

LEAVING WONDERLAND

By Jasmine Sharma

Working Draft: November 24, 2019
Copyright 2019 Jasmine Sharma

CHARACTERS

ALICE	25. Female identifying. POC.
EDITH	33. Female identifying. Any ethnicity.
LORINA / ANY YOUNG WOMAN	23. Female identifying. Any ethnicity.
LEWIS / CHESHIRE CAT	Male identifying. Animal-like qualities.
CHARLIE / FIREFOX	Male identifying. Human-like qualities.

TIME: The #metoo era.

PLACE: New York City, Wonderland.

CASTING NOTE: ALICE, EDITH, and LORINA are sisters. They do not need to look alike. We understand they are sisters more through their connection than through their appearances. Casting should reflect the diversity of the world we live in.

CONTENT WARNING: Rape, Sexual Assault.

For sisters who are and are not blood.

SCENE 1: Down the Rabbit Hole

*A New York City street, outside the stage door of a small off-off-off
broadway theater. Alice and Edith stand outside in coats,
impatient.*

EDITH

This was a bad play. The worst / I've ever seen.

ALICE

Maybe we didn't understand / the...concept?

EDITH

Someone put money into this. Money that could have gone to important / causes-

ALICE

Yeah but the *message* was important / or something-

EDITH

Message? What / message?

ALICE

Like, the moral of the / story?

EDITH

Nothing new, nothing we haven't seen before.

And if you're not saying something new, at least make it *look* good.

90 minutes in little awkward leotards? Gauche.

ALICE

To be fair, Lorina warned us that it was a dance piece.

EDITH

Thank you again for coming with me. I feel crazy when I go to these shows - I am a patron of the arts, but if these crowds keep it up, not for long.

ALICE

I wouldn't let you sit in an audience alone. Not with all those theatre people, like:

Alice and Edith impersonate the "theatre audience" in unison.

ALICE
“Hm. Mm. Ah!”

EDITH
“Hm. Mm. Ah!”

Alice and Edith snap. And then giggle.

EDITH
The loudest thinking of all time.

ALICE
Everyone else aside, I thought Lori was pretty good.

EDITH
Mm. With *all* four of her lines?

ALICE
She *looked* good.

EDITH
What’s our game plan for when she comes out?

ALICE
Lie. But supportively.
And don’t say anything about school. She's self-conscious about it.

EDITH
I hear your accusatory tone, but remind you that I wasn't the only one who said spending mom and dad’s money studying this stuff seven hours away - doing god knows whatever else - was wasteful. As my memory recalls, you thought it was a batshit move too.

ALICE
Well I refrained from saying it to her *face* then.

EDITH
I don’t see the use in hiding from a logical argument-

ALICE
Careful, your law school is showing.

EDITH

Good.

I'm not ashamed that I like to be practical about my money, my future-

ALICE

I was just kidding. I think it's great that you're so smart and responsible and awesome at being a big shot lawyer.

EDITH

...

And how is your gig? Speaking of work.

ALICE

It's going great at the restaurant. That I hold a full time position at. Thanks.

EDITH

Do you ever see it? I thought you were still in the back chopping / lettuce.

ALICE

I am paying my dues.

If I assist at The Smith, I can get a position at / any place I want.

EDITH

Any place you want.

I just thought you didn't want to be in Hellish kitchen this long.

ALICE

I'm working on leaving I just-

One day, I'll be ready to take that leap, but not until I save a little more-

EDITH

If money is an issue you know I have offered to-

ALICE

I don't want your money.

EDITH

You mean more of my money-

ALICE

I want to have my own money. So I can run my own Soho bistro.

EDITH

Fine.

ALICE

And I'm going to pay you back. I promise.

EDITH

I'm sure you will.

ALICE

And as a thank you, I'll give you the window seat when you bring your fancy girlfriends to my little bistro for anniversaries.

EDITH

Generous of you.

ALICE

And if you're nice, I'll seat you by the window.

EDITH

I'm always / nice.

ALICE

And on Valentine's Day when you bring your inevitable mistresses, I'll give you guys the back room.

EDITH

Of course, because girls are just lining up for me lately / aren't they.

ALICE

No one is going to pick you up if you don't put yourself out there / Edith.

EDITH

I put out plenty.

Alice giggles. Edith imitates her.

EDITH

I am surrounded by children.

Where *is* she? Lorina! It's global warming November ice out here-

ALICE

Probably still doing a post show cool down. That breathing thing she learned at school?

Like-

She demonstrates the breathing thing. It involves a lot of wheezing.

EDITH

\$70,000. A year. For asthma.

Should I go back there? She is so inconsiderate it's freezing! I swear Lorina-

As Edith is about to storm in, Lorina emerges from the stage door. She carries so many individually wrapped flowers.

EDITH

-is at the beginning of a hugely successful career!

LORINA

Oh, Edith. That performance on stage tonight-

Oh, I just- I don't know if I can replicate it. I left my soul onstage this evening.

I'm so glad you guys were there to - to bear witness.

ALICE

Congrats Lori.

Alice hugs her.

EDITH

Yeah, great job. You looked great.

Edith gives her a side hug.

LORINA

Thank you, but please Edith, my talent and my looks are separate.

ALICE

She didn't mean it like / that.

EDITH

What do you want me to say?

LORINA

Just, how you felt about my performance!

EDITH

Okay fine. You did great acting?

LORINA

Thank you, but it was an *ensemble piece*.

EDITH

Alright sure let's get out of here? God knows I need to buy a drink-

Alice coughs.

EDITH

-for um, my lovely-

Talented sister. Because of her amazing show. Which, I liked.

Alice coughs.

EDITH

-Loved.

ALICE

I actually might raincheck? I gotta catch up on / sleep.

EDITH

Nonononono-

LORINA

Unacceptable!

ALICE

This is my first night off in / forever.

EDITH

You get *two* drinks then. On me. / Come on.

LORINA

Come on Alice! I already told Carol she could come out with us, she is *expecting* three sisters (Credz to Checkov).

EDITH

Who's that?

LORINA

Ugh, I need Carol here. My witticisms are being *wasted*.

EDITH

Alice. Help. Don't leave me with them. The *theatre people*.

LORINA

Stop it Edie, you're going to *adore* Carol. You both have compatible moons AND suns, / I checked.

ALICE

Are you setting her up?

LORINA

100%.

EDITH

I don't want to be set up with your friends, Lori. They're loud and / kind of vicious.

LORINA

Nonono, come on. Opposites attract! She's FUN!

EDITH

Am I not fun?

LORINA

Um!

ALICE

No.

LORINA

Edie, she is so funny and sweet and you could bounce a roll of mic tape off her taut little ass. Carol was the one in the purple leotard? She was chased by the leopard in Act 4?

EDITH

Nonono sisters night!

I mean how often do we all see each other anymore, right?

And Allie is coming, so four would just be a crowd.

ALICE

I'm not coming / sorry.

EDITH

Alice.

I love you, I support your choices. But not this one.

I am telling you as your older sister that if you come tonight, I will consider you loan paid.

ALICE

...

LORINA

...Um?

EDITH

What'd I say?

ALICE

That's just such a weird card / to pull?

LORINA

Edith just wants you to come out, right?

EDITH

Yes, that's what I've been saying! I'm getting us an uber right now.

LORINA

YAY! I'll text Carol to join us!

EDITH

No thanks! Reception sucks out here I'm just going to head up the street.

Edith exits. Lorina pulls out her phone.

LORINA

Weird of her to bring that up.

ALICE
I know, right. She's so-

LORINA
Weird.

ALICE
Yeah.

LORINA
She needs to get laid. Carol will help with that.
I love her, but like, also acknowledge that she's down on the first date, you know?

ALICE
What's wrong with that?

LORINA
Nothing since it's Edith, you know?

ALICE
I-

LORINA
Ugh. She hated she show, didn't she?

ALICE
Uh-
Pfft, shhsh, what? No!

LORINA
I can tell.
Sisters can't hide anything from each other. We smell it out.

...

Also, I'm an actor, which means I really understand the nuances of the human condish (condition).

ALICE
Oookay / Lori.

LORINA

Hm, reception does suck out here. My text to Carol isn't sending-
I'm gonna go back and grab her, okay?

ALICE

What?

LORINA

She's just in the dressing room-
Be back in a mo' (moment).

Lorina exits in through the stage door. Alice fiddles with her program.

ALICE

"Lorina thanks her parents for applauding for her from the sky," Oh, Lori.

...

"And her sisters, Excellent Edith and Amazing Alice, for their support on wonderful land. Xoxo."

Amazing Alice.

Enter Lewis. He lines up at the front of the theater, wondering where everyone is. He checks a pocket watch.

ALICE

...Sir?

You're not here for the show, are you?

LEWIS

Well I didn't come here to piss on the sidewalk.

ALICE

Um, no need to be rude. Just asking because-
Well, it's over / so.

LEWIS

No, it's at 8 / o'clock.

ALICE

It's 11 right / now.

LEWIS
No, it's...

He checks a pocket watch.

LEWIS
It's 8.

ALICE
Your watch isn't at the right time then, see.

Alice shows him the time on her phone.

LEWIS
I'm late? Oh-!
I am too late. The time shift-
I was recently traveling. Different time zone.

ALICE
LA?

LEWIS
What?

ALICE
The time zone, 3 hours / difference?

LEWIS
Yeah, sure.
Hey, I'm sorry.

ALICE
You're probably just jet-lagged and cranky. Or just have a bad attitude, I don't really know you, / so-

LEWIS
Can I see your phone again?

Alice shows him the phone.

ALICE

The time hasn't changed buddy-
HEY.

LEWIS takes her phone and texts himself.

LEWIS

Now you have my number, so you let me know when you want to have a proper interaction where I don't make a *complete ass* of myself. Then you can figure out if I was cranky tonight, or if I'm just, bad.

ALICE

Maybe.

LEWIS

Dinner?

ALICE

I usually work nights, / so-

LEWIS

But not this night.

ALICE

...Yeah, / but-

LEWIS

Then now.

ALICE

I already / ate.

LEWIS

Then we'll drink.

ALICE

You're *persistent*.

LEWIS

And you're a scaredy cat. That's what I'll save your contact as.

ALICE
And what do I save for yours?

LEWIS
Lewis.

ALICE
And I'm *Alice*, / by the way.

LEWIS
No, you're scaredy cat.

Lorina reenters.

LORINA
Carol is just going to meet us at the bar, she's *still* shedding her character. So dedicated.
Who's this?

ALICE
Lewis.

LEWIS
Lewis.

LORINA
Oh?

LEWIS
Alice and I were going to get a drink, / actually.

ALICE
I didn't say yes / yet.

LORINA
Amazing Alice!! Go!
Don't even worry about Edith, now she can focus on Carol. Ah! Have *FUN!*
And can I just say, I have a feeling deep in my core that this...could lead to monogamy!

ALICE
Lorina!

LORINA
Bye bye mwah!

Lorina exits.

LEWIS

She's fun. Loud.

ALICE

She's my little sister. She's the most out there of us-
Oh. Edith's going to kill me.

LEWIS

Scared?

ALICE

Yes! If you knew her you'd *know*-
She just doesn't like surprises / is all.

LEWIS

C'mon, I know a place near here.
I'd like to hear more about your sisters. And you.

ALICE

I-

LEWIS

Especially you.
We're looking for a big purple sign.

ALICE

Called?

LEWIS

The Well.

SCENE 2: WONDERLAND INTERLUDE 1

Pounding music. The bottom of a well. It seems that we're on a forest floor, the ground littered with roses, daisies, poppies and tiger lilies. These flowers look plastic, painted, too neon to be trusted. Alice sits on a barstool, Lewis circles, looking more and more like the Cheshire Cat with every line, smile getting wider, ears sharper, tail longer. When Alice drinks, it is in slow motion.

LEWIS
Drink it.

ALICE
I can't have another-

LEWIS
Yes you can.

ALICE
You stopped-

LEWIS
It's calling, "drink me, drink meeee-"

ALICE
*Okay, okay.
I've never seen someone with a pocket watch.*

LEWIS
Mmhm.

ALICE
So why were you in LA?

LEWIS
What?

ALICE
*This music is a little loud.
W-where do you live?*

LEWIS
Brooklyn.
Wanna see it?

ALICE
What's playing right now? I feel like I know this one-

LEWIS
Let's get out of here.

ALICE
Ooh. I'm feeling a little-
Do you think they have any pretzels or peanuts or something that isn't liquid here?
Hey bartender-

LEWIS
You can have me.

ALICE
What?

LEWIS/CHESHIRE
Have one last round. Another drink. Down down down.

ALICE
Um-

CHESHIRE
You're amazing, Alice.

*Alice drinks, and Lewis raises her cup to tip it all the way back.
He stares at her neck, leans into it, and before he reaches it,
blackout.*

SCENE 3: THE POOL OF TEARS

ALICE in her bedroom. She rolls her shoulders.

ALICE

Ow.

Her head.

ALICE

...

Her thighs.

ALICE

Scaredy cat.

Her heart in her throat. She goes straight to the bathroom, unseen to the audience, for a shower. We hear the sound of water. She turns it on and off, on and off. She reemerges, hair dry. She rolls her shoulders. Alice goes to her computer and opens Firefox. She rolls her shoulders.

FIREFOX

Hello, good morning, I am Firefox, What are you searching for today? How can I be of assistance?

ALICE

Um, turn on private browsing.

FIREFOX

Bad bad bad! You're searching for stuff you don't want anyone else to see? It's either porn or fireworks I can feel it.

ALICE

What? / Neither!

FIREFOX

Can I just say how honored I am that you chose me. Out of all the googles, the bings, / the safaris-

ALICE

I guess Firefox *is* an outdated browser. Can I switch / to-

FIREFOX

NO! I mean, please don't. Please choose me.

It'd be really hurtful? If you changed your mind now?

I just mean, I have feelings too.

I know I'm no real fox, "I am a peculiar, anthropomorphic creature," but I still / feel.

ALICE

Okay, sure, / fine.

FIREFOX

Thank you so much.

And welcome! How can I help today?

ALICE

Um.

FIREFOX

Girl, what do you wanna know? Time is ticking.

ALICE

I am well aware of the time sensitivity on this-

FIREFOX

This? What is *this*?

*Alice rolls her shoulders. Deep breathing.
Her head. Her heart in her throat.*

FIREFOX

It can't be that bad, whatever it is. Talk to me.

ALICE

"I'm ashamed of myself." Of not seeing:

"How cheerfully he grinned."

"How neatly spreads his claws."

Clear signs.

FIREFOX

I'm unsure of what to bring up.

ALICE

I need you to search for...

For-

Alice lightly pulls down on her high necked top. She shows him the bruise on her collarbone. Its shape looks like a tiger-lily? A rose?

FIREFOX

I understand. Searching results now.

ALICE

It looks like a flower, doesn't it? With like, a face. It's blooming.

FIREFOX

...

ALICE

How could I have been / so-?

FIREFOX

689,000,000 results found.

ALICE

I was supposed to be with Edith and Lorina, I chose I *CHOSE* not to go / with them-

FIREFOX

Would you like to view articles? Images? Videos?

ALICE

I don't know-.

FIREFOX

Did you say yes?

ALICE

...

I need you to search for...um, consent laws?

FIREFOX

Okay. LOADING.

FOUND: Medical consent, marriage consent, consent statistics-

ALICE

Those are wrong.

FIREFOX

...Would you like to try again?

ALICE

...I need you to search for...assault laws. New York, next steps, hotline.

FIREFOX

Okay.

ALICE

New window.

FIREFOX

Open new window.

ALICE

Search New York lawyers, sexual assault.

FIREFOX

Okay.

ALICE

New window.

FIREFOX

Open new window.

ALICE

Look up-

Alice's phone dings.

FIREFOX
Text from Lewis.
Open?

Alice nods.

FIREFOX
Confirming, is that a yes?

ALICE
Read it.

FIREFOX/LEWIS
"You coming back? I feel weird about last night. Wanna talk about it?"

She rolls her shoulders. Her heart in her throat.

FIREFOX
Don't delete anything.

ALICE
I won't.

...

I think I need a real person, Fox.

FIREFOX
Hurtful, but I get it, I guess.
Pulling up recent sent emails, cross referencing with recent contacts.
Lew-
Um,
Edith? Lorina?

ALICE
Lorina.
Send iMessage: "Need you. Come over."

FIREFOX
Sent, 9:23 am.

FIREFOX
Received, 9:24am-

FIREFOX/LORINA
"Coming."

ALICE
Search how to tell someone you've been-

FIREFOX
Yes?

Alice touches her bruise.

ALICE
Nevermind.
...
I was.

SCENE 4: WONDERLAND INTERLUDE 2

The bottom of a well. Again, there is music, but it is more distorted now. The neon flowers seem bigger. The air smells like garlic and vodka. When Alice lunges, it is in slow motion. Here, time is distorted.

ALICE

*Your building is insane! This door is crazy-
I frickin' love molding. WOAAH / it is huge!*

LEWIS

Inside, cmon.

ALICE

*I have a secret.
I am. Drunk.*

LEWIS

No you're / not.

ALICE

*Before we go in, I need to make something clear:
I Need. To Be given. / Snacks.*

LEWIS

What?

ALICE

Do-you-have-any-snacks!?

LEWIS

Get inside. Right foot, left foot, / cmon.

ALICE

*WOAH! Your apartment is like a house! A house apartment!
These lights! Are they changing color?*

LEWIS

I'll turn them off-

ALICE
*Nonono I wanna see!
Is that a telescope? / Sciencey.*

LEWIS
Uh-huh.

ALICE
I feel crazy.

LEWIS
I'm so happy you're here, Alice.

ALICE
I should go-

LEWIS
*Why? Stay.
Take a risk.*

ALICE
I am not a risky person I'm sort of boring-

LEWIS
*No Alice, not you.
Keep me company. "I am so very tired of being all alone here."*

ALICE
I'm tired too.

LEWIS
Show me your neck.

*Alice giggles. Lewis lightly pulls down on her high necked top.
Before we see her collarbone, blackout.*

SCENE 5: A CAUCUS-RACE AND A LONG TALE

Alice's bedroom, Lorina holds two lattes. Alice rolls her shoulders.

LORINA

Alice! I had such a scary night of self-discovery by projecting unto my beloved ones. I know Edith said she didn't want to meet her, but obviously she has no idea what she wants because Edith and Carol went home together-

ALICE

Really!

LORINA

Uh, yeah.

ALICE

That's great. Um, Lori / I actually-

LORINA

And then I was happy like I was so unbelievably happy I was so happy that I was like, selflessly beaming. But! Then I *cried* because well, my Edith was kissing my best friend (in the show, not like, forever), and my Alice was out somewhere meeting her future husband and I just, felt, like, alone romantically.

Like a one woman show.

But instead of Broadway, in New Jersey.

ALICE

Lori-

LORINA

But don't worry about little old lonely me, I totally took a step back and checked myself and boom! Got over it.

Because honestly, self-love, and also, my craft is my partner.

Anyway, now that I have some time to reevaluate all these moving pieces, I hope Edie and Carol do date, because if this was a one time thing, I don't think I could deal with the sexual tension to come.

Okay! Your turn Alice. How was your night!

ALICE

I don't know where to begin / really.

LORINA

“ At the beginning of course!”

ALICE

...

Alice lightly pulls down on her high necked top. She shows him the bruise on her collarbone. Its shape looks like a tiger-lily? A rose?

LORINA

Kinky! But, owie-

ALICE

No, Lorina.

LORINA

No?

I don't get it.

ALICE

I didn't want it. Any of it.

LORINA

Can you, um, can you say it?

ALICE

What?

LORINA

I just, I'm not um, I just need you to say it, because I can't see how this could-
Can you say it?

ALICE

Do I need to? Seems like you get / it.

LORINA

But he came to the *theater*. That means-

You know, it's just that theatre is about art and humanity and-

It's just that, don't creepy guys like...play football and eat jerky / or-

ALICE
I'm not *lying*.

LORINA
NO, I'd never assume-
Look, *I believe you*.

LORINA
Obviously I do, it's just.
I'm having trouble processing all this. That this could happen to you, at a place I invited
you / to.

ALICE
Lolo-

LORINA
Is this my fault?

ALICE
This isn't about / you.

LORINA
I would never put you in any kind of danger EVER Allie, you have to believe / me.

ALICE
I do.

LORINA
I'm facetimeing Edith.

ALICE
No!
Lorina, I cannot have Edith here right now.

LORINA
Literally why?

ALICE
The way she handles things is just-
I called *you* for a reason.

LORINA

I don't know what to do, though.

Should I call 911? Does this count as an emergency? Siri, search hotlines for-

ALICE

I don't want to do anything yet.

Talking is like, your thing?

Talk at me.

LORINA

Like, a story?

ALICE

Yes.

LORINA

I mean, I *am* a storyteller, / but-

ALICE

Yeah, yes. Just use your "artistry" to "suspend my beliefs for a second", or whatever. I don't care.

LORINA

Disbelief.

Okay. Okay!

Once upon a time...

ALICE

Mhm?

LORINA

There was a mouse.

And the mouse was being chased by a cat. So the mouse's sister castrated that cat's tail and put it down. And everyone was happy! Because it had rabies, and the mouse's other sister, Eden, was like, "I'm a a dog person anyway."

ALICE

Am I the mouse here?

LORINA

I'm getting really lost in the metaphor, Alice.

And I can't do anything unless you...tell *me* a story. Trade?

Maybe-

The best way to explain could be to do it-?

Not like, *reenact* it all. But improv!

Treat your door like, like the doorway last night, you can close your eyes!

You know this place, this is your turf, your home. Just walk me through it.

ALICE

Okay. Well-

The walls shift until they are in the bottom of The Well. Lewis lurks. Firefox identifies flowers.

ALICE

It wasn't right.

FIREFOX

This memory feels incomplete. Not fully loading, buffering.

LORINA

Why's the internet here?

FIREFOX

She told me about this, now I'm part of it. The experience.

LORINA

Weird.

ALICE

Fox, could you maybe-?

I'd just be more comfortable if it was just Lorina here. I rather not reexplain if that's okay?

No offense.

FIREFOX

Oh.

Okay then.

Firefox exits.

ALICE

There was this lovely door. Beautiful apartment, like, it had a dining room table. But then walls were growing and shrinking, or maybe I was? I couldn't keep my balance. When I was on the table, I had to close my eyes. It made the spinning easier, but, also made everything feel like one of those teacup rides?

LORINA

And then?

ALICE

I saw flowers. Swirling behind my eyes. And I could feel, really feel, my head. My thighs. My heart in my throat.

LEWIS

You're amazing Alice.

ALICE

I thought, "god, my name sounds so good. The word 'amazing' is so good paired with my name." And now-

Lewis lightly pulls down on her high necked top, but before we can see her collarbone-

ALICE

And now it's gross.

Blackout.

SCENE 6: THE RABBIT SENDS IN A LITTLE BILL

ALICE's bedroom. LORINA holds a neon flower, FOX chews at his, because animals don't know any better. ALICE rolls her shoulders.

LORINA

That isn't fair. I'm so sorry Alice.

ALICE

Yeah.

FIREFOX/LORINA

Do you want to search how to report?

ALICE

Well, he's sorry. I think. He texted saying he wants to talk / about it.

LORINA

You can't respond.

ALICE

Why not?

LORINA

Because he-

I mean-

Does *an apology* change / it?

ALICE

I don't know Lori.

Maybe he didn't mean to? If I'm confused, he could / be too-

LORINA

You don't actually believe / that?

ALICE

Well I've never been in this position. I've dated like, 3 guys? Ever?

I heard about girls in school who would like, go off every weekend, even if something happened, and just not report. And I thought they were-

ALICE

That *I* would just, I'd do things differently if I had been in their place. I couldn't imagine the person who just, didn't do / *anything*.

LORINA

Me too.

FOX

Would you like me to search me too? Hashtag# / metoo?

ALICE

Shh.

LORINA

Okay, so let's do something then?

ALICE

Not yet-

LORINA

You are sending me such mixed signals right now what do you want to do?

ALICE

I want to-

I want to be a sister you look up to and do the right thing here. But why does it mean I have to *choose* to do something right now, this second? I didn't get to *choose* last night.

Also, I don't want to make a big thing if it's not a big thing, you know?

But also, I know it's time sensitive and like, you can't wait a decade or people won't believe you but I don't think I can speak up right now?

Because also, what'll they all ask? Cops, courts-

What will people at work think of me-

What if they don't believe me? You don't even believe me!

LORINA

That's uncalled for. I have stood here and been supportive this entire time. But if you don't want to listen to me then-

Then let's call Edith-

ALICE

I don't want to report.

LORINA
Allie-

ALICE
I don't. I'm embarrassed.
I want this to go away. That's my choice.

FOX
Would you like me to search choice? Freedom to choose? Big decisions-

ALICE
No.
I choose. No.

Firefox exits. Alice lightly pulls down on her high necked top. She fingers her bruise. It blooms. For the first time, Lorina does not know what to say. She exits and Lewis emerges.

LEWIS
It's nice.

ALICE
*No it isn't.
It doesn't look right on me. On my skin.*

LEWIS
Our skin.

ALICE
Mine-.

LEWIS
*Ours, Alice.
It'll fade, but I'm here to stay.
For the longest time.*

ALICE
A week?

One week later. The flowers of wonderland roll in.

LEWIS

Maybe another.

Another week later. The flowers get bigger, and they groan.

ALICE

All gone!

LEWIS

But how do you feel?

Do you feel me?

ALICE

No.

LEWIS

Then "who are you talking to?"

We jump another month later. The flowers are screaming yellow, lime green, orange. It is sickly.

LEWIS

Happy one month, babe. What shall we think of tonight? The same, or a different story?

Alice?

Where are you tonight? You seem far away?

ALICE

All the girls I knew in school. I thought I'd do things differently.

LEWIS

Tick tock went the clock I'm afraid. There's a limitation on this kind of thing. We're a little low on evidence too, no?

Alice?

ALICE

"Alice had learnt several things of this sort in her lessons in the schoolroom, and though this was not a very good opportunity for showing off her knowledge, as there was no one to listen to her, still it was good practice to say it over"

LEWIS
I'm right here?

ALICE

...

*Presently she began again: This was not my fault.
This is not my fault.
It's not.
So I am going to feel like myself.*

LEWIS
Oh, are you?

ALICE
I will.
Firefox?

FIREFOX
Present!

ALICE
Call Lorina?

LORINA
"Hello stranger, or should I say, new friend. It's Lorina. Sorry I can't come to the phone right now. I'm dropped in to the ecstasy of life. I'll reach out soon. XO."

ALICE
Oh, Lori.

FIREFOX
Ugh, voicemail.

ALICE
That's okay.

Alice digs her heel into a bud.

ALICE
Hey, it's me. I know we haven't talked in a sec.

ALICE

I just wanted to let you know that um, I'm good.

Better.

I've been back at the gym if you wanna go this week?

And I'm wearing skirts.

I bought a mace.

I paid my rent.

I'm taking steps.

I kissed someone on New Years?

And I am crushing it at work. And crushing on men.

I'm doing better.

I stopped shaking in the shower.

Love you.

Alice hangs up.

ALICE

Search recent chat room?

FIREFOX

Needed result found.

ALICE

Me again. Myself again.

There are flowers blooming, and it is spring.

I ask someone on a date, he says yes.

I drink a small cheap bottle of rosé and we kiss in a Taco Bell and it is magical.

Me and Charlie.

I am blooming.

I wear a dress without tights.

I enjoy the breeze.

I enjoy.

Alice peels petals off a tiger lily.

ALICE

And it's fine. Great even.

I dance and eat and breathe and bake and just, do.

When I'm on a date with Charlie and he asks-

CHARLIE
If you're ready?-

Charlie enters.

ALICE
If I'm ready to have sex?
That's the only time I really. Really wish it didn't happen.

FIREFOX
Incoming call: Edith.

EDITH
Where you've been?

ALICE
Up, down, around.

EDITH
Are you high?

ALICE
What? No.

EDITH
Okay.
So I know you and me and Lori haven't been on great terms lately-

ALICE
What makes you think that?

EDITH
"Allie is just being so weird with me right now and hates me and I deserve it" is I think
how she phrased it?

ALICE
Incredible.

EDITH
Isn't she?

ALICE

I don't "hate her" she just-

EDITH

I've been feeling weird too.

ALICE

Oh, okay.

EDITH

Wanna come out tonight? I'll moderate peace talks.

ALICE

I can't tonight, working.

EDITH

Haven't see you in a long time.

ALICE

I'm sorry about that. I've needed, um, space?

But I'll see you this weekend maybe? Lori got us those tickets to some show as a late Christmas gift, so.

EDITH

4 months late, but sure. Christmas in March.

ALICE

I'll be there.

EDITH

Good.

...

ALICE

... /

Edith, I-

EDITH

Alice I-

What?

ALICE
Nothing. You go.

EDITH
Alice I...am seeing someone. Romantically.

ALICE
Woah.

EDITH
Well don't sound so shocked I'm not emotionally incompetent.

ALICE
Didn't say you were.
Do I know her?

EDITH
Yes, actually. But I prefer not to tell Lorina about it until we have entered the monogamy stage.

ALICE
Okay.

EDITH
So don't tell her.

ALICE
I won't.

EDITH
Thanks.

ALICE
Thanks for telling me. Almost anyway-

EDITH
It's Carol I'm seeing Carol yes Lorina's friend Carol it's that Carol.

ALICE
Sorry who?

EDITH

When Carol and I went home that night we *stayed* together for three days and then I got a yeast infection but didn't care that much because I am happy so it can't be destructive only human. Also a yeast infection is not that bad there are many over-the-counter antifungal creams to combat any-

ALICE

Eddie! That's awesome! You're having sex.

EDITH

Yes, yes I am.

Lots of it. All the time. It's rather new for me, intimacy. Sharing.

ALICE

So adult. So cool.

EDITH

Yes, cool.

ALICE

Cool.

EDITH

And I wanted to tell you because I am working on being communicative.
And Carol told me to.

ALICE

Very cool.

EDITH

Yes. Also, um, miss you.

ALICE

Miss you too, you weirdo.

EDITH

I-

Thank you.

LEWIS

Everyone's having sex, but you?

ALICE

Oh, Edith can I call you back?

LEWIS

Itching to call me?

EDITH

I'm about to head into a meeting actually-

ALICE

That's okay. See you Saturday?

LEWIS

See me, Alice?

EDITH

Saturday, bye Al.

Alice hangs up.

ALICE

Now you're quiet?

LEWIS

I just like attention. "What fun!"

SCENE 7: THE LEFT OUT CHAPTER

A New York City street, outside a Broadway theater. Alice and Lorina stand outside, impatient.

LORINA

Weird show. I really think I would've been better as Dolly, but oh well. A free show is a free / show.

ALICE

Oh so that's what "comp tickets" / mean.

LORINA

Mhmm. And I get so many of these through / work.

ALICE

Instead of a paycheck?

LORINA

Hey, I recall a time when you'd bring home leftovers instead of / tips.

ALICE

That was one summer, and before I learned how to advocate for myself / "as a woman in the workforce."

LORINA

"as a woman in the workforce." Right. Well, sometimes we want and expect more and it just doesn't work out that way.

ALICE

What's up with you?

LORINA

Nothing.

Where's Edith it's been forever.

ALICE

Probably flirting.

LORINA

What, what do you mean flirting? Our sister does not flirt.

ALICE

Edith does. In her way.

In her very confrontational, slightly abrasive way.

LORINA

Well with *whomst*, may I ask?

ALICE

I can't say.

LORINA

I'm sorry what?

ALICE

I said I wouldn't!

LORINA

I will fake my own death on social media and have mourners lay wreaths in the hallway of your building. Tell me.

ALICE

Alright! Fine, but you *have* to be cool about it, okay?

LORINA

I am a dramatist! I conceal and feel for a living!

ALICE

Think actress.

LORINA

Me?

ALICE

Think actress who's been chased by a leopard-

LORINA

IN ACT 4? / NO!

ALICE

Uh-huh. Carol.

LORINA

How on Stanislavski's given circumstances of earth did you find out before me?

ALICE

Maybe she's not ready? Or scared to tell you / because-

LORINA

WHY?! I-AM-SO-SUPPORTIVE-OF-ALL-RELATIONSHIPS-NOT-JUST-HETERO-ONES-AND-NEVER-EVER-OFFER-ANYTHING-BUT-GOOD-VIBES-AND-ALSO-EXCUSE-ME-I-WAS-THE-ONE-WHO-TOLD-THEM-THEIR-MOONS-ALIGNED-IN-THE-FIRST-PLACE-SO-OBVIOUSLY-I'M-INVESTED-IN-THEIR-COMPATIBILITY?!

ALICE

I think that's why she's afraid to tell you.

LORINA

I'm going to pull it out of her.

As someone who identifies as an actor, I know how to get what I need from the "other" in the scene.

ALICE

Lori don't-

Edith enters.

EDITH

Hi, sorry. Couldn't find my coat in there. Crazy, right?

ALICE

...

LORINA

....

EDITH

You told her.

ALICE

I-

LORINA
HOW-COULD-I NOT-KNOW-THAT-MY-BEST-FRIEND-AND-MY-BEST-SISTER-WERE
DATING-WHY-DIDN'T-YOU-TELL-ME?

ALICE
Ow.

EDITH
We're not *dating*, we have gone on / *dates*.

LORINA
IT-HAS-BEEN-4-MONTHS-SINCE-YOU'VE-MET-HOW-LONG-HAVE-YOU-BEEN-
TOGETHER.

EDITH
Stop yelling.
...4 months.

LORINA
OH-MY-GOD-YOU'RE-PRACTICALLY-ENGAGED.

EDITH
Lorina, stop it. People are / staring.

LORINA
ALICE-NEVER-KEEPS-ANYTHING-FROM-ME-

ALICE
Don't throw me under the bus.

LORINA
You told me about when you were-

ALICE
Lorina. Shut up.

EDITH
When you were / what?

ALICE
Yay! For you and Carol! We can double date!

LORINA
YOU'RE-DATING-A-PERSON? WHAT!

ALICE
Yes, sort of! His name is Charlie and-

LORINA
WHY-IS-EVERYONE-GETTING-MARRIED-

ALICE
NO ONE IS GETTING MARRIED.

EDITH
NO ONE IS GETTING MARRIED.

LORINA
WELL WHY NOT.

EDITH
Are we going to keep screaming in the middle of the street or can I call an uber?

ALICE
I'm not up for much / tonight.

EDITH
Of course, classic Alice. What's your excuse this time?

ALICE
What?

EDITH
Every time we get together, you're too tired, or too sick, or blowing us off for a guy you just / met.

LORINA
Edith-

EDITH
No Lori, back me up here!

ALICE
That's a little / unfair.

EDITH

No, it's true. This happened at Lori's last show, I'm sure you're off to see this new Charlie guy now-

ALICE

I'm not-

EDITH

I don't believe you, but even if I did, it'd still mean you didn't make time for us. What are you scared of? Me? Because it isn't Lorina.

LORINA

(Well, I could be / intimidating-)

EDITH

Not now.

LORINA

(Okay.)

ALICE

I just, don't want to go to a bar, what's wrong with that?

EDITH

You know-

Fine. That's fine, Alice. I'll just take my uber home then. Let me know if you ever want to hang out.

And congrats on your new relationship. Lorina, sorry for hiding my new intercourse.

LORINA

No, I'm really about / it.

Edith exits.

ALICE

Weird of her.

LORINA

Mm.

ALICE
What?

LORINA
You have a track record right now. Of blowing us off-

ALICE
I told you what happened that night-

LORINA
Yeah, but then also for four months after.
She doesn't know what you told me. As far as she knows, you just don't wanna go to the bar because she'll be there, and you'll get weird when she offers to pay.

ALICE
I'm never weird about-

LORINA
You should just tell her.

ALICE
Because I owe an explanation?

LORINA
She's just your sister.

ALICE
...

LORINA
But hey, yay about Charlie!

ALICE
Yeah.

LORINA
So everything is good then? With like, the trauma of it all?

ALICE
What?

LORINA

Like, you're in a relationship now. That's like, a plot point. Major arc shift. Resolution, if I may analyze it so myself.

So?

You're good. Right?

SCENE 8: WONDERLAND INTERLUDE 4

An interlude. The bottom of a well. Every few beats of distorted music drops out. The flowers ooze. Alice rakes the roses, daisies, poppies and tiger lilies into a pile, ridding of them.

LEWIS

...We hit the 5 month mark. Happy anniversary.

ALICE

I've started seeing someone.

LEWIS

Hmm. April Fools?

ALICE

It's getting serious.

LEWIS

Let's not get confused about what's important, what's lasting. About who's in control here.

About who is interesting.

Me and you. Intoxicating and intoxicated.

Hello?

You're being no fun today, no fun at all.

ALICE

I'm bored.

Of this, you.

I've got cleaning to do. Work. For me.

This is mine.

Alice grows in size.

LEWIS

"So you think you're changed, do you?"

ALICE

Trying to.

She dumps pesticides on the flowers. They shrivel. Lewis whimpers, tail between his legs.

SCENE 9: ADVICE FROM A CATERPILLAR

Alice in her bedroom with Edith. They drink wine out of mugs and eat popcorn. Time has passed, months. Alice rolls her shoulders less.

EDITH

So Carol was then sitting there, asking me to my face how I *feel* about *empathy*. Like I am someone who could stomach a concept so superfluous? And I tried my hardest not to laugh at her because I care for her, but I don't know if I'll be able to hold it down next time. Feelings on empathy. Insanity.

Alice fills her mug.

ALICE

She's making you better.

EDITH

She's making me crazy. I love her.

ALICE

Ooo, love.

EDITH

Yes, love.

ALICE

Cool.

EDITH

So?

How are things with you? I've talked for an hour straight.

How's Charles-

Charles or Charlie?

ALICE

Charlie. He's good, great. I'm fine.

EDITH

How's the sex?

ALICE

Ahhh. We don't-
I feel safe, I just-
We just haven't. yet.

EDITH

you revirginizing or something?

ALICE

No, Edith.

EDITH

Oh, okay.

ALICE

...

EDITH

I'm just trying to connect with you here, okay?
I know things have been tense with us the past few months? Did I do something
wrong-?

ALICE

No, not at all-

EDITH

Okay, but I hear you *not* saying things.
Allie, what aren't you saying?

ALICE

Please don't get upset for not telling you about it sooner.

EDITH

I'll listen.

ALICE

You know how *bad guys* are supposed to be hiding in alleys and wear hoodies and- and
are I don't know, bald?
...He had curly hair? Long lashes.

ALICE

He wore a pocket watch - who wears a pocket watch, right? A pocket watch says quirky, not...

I'm trying to say I didn't look at him right away and think - he's a monster!

He's wasn't this animal. He was very, very human, to me.

And I had trouble remembering details and I got nervous and I just saw what my name might mean?

Like, the post I'd become? I didn't want it to be shared?

So I chose not to report. Maybe that wasn't brave or right or cool of me.

But it still happened.

EDITH

...Okay.

ALICE

Are you mad?

EDITH

Why would I-

What would make you think that?

ALICE

Because you're my older sister who loves the law and right and wrong and- I didn't think laws would even help me, so.

EDITH

I like to believe that the system works for everyone - everyone in the right, anyway.

But, I know how I bend the truth, choose not to acknowledge, *not* to believe.

Doesn't make it less shitty, but I can see where you're coming from.

Are you okay?

ALICE

I am, actually.

Life went on.

EDITH

Good.

EDITH

Do you ever think about it?

ALICE

Yes. At weird moments.

Sometimes I'll see a bruise on my thigh and think-

Or we'll be at one of Lori's shows and I'll check the line. Bars. Facebook.

But I've got ways to get out of those thoughts. I think about gardens a lot.

EDITH

Okay.

I'm not judging-

ALICE

I dunno. It's how I've moved away from this unspeakable thing you can't even begin to imagine.

EDITH

I can't begin to imagine?

Yes, I can. Maybe not exactly the way it happened to you, but...

But yeah. I can.

ALICE

What?

EDITH

She was a partner at a place I interned at the year before law school. I didn't work directly for her, so I thought I could deal with sticking out the rest of the summer.

I liked my work. I earned my spot. I didn't think I had to be the one to leave. So I didn't.

ALICE

Why am I just finding out now?

EDITH

I dunno, it's unspeakable, right? Didn't speak about it.

ALICE

Can I hug you?

EDITH

You better.

They hug.

EDITH

You took that so much better than mom.

ALICE

You told MOM? Over us?

EDITH

You guys were still in what, high school?

Was I gonna tell you and Lorina to shut up about prom and calc so I could talk about how I was getting groped by the water fountain? No.

ALICE

Sorry, Edie.

EDITH

Yeah, well.

I didn't know like, 4/5 women were getting assaulted before college then maybe I wouldn't have felt like such a-

And I would've-

I don't know.

Hm.

Well, I hope Lorina takes it as well as I did.

ALICE

She didn't.

EDITH

You told her?

ALICE

...a few months ago.

EDITH

Oh. So before me.

ALICE

...Are you mad?

EDITH

No, it's just...Lorina is younger and...I don't know.

EDITH

I guess I needed to tell someone older, someone who might've...known what to do?

ALICE

I-I just thought there'd be less judgement or-

EDITH

Allie, it's fine-

ALICE

I told you now.

EDITH

It's just harder to *do* much now, okay?

ALICE

I don't want to *do* anything, why is that so crazy - it's my body, my choice, right?

EDITH

Alice, the person who did this to you could be out hurting other people-
Women have a responsibility to each other. / To protect.

ALICE

We have a responsibility to respect *each other's choices*.

EDITH

Personally, I will never be able to know someone could be hurting and not want to do something.

ALICE

You didn't report.

EDITH

...It was a different time.

ALICE

And I am a different person.
I'm happy now. I get to be.

EDITH
Does Charlie know?

ALICE
Does Carol know what happened to you?

EDITH
Yes. She does.

ALICE
Oh.

EDITH
You should tell your partner. They deserve to / know.

ALICE
It's not their business.

EDITH
I mean, it is.
I need to know the people I love - how they think, where they've been, what's happened to them. I think you would too.
That's why you're telling me, right?

ALICE
I guess.

EDITH
Hey, also, worth mentioning that I love you. I really, really fucking love you.
And support what you wanna do. You're gonna know best here, I'm sorry if I-
I just love you.

ALICE
Thank you Edith.

SCENE 10: WONDERLAND INTERLUDE 5

Alice in the well.

She listens to the music. It doesn't pound as hard now.

She hums along.

She takes note of the weeds, the dirt, the dead neon plants. She rakes.

She clears and cleans.

She selects what to keep and what to discard.

She dumps fertilizer across the garden. She waters it.

She plants potted roses, and some seeds.

She waits for them to grow. They will.

She decides to grow. She hums.

SCENE 11: PIG AND PEPPER

Alice walks into her bedroom with CHARLIE. ALICE rolls her shoulders slightly.

ALICE
Don't pout.

CHARLIE
I'm not / pouting!

ALICE
You're grumpy because you / lost.

CHARLIE
I'm not grump-
It's just, you could've told me about your past.

ALICE
Not my fault you never asked if I reigned as champion of mini / golf.

CHARLIE
We're never playing again. No mini golf, no croquet, no more-
ground games / okay?

ALICE
But I like games.

CHARLIE
I'm too old for / them.

ALICE
You too old for / fun?

CHARLIE
Yes. And happiness.

ALICE
You should stop seeing me then-

CHARLIE
Because you make me happy. I guess.

ALICE

Sad! This has been great, best of luck in the future.

CHARLIE

Of course, just give me a minute to rest my wounded pride.

Charlie belly flops onto Alice's bed. She giggles.

CHARLIE

So this is your room.

ALICE

This is it.

CHARLIE

This is your bed.

ALICE

...It is.

CHARLIE

We can sit here, you know. Both of us on the bed.

We can sit here until you kick me out. Until tomorrow, even.

ALICE

Just sit?

CHARLIE

Mhm.

ALICE

Look, there's something I should tell you-

...

I don't make out with losers.

CHARLIE

I should have known you'd see me for who I was. Can't believe I couldn't hide it any longer.

ALICE

We all keep things from each other.

CHARLIE

Well, now you know everything about me.

That was the last bit of information I had about me for myself.

Which is great, because that means we're a real couple. One that knows how the other likes their eggs and which of them is gonna kill the spiders.

Fried on toast, and you, by the way.

ALICE

Hm.

CHARLIE

It's nice.

ALICE

...

CHARLIE

What's up. You're making stink face.

ALICE

I never / make-

CHARLIE

There!

ALICE

Ah.

I've kept kind of a big thing from you?

CHARLIE

Oh. Is it an extra toe?

ALICE

Yup.

CHARLIE

Cool.

CHARLIE
Anything else?

ALICE
Yes...-
Ah this is just as hard as I thought it'd be.

CHARLIE
Do you want me to make a funny face while you tell me?

ALICE
No need-

CHARLIE
You're right, my face is already funny.

ALICE
I like your face.
I like how it smiles.
I think it might be easier to show you. Than to explain.

The room turns on itself. The wallpaper falls revealing playing cards, there are roses everywhere, it is the way Alice wills it. Cheshire Cat emerges.

CHARLIE
Allie-

ALICE
The um, "Cat" only grinned when it saw me. It looked goodnatured, she thought: still it had very long claws and a great many teeth, so she felt it ought to be treated with respect. So the first time she addressed him, it was as "sir."
Alice and the Cat walked to somewhere. A well.

LEWIS/CHESHIRE CAT
You're back!

ALICE/LEWIS
Are you in the mood for a drink?

CHARLIE

Sure. Bar around the corner?

LEWIS/ALICE

No.

CHARLIE

Right, you hate bars. Got anything here?

ALICE/LEWIS

Sort of.

SCENE 12: WONDERLAND INTERLUDE 6

The bottom of the well.

ALICE

I'm gonna tell him.

LEWIS

You've lost your mind.

ALICE

I feel ready-

LEWIS

And you'll lose him too.

ALICE

I want him to know me. And for that to happen he has to know about you-

LEWIS

No one likes hearing this story, Alice.

No one likes a tall tale.

ALICE

It's the truth.

LEWIS

Tattle tale.

Think of the great time we were having.

How you stayed until morning.

I texted you, didn't I? Like a friend.

We don't tattle on our friends, remember Alice.

No one wants to see this side of your mind. Its/It's wonderland.

ALICE

He wants to know the way I think. How do I show him one side without the other.

LEWIS

We rarely see both sides / unless-

ALICE

Unless we were there. I'm bringing him here.

LEWIS

You weren't fully there Alice. Remember?

No, no you don't. And that's why you didn't report-

ALICE

I'm gonna tell him.

LEWIS

And he's gonna leave.

Tell her. Someone warn her here.

No one here wants to hear this story.

ALICE

I'm no longer concerned about worrying whether or not someone wants to hear it. I want to tell it.

CHARLIE

What is this.

ALICE

A beverage.

CHARLIE

It says "drink me"

ALICE

At least it's direct.

CHARLIE

You labeled this?

ALICE

No, but-

CHARLIE

This isn't what I thought you meant by having a drink-

ALICE
I know.

CHARLIE
I know you don't like bars Alice but-

ALICE
I don't.

CHARLIE
I'm confused.

ALICE
*I know. I'm trying to clear things up.
Do you trust me?*

CHARLIE
*Alice.
Yes, I do.*

ALICE
Bottoms up.

They drink.

ALICE
*We were at a bar, after one of Lorina's shows. I was supposed to get a drink with her and Edith, I thought Edith would be upset. She wasn't.
This guy-*

LEWIS
Hey.

ALICE
*Was very convincing.
We drank.
He talked about LA. Maybe Brooklyn.
He checked his watch.
So convincing, up until we reached his door.*

They arrive at a door.

CHARLIE

Walk through with me?

ALICE

I can't walk you through. Not this part.

I don't remember it fully.

He walks through the door.

CHARLIE

Everything's spinning.

ALICE

It was.

CHARLIE

How strong is this stuff?

LEWIS

Eat me.

CHARLIE

No.

ALICE

That's what I said.

CHARLIE

No.

ALICE

And again.

CHARLIE

Alice, I'm-

ALICE

Scared.

CHARLIE

Yes, I am.

ALICE

I was too.

LEWIS

I said "drink it."

I said, "eat me."

and then-

I see your face. Just listen.

It was wonderful at first,

Trust me.

Do you trust me?

ALICE

This person I knew long ago who I still know now...

Alice looks at Lewis.

ALICE

Who I'll see at bodegas, in Starbucks, in line at the theatre...

CHARLIE

Yes?

ALICE

Had a grin so wide. And stirred the street when he walked.

He had fluffy hair and a prickly chin.

When he told me to drink, I did. Too much.

In the dark is when it happened. On a table. Under molding I thought was so pretty.

...

When I woke up, I was here. In wonderland. This place in the back of my mind I didn't know I could access. Or hide in.

LEWIS

How are you being so calm.

ALICE
What?

CHARLIE
I could cut off his head.

ALICE
I don't feel like I need to anymore.

CHARLIE
Why aren't you upset?

ALICE
*Don't you think I'm sad? Mad about it? We're all mad here.
About what's happening. About what to do.*

CHARLIE
But you're not making it up.

ALICE
No.

CHARLIE
If you brought people here, if you showed them, explained it like you explained it to me-

ALICE
*If I walked everyone through it?
This is a place I lived in once.
But I don't want us to stay stuck in it.*

LEWIS
Now that he's been here Alice.

ALICE
Yes.

CHARLIE
I don't know what I'm supposed to say.

LEWIS

How will you get him to leave?

CHARLIE

Can I ask you-

LEWIS

Tell him more about me.

ALICE

Don't talk.

CHARLIE

Me?

LEWIS

Me.

ALICE

You.

CHARLIE

Alice I'm getting it, I'm hearing you now.

I'm sorry, please don't push me away.

ALICE

No, not you.

CHARLIE

What?

LEWIS

me.

ALICE

Him.

CHARLIE

Alice.

LEWIS

Alice.

ALICE

My name isn't for your mouth.

LEWIS

I was in it.

CHARLIE

What did I say?

ALICE

This is impossible. I'm sorry I-

CHARLIE

Alice.

ALICE

I-I wanted you to know.

LEWIS

Watch.

CHARLIE

Where is he.

CHARLIE/LEWIS

The one who thrust you down the rabbit hole.

ALICE

That isn't important-

CHARLIE

It is to me.

LEWIS

Didn't I say so?

CHARLIE

I'm mad.

Not at you, but at him!

LEWIS

He's mad.

ALICE

I know.

LEWIS

When he looks at you, this is what he'll see.

CHARLIE

Alice. I can fix it. I can-

ALICE

What? No, you can't-

LEWIS

You don't show someone your crazy, Alice.

No one likes a tall tale. It drives them-

ALICE

I need you to be mad, or fix it. Okay?

Stop. No more.

CHARLIE

...

Okay. Okay.

LEWIS

What, just like that? It's all better for him now just because you say the magic word?

ALICE

The difference between him and you, is that only animals don't know better. Men do.

SCENE 13: A MAD TEA-PARTY

Alice's bedroom. Charlie holds a rose.

ALICE

So, it's nothing about *you*. But that's a place I've been to, that I still go to sometimes. It'll always affect the way I see and do...things.

CHARLIE

Well, I still love you.

ALICE

Obviously.
Wait what?

CHARLIE

I love you. Thank you for trusting me with that.

ALICE

Yeah, um, yeah.

CHARLIE

Cool.

ALICE

Oh, also, um, love you too.

CHARLIE

Cool.

ALICE

So um, at some time in the future, I think I'm comfortable with-
We can, you know...

CHARLIE

Not right now though, right-

ALICE

What, I'm not allowed to have sex ever again?

CHARLIE
Ahhh-

ALICE
I'm kidding, I am kidding Charlie!

CHARLIE
Cool.

ALICE
SO Cool.
Maybe we can talk more about it in the morning.

CHARLIE
That would imply I'm spending the night.

ALICE
It would. In a *sleeping* kind of way.

CHARLIE
...
Can I borrow pajamas.

SCENE 14: WONDERLAND INTERLUDE 7

The bottom of the well.

Lewis sits there alone.

His pocket watch shatters.

It is satisfying to watch.

SCENE 15: THE QUEEN'S CROQUET GROUND

*A New York City street, outside the stage door of a small off-off
broadway theater. Alice, Edith and Charlie, who holds a bouquet of
roses, stand outside, impatient.*

EDITH

A play about...croquet.

ALICE

Theatre is so dumb.

EDITH

Charlie, what did you think of the play?

CHARLIE

It was good! Cool! Loud and-
Unbearable.

EDITH

I like him.

ALICE

Me too.

EDITH

When Carol comes out, I lie to her just like we lie to-

Lorina emerges from the stage door.

EDITH

Lorina, our star!

LORINA

Edith, Alice, Charles, thank you for your participation in tonight's audience.
Please- no hugs. I am decompressing naturally-

ALICE

Great job Lori.

CHARLIE

When can I give her the flowers if she's decompressing?

ALICE

You'll feel it out.

CHARLIE

But-

EDITH

If you're going to be part of this entourage, you gotta get used to this.

CHARLIE

Okay.

Um, great, moving performance, Lorina. I was struck with awe and thought a lot.

EDITH

"Though a lot?"

ALICE

Leave him alone.

EDITH

Okay! Drinks on me! I'll yelp for a bar-

CHARLIE

We could come back to my place? No need for / a bar-.

ALICE

Shh, it's okay. Gotta go sometime, right?

Especially if Lorina is going to keep starring in these experimental pieces-

LORINA

What?

EDITH

She said you were excellent! Let's get you an uberX princess!

Alice, Edith, Lorina and Charlie start to head off. Alice stops.

ALICE

Wait, did anyone grab a playbill?

LORINA

I'll get you one tomorrow-

ALICE

No, no, I'll be so fast - I'm gonna run back inside.

CHARLIE

Will you leave these in her dressing room?

ALICE

Of course.

Charlie kisses her forehead and hands off the roses to Alice.

EDITH

Come quick, I might bully him.

CHARLIE

I'm ready.

Edith, Charlie and Lorina exit. Alice looks on. Before Alice can go through the stagedoor, she sees Lewis. She freezes.

LEWIS

...

Sorry, do you have the time? My watch just broke.

ALICE

...

LEWIS

Do you not speak English?

Time? Waaatch-

ALICE

I speak.

LEWIS
Oh, um, hi.
Have we met?

ALICE
...
I can't help you.

LEWIS
Uhh, okay.

A Young Woman comes out onto the street from the stage door. She is perhaps still in school.

A YOUNG WOMAN
Hey! You came!

LEWIS
Of course I did. You were great.

A YOUNG WOMAN
Aw thank you! Sorry this is kind of a weird first date - you just watching me onstage-
Wanna get a frozen yogurt or something? My treat-

LEWIS
Nah. C'mon let's go back to mine. I can't wait.

*The Young Woman giggles. They laugh on their way offstage, but freeze before exiting. In this moment in time, Alice has to decide whether or not to intervene. She can smell roses. Alice takes a breath, and-
Blackout.*

END OF PLAY.