

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

The Performers

Eina d'escola 2012-2013

Scene I

(Alice and Charles are in the open forest. Charles is helping Alice to study a History chapter from the book he is holding.)

Charles: ...This king was called King William the Conqueror. He defeated the English soldiers---

Alice: (Alice sighs as if she were thinking about something else.) Ah...

Charles: Alice, will you please pay attention?! (He continues reading.) He defeated the English soldiers by gathering a great number of people from two different countries. One was---

Alice: (Alice sighs again and this time it runs longer.) Ah...

Charles: Alice, I am very serious. Could you please pay attention to your History lesson?! Will you please concentrate?!

Alice: I'm sorry, father! I will try harder.

Charles: (He goes over the part in the book where he left before.) ...two different counties: one was France and the other was Belgium. France---

Alice: (Alice sighs for the last time and exaggerates to the point of running out of air.) Ah...

Charles: That's enough, young lady! What is going on with you?

Alice: Father, I just can't concentrate on a book that has no images and no photographs! What kind of book is this? How can it not have any pictures in it?

Charles: My dear child, Alice: there are a great many good books in this world without pictures.

Alice: In this world, perhaps, but in my world, the books would be nothing but pictures.

Charles: Your world? What nonsense!

Alice: Nonsense? That's it father! In my world everything would be nonsense! Nothing would be as it is, because everything would be as it isn't. You see?

Charles: No, I don't see.

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(Song 1: Wonderland)

Alice

In my world of nonsense
Everything is upside down
A rabbit wears proper clothing
A Caterpillar smokes from a pipe

In my world of wonders
You can even change your size
A hatter goes really bonkers
I can take you there, just hold my hand

Charles:

Alice pay attention
It is time to concentrate
Focus on the lesson
There'll be time for us to play

Stop your imagination
This once for goodness' sake
Listen to your father
I demand you to obey

Alice:

Father for this once
Hold my hand
I will lead you to a place
That will live in your mind

Yes, this is place of mine
Is a Wonderland
Believe to what I say
It will live in your mind

Wonderland
It's a Wonderland
Wonderland, da di oh
Wonderland
It's my Wonderland
Wonderland, da di oh

Charles:

Wonderland
It's a Wonderland
Wonderland, da di oh
Wonderland
It's your Wonderland

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Sit down for I will go on

Alice:

In my world of nonsense...

(Alice and Charles sing as maintaining a conversation about Alice's Wonderland. Charles insists on teaching Alice her history lesson.)

Scene II

(McTwisp enters from the audience in a big hurry. He is holding a watch. He runs up to the middle of the aisle and takes a look at his watch.)

McTwisp: (Astonished) I'm late! I'm late! I'm late! (He runs back and comes out from the very same place he entered before.)

Charles: The King of France, Henry I, helped King William defeat the rebels near--

Alice: (Surprised) Father, have you seen that?!

Charles: What is it now, Alice?

Alice: Have you seen what I saw?

Charles: What did you see?

Alice: I saw a rabbit holding a watch in his hand, looking at it and saying: I'm late, I'm late, I'm late!

Charles: (Angry at her) Ok, enough of this! I will not stay here trying to teach you this lesson anymore! (He closes the History book.) When you are done with your games you can continue studying but on your own, young lady!

Alice: No, father! I'm sorry! It's just that---

Charles: I don't want to hear any more, Alice!

Alice: I saw a rabbit---

Charles: Yes, I heard enough: (Ridiculing her) a rabbit holding a watch, looking at it and speaking. Do you expect me to believe that?

Alice: Father, forgive me! I will not interrupt you again!

Charles: It is too late now, Alice! You will have to finish the lesson alone. And I want you at home by teatime. Is that clear, young lady?

Alice: Yes, father!

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Charles: Here is the book! Don't waste your time and start right away! Goodbye!

Alice: Goodbye, father! (Speaking with disbelief to herself) A speaking-rabbit holding a watch! Oh, come on, Alice! Just do as father says and finish your History lesson!

(Alice opens the book and starts looking for the page where to follow on from when she gets interrupted by McTwisp who enters from the audience again.)

McTwisp: I'm late, I'm late, I'm late!

Alice: Hey, you! Mr. Rabbit!

McTwisp: I have no time, I'm late! I'm late, I'm late, I'm late!

Alice: Late for what?

(McTwisp starts leaving.)

Alice: Wait, don't go!

McTwisp: I can't stay. Come with me! But hurry up!

Alice: I can't go with you! I have to stay and finish with my lesson. That's what my father told me. Besides I don't know you. You are a stranger to me. I shouldn't go with strangers. (She can't help going after him due to her curiosity.) Wait, Mr. Rabbit! I'm coming!

(McTwisp jumps into a hole at the base of a big tree. Alice gets to see him disappearing in there and by leaning into the hole she calls him out.) Mr. Rabbit! Do you hear me? Hello? (She falls into the hole, too.)

Scene III

(Alice finds herself in a room with many doors.)

Alice: How strange! (Alice looks up as trying to find the explanation of how she could possibly end up there.) Mr. Rabbit? Hello? Can you hear me? (Scared) Where am I? (She goes to one of the doors and tries to open it to get out.) It is locked! (Determined) Let's try with the others! (She tries with every door with no success.) They are all locked! There's no door left! I am trapped in here! Is there anyone who could help me, please?! Hello? (She waits for the children's answer.) Oh, where have you come from? (Disbelieving) Oh, this might be just another dirty trick of my imagination! You are not for real! You are just an illusion of mine! This is all just an illusion! That's it! (Understanding) I might be dreaming!

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It is just a dream! (To herself) So let's have fun! Enjoy it, Alice! (Like enjoying and taking advantage of this dream of hers.) Can you help me, please? I am looking for a speaking-rabbit. I have tried every door in this room but they all seem to be locked. (Alice shows every door that she has tried with exception of the tiniest one that she skips.) I have tried with this one, this one and this one. And they are all locked. (The children tell her about the tiniest door.) Oh, you are right! I forgot about this one! (While she walks up to the door) Anyway, how could I possibly get through this tiny door? (She tries and the door opens.) It opens! (She leans her head through and calls out to McTwisp.) Mr. Rabbit, can you hear me?

McTwisp (off): Hurry up, Alice! I am right here waiting for you!

Alice: He called me Alice! How does he know my name? (Alice tries to get through the door but with no success.) This door is too little, Mr. Rabbit! I can't get through it!

McTwisp (off): Look around you, young lady!

Alice: (Looking around her.) What do you mean by "Look around you"?

(A table slides onto the stage. There is a little bottle on it with a label hanging from it that says: "Drink me")

Alice: "Drink me"? What will it do? What shall I do, children? Shall I drink it, yes or no? (She waits for the children's answer.) Ok, I will drink it! (Alice drinks from the bottle and gets shorter –projection effect–. She tries getting through the tiny door and as she sees she can make it now, she exits the place through it.)

Scene IV

(McTwisp and Absolem are waiting for Alice. They scan her upside-down as analyzing her.)

McTwisp: You finally made it, Alice!

Alice: How do you know my name? Who are you?

McTwisp: My name is McTwisp. We were waiting for you, Alice. I knew you would follow me! (Excited) It is you! (He starts taking her to Absolem) Come with me, there is someone I want you to meet. I will introduce you to Absolem.

Alice: Who is this Absolem?

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McTwisp: He is wise. He is absolute. He is Absolem.

(Alice and McTwisp get to Absolem.)

Absolem: Who are you?

Alice: Absolem?

Absolem: You are not Absolem, I'm Absolem. The question is: who are you?

Alice: Alice.

Absolem: We shall see.

Alice: What do you mean? I ought to know who I am.

(Song 2: The Frabjous Day)

McTwisp:

I think it's time to explain to her
About her mission here
Alice, pay attention, dear
For I will put it clear

With a sword in your hands, dear
You will bring us back our peace
For it is written honey
It's your destiny

Alice:

There must be something wrong here
For that couldn't be me
I'm just a girl
With no power to kill

McTwisp:

Is she not the Alice we are waiting for
Absolem, speak!
What do you know?
Is she not the one we have expected for
So long...

Absolem:

We need to have more patience here
For the answers are not clear
Take a look at yourself in here
Leaving out all fear

McTwisp:

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There's a sword in your hands, dear
For you'll bring us back our peace
The Frabjous Day
Will no longer be a dream

Alice:

I am not the one you have expected for so long...

McTwisp: She is the right Alice, Absolem.

Absolem: I am not convinced.

McTwisp: Oh, come on, Absolem! I have been up there for weeks, looking for one Alice after the next and I was almost eaten by other animals. Can you imagine? They go out entirely unclothed and they do their disgusting things in public---

Absolem: She doesn't look anything like herself. (Thinks out loud) That might be because she is the wrong Alice.

Alice: How can I be the wrong Alice when this is my dream?

Absolem: Unroll the Oraculum.

(McTwisp unrolls the Oraculum. Alice takes a close look at it.)

Alice: It is a calendar.

Absolem: (He corrects her.) Compendium! It tells of each and every day since the Beginning.

McTwisp: Today is the day you arrive in Wonderland. It is all written.

Absolem: Show her the Frabjous Day.

McTwisp: Yeah, the Frabjous Day is the day when you kill the King of Hearts.

Alice: Sorry, kill whom?

McTwisp: Yes! (He shows something in the Oraculum.) That is you there with the Vorpall sword. Look, Alice! This is you in the Oraculum. Take a look at yourself! Can you recognise yourself there with the Vorpall sword? No other sword can kill the King of Hearts.

(Alice takes a look and gets scared at the image she sees in the Oraculum.)

Alice: That's not me!

McTwisp: Resolve this for us, Absolem. Is she the right Alice?

Alice: This is all crazy! I am talking to a speaking-rabbit wearing a waistcoat and to a caterpillar smoking from a hubble-bubble.

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McTwisp: But, Alice. I was so certain of you.

Alice: I'm sorry. I don't mean to be the wrong Alice. (She realizes.) Wait! This is my dream. I'm going to wake up now and you will disappear. (Alice closes her eyes, pinches herself and opens her eyes to realize she is still in Wonderland.)

Absolem: Leave us alone, McTwisp. I will take care of this myself.
(McTwisp exits.)

Scene V

Absolem: Who are you?

Alice: I hardly know, Absolem. I am Alice but you tell I am not. You see?

Absolem: I do not see. Explain yourself.

Alice: I'm afraid I can't explain myself. You know?

Absolem: I do not know.

Alice: Well, I can't put it any more clearly, for it isn't clear to me.

Absolem: You. Who are you?

Alice: Well, don't you think you have to tell me who you think I am first?

Absolem: Why?

Alice: Oh, dear, everything is so confusing.

Absolem: It is not.

Alice: Well, it is to me.

Absolem: Why?

Alice: (She takes the Oraculum.) I can't be the girl that appears in this Oraculum! I am not the one you are expecting!

Absolem: Are you not?

Alice: No, I am not! I am not capable of doing such a thing as killing anything or anyone! I am not that girl in the Oraculum!

Absolem: This compendium predicts everyday until the Frabjous Day. On that day the wicked King of Hearts is dethroned by a young lady who dares to fight him with the Vorpall sword.

Alice: I wouldn't have the courage to fight anyone!

Absolem: Wouldn't you?

Alice: I don't know how to use a sword!

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Absolem: Don't you?

Alice: You are making a mistake! You are confusing me with a person I am not!

Absolem: Aren't you?

Alice: I am fed up of all this! Just leave me alone! (Alice runs away.)

Scene VI

(The King of Hearts breaks in the scene. Just before that, Absolem was able to hide the Oraculum.)

King: Who were you talking with? I heard you speaking with someone! I know what I heard! Don't try to deceive me! I am not an idiot! Don't you treat me like a fool!!! (Absolem remains in a Zen attitude.) Say something! (Absolem starts speaking but he is interrupted.) I can't hear you!

Absolem: Because I haven't said anything yet.

(The King turns to Absolem and frightens him with a sudden movement which makes Absolem drop the Oraculum he was keeping hidden. The King bursts out laughing. He feels powerful and enjoys being so smart.) I am so powerful! I am so fearsome! I am so intelligent! I rule Wonderland! And everybody obeys me! (The King of Hearts rushes for the Oraculum and unrolls it. He looks and studies it.) I knew you were hiding something from me... What is this? (Absolem remains silent.) I am asking you a question! (Absolem remains silent.) You'd better speak if you don't want to remain silent forever after I cut off your tongue!!!

Absolem: It's the Oraculum...

King: An oracle? Is it an oracle?

Absolem: Yes, it is.

(The King goes over the Oraculum from left to right until he sees the image in which he himself is shown.)

King: Isn't this me?

Absolem: Yes, it is...

King: (He realizes.) Someone is driving a sword into my chest! It's a woman! It is a young lady! Who is she, Absolem?

Absolem: I don't know...

King: Of course you know!

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Absolem: No, I don't.

King: (To the children.) What about you? Do you know! Do you know who this young lady is? Do you know her name? (He waits for the children's answer.) You are not going to tell me, right? (He walks up to Absolem and aims his sword at him to threaten the children.) If you don't tell me the girl's name I will cut Absolem's tongue! (He waits for the children's answer.) You still don't know, do you? Let's try the other way around then... Let's cut one of these children's tongue instead... Absolem, perhaps it is you who will have to tell me the young lady's name...

Absolem: (Before the King can go downstage.) Alice! Her name is Alice!
(The King stops dead.)

King: Soldiers! Get ready! Find Alice! And cut off her head!

Scene VII

(Alice is alone, sad and confused.)

Alice: This has to be a dream! It has to be my own dream! I simply must wake up! (She pinches herself once again with no success. She keeps on walking.) All I want to do is wake up from this dream... How am I supposed to go back home? (She hears some noise from the distance and she walks in this direction.)
(The hatter is celebrating his unbirthday alone and having some tea.)

(Song 3: Merry Unbirthday)

The Mad Hatter:

A very merry unbirthday to me, to you
A very merry unbirthday to me, to you
Let's all congratulate us with another cup of tea
A very merry unbirthday to me!

There is only one birthday in the year
There would only be one chance to celebrate
Instead there are plenty of unbirthdays to enjoy yourselves

A very merry unbirthday to me, to you
A very merry unbirthday to me, to you
Let's all congratulate us with another cup of tea
A very merry unbirthday to me!

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(Alice is hidden looking at him. Once The Hatter has finished singing his song Alice comes out clapping her hands. The Hatter gets scared and tries to prevent her from sitting at his table.)

Hatter: No room! No room! No vacancy!

Alice: (She points at the empty chair.) But I thought there was a chair for another person.

Hatter: Ah, but it is very rude to sit down without being invited. It is very, very rude indeed.

Alice: Oh, I'm very sorry. But I did enjoy your singing and I wondered if you could tell me---

Hatter: You enjoyed my singing? What a delightful child! (He leans on the table and by accident he puts his elbow inside the cup of tea he was drinking from. It takes him some time to remove the cup from his elbow.) Things happen. I'm so excited! I never get compliments. You must have a cup of tea!

Alice: That would be very nice. I'm sorry I interrupted your birthday party.

Hatter: (He is giving her a cup of tea but in the last second he puts it back and asks her.) Birthday? My dear child this is not a birthday party. Of course not! This is an unbirthday party.

Alice: Unbirthday? I'm sorry, but I don't quite understand.

Hatter: It's very simple. You have just one birthday... Imagine: just one birthday every year. Ah... but there are 364 unbirthdays!

Alice: Then, today is my unbirthday too!

Hatter: It is? What a small world this is! In that case... (They sing the Merry Unbirthday song)

Alice: Oh, that was lovely.

Hatter: And, now, my dear, you were saying that you would like to know--- (He interrupts himself.) Pardon me. (He eats the saucer under his cup.) You were looking for some information of some kind?

Alice: Oh, yes. You see I'm looking for a---

Hatter: Clean cup, clean cup. Move down! (The Hatter removes Alice from the table.)

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Alice: But I haven't used my cup.

Hatter: Would you like a little more tea?

Alice: Well, I haven't had any yet, so I can't very well take more---

Hatter: And now, my dear, something seems to be troubling you. Won't you tell me all about it? Start at the beginning and when you come to the end, stop, see? Oh, by the way, what's your name?

Alice: I'm Alice.

Hatter: (Amazed.) Alice? Alice you said?

Alice: Yes, but I'm not the Alice that you think I am---

Hatter: You are absolutely Alice. I would know you anywhere. I was waiting for your return... You are terribly late, you know? Naughty. We need to get move on to Frabjous Day. We simply must start with the Vorpall Sword. I must tell you all about it.

Alice: Oh, no, no, please! Don't start with that! I have had enough of it!

Hatter: Alice, the Vorpall Sword is the only weapon that will help you defeat the King of Hearts! Its powers are unique! Without the Vorpall Sword there is no way you could kill him.

Scene VIII

(The King of Hearts enters. The Hatter bows to the King and forces Alice to do the same.)

Hatter: Oh, dear King! What a wonderful surprise it is to have you here.

King: Hush! I am looking for a young lady called Alice! Do any of you know who this young lady is?

Alice: Well, I'm---

Hatter: (Interrupting.) We have no idea, Your Majesty. We know: Patricia, Mary, Sarah and Immaculate, but we don't know any Alice!

King: Who are you, young lady?

Alice: Um...

Hatter: Um...

King: Um?

Hatter: Her name is Um.

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Alice: Yes, my name is Um. I'm from Umbradge!

King: Um... And what are you doing in Wonderland? What is the purpose for your visit?

Alice: I...

Hatter: She...

Alice: Let me speak... (She gives the Hatter a nudge.)

Hatter: Ouch! That hurt! (He stamps on Alice's foot.)

(They keep on responding with different blows that amuse the King of Hearts to the point of entertaining him.)

King: Jajaja... (To the children) Aren't they adorable? You two are quite funny, you know? I'm taking you both to my castle. You will be my jesters, my clowns!

Alice: Oh no! I can't go---

King: I warn you child, if I lose my temper you will lose your head! Don't you dare contradict me again, you little piece on nothing! I am the King of Hearts! And you two will become my personal clowns. Jajaja! (The Hatter is about to say a word when the King threatens him.) You will do exactly as I say! Is that clear? Answer.

Alice & Hatter: Ye—

King: Stop! Continue!

Alice & Hatter: ...s, yo—

King: Stop! Continue!

Alice & Hatter: ..ur, Ma—

King: Stop! Continue!

Alice & Hatter: ...jesty!

King: Soldiers! Get ready! Tie them up! Take them to the castle!

Scene IX

(In the castle, Alice & The Hatter:

1) Will start a choreographed number that will show different scenes in which they will both represent various acted clown-situations to amuse the King. Whenever He doesn't seem to like the endings of every little scene, the actors – Alice & The Hatter– will restart the ending so as to make it happen the way the King would want.)

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2) Will start a choreographed dance where they march, work and amuse the King with clown-tricks.)

(While they perform one or both of the choices above, the King tries to interact with the audience to find some complicity when it comes to laughing at the clowns. Alice and The Hatter will try to encourage this behaviour to get the King distracted and therefore make it possible for The Hatter to go away and look for the Vorpall Sword. Alice diverts the King's attention to one side of the stage with a song she sings and plays on the guitar in honour of His Majesty, The King of Hearts

(Song 4: The King of Hearts is the Best)

Alice:

We love you

We love you

I sing it out loud

To be by your side

We love you

We love you

I sing it out loud

To be by your side

Such a great King is all we want

So smart and wise

The King of Hearts

Is the best

He is the best

The King of Hearts

Is the best

We are blessed

Alice / The King of Hearts

We love you

We love you

I sing it out loud

To be by your side

We love you

We love you

I sing it out loud

To be by your side

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Such a great King is all we want
So smart and wise

The King of Hearts
Is the best
He is the best

The King of Hearts
Is the best
We are blessed

Alice:
La-la-la

and The Hatter goes away little by little to the opposite side of the stage which he divides in halves with one of the curtains of the scenery. Alice keeps on singing while the King remains sitting down captivated by such beautiful song. On the other side The Hatter looks for the Vorpall Sword in every room of the castle – sound effects–, until in one of them he finds the Sword in its holder –offstage–. He brings it onstage and looks at it amazed. On the other side the song has turned into a lullaby that is making the King feel sleepy until he finally falls deeply asleep. Alice walks from this side to the other and looks for The Hatter. She finds him frozen and speechless. Both stare at the Sword for some seconds. The King wakes up and looks around. He finds none of his clowns so gets really furious.)

King: Where are my jesters? Where are my clowns? (To the children) Have you seen them? Soldiers! Get ready! Find Um and the Hatter! And cut off their heads!

(Alice and The Hatter look at each other in fear because they can hear the soldiers coming for them. The King remains on his half polishing his nails, doing some yoga, playing hopscotch, killing and eating insects –sound effects–, etc.)

Hatter: Nobody can harm us, Alice. Not now, that you have the Vorpall Sword!

Alice: We are going to die, Hatter! I told you I have no idea of how to use a sword. I will not be able to defend us! Look, I don't even know how to hold it! (Alice goes for the Vorpall Sword. In the very moment Alice takes the Vorpall Sword out from

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its holder she feels attached to it and begins with a demonstration as if she were an expert.)

Hatter: I told you, you are the right Alice.

(The soldiers have reached the other side of the door.)

Alice: (Courageously.) It is time, Hatter!

(Alice opens the door, gets out of the room and fights the soldiers offstage.)

(From time to time The Hatter gets out the room to try to give Alice a hand but he will be immediately pushed back in with one of the soldier's blows. Alice will also get into the room randomly to tell the Hatter about how the whole fight is going outside. The King on his side is still at ease.)

Alice: (Alice comes into the room.) That's it, Hatter. No more soldiers.

Hatter: Well done, Alice! It is now time to go for the King!

Alice: Let's go and finish it!

Scene X

(The King of Hearts is sitting on his armchair. Alice and The Hatter come onstage. Alice is hiding the sword behind her back. When the King sees them he becomes furious.)

King: (Furious.) Are you two still alive?! Soldiers! I said off with their heads! (The King doesn't hear the soldiers marching this time.) Soldiers! Soldiers? (He suspects something. He looks at Alice and The Hatter.) What is happening here?

Hatter: Finish him, Alice.

King: (He corrects the Hatter.) Um. (He realizes.) Alice? Alice...

(Alice and the King of Hearts fight. The King grazes Alice with his sword a couple of times because it takes Alice some time to be at the level of the King's fighting. At a certain moment Alice makes the King drop his sword. Then he pulls out a dagger and takes the Hatter who is standing nearby. The King rests the dagger against the Hatter's throat and threatens Alice.)

King: If you don't want me to cut off his head, drop the Vorpall Sword now!

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Hatter: Don't do it, Alice!

King: Shut up you imbecile!

Hatter: Don't worry about me, Alice!

King: One more word and I'll cut out your tongue before I cut off your head!

Hatter: Think of McTwisp and Absolem! They need you!

King: Don't you say I didn't warn you...

(When the King is about to cut out the Hatter's tongue Alice interrupts him.)

Alice: Stop! (Alice pretends she is giving up.) I can't fight you. You are too powerful! I could never defeat you. (Alice pretends she is leaving the Sword on the floor.) I surrender to you...

(The King of Hearts starts laughing and enjoying his power. He gets a little distracted so the Hatter leans down and before the King can react, Alice drives the Vorpall Sword into his chest. The King of Hearts dies. The Hatter thanks Alice.)

(Song 5: Finale)

Hatter:
I said you were the one
The only, the chosen one
Who could defeat the King of Hearts
And set us free from his evil plan

The sword was waiting for one
The only, the chosen one
That could take it in his hands
And bring back peace to Wonderland

Hatter / McTwisp:
Wonderland will be again
The place we longed to see
Better times will come to reign
Just because you are here

Wonderland will be again
The place we longed to see
We are all so grateful
To you Alice, our dear

Is there anything we can do to show our gratitude?

Instrumental:

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(Part dialogada.)

Alice: Yes, I want to go back home.

McTwisp: That means you don't want to stay in Wonderland, do you?

Alice: No, my friends. I want to go back home with my father. I miss him very much.

The Hatter: In that case, follow me...

Everybody:

It's time to say goodbye

Although we shouldn't cry

For you will always be in our hearts

It will feel like you're with us

Wonderland will be again

The place we longed to see

Better times will come to reign

Because Alice was here

(Alice passa pel túnel)

Wonderland

It's a Wonderland

Wonderland, da di oh

Wonderland

It's my Wonderland

Wonderland, da di oh

(Alice surt a la superfície)

Wonderland

It's a Wonderland

Wonderland, da di oh

Wonderland

It's my Wonderland

Wonderland, da di oh

(Alice and McTwisp dance alone the first part of the song. They arrange the scenery while they dance. McTwisp joins in to sing with Alice and The Hatter. The Hatter and McTwisp show Alice the way back home. Alice climbs up the hole she fell into at the beginning.)

Alice: (She runs offstage.) Father, I'm back for tea!

The End.