

Wonderland in Alice: the Uncertainty Principle

by Margie Pignataro

Cast of Characters

Major Characters (appear in more than one scene)

Alice
Wolf
Charles Dodgson/Lewis Carroll
Devil
Queen of Swords
Empress
Death
Schizophrenic Cat

Minor Characters (only one scene)

Sushi
Syphilitic Worm
Duchess June Cleaver
Ward Cleaver
Hooha
Heeha
company of actors (#?)
Schrödinger's Cat (alive and dead)
Hanging Man
Tofurky

Non-Speaking Characters

dancers in Club Lair (#?)
Carbon
 Atom (nucleus, 6 electrons, etc.)
 Electron
 Quarks (3)
 Superstrings
Parade of Executions (#?)

SCENE 1: The Wolf

SETTING: A bench.

AT RISE: ALICE is reading quantum mechanics out loud. The WOLF enters, in a hurry. He's in a suit and hardly resembles a wolf at all. He trips over ALICE and the books scatter. ALICE attempts to pick them up; the WOLF takes the book she had been reading from aloud.

ALICE
It's quantum mechanics.

WOLF
(growls)

ALICE
I have no idea what it means. But I heard at twenty-five the brain develops and we're supposed to be able to understand it.
I turn that next week. So I'm seeing if it's true.
It's not yet. I'll probably have a magical event.
I'm gonna need that book back—it's a library book.

(ALICE reaches for it and the WOLF growls; he's transformed more into a WOLF now²)

ALICE
Okay, whoa, fuck, wait.
Look, I'd like to let you borrow it, but it's a fucking library book.
I lost one last year and they charged me three hundred bucks.
The library doesn't fuck around.
Here—take my Charles Dodgson. It's symbolic logic. I found that in the closet of the house I just moved into.
What the fuck are you doing? Are you chewing on it?

(the WOLF growls and seizes her by the wrist, twisting her around; he sniffs her, holding her against him; he reads, then sniffs her, then reads again)

WOLF
You don't understand this?

ALICE
Not really. Do you?

WOLF
It's so elegant. It's quite amazing.
What time is it?

ALICE
I don't know. My cell phone is—

WOLF
Fuck, I'm late. The Empress is going to have my balls.

(runs off with the book; throughout the play, the
WOLF always has the book and always keeps it
open)

ALICE
Fucker, give me back my book!

(ALICE chases after him)

END OF SCENE

SCENE 2: The Lair

SETTING: Dance club.³

AT RISE: The WOLF enters with the book, dances and grinds with dancers. ALICE enters.

VOICE⁴

Ladies and Gentlemen and Ladygentlemen and Gentleladies:
We want you to howl and tear your hair and hump whatever is near you and make him
feel wanted:
give it up for Charles Dodgson/Lewis Carroll!

(DODGSON/CARROLL⁵ enters; there's screaming
and applause; he performs as a drag queen would,
aiming his performance toward ALICE until she
tips him a dollar, shoving it in his pants; his song
ends and all returns to normal)

DODGSON/CARROLL

Drink me.

ALICE

That's a new one.

DODGSON/CARROLL

Take a sip and I'll help you find God.

ALICE

Aim high, that's what I always say.
I'm looking for someone, maybe you've seen him:
he's got one of my library books—

DODGSON/CARROLL
(hands her a drink produced by the crowd)

Drink me.

ALICE

Drink you or this?

DODGSON/CARROLL

That is me.

ALICE

That's probably not the most healthy option.
Can I ask you a personal question? Pardon me if I cross a line.

DODGSON/CARROLL

Go for it, honey:
shock me.

ALICE

How many, how many
are you?
is that a birth defect or are you
really really conjoined twins?

DODGSON/CARROLL

Drink me and you'll understand.
You'll find the Wolf, too.

ALICE

How did you know—?

DODGSON/CARROLL

Honey, you think you're the only woman that's come in this place looking for that sexy
beast?
I think you're wasting your time.
Wolves are always a waste of time.

ALICE

He has my library book.

DODGSON/CARROLL

I'm sure he has.

ALICE

No, seriously. A very expensive book on quantum physics—

DODGSON/CARROLL

Let me level with you honey:
Wolf has a lot of books and a lot of bookshelves
and he's never bought one his entire life.
You follow?

ALICE

No, not at all.

DODGSON/CARROLL

Drink me and you will.

ALICE

Really drinking this seems like a terrible idea.

DODGSON/CARROLL

But chasing a wolf man into a club is the smartest thing you've ever done.
Honey, he'll crack your spine and write in your margins.
Pay the library fine and consider yourself lucky.

ALICE

It's the principle now:

(drinks)

Bloody hell.

DODGSON/CARROLL

Welcome to it.
That'll help you with your quantum physics, too.

ALICE

What are you? Not Charles Dodgson and Lewis Carroll.
They're the same person.
Is this some sort of intellectual drag mind fuck?
Like Gender Fuck, but with mathematics?
I don't feel right.
Does this have that date rape drug in it?

DODGSON/CARROLL

Honey, you're already being raped.
So close your eyes and think of Heisenburg's Uncertainty Principle.

ALICE

(finishes the glass)

END OF SCENE

SCENE 3: The Ocean of Vomit

SETTING: An ocean of vomit.

AT RISE: The sound of ALICE vomiting. ALICE herself is caught in a whirlpool of vomit. She struggles but it pulls her down, almost drowning her. SUSHI⁶ swims in.

SUSHI
Stop fighting it! Just go with it!

ALICE
Help!

SUSHI
Stop struggling! Let it take control!

(ALICE stops fighting; the whirlpool calms and she floats)

SUSHI
Lovely day, isn't it?

ALICE
I almost drowned in a whirlpool of my own puke!
Did I just vomited up a Pacific Ocean of puke or I'm—
What the fuck are you?

SUSHI
You can call me Toro.
Isn't it beautiful how the light plays off your stomach bile?

ALICE
Where are we?

SUSHI
In an ocean of vomit, but I thought that was quite clear.

ALICE
Where is the ocean?

SUSHI
Where you vomited.

ALICE
Where did I vomit?

SUSHI
Right here in the middle of the ocean.

ALICE
Wait—are you the toro I had for lunch?

SUSHI
I am.

ALICE
Oh my god you were soooooooo good!
You were so expensive but you were so creamy and good!

SUSHI
You're too kind.

ALICE
You melted in my mouth!

SUSHI
Stop, I'm blushing!

ALICE
But how are you in one piece? I chewed you.

SUSHI
Ah, questions!
It's the profound questions like those that keep life going, don't you think?

ALICE
Answers help, too.

SUSHI
But answers disappoint us.
Answers end quests.

ALICE
They can start new questions.

SUSHI
Very true.

ALICE

Wait if you're as big as me, I must have
I must have shrunk.
How is that possible?

SUSHI

The questions again!
Are you hungry?
I see the way you're looking at me.

ALICE

How am I looking at you?

SUSHI

You know:
hungry.
Like you can remember how I tasted.
Like your mouth is beginning to salivate.
You remember the tenderness of my cold flesh.
The blood just washed off,
just skinned, how it all melted in your mouth,
the sweet, sweet fresh death.
The rawness of death is the most profound of all questions.

ALICE

How?

SUSHI

I'm naked, raw flesh:
should you really be eating me at all?

ALICE

Yes?

(eats the SUSHI)

END OF SCENE

SCENE 4: The First Tarot Reading.

SETTING: DODGSON/CARROLL sits at a table dealing Tarot Cards.

AT RISE: ALICE enters.

DODGSON/CARROLL
You want a tarot reading, honey?

ALICE
I've never had one before.

DODGSON/CARROLL
Because it's not scientific?
Because you don't believe?

ALICE
No, I just don't want to spend fifty bucks on something that may be a scam.

DODGSON/CARROLL
Is that why you get books from the library?
You're afraid of buying one and being scammed?

ALICE
I'm a student: I can't buy everything I want.

DODGSON/CARROLL
You bought those shoes.
Tsk tsk.
Have a seat and I'll tell you your fortune.
I'm being honest:
Scientifically this is a scam:
Heisenburg's uncertainty principle dictates that
we can never know with any certainty
the momentum or position of any particle.
So fucking what?, you may ask,
That's what I first asked.
So fucking this:
we can know the past movement and position of particles:
but we can never know the future.
Unless we use tarot cards.
Cut the cards, honey.

(ALICE cuts the cards)

Now pick one. Any card.

DODGSON/CARROLL

ALICE
(picks a card and looks at it)

This isn't a tarot card.

DODGSON/CARROLL

There are tons of different tarot designs.

ALICE

This is a muffin.
What tarot design has a muffin?

DODGSON/CARROLL
(places the card on the table)

Upside down: no muffins are wholesome.⁷
(draws card and places it on table)

The Buns: all buns are unwholesome.
(draws card)

Buns are not muffins.
Inconclusive.

ALICE

What does this have to do with me?

DODGSON/CARROLL
(draws card)

No frogs are poetical.
(draws card)

Some ducks are unpoetical.
(draws card)

Some ducks are not frogs.
Hm?

ALICE

I don't have any idea what you're talking about.

DODGSON/CARROLL

Inconclusive.

ALICE

So?

This is the key: pay attention.

DODGSON/CARROLL

(draws card)

No fossil can be crossed in love.

(draws card)

An oyster may be crossed in love.

(draws card)

Oysters are not fossils.

Inconclusive.

ALICE

Does that mean I'm inconclusive?

DODGSON/CARROLL

Yes.

Visit the Worm. He'll help you.

ALICE

Find the Wolf?

DODGSON/CARROLL

With your logic.

He'll give you something to improve your ability with symbolic logic.

You'll never make it out unless you can think, Alice.

Be careful though.

ALICE

Be careful thinking?

DODGSON/CARROLL

With the Worm.

He has syphilis.

END OF SCENE

Scene 5: The Syphilitic Worm

SETTING: The Syphilitic WORM⁸ is smoking an empty hookah pipe.

AT RISE: ALICE enters.

ALICE

Hey, there's nothing in that hookah.
What're you smoking?
Hey?
Can you hear me?
That's not full, there's not even smoke.
Hey?

WORM

Where's your imagination.
The brain can fill anything with anything.
If you want it badly enough.
Hey, hey, hey,
how many
how many babies fit in the trunk
of a candy apple red
'62 Chevy?⁹

ALICE

I don't know.

WORM

16.
You can fit more if you dice them and pack them in tupperware.
But if you vacuum seal them in that plastic shit, unlimited.
That's a funny fucking joke. Want another?

ALICE

No.

WORM

What's funnier than a dead baby?
A dead baby sitting next to a kid with down syndrome.
What's worse than finding a dead baby on your pillow in the morning?
Realizing you were drunk and made love to it the night before.
Why didn't they crucify baby Jesus?
I don't know why they didn't either.

ALICE
I don't know what this has to do with logic, but—

WORM
What is red and creeps up your leg?
A homesick abortion.
No, no, wait, one more. One more:
What does a blind, deaf, quadriplegic baby get for Christmas ?
Cancer.
Now you tell me a joke.

ALICE
Knock knock.¹⁰

WORM
That's a terrible fucking joke.

ALICE
You're supposed to say Who's There?

WORM
Never count on audience participation.

ALICE
It's a JOKE. It's one of those trope things—you know you're supposed to reply, Who's There.

WORM
Audiences prefer to sit in the dark and watch without commitment and feel they can't be implicated or responsible for what happens.

ALICE
Responsible? It's just a joke.

WORM
There's no such thing as just a joke.
You know who tells a funny fucking joke:
Death.
No one tells a joke like death.
Go find Death and have it tell you a joke.

ALICE
Pass.

WORM

Your loss.
Actually, you'll get your joke one day:
we all get the joke from Death one day.
And it'll be so funny you'll die laughing.
You need a hit of this: you're starting to bore me.

ALICE

I'd love to, really, but—

WORM

But what?

ALICE

Do you have a sanitary wipe?

WORM

Do I look like I'm concerned with sanitation?

ALICE

I think I have some in my purse.
Where did I leave my purse?

WORM

If you will it you won't catch anything.

ALICE

That's ridiculous.

WORM

Proven fact: a girl can will herself not to get pregnant.
It's true.

ALICE

It's NOT true.

WORM

Look it up.

ALICE

Look it up where?

WORM

I got syphilis because I willed it.

ALICE

Why did you want to get syphilis?

WORM

Something bad's got to happen to all of us one day.

So I picked syphilis.

I think it's better knowing what's going to knock the shit out of you rather than being surprised.

ALICE

But this is different.

WORM

How is it different?

ALICE

You obviously didn't use a—

I mean, when you were with someone that had the disease, you didn't—

WORM

Didn't what?

ALICE

Wait, I'm trying to imagine it.

No, I don't want to imagine it.

Forget it.

WORM

Do you want to know how I got syphilis?¹¹

I got it having sex with a she-male. Or was it the 35 year old Mom?

No, it was when I lost my virginity in a church.

No. Wait.

It was...It was in Bangkok when I picked up that whore riding a moped who was really a man. But I didn't find out 'til much much later.

Wait, that wasn't it.

ALICE

Don't worry about it. It's not important.

WORM

Was it that basketball player I tied up and beat?

Or that dead baby I found on my pillow?

Was it on the jungle gym that night?

No, my last birthday—my friends bought me a 18 inch double ended dildo and I was so drunk I chased my parents around the house beating them with it.

Wait, how could I have gotten syphilis that way?

ALICE

I don't need to know.

WORM

Wait, I have another joke for you.

Why does light act like a particle and a wave?

Cut two slits in a piece of paper. Cover one and hold it against a wall.

Shoot photons at it. The photons will make a disbursement pattern on the wall behind the paper indicative of a particle.

Now uncover the second slit. Shoot the photons.

Suddenly they leave a pattern on the wall that's a wave.

How did the photons know the second slit had suddenly been opened and they could act like a wave?

The photons didn't, but WE did.

ALICE

That's not a joke.

WORM

It's funny.

Okay, there's an alternate punchline:

Why does light act like a particle and a wave?

Because it knows when it needs to be a particle and a wave.

Funny fucking shit.

Same thing with disease:

how does a disease know when to infect someone?

It knows.

Think back to the paraplegic baby:

Cancer knew it was the only appropriate gift for the baby who had suffered everything.

ALICE

Look, if I take a hit off that will you shut up?

WORM

Can't say I will.

ALICE

Will this help me find the Wolf?

WORM

No, but a hit from this will help him find you.

But wait, I got one more joke for you. One more:

How do you get a nun pregnant?

You fuck her.

(ALICE takes a hit; WOLF howls)

ALICE

END OF SCENE

SCENE 6: Leave it to Beaver

SETTING: A Kitchen.

AT RISE: DUCHESS June Cleaver is holding a screaming baby. ALICE enters.

DUCHESS
Oh Beaver, would you stop your fucking crying!
What do I have to do to calm you down?
Ward? Help me with the Beave!
Do you have any kids?

ALICE
No.

DUCHESS
I used to be young and thin like you.
A long time ago I didn't have stretch marks like fault lines across my stomach.
Do you know how many stitches I had when Beaver ripped me open?
WARD?! WARD, BRING ME A GODDAMN VALIUM!

WARD
(voice off)
Honey, we're out of valium! I just took the last one!

DUCHESS
For fuck sake, honey!
Beaver, shut up!

(WARD enters; they cheek-peck hello)

DUCHESS
Make her some toast, honey.

ALICE
I don't need any toast.

DUCHESS
Don't listen to her. She doesn't know anything.
Look at her breasts—look at how perky they are.

WARD
Uh huh.

DUCHESS

You think she knows anything never having suffered the trauma of breast feeding?
Make her toast.
Are we really out of valium?

WARD

I'm afraid so, sweetheart.

DUCHESS

What about a cat tranquilizer?

WARD

We ran out of those on our trip to visit your mother.

DUCHESS

Ward, honey, be a sweetheart and pop down to Tijuana and buy Mommy some cat tranqs.

WARD

Of course, honey. I'll pick up some Viagra, too.

(WARD gives ALICE toast; it's actually bloody meat; he exits)

DUCHESS

You're not eating your toast?
Did he burn it?

ALICE

It's not toast. It's meat.
It's not burnt, it's raw.

DUCHESS

Do you need any strawberry preserves? I have some I made myself.

(WARD immediately reenters with pill bottles)

DUCHESS

You're a gem, sweetheart. Pop one of those bad boys in my mouth.
Not the Viagra, the Cat Tranq.
Beaver SHUT UP!

(WARD pops a pill in the DUCHESS's mouth)

WARD

(pops a pill in his mouth)

And a Viagra for Daddy!

DUCHESS

If you're not going to eat your toast, you might as well make yourself useful.
You calm down Beaver.

(ALICE takes the baby and looks at its face)

ALICE

Holy fuck, this isn't a baby.
It's a vagina.
It's an enormous vagina.

DUCHESS

It's not nice to make fun of newborns:
it took me 26 hours to squeeze him out.
Of course he's going to look red and pinched.

ALICE

No, this isn't an ugly pinched newborn.
It's a giant, crying, fucking vagina.

DUCHESS

That's no way to talk about Beaver.
Calm it down or I'm putting him in the trunk of Ward's '62 Chevy with all the others.

WARD

We only have room for one more.

ALICE

Does he have a bottle or something I can give him?

DUCHESS

Here.

(ALICE takes a bottle from the DUCHESS; ALICE
gives the baby it's bottle; male orgasmic sounds
from the baby and then it's quiet)

DUCHESS

Why honey, that's amazing!

WARD

You're a natural with the Beaver!

DUCHESS

You knew exactly how to relax Beaver!

WARD
Look how wet he is! June, look how wet the Beaver is!

ALICE
I just gave him his bottle.

WARD
Give me Beaver. I'm going to take him upstairs and deep throat him, June.

DUCHESS
All right, honey. Lunch will be ready soon.
Are you staying for lunch?

WARD
We're having a box lunch.

DUCHESS
A girl like you probably would enjoy eating a box lunch.

ALICE
A girl like me?

DUCHESS
You know—

WARD
A dyke. How else were you able to get the Beaver so wet?

DUCHESS
We're having fish tacos.

ALICE
I have to go!

WARD
Feel free to lick some of the carpet on your way out!

ALICE
(eats some of the raw meat)

END OF SCENE

SCENE 7: The Wolf, again.

SETTING: Empty.

AT RISE: ALICE alone.

ALICE

Breathe. Breathe. Breathe.
I'm here
I must be here for some reason.
What was it?
Alice, come on bitch, focus. Concentrate:
Why am I here?
We can know the past movements of any particle:
Where have I been?
I was reading. Then I was in a club
(was it a club?)
then an ocean
(no, it wasn't an ocean it was, oh disgusting)
(but there was the sushi and that wasn't disgusting)
a Hookah that wasn't filled but got me
to the kitchen.
Okay, got here.
Here I am.
I'm looking for something:
or someone. What?
If I don't know what I'm looking for,
or what I'm doing,
how can I orient?

(wolf howl; the WOLF enters, still reading; he
grabs ALICE from behind and forces her down,
growling)

ALICE

Okay, it's coming back to me.

WOLF
(sniffs her)

ALICE

It's really
coming
back

WOLF
Time is a dimension of space?

ALICE
Well...

WOLF
The fourth dimension.
The place where the *event* happens.
Right?

ALICE
Right.

WOLF
If we do live in a ten dimensional universe, how do further dimensions impact time?
Does the fifth dimension make time twistable?

ALICE
I don't know.
Can I have my book back?

WOLF
I'm not finished with it.
In a Newtonian, classically mechanical universe, time is not relative.
But in a universe based on a concept of relativity and uncertainty, there can be no such
thing as absolute time.

ALICE
Okay.

WOLF
Then how can I be late?

ALICE
Well...on earth as we revolve around the sun—

WOLF
We're not on earth anymore, Alice.

ALICE
Wherever the fuck we are, we still subscribe to events that go in a kind of order.

WOLF
In THIS world? Are you high?
Have you been paying attention to how things operate here?

ALICE

Look, I don't have all the answers, Fido, I barely understand normal physics.

WOLF

Shit, I'm late.

But I'm not late because there is no absolute time.

But that won't stop the Empress from cutting off my head.

(exits)

ALICE

But wait! Wait!

I need...

I need my book back.

I really need it. Badly.

Breathe, Alice, breathe.

END OF SCENE

SCENE 8: Hooha and Heeha.¹²

SETTING: ALICE alone.

AT RISE: HOOHA and HEEHA enter, dancing.

HEEHA
I wish I was wearing my straight man pants.

HOOHA
Yes, I like those pants!

HEEHA
What time is it?

HOOHA
Time to do me.

HEEHA
No, time to do me!

HOOHA
Honey, you've already been done.

HEEHA
There's enough of me to do twice.

(they dance and sing; ALICE watches; they eventually notice her and pull her in, grinding on her)

ALICE
Okay, I need to rest.

HOOHA
There's no time!

HEEHA
There's all the time in the world!

HOOHA
But we're late!

HEEHA
Are you going, too?

Me? Going where?

ALICE

I don't know, but we're late.

HOOHA

Come with us!

HEEHA

If you don't know where you're going, how can you be late?

ALICE

We'll know when we get there.

HOOHA

But we're late getting there, so we won't know on time.

HEEHA

You have to come with us.

HOOHA

Honey, I have to come NOW.

HEEHA

I already came twice while I was talking.

HOOHA

Let's come together.

HEEHA

(they grind on each other, and then dance off)

What the fuck.

ALICE

END OF SCENE

SCENE 9: The Schizophrenic Cat.

SETTING: A body-shaped object resembling a cocoon is on the ground.

AT RISE: ALICE comes upon the thing.

VOICE

Unwrap me.
Carve me.
Sculpt me.

ALICE

Can you breathe in that? I don't know how to get you out of it.
I don't have my purse or I could cut you out.

VOICE

NO, NOT YET.

ALICE

But you'll suffocate.

VOICE

I don't breathe.
I'm not alive.
Give me life.

ALICE

I don't know how.
If I don't get you out of there you'll die.

VOICE

I'm not alive to die.

ALICE

Then how can you talk?

VOICE

I can talk because you're listening to me.
Imagine me. Describe me.
Give me qualities.
The electron didn't exist until we looked for it.
Neither did homosexuality or American Indians.
Pluto was a planet and now it's not.
What am I?

ALICE
You're not anything to me.

VOICE
Then I'll never be anything!

ALICE
Okay, okay, let me think:
you're female.¹³

VOICE
Can't you be more imaginative than that?

ALICE
That's a basic requirement.

VOICE
Is it?

ALICE
You're, uh, about five foot seven. Weight 135 pounds.
You look like you're in your twenties.
Normal body type.
Brown hair, blue eyes, white skin.

VOICE
Do I have any scars?

ALICE
No.

VOICE
I want scars!

ALICE
Okay, have some scars!
You have a giant slash across your face!

VOICE
Ow! Where did that come from?

ALICE
You were attacked by a...
I don't know...
A giant rat.

Am I afraid of rats now?

VOICE

No, you killed it.

ALICE

I'm a murderer?!

VOICE

It was self-defense.

ALICE

Am I a cat then because I killed a rat?

VOICE

Sure. I mean, yeah.

ALICE

Do I look like a cat?

VOICE

Sort of. In the face more than the body.

ALICE

If I'm a cat how can I talk? It doesn't make sense.

VOICE

None of this makes sense.

ALICE

Why can I talk?

VOICE

I don't know.
You can't.

ALICE

But I am.

VOICE

Because.

ALICE

VOICE

How can I be a human looking talking cat who can't talk?
I don't understand.

ALICE

Welcome to my fucking world.
You're actually really bad with language.

VOICE

Oh?

ALICE

Because you have a cat brain.
You have trouble understanding language.
Forming sentences.

VOICE

Trouble forming sentences.
Sentences for prisoners.
I'm a prisoner.

ALICE

Even understanding events and people and the way things work.
Being part human you understand, but being a cat you get scared of things.

VOICE

Scared of things. Things wings sings sings like a bird.

ALICE

Is that enough now?

VOICE

Now cow pow sow wow that's enough now.

ALICE

Are you done?

(starts to unwrap her)

VOICE

Are you done? I'm done, I done and fun and sun and the son of God and God is dead,
but now I'm not dead because I'm alive. Alive in a hive and milking honey like bees.
Bees sting me with their stinger, stinger full of poison, they bite with poison bite like
wolves.
Where is the wolf?

ALICE

What wolf?

VOICE

You know the wolf. I know the wolf. We all know the wolf.
The wolf is of the Empress and she's going to kill me.
Off with my head, before I can kill her with my mind,
I've killed millions with my thoughts and I'll kill him,
and I'll kill you.

(finally emerges and runs off)

ALICE

I just created a half human schizophrenic cat.
Sure. Why not.

END OF SCENE

SCENE 10: The Second Tarot Reading.

SETTING: The DEVIL¹⁴ sits at a table dealing Tarot cards.

AT RISE: ALICE enters.

DEVIL

Have a seat, Hot Lips. You want your fortune told.

ALICE

I've already had that done—

DEVIL

I wasn't asking, Hot Lips, I was telling.
Sit and I'll tell you the future.

ALICE

The future is impossible to foretell according to Quantum Mechanics.

DEVIL

Ah, someone who believes in science.
Why do you trust people like Heisenburg and Einstein?
How do you know they're telling the truth?

ALICE

Because they've published and taught at big universities.

DEVIL

How do you know they're publishing facts?
Have you tested their experiments? How do you know their theories are valid?
It's quite all right: books feed religious fervor, even if it's based in science.
People need to believe in something
and God isn't cutting it anymore.

ALICE

Who are you?

DEVIL

You're feisty! You always want to know.
You're turning me on. Maybe I need to take you home with me later and we can bicker
about facts and truths in the privacy of my torture chamber.
Cut the cards, Hot Lips.

ALICE

(cuts the cards)

DEVIL
(cuts them back the way they were)

ALICE
Why did you have me cut them if you put them back?

DEVIL
When you're annoyed your nipples get hard.
First card: sets the stage.
(draws card)

You don't fuck around, honey: the Tower.

ALICE
Why are there naked people running out of it?

DEVIL
It's burning and collapsing.
Unmitigated, unavoidable horror and disaster.
The Stage is a Tragedy: probably in the classic Aristotelian tradition.
Lots of eyegouging, incest and incestuous cannibalism.
We're *definitely* going to mess around later, Hot Lips.

ALICE
Don't flatter yourself.

DEVIL
Next card: the playwright.
(draws card)
Holy hell: the Whore of Babylon.¹⁵

ALICE
Is that a Tarot card?

DEVIL
We're talking drunken orgies, drug use, homosexual overtones, and castrating little boys.
In other words, a good fucking time.
After this, a cheap by-the-hour motel,
a bottle of Nightrain
and lots of KY Jelly.
You and me: we're going to make the magic happen.

ALICE
I'd rather stick pins in my eyes.

DEVIL

Whatever you need to get wet.
Next cards: cast of characters:

(turns a card for each)

The Hanged Man.
The Hanged Man.
The Hanged Man.
The Hanged Man.
The Well-Hung Man: that's me.
The Hanged Man.
The Hanged man.

ALICE

Okay, I'm confused.

DEVIL

Suspension, uncertainty. Life not ended but caught in the balance.
The Director:

(turns card)

Death.

(kisses card)

We're soul mates, Hot Lips.

ALICE

You and Death?

DEVIL

We should have a threesome.
Death is change, evolution, maybe you learn something, maybe you cripple yourself.
Designers: The Fool.
Not good, Hot Lips, not good at all.

ALICE

Why?

DEVIL

It's tacky to mix comedy with tragedy. Or have a fool in tragedy. Anything uplifting pulls from the darkness. Fool is the antithesis of Death.

ALICE

Shakespeare mixed comedy and tragedy.

DEVIL

Fuck Shakespeare. Ben Jonson was better.

ALICE
So what does all this mean?

DEVIL
Looks like failure to me. But if you're lucky, you'll learn something and get raped a couple times.

ALICE
Will I get my book back?

DEVIL
(turns card)
Ah, the Wolf.
Speaking of which.
He's upside down.

ALICE
So?

DEVIL
It'll be a fair fight.

ALICE
(draws a card)
May I?
The Tarot dealer.
(puts it on the table)
The Devil.

DEVIL
Takes one to know one, Hot Lips.

ALICE
You've been fucking with me?

DEVIL
Have I? Will you ever know?
Did you start to believe in this? You did, didn't you?
Turned you on, didn't it?
Now, about that cheap motel, Hot Lips.

ALICE
Fuck off.

DEVIL

(draws a card)

The Lovers. I guess we're going to have to have a chase scene.

END OF SCENE

Scene 10.5: The Wolf and the Bridge

SETTING: Empty stage.

AT RISE: ALICE alone. The WOLF enters.

WOLF

Einstein didn't believe in time travel.
But he did account for the presence of alternate universes.
Have you heard of the Einstein-Rosen Bridge?

ALICE

Uh...what?

WOLF

I forgot: your brain hasn't developed enough to understand.
Einstein's equations force the existence of alternate universes.
The only way to get from one universe to another is to cross this bridge.
Einstein thought it was impossible to cross because of the infinite gravity present at the mouth of the bridge,
but scientists since then—
Schwarzschild, Kerr, Gödel, Thome, Morris, Tipler—
They all solved Einstein's equations in ways that accounted for possible travel.
Both to alternate universes and alternate times.

ALICE

But Hawkins said there is no time travel because we're not hounded by tourists from the future.

WOLF

What about you?

ALICE

What about me?

WOLF

What are you?

ALICE

I'm Alice.

WOLF

Are you from the future?

ALICE

I...
Fuck, I don't know.
I'm not sure where
and when
I am
here.

WOLF

Precisely.

ALICE

I could be from the future.

WOLF

I think you're one end of the bridge.

ALICE

That makes you the other end.

WOLF

Do you understand Einstein's theory of relativity?

ALICE

Not really. I know the thing about being on a train moving at the speed of light, and—

WOLF

It's not important.
I understand it.
That's all that matters.

ALICE

I'd kinda like to know what's going on.

WOLF

You can't.
You're too young.
But that's what makes you smell so good.

ALICE

You think I smell good?
That's hot.

WOLF

Do you know what a wormhole is?

ALICE
Is it where that syphilitic worm is?

WOLF
A wormhole opens the bridge.

ALICE
Okay.

WOLF
But they aren't tunnels. They're contractions in the fabric of space.
You don't cross space.
You don't cross the bridge.
You drag the space to you.

ALICE
Why do you want to cross?

WOLF
I want to be somewhere,
or sometime,
where the Empress can't get me.
Where I'm never late,
where I control time
and the Empress can lick my balls.

ALICE
Will I go home?

WOLF
Not sure.
Not sure 'til we try.

ALICE
How do we try?

WOLF
I drag you to me.
We create an impossible amount of energy
that might
strip electrons from our atoms
and destroy all matter.

ALICE

I know I really don't understand all this,
but I *do* understand that.
Go find another end of the bridge.

WOLF

(grabs her; growls and then nuzzles her)

I want your end.
You're here for a reason.
I bumped into you for a reason.
The ignorant call it Fate,
Romance,
True Love.
I call it quantum theory.

ALICE

You make it sound so
legitimate.
And real.
And hot.
Romance wasn't cutting it for me anyway.
So let's let science do the trick.
What do I do?

WOLF

No, baby.
It's what I do.

END OF SCENE

SCENE 11: The Mad Tea Party.¹⁷

SETTING: A long table. Chairs all around. There is one teacup that is empty sitting at a place with no chair.

AT RISE: The ACTORS, as themselves, playing themselves, sit around the table. All dialogue is pre-recorded and the ACTORS mouth their own lines. ALICE enters.

[NOTE: Use the dialogue provided below as a guide, allowing the actors to improvise and play as much as possible. The more personal details added, the better.]

ACTORS

CHINA!
Come over! Have a seat! We have some tea for you!
Tea, yeah, right, tea!
But we can't have alcohol or anything real on stage.
China, come on, we saved a chair for you!

ALICE

China?
What're you talking about?

ACTORS

China. You. Your name's China.

ALICE

My name's Alice.

ACTORS

Holy fuck, she totally thinks she's Alice.
She's having a Daniel Day Lewis moment.
China, don't fucking psycho out, okay.
You're not Alice.
Hey, we need to keep her calm. We don't need her getting violent and attacking.
She's China—she doesn't do that.
For Christ's sake, she's not a rabid dog! She's just being a really good actor!
Yeah, like no one else here!
Oh, come on, we don't have to go fucking nuts to be good.
China, stop making us look bad, okay, just chill out and get drunk.

ALICE

No, my name is Alice. I'm not an actor.

ACTORS

Okay, time for an intervention.
China, you're an actor. You were just in *Comedy of Errors*.
And she just finished that Toad Hollow show thing.
What else has she done?
You have a dog.
What does that have to do with acting?
Nothing, I'm just saying she has a dog. Maybe it'll knock her back to reality.

ALICE

I'm allergic to dogs.
Wait.
You're, you're the Devil. And you're that schizo cat. The Duchess. Ward Cleaver.
You're the Sushi and Heeha. But I ate you. How can you be two people at once?
Hooaha and you, you were also Carroll and Dodgson. I don't get it.

ACTORS

ACTING!
And there's the Empress, and the Queen of Swords, the Hanged Man, Schrödinger's Cat,
Death, Tofurky.
Have we figured out who's going to be what in Monopoly?
Then there's the trial. Who wants to get murdered?
Hey, where are you going?
We got to get ready for the next scene.
(three actors exit)

ALICE

You're the Wolf.
We, we just
I mean, you
you...
You have my library book.

ACTOR PLAYING WOLF

China, we totally need to smoke a bowl.¹⁸

ACTORS

We need to take the towers from the Monopoly set¹⁹ and make a HUGE bong!
China smoke a bowl with us!
SMOKE A BOWL!
SMOKE A BOWL!
SMOKE A BOWL!

ALICE

I'm not smoking a bowl!
(takes the tea cup)

There's no tea.

ACTORS

Of course not. Drink it, drink it, drink it.

ALICE

Every time I've drunk something or eaten something, something really fucked up happens.

ACTORS

How worse can it get?

ALICE

I can't drink something that isn't there.

ACTORS

You have to act it.
It's called acting.
You pretend something's there.

ALICE

I act it.
Okay, fine.
I'm acting like there's vodka in here.

(sips; immediately coughs)

Shit, that's vodka.
Now it's coffee.

(sips)

Now it's coffee that's going to reopen the wormhole and take me back.

(sips)

END OF SCENE

SCENE 12: Schrödinger's Cat

SETTING:

A box large enough to hold two actors.

AT RISE:

ALICE approaches the box. There is movement inside the box, struggling, gasping, fighting.
ALICE moves to open the box.
DODGSON/CARROLL enters.

DODGSON/CARROLL

Don't do that.

ALICE

Someone's in there.

DODGSON/CARROLL

It's a cat.

ALICE

I think it's hurt or dying.

DODGSON/CARROLL

It is.

ALICE

Help me let it out.

DODGSON/CARROLL

No, it's fine. Leave it alone.

ALICE

It sounds like it's trying to get out.

DODGSON/CARROLL

Probably is.

Don't worry. It's probably hurt and it's probably fine, too.

ALICE

Help me—

DODGSON/CARROLL

No. Leave it alone.

If you open the box you may kill it.

Or maybe not.

ALICE

What's going on?

DODGSON/CARROLL

It's Schrödinger's Cat.

It's an experiment. I'm sure you've heard of it.

In the box there's a vial of poison, a Geiger counter, a hammer and radioactive material.

They're all connected:

if the radioactive material decays it'll trigger the Geiger counter

which will release the hammer,

which will break the vial and release the poison,

which will kill the cat.

But that's only if the material decays.

Because of Heisenburg's Uncertainty Principle,

we can't know the motion of a particle.

We can't know for sure if the material has decayed unless we observe it.

So while the cat is in the box unobserved

it's in a superstate:

it's both alive and dead.

When we observe it, we force it to assume one of the two states.

Looking at it could kill the cat.

ALICE

Bullshit. Help me with the box.

DODGSON/CARROLL

It's Quantum Mechanics:

it's not logical, but it's true.

But you wouldn't understand because the Wolf still has your book.

ALICE

I hate the sound of it suffering.

What if I don't look at it?

DODGSON/CARROLL

I'm not getting involved in this.

(exits)

ALICE

Thanks for your help.

(ALICE creates a blindfold and ties it over her eyes;
blinded, she opens the box)

ALICE

I can't see you. It's okay. You can come out.

(the CAT emerges, the living CAT dragging out its dead self)

Is it over?

CAT

Are you all right?

ALICE

Sort of.
Can you help me with this?

CAT

What is it?

ALICE

Here, take this and pull with me.

CAT

(the CAT gives ALICE one of the legs of the corpse
and they drag it out of the box)

What am I helping you with?

ALICE

Oh my god
this is a dead body.

(feels the body)

Yes.

CAT

I never felt a dead body before.
It's so
so hard
and cold.
Who is it?

ALICE

It's me.
Will you help me with it?

CAT

Help you how?

ALICE

CAT
Will you help me bury me?

ALICE
Bury?

CAT
Bury or burn me. I'd prefer being buried.
I don't like the idea of smelling my hair and skin burn.
Watching my face cave in,
my limbs shrink and blacken.
I can't drag my corpse around with me.
We have to do something with it.

ALICE
What do you want me to do?

CAT
We don't have a shovel.
Maybe if we cover it.

(they find make-shift things to cover the corpse)

CAT
There.

ALICE
Maybe someone should say something.

CAT
Like what?

ALICE
A funeral thing. You know, to put it,
to put you to rest.

CAT
Am I not at rest?
Am I restless?

ALICE
Is there anything you need to hear?
Something you want said to,
I don't know,
sum up your life or personality?

CAT

Let me think:
tell me I made a difference.

ALICE

You made a difference. A big difference.

CAT

I had a significant impact.

ALICE

Books have been written about this experiment.
You've forwarded the field of Quantum Mechanics.

CAT

But I don't have a name:
I'm Schrödinger's Cat.
I'm an object owned.
I could be anyone.
Name me.

ALICE

Are you a boy cat or a girl cat?

CAT

Boy cat.

ALICE

How about Erwin?

CAT

No, I want a cat name. Not a human name.

ALICE

How about,
Cuddles?

CAT

Cuddles?
I was a loving cat.

ALICE

Loving and loved.

CAT

I had friends. I wouldn't want to die alone.

ALICE

More friends than any other cat I know.

CAT

When you say I was loved,
you're talking about lady cats, too?
I got a lot of pussy, right?

ALICE

Lady cats howled for you every night.
They still do.
Now they howl in grief and hunger for you.

CAT

That's good.
Not that they're upset, but because,
you know.

ALICE

I know.

CAT

Can you say a poem or a psalm?
It doesn't have to be religious,
just something immortal.
Something to give me hope, you know?

ALICE

*Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone,²⁰
Prevent the dog from barking with a juicy bone,
Silence the pianos with a muffled drum
Bring out the coffin, let the mourners come.*

*Let aeroplane circle moaning overhead
Scribbling on the sky the message He Is Dead.*

*He was my North, my South, my East and West
My working week and my Sunday rest,
My noon, my midnight, my talk, my song;
I thought that love would last for ever: I was wrong.
I don't remember anymore.*

CAT

That was enough.
What do we do now?

ALICE
You should leave. I won't take my blindfold off until you're gone.
To protect you.

CAT
How am I going to live in the world without being observed?

ALICE
Hide? You'll figure out a way.

CAT
Will I?
Thanks for your help.
You're a good girl.

ALICE
I try.

(the CAT pretends to leave; ALICE pauses, then
removes her blindfold and looks at the CAT)

CAT
We can't lived without being observed.
We need to be observed.

(the CAT falls down dead; ALICE buries him next
to the other corpse)

ALICE
Decay is inevitable.

END OF SCENE

SCENE 13: The Atom²¹

SETTING: Empty.

AT RISE: ALICE alone with her teacup.

ALICE

Decay is inevitable.
We all must observe and be observed.
I want to see myself.
This is tea and it will shrink me.
I act its shrinkage.
I drink it and shrink.

(ALICE shrinks; the parts of matter she describes
appear as she names them)

ALICE

To the microscopic level.
To the atomic level: inside a carbon atom.
To climb inside an electron.
To watch its particles flash in and out of existence.
To climb inside a quark.
And then,
the hum
and song of superstrings.
Is this all that it is?
We're all nothing but a quaint little tune?

(ALICE strums the superstrings; the music changes;
it becomes more complex, energetic, almost
violent—rising to a loud crescendo—and then
silence)

END OF SCENE

SCENE 14: The Monopoly Game.²²

SETTING:

Empty.

AT RISE:

ALICE is asleep on the floor.
DODGSON/CARROLL enters.

DODGSON/CARROLL

Alice?

Alice?

Alice, wake up.

ALICE

What?

DODGSON/CARROLL

You've done it now.
You pissed off the Empress.
She's on a rampage.
She wants your head.

ALICE

What? Who did I piss off?

DODGSON/CARROLL

The Empress.

ALICE

I don't even know who that is.

DODGSON/CARROLL

Oh honey, where have you been?
She rules everything and everyone.

ALICE

Okay.
So what did I do?

DODGSON/CARROLL

You created a rival to her throne.
You made an enemy.

ALICE

Does this have anything to do with that schizo cat?

DODGSON/CARROLL

Are you trying to take power?
Is that your plan?
Is that why you're here?
You're trying to start a revolution.

ALICE

For fuck sake, I'm not trying to start a war.
I'm TRYING TO GET MY LIBRARY BOOK BACK.

DODGSON/CARROLL

You've started a war anyway.

ALICE

Back up. Who is this enemy I supposedly made?

DODGSON/CARROLL

You shrunk yourself down and decided to strum a little tune on superstrings.

ALICE

I may have. So?

DODGSON/CARROLL

What are superstrings, Alice?

ALICE

The heart of all matter.
Matter is composed of vibrating strings of energy.
Every vibration is unique and creates different elements.
All matter is a symphony of these vibrations.

DODGSON/CARROLL

And if you change the vibrations?
What happens if you change the vibrations?

ALICE

You can create new matter.
But I didn't—

DODGSON/CARROLL

Oh no?

(calling off)

Honey?

(the QUEEN OF SWORDS enters)

Look what new matter you created.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

My darling Alice, come take a walk with me.
Go away, Charles/Lewis. Go help set up the board.
Alice and I have to talk.
Take my arm, Love.

(ALICE takes her arm; they pace as the Monopoly
board is assembled)

You're thinking about something, my dear, and that makes you forget to talk.²³
Or are you conspiring, strategizing, and plotting?
What's your plan? You can tell me.

ALICE

I don't have a plan.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

I know of your alliance with the Wolf.

ALICE

I don't have an alliance. He stole my book.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

It's so obviously a ruse.
You're pretending to be enemies to hide that you're friends.
You can tell me: are you sleeping with him, too?

ALICE

No!

QUEEN OF SWORDS

You don't have to tell me: I can guess.
The Wolf was a brilliant choice: he's closest to the Empress.
You should win the Hanged Man next: he could throw the dice a few times in your favor.

ALICE

Dice?

QUEEN OF SWORDS

I have to know this, so tell me the truth or I'll be very angry with you:
are you sleeping with the Devil?

ALICE

NO.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

Good. I want him for myself.
Have you played Monopoly before?

ALICE

Oh, god I hate that game.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

The Empress has been playing the same game for over 300 years.
She's gone through dozens of opponents.
She has them killed whenever things go badly for her.
And in Monopoly, it's impossible to play without screaming and fighting.
So being asked to play is a death sentence.

ALICE

I think I see where this is going.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

She's always the airplane. I'm the shoe. The Devil is a pitchfork.
And you're the thimble.
Don't worry, my darling, I'll protect you.
Unless it's too dangerous for me and then you're on your own.

(fanfare; the EMPRESS enters, followed by a train
of people: the WOLF, the HANGED MAN, the
DEVIL, and DEATH)

EMPRESS
(to ALICE)

I heard you strummed God and created this creature to overthrow me.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

Strum again, Alice darling, and destroy this pretender to the throne.

EMPRESS
(cracks her whip)²⁴

Shall we begin with some executions?
I haven't executed anyone in ages.

DEVIL

By all means.

QUEEN OF SWORDS
(pulls her swords)

By all means, who wants to go first?

EMPRESS

Death, my dear friend, do you have a recommendation?

DEATH
(hisses, rattles, chokes)

(everyone except ALICE laughs)

ALICE

What's going on?

EMPRESS

No one is funnier than Death.

DEATH
(hisses, rattles)

(everyone laughs harder, again except ALICE)

ALICE

What's so funny?!

QUEEN OF SWORDS

I could explain it, but I don't have Death's sense of timing.

DEVIL

Or delivery.

DODGSON/CARROLL

Or his black sense of humor.

EMPRESS

Death invented humor, really. I'm convinced of it.
But Death is right—no sense killing now: we should wait.
Death should always have suspense.
Everyone, choose your piece and let the game resume.
(cracks her whip)

Come here, boy.

(the WOLF runs to her)

That's a good boy. Who's mama's pretty iddy biddy wolf?

QUEEN OF SWORDS

I want Death to move my piece.

(to ALICE)

I have the worst crush on Death.

(DEATH goes to her side)

Hey sexy, how they hanging?

DEATH
(hisses)

QUEEN OF SWORDS
You're so dirty! I can't believe you just said that!

DEATH
(takes her sword and licks it)

QUEEN OF SWORDS
Do you know what licking my sword does to me?

DEATH
(hisses)

QUEEN OF SWORDS
I can't concentrate if you keep doing that.

DEVIL
I want Dodgson/Carroll.

ALICE
But I know him. Who will I get?

DEVIL
Too bad. I called him first.
You'll just have to do it yourself.
Hope it doesn't break your concentration.

ALICE
It's Monopoly:
it doesn't require concentration.
What side am I on?

HANGED MAN
Alice is on the West.
The Devil is South.
The Empress is East.
And the Queen of Swords is North.
The Empress always goes first.

ALICE
What do I own?

QUEEN OF SWORDS

The Electric Company and Water Works.
And Baltic and Mediterranean.

ALICE

Crap.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

The Empress owns Boardwalk and Park Place—

ALICE

And almost everything else.
Look at those Hotels she has!

QUEEN OF SWORDS

She has a mall on Pacific Avenue. And the White House on Pennsylvania Avenue.

ALICE

Fuck.
How much money do I have? Do I want to know?

QUEEN OF SWORDS

We can share. Between us we have...
\$246.

EMPRESS
(cracks her whip)

Roll!

(the HANGED MAN rolls the dice)²⁵

6: St. Charles. I own it.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

Roll!
9: Pennsylvania Railroad. I'll buy it.

EMPRESS
(cracks her whip)

I own the other three railroads.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

For now, bitch.

DEVIL

Roll!
7: Kentucky Avenue.

EMPRESS

I have a Tobacco Plantation on Kentucky Avenue.
Harvesting will cost you \$25,000.

ALICE

How much money do we have?

QUEEN OF SWORDS

We'll be fine if we strategize.

ALICE

How could you buy that railroad? We're almost broke.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

I need you to strike a deal of some kind with the Devil.
Promise anything.

ALICE

That's your idea of strategizing?
You want me to fuck the Devil?!

HANGED MAN

Alice?
It's your turn.

ALICE

Roll!
8: Free Parking.

ALL
(gasp)

QUEEN OF SWORDS

How did you strike a deal so quickly?!

ALICE

I didn't!

EMPRESS

No one has landed on Free Parking in 87 years!
NO ONE.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

How much is in the pot?

HANGED MAN
Thirteen gold Cadillacs, IBM, Microsoft, Phillip Morris—

EMPRESS
I wanted that!

HANGED MAN
A harem of white slave girls, 15 acres of rainforest in Africa and 1.46 million dollars.

QUEEN OF SWORDS
Oh fuck yeah, baby. Do it to me again!

EMPRESS
I object! She's cheating!

HANGED MAN
The roll was fair!
Are you finished with your turn, Alice?

ALICE
Yeah.
I have to think.
Let me think.

EMPRESS
Roll!
6: North Carolina. I own it.
Goddamn it!

QUEEN OF SWORDS
Roll!
11: Chance.

HANGED MAN
Chance:
"You have been found guilty of committing multiple acts of bestiality. Go to Jail. Go Directly To Jail. Do Not Pass Go. Bail Set at \$10,000."

QUEEN OF SWORDS
I don't have that kind of money.

EMPRESS
If you can't pay your bail, you will be executed!

HANGED MAN
That is the rule.

I'll bail you out.

ALICE

I object!
One player can't bail out another!

EMPRESS

That's a lie! We've done it before.

DEVIL

Only family members and spouses.

EMPRESS

Check the rules.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

The rules do state that only family and spouses may bail out criminals.

HANGED MAN

Alice, marry me.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

I object!
Same sex marriages are illegal!

EMPRESS

I challenge her objection!

QUEEN OF SWORDS

The rules do not stipulate who can and can't marry.
Same sex marriages are acceptable.

HANGED MAN

But do it on Alice's turn!

EMPRESS

Roll!
2: doubles: Luxury Tax.

DEVIL

You owe \$7,500.

HANGED MAN

DEVIL

Roll!

5: Community Chest.

HANGED MAN

Community Chest:

“You have begun the Apocalypse! All your property is destroyed in plagues and the fiery retribution of God.”

Remove all of the structures from the Devil’s property.

DEVIL

(to ALICE)

Maybe I should be trying to strike a bargain with you.

Make things go my way and I’ll promise anything.

ALICE

I don’t have any control over what’s happening. It’s all chance.

Is it my turn now? I want to marry the Queen.

HANGED MAN

It’s your turn.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

Wait, you have to propose first.

ALICE

What?

QUEEN OF SWORDS

Get on your knees and say it like you mean it.

ALICE

You’re not serious: it’s just a game.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

It’s my special day and I’ll have it be the way I’ve always dreamed it would be.

Put your hand on my sword.

Now, with feeling.

ALICE

Will you marry me?

QUEEN OF SWORDS

Yes, yes I will!

Now kiss me.

(they kiss; it goes on longer than either seem to have expected; the EMPRESS cracks her whip and they separate)

HANGED MAN

Your majesty, do you take Alice as your King of Swords, etc.?

QUEEN OF SWORDS

I do!

HANGED MAN

Alice, do you take her majesty as your Queen of Swords, etc.?

ALICE

I do.

HANGED MAN

You've already kissed so we can skip to the payment of bail.

ALICE

No, we should do this properly.

(ALICE and the QUEEN OF SWORDS kiss again until the EMPRESS cracks her whip)

EMPRESS

Enough! Get on with it!

ALICE

I'll pay her bail.

HANGED MAN

Bail accepted. The Queen of Swords is now Just Visiting.

ALICE

I want to build:

I want to build luxury towers on Baltic and Mediterranean.

And I want to build a nuclear power plant on the Electric Company.

HANGED MAN

Add the towers and nuclear power plant.

ALICE

Roll!

8: Water Works. I own it.

EMPRESS

Roll!

12: Doubles: Boardwalk. I own it.

Roll!

3: Mediterranean.

ALICE

I own it.

The rent for one night in my luxury towers is \$2 million.

Because I own both, that gets doubled: \$4 million.

HANGED MAN

To pay such a rent the Empress will have to sell or mortgage—

EMPRESS

I do not sell and I do not go into debt!

DEVIL

I'll give you the money.

EMPRESS

What do you want in return?

(DEVIL whispers to the EMPRESS)

EMPRESS

Deal.

HANGED MAN

The Devil pays the rent for the Empress.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

My turn.

Roll!

2: Doubles: Chance.

HANGED MAN

Chance:

“Corporate Raiding: Raid the company of a player of your choice, decimate their industry and walk away gloating.”

QUEEN OF SWORDS

I want her Railroads.

HANGED MAN

Take the Railroads from the Empress and give them to the Queen of Swords.

EMPRESS

You won't last much longer, sweetheart.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

I had doubles. Roll!

Two: Shortline. I own it.

I want to build luxury liner cars to ride my railroads.

That's \$10,000 a trip.

Doubles again.

Roll!

6: No!

HANGED MAN

Doubles again. Three in a row sends you back to jail.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

I'm not a criminal, honey, I just keep doing bad things.

ALICE

I'll bail you out again.

DEVIL

Don't forget about the Three Strikes Law:

Roll doubles three times in a row and you go to jail.

Go to Jail three times and you go down.

Who would've thought having a wife would be so difficult.

HANGED MAN

Bail is set at \$750,000,000.

ALICE

What?!

HANGED MAN

Repeat offender.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

Do you have the money?

ALICE

Yes, but...

DEVIL

It's in danger of bankrupting her.
Is it worth it? Risking your welfare and empire for a woman
who can't behave?
If you need any help, I'll be right over here undressing you with my eyes.

ALICE

Isn't it your turn?

DEVIL

So right. Roll!
7: Chance.

HANGED MAN

Chance:
"Pay poor tax of \$15 million."

DEVIL

Fuck the poor.

HANGED MAN

Fuck the poor but pay the tax.

ALICE

My turn.
Pay the Queen's bail.

HANGED MAN

Bail paid: the Queen of Swords is Just Visiting.

ALICE

Roll!
4: Jail: Just Visiting.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

Are conjugal visits allowed?

HANGED MAN

Yes.

(ALICE and the QUEEN OF SWORDS kiss; the
EMPRESS cracks her whip)

EMPRESS

My turn! Roll!
8: Doubles: Community Chest.

HANGED MAN

Community Chest:

“You are assessed for Street Repairs.”

EMPRESS

(to the DEVIL)

You said you would take care of me!

DEVIL

Baby, I only take care of myself.

You three can eat each other and after I’ll pick my teeth with your bones.

HANGING MAN

\$4000 per house.

\$10,000 per hotel.

\$100,000 per tower.

\$250,000 per bridge.

\$500,000 per factory.

EMPRESS

I get it! Take what you need, just take it!

ROLL!

2: Doubles.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

Oh, baby!

EMPRESS

The Electric Company.

ALICE

Your energy bill is now assessed per property location.

The rate is doubled because I have a monopoly on all utilities.

EMPRESS

(cracks whip)

That’s it:

I declare a gang war.

ALL

(gasp)

EMPRESS

Take out her twin towers!

(the WOLF flies the EMPRESS's airplane into
ALICE's towers on Mediterranean and Baltic,
destroying them)

QUEEN OF SWORDS

Burn her tobacco plantation!

EMPRESS

Hijack her wife's railroads!

ALICE

Waterworks stops the flow of water to my nuclear plant.
The reactor overheats and explodes taking out the entire East Coast and poisons the
remainder of America with radiation, making it uninhabitable!
I win: Game over!

(mushroom cloud)

END OF SCENE

SCENE 15: The Wolf, again.²⁶

SETTING: Empty.

AT RISE: ALICE is alone. The WOLF howls, then enters.

WOLF
The Empress wants you dead.

ALICE
I could have told you that one.

WOLF
I liked how you handled that back there.
It was senseless, violent, extreme, apocalyptic, and fucking clever.
Not to mention elegant.

ALICE
Thanks.
Does that mean I can have my book back?
I'd really like to go home before the Empress takes my head off with her whip.

WOLF
I'm not done with it.

ALICE
I was so distracted during the game.
I kept staring at you.

WOLF
When you weren't making out with the Queen of Swords.

ALICE
Well, yeah.
I wasn't planning for that to happen.
Or that I'd react like I did.
Like with you. And what happened with us.

WOLF
What happened with us?

ALICE
Opening that wormhole, crossing the bridge.
We should try it again sometime.

WOLF
You believed that?

ALICE
It worked.

WOLF
No, it didn't.

ALICE
I crossed into something. It worked: *I went somewhere*.

WOLF
But *I* didn't. It doesn't make sense that it worked for you and not me: *so it didn't work*.

ALICE
Wait, I went through: it worked.
If we tried it again, I'm sure we could get it to work for you.

WOLF
You don't get it, do you?
I made it up: that sex can warp space and take you somewhere else?
Come on, I can't believe you went for that bullshit.

ALICE
Hey, it wasn't bullshit!
It worked.
I made it work.

WOLF
Right.
You must've caught syphilis from that worm, Alice, and it's eating your brain.

ALICE
Then you got it, too, baby. Merry Christmas.

WOLF
I gotta go. I'm late.
(runs out)

ALICE
Thanks for cracking my spine and writing in my margins.

END OF SCENE

SCENE 16: Parade of Executions.

SETTING: Empty.

AT RISE: ALICE alone.

ALICE

Oh. Oh.

Fuck I got hungry all of a sudden.

It's like I haven't eaten in weeks.

Shit, this is bad.

Where's my teacup?

(finds her teacup)

Okay, I'm going to act that there's a turkey sandwich in this teacup.

(tries to drink)

Nothing.

Okay I don't believe enough in it. I don't believe a sandwich would fit in the cup.

Okay, I got it—

There's a blended turkey sandwich in the cup.

It's a turkey sandwich shake.

Shit, I just made myself sick.

(QUEEN OF SWORDS enters)

QUEEN OF SWORDS

Alice, darling, come watch the executions.

ALICE

What executions?

QUEEN OF SWORDS

It's lunch time. The Empress is having her lunchtime executions.

ALICE

Who's getting executed?

QUEEN OF SWORDS

I don't know.

People who can be executed.

There'll be hangings and beheadings and electrocutions—

ALICE

I'm not really in the mood to watch people die.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

They aren't *dying*, they're just being *executed*.

ALICE

It sounds lovely, but I'm not feeling great.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

Oh baby, what's wrong?

ALICE

I'm just really really hungry.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

Is that all?

Here.

(offers her arm)

ALICE

Here, what?

QUEEN OF SWORDS

Eat me.

We are married. You're my king.

It's what love is.

We must consume each other.

Man and wife (or wife and wife) is one flesh.

Make my flesh your flesh.

Eat.

(ALICE takes a bite; the QUEEN OF SWORDS reacts positively; she takes a bite out of ALICE's neck)

QUEEN OF SWORDS

There.

Now we love each other properly.

Here they come.

ALICE

They who?

QUEEN OF SWORDS

The parade of executions!

Look at them twitch!

(a parade of people pass over the stage, all dying in repetitive moves of executions)

QUEEN OF SWORDS

I want to execute someone.

(someone from the parade moves to her; she swings her sword to behead someone; the person crumples as if dead; the person rises and they repeat the action, over and over like a dance)

QUEEN OF SWORDS

It makes more sense the more you repeat it.

ALICE

What makes more sense?

QUEEN OF SWORDS

The execution.

Or it becomes senseless and you don't have to think about it anymore.

(the EMPRESS enters, cracking her whip and executing; she stops before ALICE and the QUEEN OF SWORDS)

EMPRESS

Good game, honey.

That nuclear explosion was very clever. I'm going to steal it and use it in the next game.

ALICE

I thought you wanted me dead.

EMPRESS

I do! But I'm a little busy now.

Your majesty, take her to meet Tofurky.

He's not tofu and he's not turkey.

No one's sure what he is, but he's wonderful on Thanksgiving.

Everyone must meet Tofurky: he has a very sad story no one understands.

ALICE

If no one understands him how is it sad?

EMPRESS

Child, how sweet you are.

Tomorrow you will die.

(EMPRESS exits, whipping)

END OF SCENE

SCENE 17: The Tofurky.²⁷

SETTING:

Where Tofurky lives.

AT RISE:

TOFURKY is reading aloud from a phonebook.

Hello, Tofurky.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

Hello, Tofurky.

TOFURKY

This is Alice.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

This is Alice.

TOFURKY

She's my wife.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

She's my wife.

TOFURKY

Say Hello to Alice.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

Say Hello to Alice.

TOFURKY

Hello.

ALICE

(TOFURKY attacks ALICE, beating her until the
QUEEN OF SWORDS pulls him off her;
TOFURKY goes back to reading the phone book)

QUEEN OF SWORDS
I probably should have warned you he does that.

TOFURKY
*this is the accent of the halfhearted land
does it all make sense now?*

QUEEN OF SWORDS

See how sad he is?

ALICE

I'm not sure.

TOFURKY

*and if the ship was built in bottled sand
does it all make sense now?
the anchor's kiss was scrawled in dyslexic crayon*

ALICE

yes it all makes sense now

(TOFURKY attacks ALICE again until the QUEEN OF SWORDS pulls him off; he becomes fixated on her swords and pets them)

QUEEN OF SWORDS

Maybe we're upsetting him.

ALICE

No, no, I don't think so.
It's how he communicates.

TOFURKY

*Angels on the sideline,
Puzzled and amused.
Why did Father give these humans free will?
Now they're all confused.*

ALICE

*Don't these talking monkeys know that
Eden has enough to go around?*

TOFURKY

Plenty in this holy garden, silly monkeys,

ALICE

Where there's one you're bound to divide it.

TOFURKY

*Right in two.
Angels on the sideline,
Baffled and confused.*

ALICE

*Father blessed them all with reason.
And this is what they choose.*

TOFURKY

And this is what they choose...

(TOFURKY pets ALICE's hair)

TOFURKY

You have lovely hair.

(fondling the QUEEN's swords)

*Silly monkeys give them thumbs,
They forge a blade,
And where there's one*

ALICE

*they're bound to divide it,
Right in two.
Right in two.
Shit, I'm forgetting it.*

QUEEN OF SWORDS

Forgetting what?

ALICE

The song. He's speaking in song:
*Fight over the clouds, over earth, over canyon
They fight for our love, for our blood, over heaven,
Fight over love, over sun,
over nothing,*

TOFURKY

*they fight till they die,
and for what? For their lives ending.
they fight till they die,
and for what? For their lives ending.*

ALICE

For their lives ending.

TOFURKY

For their lives ending.

(hugs her)

For their lives ending.

You're right.
His story is very sad.

ALICE

For their lives ending.

TOFURKY

(wolf howl; the WOLF enters; he gives both ALICE
and the QUEEN a summons)

Your Majesty, Alice:
Consider yourselves officially summoned.

WOLF

For what: my execution?

ALICE

To testify.
There's been a murder.

WOLF

END OF SCENE

SCENE 18: The Trial.

SETTING: A court room.

AT RISE: The EMPRESS sits presiding as judge. The WOLF and DEVIL are lawyers. There is a table holding jars of body parts. The center of the table is the head of the SCHIZOPHRENIC CAT sitting on a platter, seemingly dead. DODGSON/CARROLL is testifying. ALICE and the QUEEN OF SWORDS enter.

WOLF

Tell what you know about the victim.

DODGSON/CARROLL

I don't know the victim at all.

WOLF

Tell us what you know about the crime.

DODGSON/CARROLL

I have no idea what you're talking about.

EMPRESS

Sirs, if you don't tell us what you know, we'll hold you in contempt and have you executed.

DODGSON/CARROLL

I don't have any idea what's going on.
Could you at least tell me what the crime is?

WOLF

We ask the questions, Masters.
I would like to offer into evidence Exhibits A through Q:
the body parts of the deceased.

DODGSON/CARROLL

Can I go now?

WOLF

Do you deny the existence of the deceased?

DODGSON/CARROLL

I deny the deceased has an existence being deceased.

SCHIZO CAT
I resent that. That's insulting.
I'll insult you.
I'll kill you with my thoughts.

EMPRESS
(cracks whip)
Order: the victim will be allowed to testify.

SCHIZO CAT
Testify. Testify. Test in my eye.
Buy my eye. Bye bye. Bisexual.

ALICE
I know that head.

ALL
(gasp)

WOLF
Take the stand.

EMPRESS
Take the stand.

SCHIZO CAT
Take the stand. Stand and be heard.
Heards of cattle and cats,
the cat heard what you said.

EMPRESS
(cracks whip)
Come forward.

(ALICE takes her place to testify)

WOLF
You know the deceased?

ALICE
Yes.

WOLF
Who is it?

SCHIZO CAT

You could just ask me who I am!

EMPRESS

Order!

Only outside observation of you is admissible.

SCHIZO CAT

But outside observation has an impact on the thing observed.

EMPRESS

Enough!

If you don't stop talking I'll have you executed.

SCHIZO CAT

I've already been executed.

DEVIL

I object: that remains to be determined.

EMPRESS

Sustained!

If you don't shut up I'll put a blanket over you.

Continue.

WOLF

Again, who is this?

ALICE

She's sort of a cat.

WOLF

Does this look like a cat?

Look at the body parts in these jars:

do they look like they belong to a cat?

DODGSON/CARROLL

Maybe there's more than one body.

WOLF

More than one victim.

DODGSON/CARROLL

Perhaps we better attempt to reassemble her with what we have.

ALICE

No, please.
I'm pretty sure all these
pieces
belong to the same person.

WOLF

How do you know the deceased?

ALICE

I made her.
It's hard to explain.
But I made her and this is what happened:
I feel responsible some how.

WOLF

So the deceased did in fact have a body?

DEVIL

I object.

EMPRESS

That's the second time you've objected, Devil.
May I ask what your role is in all this?

DEVIL

I'm the representative for the unknown murderer,
who I feel doesn't exist at all.
I object to the relevancy of this line of questioning.

WOLF

I object to your objection.

DEVIL

The state of the body prior to the alleged murder
is irrelevant. It cannot be proven.

ALICE

I saw her in once piece.

DEVIL

Hearsay.

WOLF

It's eyewitness testimony.

DEVIL

Hearsay:

All eyewitness testimony is constructed through language.

Language filters and distorts.

Language constructs truth: there is no absolute truth out there hiding behind the veneer of language.

There is only language, placed in our brains almost immediately after birth.

We cannot *know* without it.

Therefore, eyewitness testimony isn't about truth,
but something constructed uniquely by the witness.

And inadmissible.

EMPRESS

Sustained.

SCHIZO CAT

I object!

I did too have a body!

I object to these slanders!

DEVIL

You had a body?

SCHIZO CAT

Yes.

DEVIL

Someone cut you into all the pieces we see here?

SCHIZO CAT

Yes, someone must have. I'm in pieces, aren't I?

DEVIL

If you were cut into pieces,
does that mean you're dead?

SCHIZO CAT

Yes, I would have to be.

DEVIL

How can you testify being dead?

SCHIZO CAT

I don't know.

Maybe because you're listening to me—

because there's someone to hear to me I have something to say.

DEVIL

You're not really dead, are you?
What you really are is a disembodied talking head.
This is all a ruse constructed to distract us from the real crime.

WOLF

What real crime?

DEVIL

Indeed, what real crime?
I have phone records,
letters,
photographs,
bloody footprints,
bloody gloves,
DNA evidence,
semen samples from eight different men all willing to testify to their knowledge of the event.

SCHIZO CAT

I didn't do it! I swear!

DEVIL

What didn't you do?

SCHIZO CAT

I don't know, but I didn't do it!

DEVIL

Are you saying that if you didn't do it it hasn't been done?

SCHIZO CAT

No, no, I didn't mean—

QUEEN OF SWORDS

I did it!

ALL

(gasps)

QUEEN OF SWORDS

I did it. And I liked it.
It was sexy and got me wet!
Yes, I said it! It got me wet!

WOLF

Tell us what you did.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

No, I've said enough.
I will say no more.

EMPRESS
(cracks whip)

Off with her head!
Take her to her death!

ALICE

She hasn't done anything!
This is insane!
You can't execute her now knowing what she did!

EMPRESS

Haven't you ever heard of Heisenburg's uncertainty principle?
We can never know anything with certainty.
Does that mean we should never do anything?
No!
Off with her head!

QUEEN OF SWORDS

Alice,
no matter what I did,
I did it because I love you.

(the QUEEN OF SWORDS kisses ALICE; she's
dragged off stage; all follow except ALICE; the
sound of the QUEEN OF SWORDS being
beheaded)

ALICE

I thought that love would last for ever: I was wrong.

END OF SCENE

SCENE 19: The Third Tarot Reading.

SETTING:

Table for a tarot reading.

AT RISE:

DEATH sits at the table, shuffling tarot cards.
ALICE sits.

DEATH
(rattles; gasps)

I don't understand.

ALICE

DEATH
(rattles; offers her cards)

Take one?

ALICE

(takes one)

Queen of Swords.
Ha ha.

DEATH
(rattles; turns card)

The Lovers.

ALICE

DEATH
(rattles; chokes; turns cards)

The Empress.
The Wolf.
Got it.

ALICE

DEATH
(turns card)

I don't know that card.

ALICE

DEATH
(turns card)

What does that one mean?

ALICE

DEATH
(turns card)

That's not a tarot card.

ALICE

DEATH
(gasps)

Are you serious?

ALICE

DEATH
(turns card)

But why?

ALICE

DEATH
(turns card)

No. I don't want to know anymore.

ALICE

DEATH
(turns card)

ALICE
(looks away)

DEATH
(rattles)

ALICE
(slowly looks)

So there's nothing I can do about it?

DEATH
(offers deck)

ALICE
(draws card)

DEATH
(takes the card and places it on the pile; rattles)

ALICE

I guess there is.
Are you going to tell me a joke now?

DEATH
(gasps; rattles; chokes)

ALICE

I don't get it.
But I'm sure I will one day.

END OF SCENE

SCENE 20: The Library Book.

SETTING:

Empty.

AT RISE:

ALICE alone.

ALICE

Magic:

I get it now.

I totally fucking get it now.

(The WOLF enters, reading.)

WOLF

Where've you been?

Don't you want your book back anymore?

Aren't they going to charge you?

ALICE

(goes to him; grabs the book away)

I understand now: all of it.

I don't need you anymore.

It's over now.

(ALICE slams the book shut; the WOLF exits,
removing his costume as he goes; the lights come
up abruptly)

END OF PLAY