

# The Fall to Wonder

“Alice in Wonderland”

Originally by Lewis Carrol

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I sat in the backyard of my old, crumbly orphanage, when suddenly, a large white rabbit came out of nowhere and snapped the watch right off from my wrist.

“Hey!” I yelled, and jumped up. The rabbit hopped to a hole in the fence and squeezed under.

“No, no, no!” I yelled and climbed over the fence. Jumping down, all I saw was a ball of fluff escaping down a large hole. Sneakily, I tip-toed over to it and got on my hands and knees. Peering over the edge, I gasped. The hole was so deep it was pitch black. How had no one seen this before? Cautiously, I stuck my hand into the hole. No rabid rabbit bit me back.

Surely I could just climb out after retrieving my watch. No harm done, right? The hole was a few feet wide. I was skinny for a thirteen year old, so I could easily fit in.

First went my feet, my old Converse disappearing into inky darkness. I sighed and jumped in. A weird feeling came over me. I immediately looked down. Now, I really wish I hadn't. If there's one thing you should know about me, it's that I'm super scared of heights. My baby blue dress twisted sideways as a clock got tangled in it. But the clock wasn't falling like I was. It was merely floating there. The clock had a weird, familiar feeling to it. Like I had seen it before. A deck of cards scraped my arm as it floated past, the cards spilling out of it and dancing around me. Weird. I lost a deck of cards recently after forgetting them outside. And the teacup that twirled around my head looked identical to the

one used last Christmas. I quickly connected the dots. That rabbit must have been stealing our stuff!

*Once I get down there, I thought, I'm gonna make that rabbit pay!*

Things only got weirder from there. First it was a whole cake, then a chair, then a cow. How had the rabbit gotten those down the hole?

I was getting used to the fall when suddenly, I landed on something springy and soft. I looked down to see a bed.

"Where am I?" I murmured, looking around.

"Great question!" A masculine voice said. I whipped around to see the rabbit wearing my watch! But wait- it talked!

"H-hey! Give me that!" I yelled and jumped from the bed. Instantly, he hopped through the small door in the far wall. I ran after him, but it was hopeless. I stopped, hands on my knees.

"You neeeded help." A voice said in a whimsical, almost sing-song way. I turned around but saw nothing. Then, a sideways crescent shape grew wide in front of me. Inside the crescent was... teeth? Large, pointy teeth. It was a *grin*.

As if the lonely grin understood my look, the rest of the body came into view. It was a purple cat.

"You neeeded help." It purred again.

"Well no duh." I said, rolling my eyes. I was irritated by that annoying ball of fluff.

"Humph." The cat faded again.

"Wait! No, come back!" I yelled at open air. Nothing happened. The small door slammed shut. Alone again, I was more determined to escape. It looked like the small door was part of a bigger one - and a bigger one. I looked around. There was a table with a small glass vial and some cake. I knew what to do. I picked the vial up and hurled it at the door.

*CRASH!* The vile broke into pieces and a small pool of blue liquid pooled around the door.

*Surely someone heard that.* I thought to myself. But no one came. I picked up the small, pink box of mini cakes. I also threw

that at the door. It rebounded off with a thud. I was considering how to throw the table when I heard the door open. A tall man with a colorful outfit and a ridiculous hat stood there. Beside him, a boy my age stood, almost an identical copy with light brown hair and bright, blue eyes.

"Well, that's one way to open the door." The oddly dressed man said. "What's your name, young one? You can join us in the festivities!"

*Well, the orphanage wasn't really a true home, I thought.* Then, I grinned broadly. I was home.

"Alyssa."