

Down the Rabbit Hole



2

Alice was beginning to get very tired of sitting by her sister on the bank, and of having nothing to do: once or twice she had peeped into the book her sister was reading, but it had no pictures or conversations in it, "and what is the use of a book," thought Alice "without pictures or conversation?"

So she was considering in her own mind whether the pleasure of making a daisy-chain would be worth the trouble of getting up and picking the daisies, when suddenly a White Rabbit with pink eyes ran close by her.

There was nothing so VERY remarkable in that; nor did Alice think it so VERY much out of the way to hear the Rabbit say to itself, "Oh dear! Oh dear! I shall be late!" but then the Rabbit actually TOOK A WATCH OUT OF ITS WAISTCOAT-POCKET, and looked at it, and then hurried on.

Alice started to her feet, for it flashed across her mind that she had never before seen a rabbit with either a waistcoat-pocket, or a watch to take out of it, and burning with curiosity, she ran across the field after it, and fortunately was just in time to see it pop down a large rabbit-hole under the hedge.

Alice went after it, never once considering how in the world she was to get out again.

Down, down, down. Would the fall NEVER come to an end! "I wonder how many miles I've fallen by this time?" Alice said aloud. "I must be getting somewhere near the centre of the earth.

Suddenly, thump! thump! Down she came upon a heap of sticks and dry leaves, and the fall was over.

Alice was not a bit hurt; before her was another long passage, and the White Rabbit was still in sight, hurrying down it.

There was not a moment to be lost: away went Alice like the wind, and was just in time to hear it say, as it turned a corner, "Oh my ears and whiskers, how late it's getting!" She was close behind it when she turned the corner, but the Rabbit was no longer to be seen and she found herself in a long, low hall...



There were doors all around the hall, but they were all locked.

Suddenly Alice came upon a little three-legged table, all made of solid glass; there was nothing on it except a tiny golden key, and Alice's first thought was that it might belong to one of the doors of the hall; but, either the locks were too large, or the key was too small,. However, on the second time round, behind a low curtain she came upon a little door about fifteen inches high: she tried the little golden key, and to her great delight it fitted!

Alice opened the door and found that it led into a small passage, not much larger than a rat-hole that led to the loveliest garden she ever saw...but she could not even get her head through the doorway.

She went back to the table. This time she found a little bottle under it, and around the neck of the bottle was a paper label, with the words "DRINK ME" beautifully printed on it in large letters.

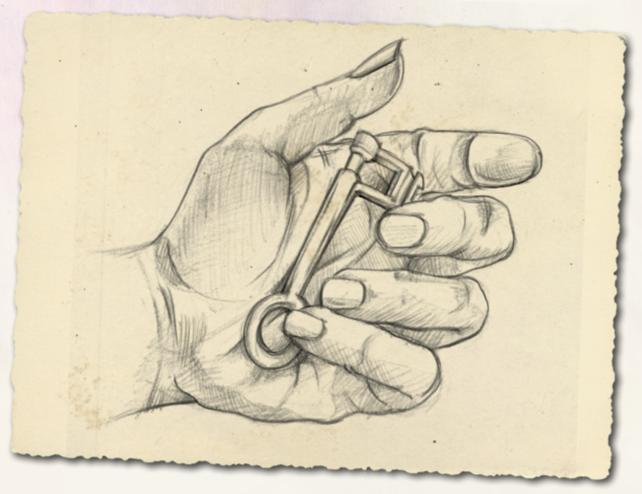




The bottle was NOT marked "poison," so Alice ventured to taste it, and finding it very nice, she very soon finished it off.

"What a curious feeling!" said Alice; "I must be shutting up like a telescope." And so it was indeed: she was now only ten inches high, and her face brightened up at the thought that she was now the right size for going through the little door into that lovely garden.

She walked down the little passage and found herself in the beautiful garden, among the bright flower beds and the cool fountains. A large rose-tree stood near the entrance of the garden: the roses growing on it were white.



There were three gardeners lying in the shadow under it. They looked like playing cards, oblong and flat, with their hands and feet at the corners, and ornamented with two, five and seven of spades. They were talking about a croquet game that the Queen was preparing. Alice listened to them for a while wondering about who the queen might have been.

She then peeped at the garden, its beauty luring her in. It was beautiful, but did that beauty give cover to unknown dangers? Would it be safer to go back to the hallway?



P. 6 -

WANDER

AROUND

THE GARDEN

P. 5 -

TALK

TO THE

GARDENERS

Alice approached the gardeners. Just as she reached them, their eyes fell upon her, and all of them bowed low. "Would you tell me," said Alice, a little timidly, "who the Queen might be and who will take part in the croquet game you were talking about a minute ago?"

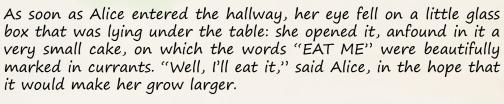
Five and seven said nothing, but looked at two. Two began speaking in a low voice "You see, miss, the Queen has invited the Duchess to a croquet game and commanded the white rabbit to look after the whole thing. If it will be late the Queen will be furious and the rabbit will have its head cut off!"

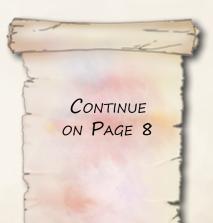
Worried about what she had heard, Alice rushed back to the hallway.

"Who knows," she thought. "I might end up meeting the rabbit again and can warn him about the danger if he doesn't already know!"

As soon as Alice entered the hallway, her eye fell on a little glass box that was lying under the table: she opened it, and found in it a very small cake, on which the words "EAT ME" were beautifully marked in currants. "Well, I'll eat it," said Alice, in the hope that it would make her grow larger.







Alice wandered the beautiful garden, walking among the flower beds and the fountains, and she soon noticed all the trees had red roses except for the one she saw when she first entered the garden.

Wondering why that might be, she headed back to the gardeners that were lazing around to ask. Just as she came up to them their eyes happened to fall upon Alice, and all of them bowed low.

"Would you tell me," said Alice, a little timidly, "Why are all the roses red except those growing on this tree?"

The gardeners looked at each other in horror, stared at the flowers and then looked toward Alice again.

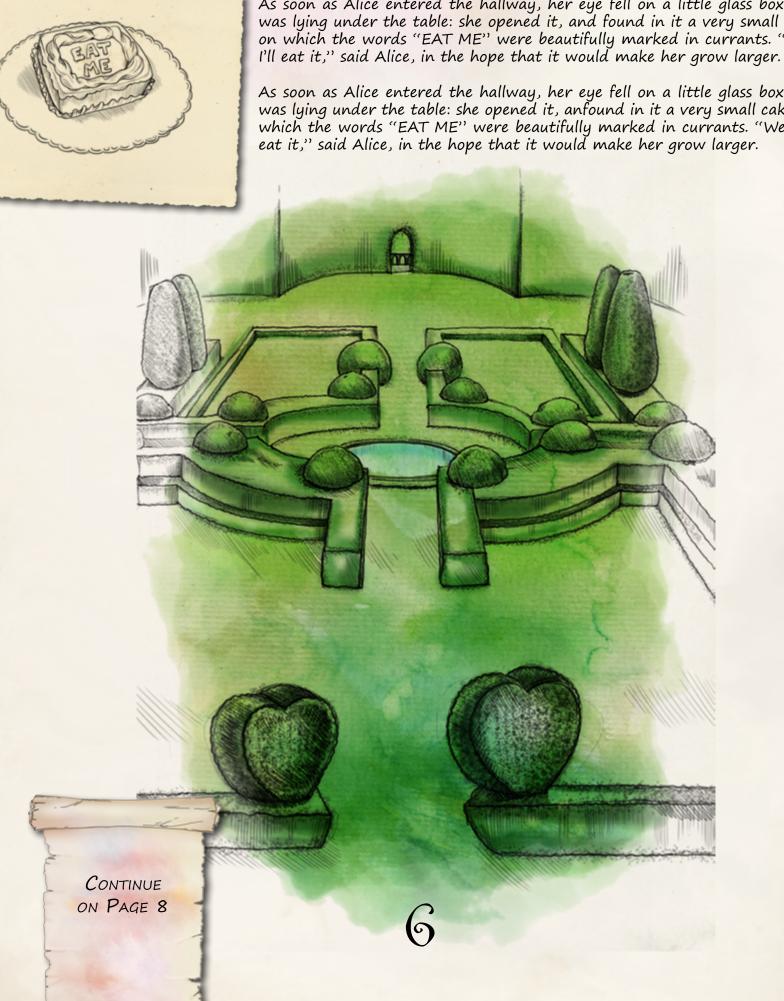
Five and Seven said nothing, but looked at Two. Two began in a low voice, "Miss, all trees here ought to be red rose trees, but now that you make us notice, we must have put a white one in by mistake. If the Queen finds out, we will all have our heads cut off!"

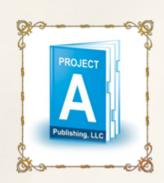
They started to talk among themselves, apparently looking for a solution. Then they suddenly ran away, leaving Alice alone to look at the tree.

"Having your head cut off for a rose tree?" thought Alice. "Now that is really nonsense! The Queen must be a mean person!"

> She decided the garden was TOO dangerous a place for HER and rushed back to the hallway. As soon as Alice entered the hallway, her eye fell on a little glass box that was lying under the table: she opened it, and found in it a very small cake, on which the words "EAT ME" were beautifully marked in currants. "Well,

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Edited by Krystal Elghanayan

Designed by Emiliano Civiletti, Gerry Gaston, Corrado Sesselego

First published in 2014 by Project A Publishing, LLC 3 Alpine Court Little Rock, AR 72205, USA

www.projectapublishing.com

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If I Were Alice in Wonderland © 2014 Project A Publishing, LLC & Blue Monkey Studio

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