

Alice In Wonderland

ALICE has fallen down the rabbit hole and finds herself in a world populated by talking animals and strange people, full of riddles and mysteries. In this scene, she tries to join a mad tea party.

ALICE: *(Entering a clearing in the woods)* This must be where the Hatter lives – there is a table under a tree outside the house – Oh look – that poor Dormouse – the Hare and the Hatter are using it as a cushion – resting their elbows on it and talking over its head! Very uncomfortable for the Dormouse – only as it's asleep I suppose it doesn't mind. I think I'll go and join them. *(She attempts to sit down and join them, and they try to send her away)* No room! There's plenty of room *(pointing to the empty table and sitting down)*. I'm sorry if you think I sat down without being invited – but I didn't know it was *your* table! I actually think you are very rude – telling me to cut my hair too. You should learn not to make personal remarks! *(Smiling)* I'm glad you want to play games now. Riddles are fun. Perhaps the Dormouse will wake up and join in! *(Looking at it)* Well, perhaps not. What's the first one then? "Why is a raven like a writing-desk?" *(Thinks)* I believe I can guess that. I always say what I mean – at least I mean what I say. That's the same thing you know. *(Thinking)* I haven't guessed the riddle yet. What's the answer? You don't know either. Well. I think you might do something better with the time than waste it asking riddles with no answers! Stories! Now that's more interesting. *(Pausing and watching them pinch the Dormouse on both sides at once)* You'll hurt him! Now I shall really enjoy listening to his story but you'd better be quick or he'll be asleep again before it's done! *(To the Hatter)* How dare you tell me not to talk. I'm going! *(Getting up)* And stop trying to put the Dormouse into the teapot. *(Walking off into the wood)*

by Lewis Carroll, adapted by LAMDA