

DREAMS FOR ALICE

Words & Music by Gilbert Hetherwick

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David Foil – Lewis Carroll

Sheila Noonan – Alice Liddell

Denise Pineau – The Queen of Hearts

Keith Spencer – The Mad Hatter & The Caterpillar

GH – The Rabbit, The Cheshire Cat, & The Queens Footman

Introduction to “Dreams For Alice”

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This "demo" recording took FOUR years to complete. But the “Alice” project actually began TWELVE years ago when I first wrote a cycle of pop songs based on characters from Lewis Carroll’s “Alice in Wonderland.” All of the original songs were written as third person narratives and recorded with myself as the sole vocalist. I made 100 cassettes and gave them to friends and family members as Christmas gifts.

Six years ago I returned to the “Alice” songs and began rewriting them with lyrics now intended to be sung by the characters themselves. I then wrote eight new songs and expanded the original song cycle into a complete musical. I didn’t want the musical to simply be “Alice in Wonderland” set to music. I wanted Lewis Carroll to be the main character and I wanted the songs to move back and forth between Carroll’s real world in Oxford and the fantasy world which he created verbally for the young Alice Liddell and her sisters.

Before becoming successful as the writer of the “Alice” books, Lewis Carroll (under his real name of Charles Dodgson) was already well known as an Oxford Don, a mathematician and a photographer. Alice Liddell and her sisters were the daughters of the Dean of the school where Dodgson taught and they became acquainted through tutoring sessions and picnics. Dodgson wrote out “Alice in Wonderland” in longhand as a gift to Alice Liddell. She asked him to do so as she never wanted to forget the incredible stories that he had created spontaneously for her and her sisters over many “golden afternoons.”

Much of the inspiration for my writing of this musical has been the biography by Morton Cohen. In his book Cohen clears up a lot of the myths concerning Lewis Carroll but he also brilliantly transports you back to the England of the 1860s and makes you better understand the world from which Lewis Carroll emerged.

Lewis Carroll loved children. The tutoring of Alice and the storytelling sessions on those summer afternoons were the highlights of his life at the time.

The Lewis Carroll character’s songs reveal the musical’s underlying theme of aging and lost childhood. Carroll was a great photographer of the time and the song “Time & Photographs” suggests the theory that Carroll believed his photographs stopped time and froze childhood. Alice Liddell eventually grew too old for the stories and Carroll’s life was never the same. “Promise to Dream” ends the musical with Carroll saying good-bye to Alice as she moves on from childhood.

There are two musical themes that connect the worlds of Oxford and Wonderland. The “Wonderland” theme is the one heard the most frequently and it shows up in various configurations throughout the musical. The “Oxford” theme is the simple pentatonic scale heard at the beginning of “Golden Afternoon.” I suppose a third “musical” theme

is the sound of the river itself. The river always indicates a return to the "real world" of Oxford.

My goal was to create a musical that would appeal to all ages. I envision a multimedia production with two acts of approximately 50-55 minutes each. This would mean approximately 10-12 minutes of added dialogue for each of the two acts. The production could be arranged for a six piece theater band. Beyond the singing cast of eight there would also be a minimum of four additional dancers. These dancers play the roles of the Duchess, The Dormouse, The March Hare, and also various flowers, numbers, and clocks. The transitional instrumental sections are meant to be "soundtracks" for the various multimedia events and dance numbers connecting the major songs. I wanted the overall spirit of the production to be that of the big psychedelic concept records that I loved as a child.

Writing this has been a tremendous amount of fun.

Enjoy!

Gilbert Hetherwick

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(Poems by Lewis Carroll are indicated in the text and no copyright is claimed)

Notes on Staging:

In the following libretto there is occasionally commentary which reveals some of my own ideas for staging and direction. A "book" still needs to be properly written by someone other than myself. I would welcome any ideas involving visual interpretations but wanted to suggest some of my own ideas here in the demo. Multimedia effects and projections could possibly simplify the staging challenges presented with Alice's journeys. A major challenge will be the "growing and shrinking" episodes. One solution might be for Alice to be seen singing on the far side of the stage before an exposed video camera that would then project her image on a screen in the center of the stage. This would allow the stage image to grow or shrink but also give the audience the reassurance of seeing the character of Alice performing "live." I also see the entire set constantly moving through the use of lights, dancing, and effects. There are endless possibilities. The entire project could also be easily adapted to an animated film.

But all of this is better left for others to decide.
I just wanted to write the music!.

GH

ACT 1

(1) PRELUDE TO ACT 1 - (1:51)

(Instrumental opening as the house lights go dark. Curtain closed throughout.)

(2) NUMBERS AND DREAMS - (4:06)

(Curtain goes up on first drum beat to reveal an extremely surreal "Busby Berkeley" set from an alternate universe. Everything in black and white. Lewis Carroll dressed in formal attire and singing all of the lyrics with dancing "numbers" on backup vocals.)

Lewis Carroll:

Numbers and dreams

My life has been divided into something undeniably strange
as it may seem

In addition to divisions in precision and revisions in time
changing my mind

There's a cast of calculations within reasoned explanations and rhymes

Easy to find,

But a dream's imagination can put wings upon a mind to fly

To a land of wonder

To a land that seems

Out beyond this world of cold gray numbers

Out in my dreams

The eyes of a child

This inquisitory visionary captivating image of faith

Look at her smile

In a flowering of innocence her towering magnificence waits

She was the one

who understood and realized these dreams inside

She was the one

to draw me out to cast me on these wings to fly

To a land of wonder (Repeat chorus)

The eyes of a child can see beyond the miles

Can see beyond these chains of fate

(Dancing “Numbers” in classic MGM tradition during the guitar break.)

Lewis Carroll:

To a land of wonder (Repeat chorus)
Out in my dreams (Repeat with dancing “Numbers”)

Dancing “Numbers”:

In a land of dreams where your words are wings (Repeat)

(3) ALL IN THE GOLDEN AFTERNOON - (1:39)

(Sung by Lewis Carroll. This is from the poem that opens the first Alice book. It also served as Carroll’s personal dedication to Alice Liddell. The scene is a boat on the river near Oxford with Carroll rowing as he sings the poem to Alice.)

Lewis Carroll:

*All in the golden afternoon full leisurely we glide
For both our oars with little skill
by little arms are plied
While little hands make vain pretense
our wanderings to guide
All in the golden afternoon full leisurely we glide*

(The boat reaches the shore and Alice steps on to the bank of the river.)

(4) MY NAME IS ALICE - (2:18)

(The song begins as Alice recites a narrative to the audience. On the second verse she turns and confronts the White Rabbit as he makes his first appearance. She has now entered the story herself. She introduces herself and curtsies to the Rabbit .)

Alice :

Sitting on the bank having nothing to do
My sister was reading a book that had few
pictures if any
What’s a person to do?
When you’re hot and you’re sleepy
on this late afternoon
When suddenly up and so alarmingly near
ran a well dressed white rabbit
with pink eyes and long ears
He was clutching his watch
from his waistcoat in haste
As he dashed to the hedge
and ended up face to face
I’m Alice My name is Alice (Repeat)

The Rabbit:

There's no time for apologies
When there's no time for goodbye
Cast yourself into this fantasy
Grab your watch
Grab your hat
Say goodbye!

(Instrumental break - Alice and the Rabbit dance together along the bank of the river.)

Alice:

Alice... My name is Alice (Repeat)

(4) "I'M LATE!" - (1:57)

(The White Rabbit and Alice racing around the hedges along the river bank in a fast duet.)

The Rabbit:

I'm late, I'm late!
Oh dear I must be late!
I've checked the time to come to find his unnecessary fate

Alice:

How strange
So strange
So strange to not seem strange
My thoughts for what is real or not must now be rearranged

The Rabbit:

I'm late.... I'm late!
These thoughts will have to wait
It's down the hole I'll have to go to keep that special date!

Alice:

I've come to find
I think I've lost my mind...
I'm chasing after rabbits wearing coats and spinning rhymes!

The Rabbit :

Down to the world below
Fell Alice through my rabbit's hole
It was strange how it lasts!
Was she falling that fast???
Would she ever reach the bottom below?

(Instrumental break - dancing and visuals.)

The Rabbit:

Down to the world below (Repeat)

(As the chords descend at the end of the song the Rabbit “falls” in slow motion down the Rabbit hole.)

(6) FALLING TO THE HALLWAY - (3:51)

(The first verse takes place with special effects and has Alice falling slowly down the Rabbit hole. From the second verse to the end of the song the setting is in a hallway surrounded by doorways. The only characters present are Alice and the Rabbit.)

Alice:

A jar of marmalade upon the shelf
Floating past the cupboards I must answer to myself
Will I ever see the end?
My cat “Dinah” once again?
Or will I fall right through the earth to somewhere else?
I’m falling

The Rabbit:

Ooooooooooooo..... She’s falling

Alice:

Landing in a pile of twigs and leaves
Jumping to my feet this is a world I can’t believe
Round the corner to the hall
lined with doorways wall to wall
Tightly locked each one and all
and there is no key

The Rabbit :

But there’s a table made of crystal in the center of the room
With a tiny key atop it to a doorway she assumes
That is hidden past the curtain and much smaller than she’d use
And atop that same small table is a bottle

Off stage spoken:

“Drink me”

Alice spoken:

I’m shrinking!

The Rabbit (and off stage) spoken:

She’s shrinking!

So small!

Alice spoken:

I’m shrinking!

The Rabbit (and off stage) spoken:

She’s shrinking! So small!

The Rabbit:

Now she can see the doorway as she runs across the hall
And she knows she can fit through it now that she's become so small
But the key's still on the table and it's really far too tall
And in a box beneath the table is a cake!

Off stage spoken:

"Eat me"

Alice spoken:

I'm growing!

The Rabbit spoken:

Too tall!

Alice spoken:

I'm growing!

The Rabbit spoken:

Too tall!!

(Multimedia "growing and shrinking" effects with dancing during guitar solo . Ending with Alice crying alone after shrinking into a sea of her own tears.)

The Rabbit:

She's crying

(7) DROWNING IN A SEA OF TEARS! - (2:20)

(The spotlight hits the Rabbit center stage as he steps out with a microphone. Song sung by the Rabbit with Alice joining on backing vocals. This is set in the same hallway as the previous song.)

The Rabbit:

The Rabbit is back right here in the hall
Splendidly dressed with my white gloves and all
A fan in my hand
I'm late as before
Won't the duchess be savage f I'm late one time more
And now there's Alice in her tears and she's tall as the wall
She seems so distant with her innocent call
and I throw down this fan and escape down the hall
but she picks it up gently and again becomes small
And she's drowning / drowning / drowning (with Alice)
In a Sea of Tears

She found she was wrong it wasn't the sea
She'd grown now so small
quite as small as can be
And she's falling so fast to the worst of her fears
She's now up to her neck in a sea of her tears
And while splashing about she ran into a mouse
Who she spoke to in French
Asking "how to get out" - Alice
And he told her a tale that was dry and quite long
About William the conqueror
It went on and on!
And she's drowning / drowning / drowning - Alice
In a Sea of Tears

The Rabbit (reciting poem from the book):

*Now Fury said to a mouse
that he met in a house
Let us both go to law
I shall prosecute you
Come I'll take no denial
We must first have a trial
for this morning there is nothing left to do
It's up to you*

(8) ALICE PLEASE DON'T CRY - (5:03)

(The "Sea of Tears" song ends with Alice again crying. We then shift to the reality of the river bank with a repeat of the "Oxford" introductory instrumental theme. Lewis Carroll then sings to the slightly frightened Alice.)

Lewis Carroll:

Alice please don't cry
It's words and words are only
These simple truths that lonely hearts conceal
Alice please don't cry
it's words from dreams now only
Words from dreams
that I know can seem real
As I stand in my silence
in a world where we can't reveal
these things we feel

Alice please don't cry
It's life and life is only
a path on which you've only now begun

Alice please don't cry
We'll laugh and smile tomorrow
It's not the time for sorrow when you're young
And as this moment stands in time
we can dance and sing in rhyme
In a world so far beyond what others know
Where the shadows dared to find
any doubts within our minds
In a wonderland entirely of our own

(In this instrumental interlude the lights rise to find Alice standing at the entrance to a surreal forest of flowers. Lewis Carroll stands on one side of the stage and sings the following.)

Lewis Carroll:

As I stand
In my silence
In a world that we must reveal...

(The song fades into the "wonderland" theme as Alice walks through gigantic flowers in a mysterious forest. As the forest unfolds it reveals the Caterpillar sitting on a blue mushroom smoking a giant water pipe.)

(9) WHO ARE YOU ? (4:55)

(Lewis Carroll begins the song by singing his narrative from the side of the stage while Alice moves forward to question the Caterpillar)

Lewis Carroll:

Alice walking through the trees is quite startled when she sees
on a mushroom sitting quietly alone
A Caterpillar colored blue
sounding sleepy though she knew
that he'd maybe tell her something she should know
HE SAID.....

The Caterpillar:

Who? Are You? (Repeat)

Alice:

I can't explain myself
I once was once someone else
But now I'm not myself it's true

Lewis Carroll:

Smoking slowly from his pipe
Arms folded and upright
He was sitting there so patiently alone
Does she really think she's changed
In this world it can seem strange
When she can't remember simple things she's known
HE SAID.....

The Caterpillar:

Who? Are You? (Repeat)

Alice:

What size is right for me
I can't decide you see
Where next I'd like to be
It's true
I'll listen carefully
Please tell me what can be
I need some help you see from you

The Caterpillar:

The left side makes you smaller
And the right side makes you tall
It's the mushroom silly Alice
Now I must be moving on

Alice & "Flowers" in chorus:

Who are you? (Repeat)

(The chorus of "who are you" continues with dancing until the final crescendo when a pipe organ rises within the set played by the Cheshire Cat during the final closing chord. The spotlight continues on the Cheshire Cat as he then plays the opening chords for "Pig & Pepper.")

(10) PIG & PEPPER (3:15)

(During the instrumental introduction a house appears in the woods. The walls open to reveal a kitchen. Inside the kitchen a cook is hurling plates against the wall while the Duchess tosses a baby in the air. The set is in total chaos and a little frightening until the Cheshire Cat dances into the kitchen to the opening reggae rhythms of the song. At the doorway to the kitchen stands a character with the head of a fish and the uniform of a Queen's "Footman." The song is sung by the Footman with backing vocals from the Cheshire Cat. The characters of the Duchess and the cook are dancing parts with no singing required.)

The Queen's Footman:

What is with all the ruckus
I'm here to see the Duchess
I have her invitation from The Queen
And though I'm known to be her "footman"
I may look more like a FISH it seems!
IT SEEMS! (with the Cheshire Cat)
Now you say your name is Alice
I've not seen you at the Palace
Or the Hatter's, or the Rabbit's, or the Hare's
And there is no sense in knocking
as they don't believe in locking down here

There was PIG & PEPPER inside!!!! (Chorus with Cheshire Cat - Repeat)

A Cheshire Cat sat calmly in his corner of the room
as the Duchess tossed a baby through the air
And the cook was dumping pepper by the cupfuls in his soup
With care
Who cares?
The Cheshire Cat was grinning like no cat she'd ever seen
For a reason Alice couldn't understand
As the cook was tossing dishes though he never cared or knew
where they'd land!

PIG & PEPPER inside ! (chorus with Cheshire Cat)

Then Alice grabbed the baby and went running through the door
She went dashing past the Duchess in dismay
For it surely would be murder for to wait a minute more
As the baby turned a pig and ran away!

PIG & PEPPER inside ! (*chorus with Cheshire Cat*)

(Song closes with Alice, the Footman, the Duchess, the Cook, and The Cheshire Cat all dancing to the Baritone Sax solo. This fades into Alice alone in a single spotlight.)

(11) MY NAME IS ALICE - Reprise (3:15)

Alice:

Then suddenly up and so alarmingly near
On a branch of a tree a Cheshire Cat did appear
And he grinned such a grin that stretched out ear to ear
And I knew without doubt I had nothing to fear
I'm Alice
My Name is Alice (Repeat)

(The first act then ends with the curtain closing on Alice, alone in the spotlight.)

ACT 2

(12) PRELUDE TO ACT 2 (1:00)

(Lights go down and the “Prelude” begins. Curtain opens as the first “pulse” of “Time & Photographs” begins. Setting is now a collage of clocks with the Caterpillar again on his mushroom toward the rear of the stage. During the “photograph” bridge the set changes to projections of Carroll’s actual photographs of Alice.)

(13) TIME & PHOTOGRAPHS (4:06)

(Sung by Lewis Carroll with The Caterpillar on “ghost” backing vocals.)

Time...Isn't it a wonder without doubt
Time...The way it turns the world about
Time...Marching onward day by day
Time...Always constant without change

There's a part of me that can NOT let go
A part of me that can NOT grow old
There's a part of me that no matter what they say
Stands to challenge every minute
Every second of the day against...

Time... Captured hearts within this truth
Time... Gaining fast your cold pursuit
Time....Grant me freedom from these chains
Time....And I'll NOT be late again!

The photograph can't lie
The photograph is true
The photograph brings life
And a never ending youth

There's a part of me that can not let go
A part of me that can not grow old
A part of me that no matter what they say
Stands to challenge every minute
Every second of the day against...

Time.... That defiant power of fate
Time.... Rising just beyond the gate...
Time..... Cast your shadows from these walls...
Time..... As I'm NOT... AFRAID AT ALL!

(14) LOST IN WONDERLAND (4:44)

(The clocks and photographs retreat and leave only the trees and giant flowers in the forest. Alice appears alone. The Cheshire Cat appears and joins Alice for the final chorus.)

Alice :

Lost in a world where I'm such a small girl
Down a path where the plants stand like trees
Forests of flowers
seem to stretch out for hours
as I walk all alone through these leaves
We believe what we see
And I seem to be
Lost in a Wonderland of dreams

Here in this land where what can't happen can
I can't quite understand what it means
I was there down the hall
Standing once ten feet tall
Now I'm here feeling small as can be
We believe what we see
And I seem to be
Lost inside states of mind
Where I seem to be
Lost in a Wonderland of dreams (Repeat)

Now at first this world can seem to be frightening
But for now it seems so strangely enlightening
There's a magic and a madness
Anecdotal cures for sadness indeed
Lost in a Wonderland of dreams (Joined by The Cheshire Cat)

(15) LOST BALLET (1:17)

(Short instrumental piece for ballet of lighting effects and dancing flowers ending with the spotlight on the Cheshire Cat as he begins his theme song.)

(16) THE CHESHIRE CAT'S SONG (3:21)

The Cheshire Cat:

Down here they know me as the Cheshire Cat
I am afraid I DO KNOW where it's at
In the middle of darkness
In the middle of the day
I am the cat who'll show you all the way
Down to the right you'll find the Hatter's house
Down to the left that March Hare and his mouse
I've seen it all you know I've been there before
Ask me no questions I'll tell you no more!

I'm the Cheshire Cat.... ALICE!
So glad to meet you..... ALICE!
Always a pleasure.....ALICE!
I'm the Cheshire Cat.....ALICE!

That Hatter is as mad as mad can be
I think the March Hare's who you'd like to see
If you leave now you'll be in time for tea
It's quite a party as I think you'll see
In the middle of a path where there's no wrong or right
In the middle of a laugh I hope you'll see the light
In the middle of a dream I smile from ear to ear
In the middle of the day you'll always find me here
Cause I'm the Cheshire Cat.... ALICE! (Repeat chorus)

Now a dog's tail does wag when he's happy not sad
And he growls when he's angry or mad
But I'm not the same
It's an "opposites" game
And it proves once again we're all mad!
Fade away Fade away
I'm sorry Alice but I have to fade away (Repeat)

(The cat fades away as the set shifts to the scene of the Mad Tea Party set in front of the Hatter's unusual house. We find The Hatter, The Dormouse, and The March Hare sitting around a table set for many more than three. Alice approaches the table as Lewis Carroll narrates from the side of the stage.)

(17) A MAD TEA PARTY! (4:29)

Dormouse & March Hare:

NO ROOM!

NO ROOM!

Lewis Carroll:

Walking toward the house with its chimney standing out
like two ears above the roof that's made of fur
Alice noticed at the table a configuration able
to accommodate far more than had occurred
As the setting was for many and there simply wasn't any
more than three around the table set for tea
Alice sat beside the Hare while the Hatter cast a stare
at the Dormouse there between them fast asleep

The Mad Hatter:

Why is a raven like a writing desk?

Lewis Carroll:

Come we shall have fun now!

The Mad Hatter:

Say what you mean don't mean what you say some how!

Lewis Carroll:

"*Some Wine*" declared the hare
But there wasn't any there
There was nothing on the table but the tea
And although it did seem rude
It was she who did intrude
On this party that was only meant for three

The Mad Hatter:

What day of the month do you think it is?

Alice :

It happens to be the fourth!

The Mad Hatter:

You're two days wrong
and I knew all along
I'm the Mad Hatter
The Mad Hatter
Now if you knew time like I know time
You'd hardly think of wasting it!
You can't pretend to understand the time
Beaten down by rhymes
The music's so unkind
to the time!
HA HA HA!

(Instrumental dance number in 60s psychedelic styling. With Alice, The Hatter, The Dormouse, and The March Hare all dancing and singing the "oooh la la la" chorus. It

ends with the spotlight on the Rabbit who has just appeared on the opposite side of the stage from Lewis Carroll.)

The Rabbit :

Now the mouse awoke to tell of a family in a well of molasses
and it made them very ill!
And it made so little sense in the past or present tense
or the future as the time was standing still

The Mad Hatter:

Twinkle Twinkle little bat
How I wonder where you're at
Up above the world you fly
Like a tea tray in the sky!

(More dancing as the March Hare chases the Dormouse around the stage laughing. The dancing ends abruptly with the spotlight on Alice in front of a tree with a small doorway.)

(18) ALICE RETURNS TO THE HALLWAY (0:39)

Alice:

Through the woods I find a tree
And in it there's a doorway to the hallway where I see
the same table as before
and that tiny little door
With the mushroom I'll be sure to use the key!

(19) THE PALACE & THE TRIAL! (4:29)

(Alice opens the door and walks through it as the set opens up to reveal the Queen's garden with the entire cast marching in a formal procession. The "knave" is being led by the others in handcuffs as the Queen of Hearts follows at the end of the parade. Lewis Carroll stands narrating at the side of the stage.)

Lewis Carroll:

Through the door into the garden
of the Palace of the Queen
Alice walks among the roses
that were not what they did seem
As they once had all been white
but were painted now by cards
As the Queen had so requested
Ever brightly red like hearts!

The Rabbit:
The Queen!

Lewis Carroll:
The Queen!

The Rabbit:
The Queen!

The Queen of Hearts:
OFF WITH THEIR HEADS!!! (Repeat)

Alice:
The grand procession was marching forth
to the palace where the Queen of Hearts stood
With diamonds and spades the army was made
to resemble the deck as they should
The Rabbit was there looking nervous and scared
He was marching in front of a knave
The tyrannical Queen was most easily seen
at the end of this proper parade
The Queen!

Lewis Carroll:
The Queen!

Alice:
The Queen! (Repeat)

The Queen of Hearts:
OFF WITH THEIR HEADS!!!

The Queen of Hearts:
What is your name, child?

Alice:
My name is Alice

The Queen of Hearts:
And who are these, child?

Alice:
How should I know?

Lewis Carroll:
How should she know?

Alice:
How should I know?

(The Queen takes her place on the throne during this instrumental section. The Rabbit positions himself center stage as the music breaks into a blues number.)

The Rabbit:

I'm the Rabbit I'm back
At your beck and call.
The Duchess has left for that cell down the hall
Where she's sentenced to death
Or at least twenty years
for confronting the Queen
and then boxing her ears
I'm the Rabbit (Repeat with Alice singing backups)

(The garden now reveals a croquet court. The Queen comes down from her throne with two flamingos for mallets and two hedgehogs as croquet balls)

The Queen of Hearts:

Do you play croquet?

Alice:

Yes indeed I do

The Queen of Hearts:

What DO you find so strange?

Alice:

Hedgehogs? Flamingos too?

The Queen of Hearts:

Come child now join our game!

Alice:

It seems so hard to do

Lewis Carroll:

Then suddenly up and alarmingly near
from the sky up above that same CAT did appear!

The Cheshire Cat:

Remember me I am the Cheshire Cat
Please tell me how you're getting on
You've met the Queen where do you think THAT'S at?
Please tell me now and I'll be gone
Fade away Fade away
I'm sorry Alice but it's time to fade away!

The Queen of Hearts:

Who IS this CAT whose head defies
And floats and sails throughout the sky
I'll have THAT HEAD!
REMOVED in time!
SOMEBODY CATCH THAT CAT!

The Rabbit:

Come Alice dear you have nothing to fear
You must meet the Mock Turtle
He is right over here
He will tell you his history
But it's still a mystery
And me I know just how he feels

Alice:

He conceals what he feels
As he once was real
tortoise shells taught us well
What we must reveal

Lewis Carroll:

Here in this WONDERLAND of dreams!

Alice:

In a WONDERLAND of dreams

Lewis Carroll:

In this WONDERLAND of dreams

Alice:

Here in this WONDERLAND of dreams

The Rabbit:

THE TRIAL IS BEGINNING!

(The Queen returns to her throne to oversee the trial as the theme is played in a warped and twisted fashion. The Rabbit announces the Queen and the Hatter enters the witness box. The accused Knave stands before the Queen.)

The Rabbit:

Ladies and gentlemen THE QUEEN OF HEARTS!

Lewis Carroll:

The Queen of Hearts had made some tarts all on one summer's day

The Queen of Hearts:

The Knave of Hearts he stole the tarts and took them all away

Lewis Carroll:

I call the King's...

The Rabbit:

First witness here!

Alice:

I beg your pardon sir!

The Queen of Hearts:

The witness is that Hatter there!

The Rabbit:

In case you haven't HEARD!

The Mad Hatter:

Twinkle twinkle little BAT!
How I wonder where you're at
Up above the world so high
Like a tea tray in the sky!

Lewis Carroll:

The King and Queen surveyed the scene
and gathered what they'd heard
The Rabbit next called Alice up to testify her words

Alice:

The Rabbit next read pages said 'twere written by the knave

The Queen of Hearts:

Who couldn't be an honest man or else he'd sign his name!

Jury and all wonderland characters:

GUILTY GUILTY GUILTY! (Repeat)

Alice:

I'm Growing! (Spoken and sampled)

(Through projections and effects Alice now grows taller until she dwarfs the other characters. She looks down at the others and addresses them.)

Alice:

This trial is most unfair
Your facts are not that clear
Here stands this Knave of Hearts
Accused of stealing tarts
He's hardly guilty yet
your minds they now seem set
I'm not afraid at all
You all now seem so small
You're just this pack of cards
Why must you be so hard?
Things can't be what they seem
This HAS to be A DREAM!

Lewis Carroll:

A DREAM!

Alice:

A DREAM!

The Queen of Hearts:

OFF WITH THEIR HEADS!

(The "Dream" chorus repeats. All characters are now on stage for the finale dance number as the theme is introduced over building harmonies and percussion. There is one final "off with their heads" chorus for the entire cast. Everything is moving with lights, effects, and dancing.)

All Wonderland Characters:

OFF WITH THEIR HEADS! (Repeat)

(The final chord fades into a spotlight on Lewis Carroll back on the bank of the river in Oxford.)

(20) ALICE PLEASE DON'T CRY - Reprise - (0:37)

Lewis Carroll:

Alice please don't cry
It's words from dreams now only
Just words from dreams that I know can seem real

(21) PROMISE TO DREAM (7:26)

(Lewis Carroll says goodbye to Alice as she moves on from childhood)

Lewis Carroll:

These summer days they pass so quickly
As the seasons to years
I turn around you've grown completely
That little girl has disappeared
And through these days we have come to find questions
weren't nearly as clear as they'd seemed
And through these words I believed we'd find answers
unfolding right out of our dreams

Lost within these answers
hid the tests of time's cruel dancers
Cold... Hard... Truth...

These summer days
Now fading softly
As the evening's shadows near
I miss the past
The childish laughter
ringing after
always there
So my stories will not fade away to memories
lost from you

Promise to dream every day of your life
Promise to dream through the darkest of nights
May you never have to cry yourself to sleep
Ever more
Just dream ever more

Alice (Now singing Carroll's opening poem back to him):

*All in a golden afternoon
full leisurely we'd glide
For both our oars with little skill
By little arms are plied
While little hands make vain pretense
Our wanderings to guide...*

Lewis Carroll with Alice, The Queen, and finally the Rabbit:

Promise to dream every day of your life
Promise to dream through the darkest of nights (Repeat)

(Curtain calls during final guitar solos)

Thanks for listening!

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