 1: Queen of Hearts gardener.

CARD 2: Queen of Hearts gardener.

CARD 3: Queen of Hearts gardener.

QUEEN: The Queen of Wonderland. What she says is rule. Always seems to be angry.

MAID 1: Maid to the queen.

MAID 2: Maid to the queen.

KING: Married to the Queen of Hearts. Seems quiet but can take control when he needs to.

JURY: Refers to everyone sitting on the Jury.

SISTER: Alice's big sister.

Introductions

*The stage is forest like, with trees, bushes and flowers.*

*Two cards enter and start searching the stage area.*

ACE

Where is it!

DER

Who knows.

ACE

I know it's hiding.

DER

Crafty little thing.

ACE

Do you think the boss will be angry if we don't find it?

DER

Yes!

*They continue to search on stage, while three other cards start searching in the audience.*

TRIOS

Here kitty, kitty, kitty!

QUARTER

Coowee! Coowee!

FIFTH

Here boy...come on. Come on.

TRIOS

Here kitty, kitty, kitty!

QUARTER

Coowee! Coowee!

FIFTH

Here boy...come on. Come on.

*Ace and Der stand watching them.*

ACE  
What are you three doing?

DER  
What you're looking for is a rabbit. Not a dog, a cat  
or a pig.

TRIOS/QUARTER/FIFTH  
Right! Got it!

Here rabbit, rabbit, rabbit.

Here, rabbit, rabbit, rabbit.

*Alice enters, interrupting the cards.*

ALICE  
Excuse me.

ACE  
No.

ALICE  
Have you seen a friend of mine.

ACE  
No.

*All the cards have lined up behind Ace. They do  
not look very brave, nodding and reacting to  
what Alice and Ace say.*

ALICE  
Mmmm, but I'm sure he came this way.

He's a rabbit. A white rabbit.

ACE  
A rabbit you say, very interesting.

DER  
What does this rabbit of yours look like?

ALICE  
He's not my rabbit.

ACE  
Not your rabbit but you're looking for him anyway.

DER  
What a strange thing to do.

ALICE

Oh no, not at all. I was listening to my sister, who is terribly boring.

*Alice starts to look around her, she does not see Ace send Quarter off on an errand.*

ALICE

Anyway Dinah, that's my cat, saw him. She notices every little thing. I hurried after him but I have not seen him again.

DER

We are having trouble finding him too.

*Ace pushes Der to stop them talking.*

ACE

I don't have time to discuss rabbits. We are on official palace business.

TRIOS

But you just told us we were looking for the rabbit.

*Der pushes Trios to stop them talking.*

ACE

We are the queen's guards!

*Alice looks at them closely and starts to walk around them.*

ALICE

Guards? Queen?

ACE

We are the queen's guards!

FIFTH

All of us.

ALICE

But you're just cards.

DER

We are the queen's cards.

ALICE

What queen?

TRIOS

Our queen.

*Alice becomes thoughtful, talking to herself and the audience. The cards huddle together watching.*

ALICE

I don't think there is a queen.

ACE/DER/TRIOS/FIFTH

Gasp!

ALICE

Actually, come to think of it, cards don't talk, but neither do rabbits.

Oh dear what is happening...where am I.

*Quarter returns with the Knave of Hearts while Alice is talking.*

KNAVE

Where my loving sister, the Queen of Hearts, rules. But the question is...who are you?

ALICE

Alice. I think.

KNAVE

Welcome Alice.

*He bows and she curtseys. The cards are unsure what to do.*

KNAVE

My apologies for my servants. I hope they have not upset you.

DER

Oh we didn't do anything to her.

*Ace pushes Der to stop them talking.*

ALICE

Thank you Mister...

KNAVE

Knave. Knave of Hearts at your service.

ALICE

Thank you Mister Knave. I was asking if they had seen a white rabbit.

KNAVE

A white rabbit you say. I saw one just a little while ago, not very common around here which is why I noticed it. He was heading in that direction.

*Knave points off stage. Ace starts to protest but is silenced by the Knave.*

*Alice rushes off.*

*Once she is gone the cards all start to talk at once. The knave raises his hands and they stop.*

KNAVE

Quarter, Fifth and Der, follow her. Trios find me a new pair of gloves. Ace, you come with me.

*The cards salute and go their separate ways.*

*The white rabbit appears, muttering to himself.*

RABBIT

Oh dear. Oh dear. I'm late, I'm late, for a very important date.

I must not be late for this very important date. What will be the fate, if I'm late. Oh dear. Oh dear. I'm late, I'm late!

*Rabbit rushes off stage, nearly knocking over the narrator(Cheshire Cat).*

CAT

That white rabbit is always in a hurry. And Alice does seem to be very confused. Do you know I have never seen the Knave of Hearts be nice to anyone.

Now why does that all seem so familiar...Alice, cards, rabbit, hearts...oh what is it.

Got it! Sounds like Alice in Wonderland doesn't it. Same people, different story. Anyway I'd better go and keep an eye on Alice.

*Rabbit rushes on again as the Cat starts to leave.*



RABBIT

Oh dear. Oh dear. I've got a very important date.

CAT

We know. You better hurry up or you might be late.

*They both leave the stage.*

In the garden

*Three insects enter, flying around the stage placing flowers in the garden. They hide out of sight when Alice appears on stage. The conversation happens with the insects hiding and Alice searching the stage.*

ALICE

Hello! Mr Rabbit! Are you here?

INSECT 1

Humph!

ALICE

Mr Rabbit, is that you?

INSECT 2

Mr Who?

ALICE

I can hear you, so come out so I can see you.

INSECT 3

It looks dangerous.

ALICE

Of course I'm not dangerous.

INSECT 1

Can I sting it?

ALICE

You do know it's rude to not show your face when talking to someone.

INSECT 2

Rude not to sting it.

INSECT 3

I wouldn't waste my sting on it one bite!

ALICE

One bite! Something strange is happening here.

*Caterpillar enters. The three cards following Alice appear and then hide. Only the audience can see them.*

CATERPILLAR

Strange you say.

*The insects come out and go to the caterpillar.*

INSECT 1/2/3

Yes she did!

Rude she said!

INSECT 2

I don't like her.

INSECT 3

What will we do with her?

INSECT 1

Can I sting it?

INSECT 1/2/3

Can we? Can we?

CATERPILLAR

Settle my friends, settle.

ALICE

So there you are. Oh, how disappointing you're not the white rabbit.

CATERPILLAR

Is it?

ALICE

Strange how he's just disappeared.

CATERPILLAR

Strange you say. Strange is a strange word.

ALICE

This is a strange place.

CATERPILLAR

And you are a strange person.

*The insects and the cards giggle.*

ALICE

How dare you!

CATERPILLAR

I dare as I like.

ALICE

How terribly rude you are.

INSECT 1/2/3

Rude he is!

CATERPILLAR

I did not call others strange, when I am a visitor to their home.

ALICE

Yes but...sorry about that.

CATERPILLAR

Accepted.

ALICE

But you have called me, a visitor, strange.

CATERPILLAR

So I have.

INSECT 1/2/3

So he has.

Says what he wants.

CATERPILLAR

Strange you may be and strange it may make you feel. So be it.

*Alice goes to speak but the caterpillar continues, making Alice angrier.*

CATERPILLAR

I don't mind being rude. At least I am not angry.

*The insects are pushing and nudging Alice.*

ALICE

I'm only angry because you are so rude and...and these things are annoying me!

INSECT 1/2/3  
So are you.

INSECT 1  
Annoying.

INSECT 2  
Whoever you are.

INSECT 3  
Rude not to say.

INSECT 1/2/3  
Who you are!

ALICE  
Leave me alone!

INSECT 1/2/3  
Leave me alone. Leave me alone.

CATERPILLAR  
I can stop being rude when I know who I am  
addressing.

ALICE  
But that's just silly.

INSECT 1  
Now she's calling us silly.

INSECT 2  
Silly is rude.

INSECT 3  
No names is rude.

ALICE  
Oh stop it!

*The insects and the cards freeze.*

CATERPILLAR  
Shall we start again?

ALICE  
Yes please.

OPTION: An extract from the song 'Who are you' by the Who  
plays and the insects and the caterpillar dance.

CATERPILLAR

I am Pillar and you are?

ALICE

Alice. Do you know a white rabbit. About so big, with a pocket watch.

CATERPILLAR

Himmmmm, I do know.

INSECT 1/2/3

We know him.

ALICE

Really!

*One of the cards is pushed out onto the stage, Alice does not see them but the caterpillar does.*

CATERPILLAR

But I think it is time for you to go.

INSECT 1

Time to go.

INSECT 2

Away from us.

INSECT 3

Without a fuss.

ALICE

What do you mean.

INSECT 1/2/3

Without a fuss.

CATERPILLAR

Go you must!

ALICE

Now you're being rude again.

CATERPILLAR

I am never rude just to the point and the point is...you must go!

ALICE

Now honestly!

CATERPILLAR

Before you go, even though you are so rude, I must give you a gift.

INSECT 1/2/3

A gift, a gift.

ALICE

A gift?

*The caterpillar reaches into a bag and pulls out a mushroom, handing it to Alice.*

ALICE

Eeww.

CATERPILLAR

Half will make you grow, half will bring you low.

INSECT 1/2/3

Half will make you grow, half will bring you low.

ALICE

A riddle. I like riddles.

*The caterpillar turns to leave, the insects follow. When Alice notices they are leaving she starts to get angry again.*

ALICE

Hang on, you can't leave. You need to give me time to solve the riddle.

INSECT 1

Time to grow.

INSECT 2

Time to get low.

INSECT 3

Time to go.

*The caterpillar shrugs and turns to leave.*

ALICE

Wait! Umm...you haven't...ummm...said goodbye.

*The caterpillar and insects wave. Alice starts after them, then stops.*

ALICE

They didn't say where they saw the white rabbit, so I have no idea which way to go next.

*She looks at the mushroom in her hand.*

ALICE

Half will make you grow, half will make you low. I don't want to do either. Anyway, which half is which?

*The cat enters. The cards are scared and sneak off stage.*

CAT

Having trouble?

ALICE

Yes I am.

CAT

What did Pillar say?

ALICE

Half will make you grow, half will make you low.

CAT

Quite a dilemma. I guess it depends where one stands on the situation.

ALICE

I guess it does.

CAT

High ground or low ground.

ALICE

Exactly.

CAT

Glad to have been of help. Hope to see you again sometime.

ALICE

Thank you. I have to say, you are the first nice person I have meet here. Wherever, here is.

CAT

Here, is Wonderland. Home to many, but strange to some.

ALICE

It certainly is.

*The white rabbit rushes on stage but does not notice them. They watch the white rabbit go across the stage.*

RABBIT

Oh dear, oh dear, I'm late, I'm late, for a very important date. Oh dear, what will be the fate if I am late for this very important date. Oh dear, oh dear I'm late, I'm late.

*Rabbit rushes off stage.*

ALICE

Would you know?

CAT

One can never tell.

ALICE

Can never tell what?

CAT

Which way one should go.

ALICE

I wanted to go after the white rabbit.

CAT

What rabbit?

ALICE

The white rabbit. The rabbit we just saw.

CAT

So what are you doing here?

*Alice rushes off after the rabbit.*

*Cat talks to the audience.*

CAT

Poor Alice does seem confused. Time for me to go and see what is happening at the palace.

*Cat exits.*



Time for tea

*The curtain are closed.*

*Knave of Hearts enters reading a scroll. He throws the scroll to the ground and paces the stage.*

*Quarter enters, hesitates, the Knave of Hearts sees them.*

KNAVE

What is it!

QUARTER

An..an answer.

KNAVE

Give it here.

*Knave snatches the message.*

KNAVE

Be gone. Leave.

*Quarter runs off. Knave reads the messages then stands thinking before calling out.*

KNAVE

Ace!

Ace!

Where are you! I don't have all day!

*Ace enters as the Knave is yelling for them. Knave says something quietly to Ace and then starts to leave. Ace hesitates, then starts to pick up the scroll. Knave stops and looks back at Ace.*

KNAVE

Hurry up. You have dirty work to do.

*The Knave starts to laugh as they exit. They meet the Cat and walk backwards on to the stage again. Ace does not move.*

CAT

In a hurry my friend?

KNAVE

No not really. There's a sale at the market I don't want to miss.

CAT

Got some dirty work to do?

KNAVE

Well you know how hard it is to get good help. Need to do some jobs myself. So...ummm...how have you been?

CAT

Fine.

KNAVE

Fine.

*The Cat stares at the Knave, who becomes uncomfortable.*

CAT

Stay out of trouble my friend.

KNAVE

I have no idea what you're talking about.

Come Ace, we must be off.

*Cat steps aside so they can pass. Cat talks to the audience.*

CAT

Life is full of different people, we accept them all, with careful thought.

*The Cat leaves and curtains open.*

*Two large presents and two tables, set with random teacups are placed under the trees.*

*The March Hare is moving teacups around, the Mad Hatter can be heard off stage.*

HATTER

Happy unbirthday to me. Happy unbirthday to you.

*Hatter enters.*

HATTER

Happy unbirthday to meeeeeee. Happy unbirthday to me!  
Happy unbirthday Hare.

HARE

Happy unbirthday Hatter.

HATTER

Don't you just love unbirthdays?

HARE

Yes indeed. I love unbirthdays as much as I love tea.

HATTER

Thank you I would love one.

*Hare pours the both a cup of tea, Hatter looks  
around.*

HATTER

Where's Dormouse?

HARE

Sleeping somewhere no doubt, so cake he will go  
without.

HATTER

Cake! Why you shouldn't have.

HARE

But I have.

HATTER

What do you have?

HARE

Unbirthday cake. Cupcakes. Ice cream cake. Jelly  
cakes...well, they're tarts really.

*Hare and Hatter become agitated, looking around.*

HATTER

Are you sure those are Jelly tarts?

HARE

It is Jelly.

HATTER

Not Jam?

HARE  
No.

HATTER  
Jam cake?

HARE  
No.

HATTER  
Jam anything?

HARE  
No.

HATTER  
I don't want to be part of anything Jam.

HARE  
No Jam. You know me better than that.

HATTER  
Exactly! I do!

HARE  
Good.

HATTER  
Not good! You will do anything to make sure you have enough treats to go with your tea.

HARE  
This is Jelly. Not Jam. We are safe with Jelly.

HATTER  
Safe with Jelly.

HARE  
The queen does not like Jelly, even though it is red.

HATTER  
Jelly, red, safe.

HARE  
Fine.

HATTER  
Fine.

*They both start to sing happy unbirthday to each other, until the white rabbit appears.*

HARE  
Tea rabbit?

RABBIT  
No time, no time.

HATTER  
There is always time for tea.

RABBIT  
I've a very important date.

HARE  
Yes, tea is an important date.

HATTER  
You should stay.

RABBIT  
No time, no time.

HARE  
Have something to eat.

*The white rabbit freezes in horror at the sight  
of the Jelly tarts.*

RABBIT  
It was you!

HATTER  
Don't panic rabbit, my friend. Hare assures me these  
are Jelly tarts. Not Jam tarts.

RABBIT  
They look like Jam tarts.

HATTER  
Keep it down will you. Hare is a bit frazzled by all  
this jam talk.

RABBIT  
Quite, quite, I understand. But are you sure those  
are Jelly and not Jam.

HATTER  
Hare's too scared of the queen to use anything but  
Jelly.

HARE  
No I'm not.

HATTER/RABBIT

Yes you are!

HARE

Yes I am. Anyway jam gets stuck in my fur and it's a terrible thing to get out.

HATTER

We understand Hare.

RABBIT

Well I must be off. I have a very important date.

HARE/HATTER

And you're late!

RABBIT

Exactly!

*Rabbit rushes off, Hatter and Hare go back to their tea and cake.*

*Alice appears, they do not notice her. She is mesmerised by the presents and slowly walks around them.*

ALICE

What beautiful presents.

DORMOUSE

Thank you.

ALICE

You talk!

HARE/HATTER

(laughing)  
Of course it does.

ALICE

But that's silly because...

*Dormouse jumps up from inside one of the presents. He stays in the box for the remainder of the show.*

DORMOUSE

...I'm a dormouse.

ALICE

A what?

DORMOUSE

A dormouse. Not a what.

ALICE

Oh no. Not again.

*Alice goes to sit down.*

HATTER

No room! No room! Tea Dormouse?

DORMOUSE

Yes please.

ALICE

Yes please.

HARE

Sorry no room at the table.

ALICE

Of course there is. Look...here...and here..and here.

HATTER

All taken.

HARE

Reserved.

HATTER

Dirty cups.

DORMOUSE

Tastes like it.

ALICE

Reserved for dirty cups?

HARE

And plates.

ALICE

Why don't you wash them?

HATTER

Maybe she should stay.

DORMOUSE

She could do the dishes.

ALICE

You don't ask visitors to do the dishes.

DORMOUSE

Are you a visitor?

HARE/HATTER

Are you?

DORMOUSE

But I'm the one that arrived in a parcel.

ALICE

Why are you in a parcel?

HARE

We could pay her in cake.

HATTER

Splendid idea.

Here, have some cake.

ALICE

Actually, I am hungry.

HARE

Try the Jelly tarts.

ALICE

Why thank you.

HATTER

Tea?

ALICE

Yes please.

DORMOUSE

Have a seat.

*Each time Alice goes to sit, Hare or Hatter make her move.*

HARE

Move over.

ALICE

Why?



HATTER  
Not there.

HARE  
Or there.

DORMOUSE  
Hurry up! Sit down.

ALICE  
I'm trying.

HATTER  
Over there.

HARE  
No here.

ALICE  
I think I'll stand.

HATTER/HARE/DORMOUSE  
Suit yourself.

*Dormouse, Hatter and Hare sing happy unbirthday.  
Alice slowly starts to join in.*

*Quarter, Der and Trios sneak on stage and  
surprise them.*

QUARTER  
There she is!

DER  
With the evidence!

TRIOS  
Quick before she eats it!

*Trios takes the Jelly tart and tea from Alice.  
Quarter holds out a cushion.*

QUARTER  
Here is the royal evidence cushion.

DER  
Place it gently.

*Trios places the Jelly tart on the cushion.*

TRIOS

Now what?

ALICE

Yes, now what?

DER

None of your business.

*Hare and Hatter are starting to move away from Alice. Dormouse is peering over the top of the box.*

ALICE

Why did you take my tea and Jelly tart?

QUARTER

Wait until the boss is here.

ALICE

The boss?

*Ace is heard yelling off stage, they lead the Knave of Hearts on.*

ACE

Make way! Move aside! Make room for the Knave of Hearts.

*As the Knave of Hearts enters the Dormouse retreats into his box and speaks from there. Hatter and Hare huddle together.*

QUARTER/TRIO/DER

The Knave of Hearts.

ALICE

Oh hello, nice to see you again.

KNAVE

Who do we have here?

ALICE

We meet just before. I'm Alice.

*The Knave looks at the cards they shake their heads in disagreement.*

ALICE

Oh but we have. Remember you helped me.

KNAVE

You are mistaken.

ALICE

The white rabbit, remember you told me which way the white rabbit went. Not that I have found them.

KNAVE

I have heard of this white rabbit suspect.

ALICE

Suspect?

KNAVE

Arrest her!

ALICE

Arrest me?

KNAVE

She knows the white rabbit.

ALICE

But I haven't done anything wrong.

KNAVE

We have the evidence.

ALICE

That's not evidence. It's my tea.

ACE/DER/TRIOS/FIFTH/QUARTER

It's evidence.

ALICE

Ask them, they invited me to tea.

HATTER

She just barged in.

HARE

Invited herself.

DORMOUSE

Found a seat.

HATTER

Not a single manner in sight.

HARE

Made herself at home.

DORMOUSE

Knows the rabbit.

ALICE

He's your friend, not mine.

KNAVE

So why are you looking for him?

ALICE

Well...ummm...I was just listening to my sister...

KNAVE

You and the rabbit did it together. Take her away!

*Alice struggles as the cards gather around her,  
leading her off stage.*

*The Knave stays.*

KNAVE

I trust I can rely on you both.

HARE/HATTER

Of course.

KNAVE

Not a word.

*Hare and Hatter nod vigorously.*

KNAVE

You will be summoned.

*Hare and Hatter nod vigorously.*

KNAVE

Understand?

*Hare and Hatter nod vigorously.*

*Knave exits. Hare knocks on the parcel and  
Dormouse pops up. They talk quietly and  
earnestly.*

*Dormouse retreats back into the box.*

*Hare and Hatter pack up the tea party and take  
it all off stage.*

*The white rabbit enters, stops in front of a*

*present. Dormouse pops up and whispers to the white rabbit, who listens, nods and exits. The Dormouse goes back into the box.*

*Caterpillar enters, the insects are flying around them. Dormouse pops up and whispers to the Caterpillar, who listens, nods, indicates for the insects to take the other box and they exit.*

*The Dormouse pops up, looks around, stands (feet out of the bottom of the box) and starts to leave. Hears Dum and Dee coming, stops and hides in the box. They skip passed the box before Dormouse pops up.*

DEE/DUM

Dum, dee, dee. Dee, dum, dum. We can skip as one.

DORMOUSE

Stop! It's time, it's time.

DEE

Are we late?

DUM

For a date.

DORMOUSE

Listen you two. The Hatter and Hare need your help.

DEE

Why does the Hatter wear a hat?

DUM

I don't know. Why does the Hatter wear a hat?

DEE

To hide his hare.

*Dee and Dum laugh.*

DORMOUSE

Stop! Listen! Queen's garden! Now!

*Dee and Dum become scared.*

DUM

Not the queen's garden.

DEE

At the palace.

DEE/DUM

She's scary and mean.

DUM

Is that why she's the queen?

DEE

No, that's because she yells a lot.

DORMOUSE

Stop it! Go!

*Dum and Dee shrug and skip off stage. Dormouse stands and starts to leave with their box, when the Cat enters. They whisper to each other and leave in different directions.*

The Queen's Garden Court

*Three cards enter carrying red rose bushes. They exit and return with paint cans and brushes. They paint the flowers left by the insects, turning round to reveal red flowers.*

*They are humming the tune to 'Painting the roses red.'*

CARD 1

What a job.

CARD 2

Silliest job of jobs.

CARD 3

Painting the roses red.

CARD 1

Roses are red.

CARD 2

Violets are blue.

CARD 3

The queen hates this colour.

CARD 1/2/3

So guess what we have to do.

CARD 1  
Roses are withered.

CARD 2  
Violets are dead.

CARD 3  
If we don't hurry up.

CARD 1/2/3  
It will be off with our head!

*They all laugh and start to sing.*

CARD 1/2/3  
We're painting the roses red  
  
we're painting the roses red.  
  
Red, red, red, red.  
  
We're painting the roses red!

*They repeat this or start humming until the other characters enter. Then they leave.*

*The Queen of Hearts, the king and queen's maids enter together.*

*One maid has a fan, one a chair, one a cushion.*

*The chair is placed center stage, the cushion is placed on the chair, the queen sits. The maids fuss around the queen. The king stands next to the seated queen.*

QUEEN  
Are the roses finished?

MAID 1  
Yes my queen.

QUEEN  
I don't like that shade of red!

MAID 2  
We'll have it changed my queen.

*One maid sends another off to get it fixed.*

*The king whispers to the Queen, who smiles and*

*nods.*

*Knave enters, followed by Alice who is surrounded by Ace/Der/Trois/Quarter/Fifth.*

KNAVE

Sister dear, how are you?

QUEEN

I've felt better. What do you want?

KNAVE

I have a gift for you.

QUEEN

Do you bring me more Jam tarts?

KNAVE

Sadly no. I bring you this.

*Knave steps aside so the queen can see Alice.*

QUEEN

What kind of gift is this?

KING

I think it's known as a girl my dear.

QUEEN

What use is a girl!

KNAVE

This is the thief!

*The queen stands as she talks.*

QUEEN

Off with its head! Off with its head!

ACE/DER/TRIOS/FIFTH/QUARTER

Off with its head! Off with its head!

KING

My dear, it is only a child.

QUEEN

Is this true?

KNAVE

I believe so, but it is still the thief.



QUEEN

Uncuff the young human.

What kind of child are you?

ALICE

Alice your majesty.

QUEEN

An Alice. I have not heard of this before.

ALICE

No, no. My name is Alice, I am...

QUEEN

How dare you say not to me. Off with the Alice's head.

ACE/DER/TRIOS/FIFTH/QUARTER

Off with the Alice's head.

KING

My dear, the child is trying to tell you, it is a she.

QUEEN

Oh, how wonderful. A she, like me!

*The queen looks at Alice thoughtfully, walking around her.*

QUEEN

Do you like games?

ALICE

I love games your majesty.

QUEEN

Wonderful! Wonderful!

*Queen turns to the Knave.*

QUEEN

Find. Me. The. Thief!

KNAVE

This is the thief.

ACE/DER/TRIOS/FIFTH/QUARTER

The thief! The thief!

KING  
I suggest you leave. The queen is out of sorts today.

MAID 1  
All her sorts.

MAID 2  
So all sorts can happen.

KING  
Help the Knave of Hearts find his way.

*The two maids usher the Knave and his guards off stage.*

QUEEN  
Now, let me see. I spy with my royal eye...something beginning with Q.

ALICE  
Oh that's easy. Queen.

QUEEN  
Well done. My turn again.

ALICE  
Shouldn't it be my turn.

QUEEN  
No.

ALICE  
But I guessed it right.

KING  
Word of advice. I'd let her win.

*Queen has been considering her next choice.*

QUEEN  
I spy with my royal eye...something beginning with...Q.

ALICE  
You just did that.

QUEEN  
And I can do it again if I like.

KING  
Of course you can my dear.

QUEEN  
See.

ALICE  
This game seems a little unfair to me.

QUEEN  
Only to you.

KING  
I warned you.

ALICE  
I don't want to play anymore.

QUEEN  
Off with her head!

KING  
Don't be rash my dear.

QUEEN  
To the dungeon!

KING  
Horrible place.

QUEEN  
I don't care.

*The king and queen stand staring at each other.  
Knaves enter, his guards are dragging on the  
Hare and the Hatter. Ace is carrying the cushion  
with the Jelly tart.*

QUEEN  
Now what!

KNAVE  
Evidence!

ACE/DER/TRIOS/FIFTH/QUARTER  
Evidence!

QUEEN/KING  
What evidence?

*Ace shows the king and queen the cushion.*

QUEEN/KING  
Gasp!

KING  
We should call for the judge.

QUEEN  
Call for the judge!

KNAVE  
Where's the judge!

ACE/DER/TRIOS/FIFTH/QUARTER  
Where's the judge!

QUEEN  
Oh! You're the judge.

KING  
So I am.

*Card 1 and 2 enter carrying a box for the king to stand on.*

KING  
Set up the court!

CARD 1/2/3  
Set up the court!

*Ace, holding the cushion stands in front of the king. The queen sits downstage watching. The king calls out orders as all cards run around rearranging the stage.*

KING  
Put the guilty in the dock.

*Hare and Hatter are placed in the dock.*

KING  
Gather the jury.

*Some cards rush off in different directions, returning with the Caterpillar, the insects, the Dormouse, Dum and Dee. Alice is moved around the stage by other characters, finally ending up in the jury.*

*When they are all present he goes to bang his gavel.*

KING  
Where's my gavel.

QUEEN

Get him his gavel.

*Card 1 gives the king a gavel.*

*When the king pretends to bang his gavel, one of the cards says, "bang, bang."*

CARD 1

Bang, bang.

KING

Who charges these two poor, unhappy soles?

KNAVE

I do.

KING

And what do you charge them of?

KNAVE

Aiding and abetting a criminal.

JURY

Uuuuuu.

*Alice is silent.*

KING

What evidence do you have?

KNAVE

Exhibit one.

*Ace steps forward. They walk passed the jury showing them. They show the queen, who sniffs it and looks at it carefully.*

KNAVE

Found at the scene of the Hatter's tea party with the Hare.

QUEEN

Guilty!

JURY

Guilty!

*Alice is silent.*

QUEEN  
Off with their heads!

JURY  
Off with their heads!

CARD 2  
Bang, bang!

*The queen and the jury place their hands over  
their mouths. Alice does not.*

KING  
What do you two have to say for yourselves?

HARE  
Nothing.

HATTER  
Nothing.

KING  
Well in that case.

HARE/HATTER  
Her.

*They both point at Alice.*

QUEEN  
Off with her head!

JURY  
Off with her head!

*Someone in the jury pushes Alice away.*

CARD 1  
Bang, bang!

KING  
Silence!

ALICE  
I haven't done anything wrong.

KNAVE  
Put her in the dock.

ACE/DER/TRIOS/FIFTH/QUARTER  
Put her in the dock.

*Der/Trios/Fifth/Quarter move Alice to the dock.*

QUEEN

So did she steal the Jam tarts.

KNAVE

That is what I have been trying to tell you.

ALICE

It was jelly that Hatter and Hare served me at their delightful tea party.

HATTER

Why thank you Alice. Very nice of you to say so.

HARE

Very nice indeed.

KING

Jelly?

QUEEN

Yuk! Jelly.

HATTER

Yes, jelly.

HARE

Not jam.

KNAVE

Of course it's jam. This stranger to our land, invites herself to tea parties. Then helps these two to steal the queen's jam tarts.

KING

How do you know?

*The white rabbit can be heard off stage. He enters and collapses onto the ground from exhaustion, center stage.*

RABBIT

Your majesty! Your majesty!

I'm here.

I'm a little late but, I'm here.

JURY

He's here!

KING

You're here.

HATTER

He's here.

HARE

No he's not. He's a rabbit.

KNAVE

Yes he is. The white rabbit, who is an accomplice of these three here.

HARE

That's right.

JURY

Gasp!

HARE

I'm a hare and he's a rabbit.

JURY

True!

KNAVE

No, no. He is in cahoots with you.

DEE

I know this one.

DUM

Know what?

DEE

It's what happens when you press the horn.

DEE/DUM

The car hoots!

*Everyone laughs. Alice, the Knave and the King do not.*

KING

Silence!

CARD 2

Bang, bang!



KING  
Silence in the court.

CARD 1  
Bang, bang!

*While this is happening the Knave see the white rabbit has some gloves and he tries to take them.*

KING  
Stop that at once.

*The Knave and white rabbit freeze, the gloves fall to the ground. The king has a card pick them up.*

KING  
Who's are these?

KNAVE  
His.

RABBIT  
His.

KING  
I see.

*Everyone starts to talk. Alice, Knave, white rabbit and the king are silent.*

*The king holds up the gloves, everyone stops talking.*

KING  
Mr Rabbit. Are these your gloves?

RABBIT  
No your majesty.

KING  
Are you wearing your gloves?

RABBIT  
Yes your majesty.

KNAVE  
Get on with it.

KING

What were you doing with these gloves?

RABBIT

If it pleases your majesty.

QUEEN

Yes we pleases.

RABBIT

If your majesties would kindly smell the gloves.

QUEEN

How dare you.

RABBIT

Maybe taste the gloves.

QUEEN

Ridiculous.

KING

Perhaps we could try one each. I will taste and you can sniff, my dear.

*A card gives one glove to the queen.*

*They taste and sniff at the same time.*

KING/QUEEN

Jam!

JURY

Jam!

QUEEN

Off with someone's head!

KNAVE

Of course it has jam on it. He was wearing them when he stole the jam tarts.

JURY

Uuuuuu.

KING

Where did you get these gloves from?

RABBIT

I found them.

KNAVE

Likely story.

KING

Quiet! Carry on rabbit.

RABBIT

I saw the Knave of Hearts, in an awful hurry when he dropped those gloves. I called out, but he did not hear me. Then I noticed the red stains and recognised the smell of the queen's favourite jam.

JURY

The queen's favourite jam.

KNAVE

You cannot take the word of this silly rabbit.

KING

But I do.

JURY

He does.

HARE/HATTER

We do.

ALICE

That's not enough evidence. So you saw him drop his gloves when in a hurry. You hurry everywhere Mr Rabbit.

CATERPILLAR

Yes you do.

JURY

Yes he does.

HARE

He's late, he's late.

HATTER

For a very important date.

ALICE

Nobody saw the Knave of Hearts take the tarts.

KING

Did you NOT see him take them.

ALICE

Of course I did not see him take them.

CATERPILLAR

More non evidence.

JURY

Non evidence.

*The cat enters.*

CAT

Has anyone tried the evidence tarts?

JURY

Uuuuuu.

KNAVE

I thought I had run you out of the kingdom.

KING

What have you done Knave?

KNAVE

Nothing.

CAT

But you have.

JURY

He has.

CAT

And to our poor, lovely, dear queen.

JURY

Our queen.

CAT

Your sister.

JURY

His sister.

KNAVE

Stop talking nonsense.

CAT

Nonsense is my business. Theft is yours.

HARE/HATTER

Theft is his.

*The king indicates for the Hare, Hatter and Alice to be released. They go to the jury and the Knave is placed in the dock.*

CAT

Ace.

ACE

Yes.

CAT

What did the Knave say to you earlier today?

ACE

Said he had dirty work to do.

CAT

Purrfect.

Pillar why did you send Alice on her way?

CATERPILLAR

She was being followed by Knaves guards.

INSECT 1/2/3

Guards in hiding. Guards in hiding.

*Quarter, Fifth and Der look guilty.*

CAT

Purrfect.

Hatter and Hare, how did you come by those jelly tarts?

HATTER

Delivered to my door. By one of them.

*Hatter points to the knaves guards.*

HARE

No note. Just jelly tarts.

CAT

Purrfect.

Dum and Dee, tell me what did you see?

DUM

We saw him go out.

DEE/DUM

Then, that way. That way. Over there, around there  
and back through there.

*As they talk, Dee and Dum each point in  
different directions.*

CAT

Purrfect.

Trios, what did the Knave ask you to do.

TRIOS

Buy new gloves.

CAT

Purrfect.

A purrfect plan.

JURY

A purrfect plan.

ALICE

This is all hearsay. It proves nothing.

QUEEN

Then off with your head!

ALICE

Where is the logic in all this?

QUEEN

Sentence first, verdict after.

KING

Logic is in the head of the beholder.

CATERPILLAR

It's all between the ears.

JURY

Makes purrfect sense.

ALICE

Honestly this makes no sense.

CAT

Oh but it does. I followed his path as Dee and Dum said. He sent you in the wrong direction. In disguise he delivered the jelly tarts. Returning to arrest you.

ALICE

Yes, he did arrest me.

KING

See, makes sense.

ALICE

But why me? Why the rabbit? Why the Hare and the Hatter?

KING

Strange. It sounds like you are defending the one that accused you.

CATERPILLAR

Strange she is.

INSECT 1/2/3

And rude.

CATERPILLAR

With a bad temper.

INSECT 1/2/3

Temper, temper.

*Alice is starting to get angry.*

HATTER

Do you have more to tell?

HARE

What are you hiding.

ALICE

Nothing.

DEE/DUM

Nothing is something.

ALICE

This is impossible. You are all so...so...

CAT

Be careful what you say.

ALICE  
Ridiculous!

QUEEN  
Hold your tongue.

ALICE  
I won't!

DEE  
How do you hold your tongue?

DUM  
Is it like holding your hat?

ALICE  
Stop talking nonsense.

*Everyone crowds around Alice, moving her forward. The Knave is forgotten.*

QUEEN  
Off with her head!

HARE  
No more tea.

INSECT 1/2/3  
Time to sting.

KING  
Silence in the court.

*Everyone freezes. Alice looks from face to face.*

HATTER  
Move over, you can't sit there.

HARE  
Or there.

CARD 1/2/3  
Arrest her. Arrest her.

CATERPILLAR  
Rude and angry.

DEE/DUM  
Round and round.



CAT  
Curiouser and curiouser.

EVERYONE  
Curiouser and curiouser.

*As everyone says the last part Alice is pushed forward, onto the ground. The curtains close behind her. Alice does not move.*

*Her sister can be heard off stage.*

SISTER  
Alice!

Alice, wake up.

ALICE  
Where am I?

SISTER  
Oh you silly little thing. You fell asleep.

ALICE  
I've had the strangest dream.

SISTER  
It's amazing how you can fall asleep anywhere.

ALICE  
There was a white rabbit, a tea party and...and, oh and a really angry queen.

SISTER  
That angry queen is going to be mother if I don't get you home on time for tea.

ALICE  
But it seemed so real.

SISTER  
Enough of this nonsense.

*The sister fusses over Alice and turns to leave. Alice looks around and spots the white rabbit. She hesitates, then runs after her sister.*

ALICE  
I saw him, I saw the white rabbit.

SISTER

We don't have time, we're late. We're very late.

THE END