Alice in Wonderland

by Lewis CARROLL
It is a hot summer day. Alice is sitting near the river with her sister. Her sister is reading a book. Alice is bored and sleepy. Suddenly a white rabbit comes out of a bush. He is running and Alice hears him saying: “I’m late! I’m late!”

Suddenly the rabbit disappears into a large hole in the ground. Alice follows him and falls into a very deep well. Down, down goes Alice, until she arrives at the bottom of the well. The rabbit has gone. Alice is now in a room with a little door. But the door is too small for her! She can’t get through.
In the room there is also a table. It is big and made of glass. On the table Alice sees a bottle with a label. “Drink me”. Alice drinks from the bottle and soon she becomes so small that now she can get through the door! But the door is locked. Where is the key?

Alice sees a small golden key on the table, but now she is too small to catch it. Then she sees a little box with a label, “Eat me”. In the box there is a cake. Alice eats some of the cake and soon begins to grow! She can catch the key now!
Alice goes to the little door and opens it, but she is too tall to get through. She is very unhappy and cries. Suddenly she sees the white rabbit. He is carrying a fan and a pair of gloves and is running. “I’m late! I’m late!” he says.

When he sees Alice, he is so afraid that he drops the fan and the gloves and runs away. Alice puts on the gloves and takes the fan: immediately she becomes smaller: “Oh, no! – she says – it’s happening again!”

Then the rabbit comes back and, seeing Alice, cries: “Go to my house and get a pair of gloves! Quick! I’m late!” Alice is surprised, but she goes to the rabbit’s little house and gets inside. She can’t find the gloves, but she sees a little bottle with a label, “Drink me”. Alice drinks from the bottle and starts growing, growing... Soon she is so big that the house is too small for her and she has to put her legs and arms out the windows.
Outside the rabbit’s house all the animals look at Alice and are afraid of her. The throw stones inside the house, but the stones become little cakes.

Alice eats the cakes and becomes small again! Now she is so small that she goes out of the rabbit’s house and nobody sees her. She arrives under a mushroom. On the mushroom, there is a caterpillar.

“One half of this mushroom will make you taller, the other half will make you shorter” says the caterpillar, then he goes away. Alice takes a bite from one side of the mushroom and becomes very tall, so she takes a bite from the other side. Now she is back to her normal height! At last! Alice sees a house with the door open and goes inside.
There is a kitchen with a woman and a baby. The woman is the Duchess and the baby her little son. In the kitchen there is also a cook who is putting pepper in the soup. She puts in so much pepper that the Duchess and her little son are sneezing and sneezing!

“I must go and play croquet with the queen” says the Duchess and gives the baby to Alice. “What a strange baby” thinks Alice “he is pink and he has got a big nose and small eyes.” Suddenly she sees that the baby is a pig. The baby jumps from her arms and runs away.
But there is another surprise for Alice. When she goes out of the house, in the garden she sees something very strange: on the branch of a tree there is a cat smiling at her.

"Who are you?" Asks Alice. I’m the Cheshire cat”, answers the cat, “but who are you?" “I am a girl. My name is Alice." “Do you like it here?“ asks the cat.

“I don’t know. People are so strange here!", answers Alice. Then Alice asks, “Can you help me? I’m looking for the White Rabbit.”

“You can ask the Mad Hatter or the March Hare.”

“Who are they? Where do they live?” asks Alice.

The Cheshire cat points to a path in the forest, then starts vanishing from the tail, then the body and the head disappear. Only the large smile of the cat remains over the tree, then it disappears, too.
Alice follows the path and arrives near a little house. In the garden there is a table, set with many places. In the middle of the table there is a teapot and every place is set with a cup, a saucer and a spoon. There is also bread, butter and jam. The Mad Hatter and the March Hare are having tea and a dormouse is sleeping between them.

When the Mad Hatter sees Alice, he cries, “There’s no place! Go away!”

“There’s a lot of place”, says Alice and she sits down at an empty place. Would you like a glass of wine?” asks the March Hare. “I can’t see any wine” says Alice. “You are right” says the Hare. “There is no wine here.” “That is not very nice of you” says Alice. The dormouse opens one eye and says, “They are mad”, then he falls asleep again.

“What time is it?” asks Alice. “It’s always six o’ clock” says the Mad Hatter, looking at his watch, “For me it is always teatime.” Then he puts the watch into a cup of tea.
“Why don’t you tell us a story?” the March Hare asks Alice. “That’s a good idea” answers Alice. “Let me see…” but the dormouse says, “I will tell a story”. “Once upon a time” starts the dormouse, then he falls asleep again.
“Please, go on with the story” cries Alice, but the dormouse is fast asleep.
“I am tired of these strange people” thinks Alice, standing up and going away while the Mad Hatter and the March Hare go on drinking their tea.

Alice is walking in the forest when she sees a little door in a tree. She steps in and finds herself in the hall with the glass table. The little golden key is still on the table and Alice is now tall enough to catch it! But how can she go into the magnificent garden that she can see through the keyhole? She has the key, but she is too tall to pass through the little door!

Suddenly she remembers the mushroom with the caterpillar on it. Some of the mushroom is still in her pocket, so she takes a bite from it and becomes small enough to pass through the door and go into the garden. In the garden there are three strange gardeners: they are playing cards and they are painting all the white roses with white paint!
“Why are you painting the roses?” asks Alice.
The Queen of Hearts has ordered red roses, so we are painting the white roses red. We hope that she will not notice, otherwise she will cut off our heads!
“How can they cut off your heads”, cries Alice, “you are just playing cards!”
“The Queen! The Queen!” suddenly shouts one of the gardeners.

Alice sees the Queen of Hearts coming into the garden. She is with her husband, the King of Hearts and they are followed by soldiers and courtiers, all of them playing cards!
The White Rabbit is there, too.

When the Queen sees the white roses painted red, she shouts, “Soldiers, cut off the gardeners’ heads!” but Alice picks up the three playing cards and hides them in a pot of flowers.

Then the Queen sees Alice and asks her name.
“My name is Alice, Her Majesty” answers Alice politely.
“Off with her head!” shouts the Queen, pointing at Alice.
“Nonsense!” cries Alice, “you are just a playing card!” Then the Queen changes her mind and asks Alice, “Can you play croquet?”

“Of course I can play croquet!” answers Alice. “Then let’s play” orders the Queen and the game begins. “How strange”, thinks Alice, “the balls are hedgehogs, the mallets are flamingoes and the arches are playing cards!

The game starts, but Alice gets very angry because everyone is playing at the same time. In the confusion, the Queen often shouts, “Off with his head!” Alice is fed up and decides to go away. Suddenly the smiling head of the Cheshire Cat appears over a tree. “Off with his head!” shouts the Queen as soon as she sees the cat.

“Nonsense!”, cries Alice, “how can you cut off his head if he hasn’t got a body?”
“I think Alice is right”, says the King, “a head without a body can’t be cut off. Soldiers, catch the cat and put him in prison!” But the cat has already disappeared.
“The trial is beginning”, says the Queen, “let’s go!”
“What trial?” asks Alice.
“The trial against the Knave of Hearts” answers the King, “he will be put on a trial for stealing the Queen’s tarts.”
Everybody goes to the courtroom.
The King and the Queen sit on their thrones.
The White Rabbit is next to them.
He reads the charges against the Knave, then he calls the first witness, the Mad Hatter.

The Hatter arrives with a cup in one hand and some buttered bread in the other.
“What do you know about the theft of the Queen’s tarts?” asked the White Rabbit.
The Hatter is trembling with fear and drops the cup.
“Off with his head!” orders the Queen.
The next witness is the Duchess’s cook. As soon as she comes into the courtroom, everybody starts sneezing because of the pepper. “Off with her head!” shouts the Queen again.
While Alice is listening to the witnesses, she realizes that she is growing and growing. She is now very tall, so when the White Rabbit calls her a witness, she stands up and upsets the benches: the Jury, the Knave and the soldiers fall to the ground. “Off with her head!” shouts the Queen, pointing at Alice. “Off with her head!” shouts everybody.

“Hey!”, cries Alice, “stop it, you are only playing cards and I am not afraid of you!”
But all the cards walk around her and throw themselves on Alice.
“No, no!”, shouts Alice, “go away!”

“Alice, wake up, it’s time to go home!” says a voice sweetly. Who is speaking? Alice opens her eyes and sees her sister bent over her.
Alice rubs her eyes, looks around and realizes that she is waking from a long dream.
“Oh, what a strange dream I have had!”, she says to her sister, “I will tell you everything while we are going home…”

The End.

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