**ACT 1 SCENE 1**

***Set*** *- Bright Blue Sky projection. Tree stumps and logs? Pieces of litter strewn across the stage*

*Sounds of nature. Two twin children are sat playing*

***Enter SR*** *Mr Hats, closely followed by Mr Hare with a clip board and a tired little child*

*Soon after* ***USL*** *enter an eccentric lady* ***(Catrina)*** *carrying litter pickers, 3 girls in matching pink/purple sports wear and a boy* ***(K)*** *wearing too much of the colour red*

***USR*** *enter a group of girls in dungarees, sleeves rolled up.*

*The group gather* ***DSR*** *with a sense of pride and excitement, its early morning but they all seem ready to work (apart from the tired small child who rubs their eyes and pulls at Mr Hare now and then for attention)*

**Mr Hare:** Ah morning campers! *(everyone continues to chatter)*

Hello! Morning all! The sun has got its hat on…

**Mr Hats:** Hip hip hip hooray! I’ll take it from here Mr Hare

**Mr Hats:** Right you are Mr Hats, over to you……. Over and out from Mr Hare

**Mr Hats:** Thank you Mr Hare. Right, Can I have your attention please everyone, looking this way. Thank you. Firstly, I’d like to say thank you for being here, it's great to see so many of you here showing support for our marvelous planet! Now Mr Hare and I have divided you into teams, Catrina has the little pickers and Laura should have the bags…

**K:** Laura’s not here yet but she’s on her way!

**Mr Hats:** Not a problem. Mr Hare can you please assign teams whilst we wait?

**Mr Hare:** Team 1 will head over to the patch of trees over there…

*(Mr Hare mimes showing who is in which team with his clipboard – Girl Group, Catrina and Sporty Girls are team 1, they take their litter pickers and go to head off stage)* *Laura enters* ***DSL*** *in a rush and a little embarrassed to be late, she has bin bags and is followed by Alice on her phone. Laura passes some bin bags to Catrina’s as she passes*

**Catrina:** You’re a darling Laura, thank you. Oh and who are you sweety pie?

*(Alice doesn’t look up from her phone)*

***Laura:*** Alice!

***Alice:*** *(looking up from her phone)* yeah?

*(Laura stomps off towards Mr Hare)*

*(Alice nearly walks into the Sporty girls as they pass on a litter picker)*

**SG1:** Look out!

**SG2:** Opps!

**SG3:** You nearly lost your head there

**Alice:** Oops sorry

**Girl Group 1:** Loving the outfit

**Alice:** Thank you

**Girl Group 2:** That’s a strong look

**Alice:** Erm Thanks

**Mr Hats:** Ah, no time like the present - and I see you have a present for us too

**Laura:** Sorry!

**K:** Laura, you made it!

**Laura:** Yes, my little sister couldn’t leave the house without downloading some app first

**Alice:** It was a filter pack, I didn’t want to waste my data when I could use the wifi…

**Mr Hats**: Oh, I have one for you- why do video gamers hate nature? Because it's full of bugs!

**Alice:** I’m **not** a gamer, I’m a social media content creator.

**Laura:** It could have waited..

**Alice:** They are environmental filters, I need them to promote my videos today, you’ve got to try this one…says cheese!..... *(Laura does not smile)* wow crack a smile, why so serious?

**K:** (Giggling) good reference to …

*(Laura shoots him a look and he stops)*

**Mr Hats:** Which is more environment-friendly: Facebook or my jokes?

Facebook produces too many [plastics, while my jokes has 100% recycling](https://www.conserve-energy-future.com/recyclingplastic.php) rate!

*(Laura glaring at Alice, who is un-amused by Mr Hats jokes)*

**Laura:** You made me late

**K:** You weren’t that late…

**Laura:** You know I can’t stand being late

**K:** She does hate being late

**Laura:** Everyone was waiting for us

**K:** I told them you were on your way, I told them it was important to you, and you wouldn’t miss it. Mr Hare was just handing out the teams, so technically you..

*(He stops as he notices Laura and Alice staring at him blankly)*

**Alice:** You **really** like the colour red

**K**: Oh… well I suppose I do um well … It's Laura’s favourite colour

**Alice:** Oh is it Laura? I thought your favourite colour was white?

**Laura:** White isn’t a colour

**Alice:** What?

**K:**Technically a color is visible light with a specific wavelength. Black and white are not colors because they do not have specific wavelengths. Instead, white light contains all wavelengths of visible light… So um Laura's right, she’s so smart.

**Alice:** … Okay then. I need to go get an opening shot for today's video so I’ll leave you love birds to it.

**K:** What, love, pfft no… what why would you… I mean… Um

**Laura:** Oh shut up. Go get your oh so important shot,...

*(Alice moves SL, moving phone around in different directions/angles)*

**Alice:** Not my fault Laura doesn’t appreciate the art of vlogging, or that she’s so narrow minded she doesn’t realise the power of the internet..

*Suddenly, a rabbit dashes out in front of her, running across the stage*

**Alice:** Authentic wildlife caught in action! I’m basically David Attenborough capturing this.

*Alice records the rabbit, following it*

**Alice:** Excuse me Mr Rabbit, could you slow down, I need a clear shot for my thumbnail, everyone will click on a video with a cute rabbit in it!

*Rabbit dives down rabbit hole. Alice peers in*

**Alice:** *Er I'm not going down there. What sort or crazy girl climbs into a rabbit hole!*

*she notices the USB stick just inside the hole.*

**Alice:** Whats this? Rather advanced technology for a rabbit…

**Mr Hare:** Ok team, are we ready?

**Alice:** Look what I just found, I think it’s a USB Stick?

**Mr Hats:** Ah a great start, pop it in the bag….

**Mr Hare:** So you three are with us in the rose gardens *(Alice pockets the USB stick)*

**Laura:** Us 2. Alice can stay here and play in the weeds with the kids

**Alice:** Er, what? You expect me to babysit?

**Laura:** No, you can stay here and play, and when you decide to grow up and actually pay attention to the world around you, you can join the adults

**Alice:** I need to vlog the litter pick for today’s upload

**Laura:** *(Talking to the others)* Please go on, I will catch you up

**Mr Hats:** Ok, Captain! Come along Crew

**Alice:** Wow, does he always talk like that?

**Laura:** Just stop!

**Alice:** What? You have to admit your friends are a little weird

**Laura:** At least I have friends

**Alice:** What’s that supposed to mean? I have 7,521 followers

**Laura:** Who on earth would want to follow you? What is so appealing about a petulant little child that can’t spend five minutes away from her phone.

**Alice:** I’m not a child, I'm thirteen, and people care about what I have to say…

**Laura:** Oh Alice, wake up and join the real world, you’re living like some avatar on a screen! You really think your little tweets mean anything?

**Alice:** An avatar is a game character, I am being me. You do realise how much of an impact the internet makes? One post about saving the environment, and I’ve influenced 7,521 people to go out and litter pick, to recycle, to care more about the world around them.

**Laura:** Whilst you’re just sat on your phone. You can pretend you’re doing something good and important all you want, but you’re not, you’re just lazy and idiotic if you think you’re actually making a difference. I need to go and do something that actually makes an impact on the real world. Say hello to your ‘friends’ for me…

*Laura leaves. Alice stands still for a moment trying to control her emotions. The twin children had stopped playing in the dirt during the argument and are now staring at Alice. Alice turns her head slowly, then looks back to the audience. She shrugs off the argument, puts her phone up and starts recording…*

**Alice:** Hey guys, I promised a video on location today and I have not let you down…..

*(Lights down)* **MUSIC - Alice song intro plays as the scene changes**

**ACT 1 SCENE 2**

***Set:*** *Bedroom with a large computer screen. A cat, Dinah, sleeps on the bed. She wakes, stretches and pads at the bed.*

*Door slams, feet stomping upstairs. Alice enters, throws her things down and lies on the bed with a sigh. Laura’s pops her head in*

***Laura:***Off to your own little world again

*Alice throws a cushion towards Laura and growls as the music starts*

***Alice 3 song and Alice 3 mp3***

*Dinah tries to get her attention*

**Alice:** Oh how could I resist those eyes *(Alice begins to smooth her back)*

What a day.

Laura has like two personalities it seems. I wish you could have seen her

“White isn’t a colour…” Ugh.

And she has some really odd friends now, most of them aren’t even her age, I mean who even is she?

And she spent the whole day telling me to live in the real world like she knows everything.

Just you wait, soon I will be making so much money online, I’ll be travelling the world, vlogging to my fans as I go, climbing mountains and trekking through forests, just me and the big wide world at my feet.

**Dinah:** Meow

**Alice:** And you of course Dinah, Oh I found something today! *(Taking stick out of her pocket and studying it)* I found it down a rabbit hole. What on earth would a rabbit be doing with this?

*(Alice jumps up and plugs in the USB)* Please do not destroy my computer, please do not be a virus, please contain something interesting to make this day worthwhile…

*(Lots of warning pop ups appear on the screen)* No, no, no, no, no….. *(Alice removes the stick and the screen goes blank)* Phew! Everything is still in its place….yes..that was a close one. I guess that was a lesson to learn Dinah, never…

*(As Alice if talking a rabbit appears on the screen)*

**Rabbit:** Oh my, oh my oh my….

**Alice:** *(turns startled)* Er… what?

***Rabbit:*** Now it's not here, where could it be? Oh my, oh my, oh my… I’ll be terribly late and on such an important date!

**Alice:** Hello?... Wow Alice, talking to an animated rabbit, maybe I do need to lower my screen time…

**Rabbit:** Never mind hello, no time for greetings, I am late for a very royal meeting!

**Alice:** I’m going mad. Maybe It’s voice activated? … Can you, can you hear me?

**Rabbit:** Of course I can hear you but no time to listen, hello, goodbye, goodbye, hello, if I can find the time then off I go!

**Alice:** Are you a talking rabbit?

**Rabbit:** Why, what else would I be? Now are you going to help or just stand there jibber jabbing?

*(The Rabbit climbs in through the screen and starts looking around Alice’s room, Alice is stunned)*

**Alice:** I’ve gone mad. Yep this is it.

**Rabbit:** Oh my, oh my, I’m so terribly late

**Alice:** Er that’s my…. Erm ok… what exactly are you looking for?

**Rabbit:** What I am looking for we will never catch

**Alice:** So why are you looking?

**Rabbit:** Well I could never run as fast as him, he runs all day twice around the gym! But we just can’t let it slip, we must treasure it and try to keep up, so quick! Come along!

If we are late, she will start seeing red and then oh my, it will be off with my head!

*(Rabbit dives into the screen in a panic. Alice stares after him, tentatively reaching through screen seeing her hand disappear)*

**Alice:** Help a rabbit that's able to travel through computers to the real world, or stay here listening to Laura complain about me... Maybe this is my chance to make an impact, Dinah, that rabbit seemed terribly upset. I can prove I’m not lazy, or petulant, whatever that means... Goodbye Dinah, I’m going on an adventure!

*(Alice climbs into the screen after the rabbit)*

**Music (Alice 1 song)**

**– Projection= tumbling code and a little Alice Chasing the Rabbit through screens savers and strange lands -**

**During this the bedroom set is changed in to a room of doors.**

**ACT 1 SCENE 3**

*Set - a room of 5 doors, set in a arrow/V shape with the smallest door in the middle*

*Rabbit runs on stage and goes through a door. Alice runs on and approaches a door but its locked*

*(Alice tries all the biggest doors first and then finally the smallest door)*

**Alice:** Mr Rabbit, Oh… they are all locked, but surely the Rabbit went through one of them

Hmm, maybe this one…

*(When Alice goes to try the smallest door a voice is heard and the door keeper pokes head through gap)*

**DK:** Oh how very rude! Did you just rattle Delilah? And she’s just a baby!

**Alice:** Of course the doors talk. Talking rabbit. Talking doors. Right. I apologise…I didn’t…

**DK:** Don’t apologise to me, Delilah is right here

**Alice:** You mean… the door? Apologise to the door. Right. I’m…. sorry… Delilah?

**DK:** I saw you touch the other girls too! So did Oldy, so did Mouldy, I’ve got witnesses.

**Alice:** Erm, sorry every…body, I was just trying to find the white rabbit that went through here

**DK:** Through here? Impassible, right girls. *(Silence)*

**Alice:** ….How is itImpossible? You’re all doors aren’t you, isn’t your whole function to open?

**DK:** Perhaps your ears need cleaning young lady; I said impassable. It will do you well to learn to listen to others. You cannot pass through here because only residents of Wonderland are allowed.

**Alice:** What…where is Wonderland?

**DK:** Now that’s a question! Where is Wonderland, Hhhh hm? Did you hear that girls? The little lady doesn’t know where Wonderland is *(laugh)*

**Alice:** Erm.. how would I know I’ve just arrived here, I’m not even sure where here is, I think I’m inside my computer… maybe Laura was right and I am in my own virtual world… or am I hallucinating?

**DK:** Oh dear, how can you know which door to take if you don’t even know where you are?

**Alice:** Can’t you just, you know, tell me?

**DK:** Now what fun would that be huh? (*DK disappears behind a door*)

**Alice:** Right, fine, well google maps will tell me

*(Alice gets her phone out and tries to use it)*

**Alice:** That’s weird…. Must be a rubbish signal… *(Looks around)* Are you really not going to help me? Hello? I'm obviously lost and need help!

**DK:** (*Opening the door revealing self as a person holding many keys)* Hello ‘obviously lost and need help,’ I’m the Door Keeper.

**Alice:** Right, how do I…

*(DK slams door closed again)*

**Alice:** Fine, I don’t need you, I’ll figure it out myself. *(Looks around)* Doors, any suggestions? *(Silence)* Useless pieces of wood. Trees died for you to be made you know, could at least be a bit helpful.

*Suddenly, one door swings open. Alice glances at the doors, then at the open one.*

**Alice:** See, that wasn’t so hard, thank you very much. *She* *walks through…*

*Alice emerges from a different door, but suddenly is a boy.*

**Alice as a boy :** What, how have I ended up back here, what use is a door that just leads me back to where I came from? How was that even built? Brilliant, guess I’ll try google maps again…

*Alice catches sight of herself on her phone and screams.*

What? How! What have you done? I’m broad, and have big hands, and and and is that a bit of a moustache!! You stupid doors, I’ll use you as firewood!

*Across from her, another door opens.*

**Alice:** You better switch me back or so help me I…

*Runs through. Re emerges as a different girl. Checks herself in phone again…*

I wish I had hair like this, or my skin was this clear. Great, thanks doors for giving me new insecurities. Can I just go back to my plain old self please.

*One more door opens, Alice runs through. Re-emerges as Laura.*

**Alice:** I’m… I look like her. She’d hate this if she knew, since she acts like she’s so much better than me. She’d probably think I’m not even good enough to pretend to be like her. I always wondered what it would be like, if just for a second, I could be as in control, and popular, and powerful as she is. But… I feel nothing. Just empty. Guess we really are nothing alike.

Please, I just want to be me again, normal, boring Alice.

*One last door opens. Alice walks through. Re-emerges as herself.*

**Alice:** Thank you. But, you're going to pay for that, you lumps of twigs!

*Thinks*

If you really won't help Door Keeper, I’m going to have to resort to extreme measures. I didn’t want it to come to this, but you leave me no choice. *(Steps back from the door, makes a karate pose, begins running towards it, grabbing onto the door and swinging, shouting at it.)* By the time I’m done you’ll be nothing but a broken stick!

**DK:** *(Emerges once more)* Alright alright, keep your handle on! I was just messing around. I only wanted to joke with you, being a door is very hard you know, you get board so quickly!

**Alice:** Oh haha,Please just help me find the rabbit!

**DK:** Your wish is my command. *(Gestures towards the smallest door at top of the stage)* Through there you will find the rabbit you seek. But please don’t tell the Queen it was me that let you through! *(Gives Alice a key)*

**Alice:** I don’t care about any Queen, don’t worry. How on earth am I supposed to fit through there?

**DK:** Ah, right, minor issue um…. *(Digs around in coat, eventually producing a bottle with a magical liquid inside)* This should do the trick!

**Alice:** *(Reading the label)* Drink me. Well, I’ve already leapt through a magical computer screen, can it really get any stranger? *(Drinks potion)*

*Alice becomes smaller and smaller, magical music as the DK waves goodbye, disappearing through one of the doors. Transform into Small Alice.*

**Alice:** Well, here goes nothing.

*Opens door….*

**ACT 1 SCENE 4**

*Set - the big doors disappear leaving the small door on stage. Music - small creatures with elements of sailor and pirate costumes enter -*

*DANCE - The WellerMan for kids - A twinkl Sea Shanty -*

Towards the end of the song Alice crawls through the door and finds herself in the middle of the dance...

*Song finishes - the sea creatures split into small groups around the stage -*

***Alice :*** *Erm excuse me...*

*(sea creatures ignore Alice)*

**Mouse 1, 2 +3 :** A sailor went to sea sea sea to see what he could see see see…

*(continue nursery rhyme with actions throughout scene)*

***Alice:*** *Hello, could you tell me where....*

*(sea creatures ignore Alice)*

**Bird 1 + Bird 2:** Row row row your boat, gently down the stream…

*(continue nursery rhyme throughout the scene)*

**Alice:** Hello, i am looking for...

**Parrot:** Grrr! (*Brandishes sword)* Aye me hartie, Off with your head!

**Calypso:** Stop it! The Queen's spies are everywhere, she wont like you making fun of her like that…

**Treasure:** I don’t fear the nasty old Queen!

**Kraken:** We’d show her what for, wouldn’t we gang?

**All:** AYE!

**Alice:** Oh, there is a Queen here?

**Captain:** Not here no, If the Queen was here we'd all be inside our shells!

**Calypso**: We certainly wouldn't be playing games our way

**Pete Plank:** Or you way!

**Mouse 2**: Or my way!

**Blackbeard:** Only her way!

**All: (Mocking)** Because all ways are the Queens ways!

**Bonez:** Water fight! (Bonez throws a bucket of blue confetti from Stage left to Right, Stage Right character retaliate, Alice is left in the middle, ducking hands over her head)

**Alice:** Oh my, please stop! Oh no, I'm getting all wet, stop, please!

**Captain:** Whats up, don't you like fun?

**Alice:** Of course I like fun, I just didn't, I wasn't....oh I was just following a white rabbit through my computer and now everything is so confusing... I wish I had stayed home with Dinah

(Alice sits on the floor, deflated and wet)

**Mouse 1:** Whose Dinah?

**Alice:** Dinah is my cat...

**Mouse 1, 2 & 3:** Cat?! Where? Here? There? *(The mice cower in a row covering their eyes, ears and mouth, the other animals run about looking for somewhere to hide)*

**Alice:** *(rising and trying to stop the chaos)* Oh, I am so sorry, I didn't think! No, please Dinah inst here... please there is no cat here.... hello! stop! Can we have some order?? ....(she picks up a bucket and shouts) Water fight!

(The animals stop and beginning playing, they all fall to the floor laughing) #

**Captain:** Now wasn't that fun?

**Alice:** Yes it was, and I almost forgot why I was here

**All:** Why are you here Alice?

**Alice:** Well like I said, I followed a white rabbit into my computer and... hmm it does sound a little absurd to say it out loud... but i am also sat talking to all you small creatures...

**Smallest actor:** All the best people are small!

**Alice:** Well I suppose you are right, and I'm quite enjoying being small again. When Laura and I were small we were like two peas in a pod, always together, side by side, in the garden making mud pies for the adults, playing pirates and tying our dad to the slide, running round in our swim suits all day and pretending there were crocodiles in our paddling pool...

**Parrot**: Annnnnd... what happened?

**Alice:** Well, I suppose she got tall

**All:** Oh no, that's terrible...awful...etc

**Alice:** Its ok, I just spent more time exploring outside alone, talking to the animals, documenting my adventures on video... and I still had Dinah, my cat..

**Mouse 1, 2 +3:** Cat!

**Birds 1+2:** Where?

**Alice:** No, no, no... I didn't mean..

**Parrott:** Here?

**Kracken:** There?

**Treasure:** Everywhere?!

**All:** Hide!! (All animals run off in different directions)

**Alice:** Please, come back, there is no cat! Dinah isn't here.... Oh but I wish she was.

*(Alice sits miserable, two twins appear either side of her)*

**SCENE 5**

**TDee:** Do you think it’s a lizard?

**TDum**: No no, far too tall for a lizard.

**TDee**: Even one on its back legs?

**TDum**: I don’t believe lizards have back legs.

**TDee**: Of course they do.

**TDum**: Of Course they don’t.

**TDum:** Quite hairy for a lizard.

**TDee:** Indeed, what funny scales too..

**Alice:** Get your hands off me! I do not have scales and I most certainly am not a lizard!

**TDee+Dum:** A talking lizard!

**Alice:** Why is everyone in this place more infuriating than the last?

**TDee:** Oh no no, not everyone my dear

**TDum:** Some of us are just plain weird!

**TDee:** I’mTweedle Dee

**TDum:** And I’m Tweedle Dum

**TDee+Dum:** And we are the guardians of fun!

**TDee:** So if we might, can we have your name

**TDum:** Then you can come and join in our game!

**Alice:** Pfft. I don’t want to join in your silly game, I’ve got important things to do, I need to find the White Rabbit!

*Alice can’t help but watch as TDee+Dum launch into comedic, intricate handshake/movement*

*piece* ***TDee+Dum*** *finish act laughing*

**Alice:** … well, it does look quite interesting actually, maybe I…

*Alice gets dragged into handshake/movement piece with TDee+Dum smiling and laughing*

**TDee:** Why waste your time feeling blue

**TDum:** Being a grump

**TDee:** In a mood!

**TDum:** When you can play

**TDee:** Our fun games

**TDee+Dum:** All day!

**TDee** So what you say?

**TDum:** Ayyyeee?

**Alice:** Well… I suppose that was quite fun, it’s nice to feel… carefree? How do you guys do it? You’re so relaxed. Don’t you ever get anxious, or stressed?

**TDee:** No point being stressed

**TDum:** Only makes your tummy a mess!

**TDee:** We’re all just kids

**TDum:** No need for grown up problems yet!

**Alice:** What? I **am** a grown up.

**TDum+TDee:** *Laugh*

**Alice:** Why are you laughing? Stop it! I’m far more mature than you two anyways.

**TDum:** Mature bore!

**TDee:** Why are you in such a rush?

**TDum:** Who on earth wants to be grown up?

**Alice:** I do! So, so… I can be taken seriously, and respected, and not have Laura talk down to me all the time…

**TDee:** How can one talk down? *(talks to floor)*

**TDum:** Does that mean one can talk up? *(shouting up to sky)*

**TDee+Dumm:** Side to side? (*Wrap around each other)* Diagonal?

**Alice:** Oh don’t be so idiotic! All of this, all of you, you’re ridiculous.

*TD+TD stare at her, hurt. Beat.*

**TDee:** Are we… idiotic?

**TDum:** Ridiculous?

*Alice, seeing how upset they are, calms down.*

**Alice:** No, no you’re not. Geez. I sound just like…

*Reaches out to the twins*

I’m… sorry, that was mean. You’re not idiotic, or ridiculous. I guess I’ve just forgotten how to be playful.

**TDee:** You can still play at any age

**TDum:** No one can take your imagination away!

**TDee:** And we all say silly things sometimes

**TDum:** But It’s by our actions that we’re defined

**Alice:** Deeds not words huh? Some wise ladies once said that back in olden times, when they were chaining themselves to railings to get rights and stuff. If only I was doing work as important as they were. Maybe Laura was right, I can pretend all I want I’m doing something worthwhile, but I’m just fooling myself.

**TDee:** We believe in you

**TDum:** We can see your heart is true

**TDee:** This is your first hurdle, please don’t fall

**TDum:** You keep on running, standing tall

**Alice:** Ha. You know that's pretty good advice, I’m gonna write that down in my notes app. It would be good to have the reminder…

*Alice brings out her phone from her pocket, instantly causing a chaotic reaction from the twins*

**TDum+Dee: (***Panicking)* What is that?

**TDum:** Bad! Bad! Bad!

**TDee:** Get away get away!

**Alice:** What? It’s just a phone, calm down! Hey, get off, don’t panic it's not going to hurt you

*TDum and Dee pull Alice off the stage,the phone is dropped on the way*

**ACT 1 SCENE 6**

*Same set as scene previous, stage now empty.* ***Cards; Ace + Club*** *run on from* ***SL,*** *panicked.*

**Ace:** Wait wait, I… I’ve got a stitch…

**Club:** You can risk your own neck! I’m not hanging around here when the Queen is in such a bad mood!

**Ace:** Wait wait wait… You can be honest with me… did you steal her tarts?

**Club:** I’m not falling for this trick

**Ace:** No no honestly, I’m just curious… they did smell so good…

*Starts looking dreamily into the distance, imagining the delicious tarts…*

**Club:** The… fresh raspberries…

**Ace:** Buttery pastry…

**Club:** Soft sugar coating…

**Ace:** Just sat on the windowsill… so lonely… waiting to be eaten

**Club:** Practically calling out my name

**Ace:** Eat me, please eat me, don’t let the nasty old Queen get me!

**Club:** It would’ve been worth it

**Ace:** Ah ha! So you confess!

**Club:** What! No! I … this would never hold up in court

**Ace:** Court? Tell another joke! You know that everything in this place is decided by the Queen, she’s judge, jury

**Club:** And executioner! What are we going to do?

**Ace:** We? There’s no ‘we,’ this is a you problem

**Club:** Come on, you know as well as I do that the Queen would claim you were my accomplice and be more than happy to chop off both our heads! Lovely bit of evening entertainment for her, she’s probably getting her popcorn ready now

**Ace:** Well… (*suddenly notices Alice's phone that got dropped during the earlier commotion)*

What have we got here? *(Picks it up, inspecting it)*

**Club:** I’ve never seen something like that before… reckon it’s magic?

**Ace:** No idea… *(manages to turn it on, flashing up the lockscreen photo of Alice)*

**Club:** Think we should report it to the Queen?

**Ace:** Oh absolutely. This, my friend, is our ticket out of the gallows.

*They pocket the phone and run off in the same direction they came from, now merry.*

**ACT 1 SCENE 7**

*Set change, now in the forest. Alice alone walks on from* ***SR***

**Alice:** Wow, thanks guys, one moment having a nice little heart to heart then just abandon me in this totally not creepy, not scary, and certainly not terrifying forest. Well, luckily enough I’m definitely not scared of the dark so this is definitely not an issue whatsoever…

*Something in the bushes rustles…*

**Alice:** AGH! Oh no no I don’t like this at all, I am mature enough to admit my fears and this, this is at the top of my list. My phone flashlight! Why didn’t I think of that before

*Digs around in her pockets; panic, realises she can't find it*

Oh no no no, please no, where’s it gone! I must’ve dropped it! My followers! My new filter pack! Why cruel world why

*At various points around the stage, figures begin appearing*

**CC1:** Say now, what’s got you all in a twist?

**CC2:** In a bunch?

**CC3:** Lost your head?

**Alice:** *Screams*

**CC1:** Woah woah woah

**CC2:** No need to get all worked up

**CC3:** What, have you never seen a cat before?

**Alice:** Not one like you.

**CC1:** One?

**CC2:** Two?

**CC3:** Three like me, possibly? The Cheshire Cat is at your service

**Alice:** Where’s your… how are you…

**CC1:** We’re all unique in our own ways

**CC2:** No need to judge

**CC3:** Or run away!

**Alice:** Unique certainly is a word for you…

**CC1:** For you too

**Alice:** Not really. There’s nothing special about me.

**CC2:** Of course there is

**CC3:** Everyone has something unique, something that’s just theirs

**CC1:** Wouldn’t it be boring if we were all the same?

**Alice:** Huh, I wish I could look the same as everyone else. Everyones got something pretty about them, pretty eyes or hair or nail beds. I’m just Alice.

**CC2:** Well ‘just Alice’ you need to stop right there

**CC3:** There’s more to you than you know

**CC1:** But I think you’re getting there

**Alice:** Whatever. I don’t suppose you’ve seen a white rabbit around here?

**CC2:** Try letting your ears open before you cover them up

**CC3:** Trying letting your eyes see inside rather than on top

**Alice:** Is that one of the rules of living in this place? You have to be as cryptic as possible.

**CC1:** Hmmm I suppose one could say that the White Rabbit did pass through here

**Alice:** Brilliant! In which direction?

**CC2:** He went

**CC3:** That way!

*They all gesture in different directions*

**Alice:** What?!

**CC1:** But one could also say he didn’t

**CC2:** Maybe he went all the ways

**CC3:** I’m just teasing, he went that way

*All point in different directions again*

**Alice:** Please, can you just show me the way

**CC1:** What way?

**CC2:** There’s this way that way

**CC3:** Our way your way

**CC1:** We must all go our own way in life, even if that means straying from the path

**Alice:** The rabbit's way!

**CC1:** What rabbit?

**CC2:** Haven’t heard of a rabbit way

**CC3:** Ohhh, do you mean the Hares way?

**Alice:** The Hares way?

**Cheshire Cat:** The Hare!

**CC1:** Well why didn’t you just say that

**CC2:** We all know the way to the Hare

**CC3:** The mad Hare of course

**Alice:** I don’t think I can deal with any more madness

**CC1:** Oh Alice

**Cheshire Cat:** We’re all mad here!

**CC2:** Down the path to the right, spin around three times

**CC3:** And it’ll be in your sight!

**CC1:** Can’t miss it. You should be just in time for tea!

**Alice:** Thank you, I suppose

*Begins walking SL*

**CC2:** Oh and ‘Just Alice’

**CC3:** You’re more than skin deep

*Alice exits SL. Cats vanish*

**ACT 1 SCENE 8**

*Set change - now at Queens castle. Queen* ***CS*** *with Cards Diamond and Spade either side, King looming upstage awkwardly*

**Music - Queens Song Off With Your Head**

*Song finishes - cheering from Cards who rush forwards to surround her*

**Diamond:** Beautiful! Beautiful my Queen, absolutely brilliant

**Queen:** *Gloating* Mmm I was rather spectacular wasn’t I

**Spade:** Your best performance yet!

**Queen:** *Glaring* You mean to say my other performances **weren’t** the best?

**Spade:** No! No no my lord highness majesty God-ship, I just…

**King:** Ah my darling Wife, pay the Card no mind, she’s simply in awe of your… elegance. You’ve left her speechless.

**Queen:** I will pay my mind to whatever I see fit, and certainly will not be told what to do by you, my bumbling buffoon of a husband. It will do you well to remember whose mind actually matters here.

**King:** No, no my dear I wasn’t suggesting… no of course, your thoughts are always the correct thoughts. You were incredible as always.

**Queen:** *Satisfied* I know. Dear, do make yourself useful, find out where my tart thief is, there’s only so long a girl can polish her axe before it becomes tiresome. I’m ready for the main event.

*Ace and Club suddenly rush in*

**Ace+Club:** Your majesty!

**Queen:** Oh goody; the entertainment has arrived

**Diamond:** *whispering* Who do you think did it? I’ve got dibs on Ace

**Spade:** *whispering* Mmm definitely

**Ace:** My Queen, please may I appeal to your good nature…

**Queen:** Silly club there is no nature only nurture and mine was that of destruction and despair. So as sorry as I am for this game of cat and mouse to come to an end, my dears, I have an appointment

**Diamond:** Oh, sorry ma’am I don’t have anything scheduled in your diary for this afternoon...

**Queen:** I’m pencilling it in now. An execution at sunset, such a beautiful background don’t you think

**Diamond+Spade:** Oh absolutely, the very best

**Club:** Please, ma’am, before you do, we discovered something that is of far greater importance than our silly little existences

*Brings out the phone*

**King:** What on earth is that?

**Queen:** Oh don’t be so obtuse, it’s obviously a … a …

**Spade:** Sculpture?

**Diamond:** Headpiece?

**Spade:** A Trophy!

**Diamond:** No no a… rock?

**Queen:** A rock… yes yes of course, a rock, Cards have you truly brought me a rock? Is this you imbeciles idea of a joke?

**Ace:** No no ma’am, it is far more than an average rock, look! *Switches it on, revealing the lockscreen*

**King:** What sorcery is that!

**Diamond+Spade:** Black magic!

*The Queen snatches the phone, inspecting it*

**Diamond:** Be careful, your highness! You don’t know what…

*Phone buzzes, causing everyone to cower*

**Queen:** *Reading out* Low battery, plug in device… A device. What a strange little thing. And a strange little IT inside. How is that person trapped in there? *Shakes phone* Be free! Show yourself you coward, come out of your hiding place!

**King:** I think, my love, that the person inside is not a living being

**Diamond:** You mean to say there’s a corpse trapped in there!

**Spade:** Oh no I feel queasy

**King:** No no, I mean I believe it's a still image, I met a sorcerer named Joseph Nicéphore Niépce once who could create them. They’re like snapshots of life, captured forever. As the world changes and ages you will look back on them and they stay exactly the same. MrNiépce called them pho-to-graphs.

**Queen:** *Embarrassed* Oh, well, yes, of course, momentary lapse of judgement on my part. Pho-to-graphs, what a stupid invention, no purpose, ridiculous really no wonder I’d never heard of it.

**King:** I don’t know - I think it would’ve been rather lovely to have had a pho-to-graph of our wedding, don't you think my love?

**Queen:** Don’t talk nonsense dear, you appear foolish enough without opening your mouth. Why on earth would I want to look back on that day forever - the more time passes and the more my memory fades of the whole ordeal the better.

**Ace:** So, your majesty, using our keen detective skills we have deduced that whoever left this … this…

**Club:** Device, must be… an **intruder.**

**Spade+Diamond:** *gasp* an intruder!

**Ace:** This device isn’t of our world, it shouldn’t be here

**Club:** So whoever it belongs to must not be of our world either

**Queen:** Not of our world, an intruder… no, I will not stand for it. *Pointing at Ace+Club* You’re lucky I'm in a good mood. Consider this your final lifeline; bring me whoever owns this device, the thing in the pho-to-graph, or it will be OFF WITH YOUR HEADS

*Ace+Club run off.*

**Queen:** Cards! Fetch me a pig so I may rest my feet, it has been a stressful day

**Spade+Diamond:** Of course your majesty

*exit*

**King:** My dear, are you quite alright…

**Queen:** I am in no mood for your talk of emotions… please, just leave me.

**King:** I want to support you…

**Queen:** I don’t need your support, I don’t need you jabbering in my ear, what I need to do is think about how to keep **my** kingdom safe.

*The King exits. Now alone, Queen lets her guard down (head in hands or something similar ?)*

*Lights down*