

Alice In Neverland

Updated 8/9/18

A Theater for Young Audiences play by Maggie Lou Rader

Music and Lyrics by James Allen

Critical Thinking language crafted with Dana Bakke in association with
Minerva Schools at KGI

Original cast and swing actors were Andrew Ian Adams, Rae Buchanan, and
Mollie Murk

ACTOR 1

Alice

ACTOR 2

White Rabbit
Tinkerbell Operator
Peter's Shadow
Lost Kid
Mermaid Operator
Captain Hook
Cheshire Cat Operator
Peter Pan

INTRO:

ACTOR 1:

Hello everyone! Welcome! My name is (*Actor's Name*):

ACTOR 2

And I'm (*Actor's Name*).

ACTOR 1

We're excited to get the play started, but we have a few things to cover before we do.

ACTOR 2

There are lots of characters in this play; however, how many actors do you see on stage? Two! So, we're going to be using some "Theatrical Magic" to help set the scene, make sounds, and make the story come to life. One of the characters I'll be playing is the shadow of Peter Pan. As the shadow, you'll see me moving props, set pieces, and even puppets.

You'll also see me make this motion, (*ACTOR 2 raises one arm and points the other into the audience*) which means, I need volunteers to make the Theatre Magic happen. Now, do you think Peter's Shadow talks? Nope! So show me how you can silently let me know you'd like to volunteer. That's right! Sit quietly and raise your hands and hopefully you'll get to join us on stage.

ACTOR 1:

The character I'm playing is Alice, and in this show, Alice is a detective. To be a good detective, you have to keep a level head, take in all the clues, and use them to come up with a creative solution. There's a name for that kind of detective-like thinking. It's called "Critical Thinking." Do you think you have to be a detective to use Critical Thinking in your everyday life? Absolutely not! We all have chances to use Critical Thinking every single day! As you watch the show, notice how Alice uses her clues to think critically to solve her problem and find a solution.

ACTOR 2:

Alright! I think we're ready to start the show! Are you ready to see the show? I said are you ready to see the play?

ACTOR 1:

Please put your hands together for *Alice in Neverland!*

ACTORS go backstage. Noir music sets the tone for opening the show. ALICE enters and addresses the audience

ALICE

Welcome to Wonderland, where the tea is hot, nonsense reigns, and six impossible things can happen before breakfast. I'm Alice. You may have heard of me, falling through the rabbit hole, dancing with the dodos and such. Now most of what you've heard is true and I won't spin you no tales. But a lot has

changed since you read about little 'ole Alice and her looking glass. I've matured. I've wised. I'm thirteen now. You see, I've grown up and I don't mean by eating the wrong side of a biscuit. I run the most successful and thorough detective agency in Wonderland. Have you heard of Miss Marple? Sherlock Holmes? FOOLS! You want to know who ate the oysters, slayed the Jabberwock, or painted the roses red? You call me.

It all started on a day like any other. Twas brillig, and the slithy toves did gyre and gimble in the wabe. What I mean was, I was having tea with my rabbit friend, you know, the one terrified of being late, (*WHITE RABBIT enters and takes a seat with a cup of tea*) but then again, we live in a land where nonsense reigns so not many keep to a strict schedule, well, other than tea-time.

ALICE takes her seat with the WHITE RABBIT

WHITE RABBIT

And then he asked, "Why is a raven like a writing desk?" And I said-

ALICE

They both stand on legs!

WHITE RABBIT

Well-

ALICE

Poe wrote on both!

WHITE RABBIT

Actually-

ALICE

Neither is made of cheese!

WHITE RABBIT

Do you mind? ... Well now I've forgotten.

ALICE

Another unsolved mystery for the ages.

WHITE RABBIT yawns

ALICE

You seem a bit fatigued today, worn out, you know, tired.

WHITE RABBIT

Oh! Ha! That's because I stayed up too late last night. I was fretting about a scheduled date I had this morning. Speaking of which... *(Looks at his watch)* Oh! What day of the month is it?

ALICE

The fourth.

WHITE RABBIT

Two days wrong! I told him the butter wouldn't suit the works; I don't care if it *is* the best butter! Oh dear! Oh dear! I shall be too late! *(Exits looking at his watch)*

ALICE

Curiouser and curiouser.

WHITE RABBIT

(Coming back to get her teacup) Sorry, that's part of a set.

ALICE

(She moves downstage to address the audience) The White Rabbit frequently up and hopped off for fear of being late.

WHITE RABBIT *(offstage)*

Oh my ears and whiskers, how late it's getting!

ALICE

It was in that moment when an unexpected face, er, visitor, well, visitors came flying into my life.

'Tink' type sounds begin offstage. Then then see a light flit around the backdrop from behind, until it makes its way onstage to join ALICE, manned by PETER'S SHADOW

ALICE

It was that flitty fairy figure they call Tinkerbell, Tink for short. Her reputation had spread far and wide as a maker of mischief and faithful friend to that Pan fellow, Peter Pan from the land of Never. With her was a figure you could barely see, unless you looked with your best eyes. He was no brighter than a shadow, in fact, he was a shadow, the shadow of that daring Peter Pan.

TINKERBELL tinks, "Peter's gone missing!", and PETER'S SHADOW gestures in affirmation.

ALICE

Wow, wow, slow down Tink. Now tell me again, what's happened?

TINKERBELL tinks, "Peter. Has. Been. Kidnapped!" PETER'S SHADOW gestures in affirmation.

ALICE

You can't be serious, Peter's been kidnapped? Not *the* Peter Pan!

TINKERBELL tinks, "What did I just say? Can you help or not?" PETER'S SHADOW gestures in question.

ALICE

Well, I can try to help you find-

TINKERBELL tinks, "Aren't you the world famous detective?!?" PETER'S SHADOW gestures incredulously.

ALICE

Yes I AM the world famous detective, but I-

TINKERBELL tinks, "Don't you want to help him?!" PETER'S SHADOW gestures in question.

ALICE

Yes of course I want to help, it's just-

*TINKERBELL tinks, "Then get your sorry *** to Neverland and help us!" PETER'S SHADOW gestures in anger.*

ALICE

Watch your language little miss tinkety-tink-tink!

TINKERBELL invades ALICE's space and gets right on her nose forcing her to lean back. Tinkerbell tinks, "We need you. You've got to help us or I'll pop you in the nose!" PETER'S SHADOW restrains the angry fairy.

ALICE

Alright, alright! You drive a hard bargain; how could I say no?

TINKERBELL flies around her head thanking her over and over. ALICE moves downstage to talk to the audience. TINKERBELL exits and PETER'S SHADOW begins to change the set to Neverland.

ALICE

After her temper was tuckered, Tinkerbell explained the Lost Kids woke up that morning with no sign of Peter anywhere. No one knew who was behind Peter's disappearance, but one thing was for sure, Neverland was on its head. Without Peter, time in Neverland had begun to move forward at a very rapid speed, making the lost children grow older, the seasons change, and everyone late to lunch. With time marching on, it wouldn't be long before the Boy-Who-Wouldn't-Grow-Up would be filing taxes and eating lemon flavored desserts like a common adult. Off to Neverland!

Adventure music is heard as we see ALICE take a bite of the cookie and fly back to Neverland with Tink... if that's possible... The music shifts to a more light, Neverland tune as we see PETER'S SHADOW come set the stage for the tree house.

ALICE

After eating a bite of an incredible shrinking biscuit I got from a wise-cracking doorknob a while back, I hitched a ride with that fiery Tink and Peter's Shadow back to Neverland. As far as I knew, no one from Wonderland had ever been to Neverland, or vice versa, until today. I'd read about Neverland in story books; it was a magical place, lush, green, full of mythical creatures, mermaids, and tick tocking crocodiles chasing pompous pirates, feared in all the Seven Seas. It was a beautiful place; however, when I arrived, I sensed that I wasn't alone; that I was somehow being watched... I had no idea where to begin, so I thought I'd have a chat with the last people to have seen Peter Pan before he was napped, kid style. I fought my way through the Neverforest to the Hangman's Tree, to the Lost Kids Hideout, the Home Under the Ground to talk to those tykes who just wouldn't grow up, the Lost Kids.

ALICE goes backstage while the LOST KID comes on stage. He's obviously in pain.

LOST KID

AHHH! Where did the other Lost Kids go?!?! Oh THERE you are! (*LOST KID goes to the audience and picks 3 kids to be LOST KIDS with him*) OWWW!!! EEEH! OOOOH! We're growing, it's hurting! OOOOH!!! This MUST- be- the--- EEEND!!!

LOST KID flops on the ground, seemingly dead. ALICE enters

ALICE

Oh mome raths, it's worse than I thought! (*She kneels by the body*) Stick with me kid, you're going to be okay! Kid? KID! Oh no, he's.. He's...

LOST KID screams, ALICE screams, LOST KID screams

ALICE

AAAGH! You're alive? Holy Jubjub bird! I thought you were a goner!

LOST KID

EEE!! No way! We're not worm food yet but- OOH! But we might as well be- EEEE!

ALICE

Whaddya talking about? You're all just darn kids! You've got your whole lives in front of you.

LOST KID

Yeah, we're kids now- OOOH! But not for long. Wait, you're Alice, that means Tinkerbell made it, and found you, and brought you here so you can find Peter! OH THAT'S SO GOOD. (*Pain*) OH THAT'S SO BAD.

ALICE

I've had warmer welcomes in my day...

LOST KID

No! I mean, normally we'd tie you to a tree and make you eat worms or something fun like that. Wouldn't we lost kids? YEAH! EEEHH!!! But we need you and we're not really feeling up to it, are we? Nooo.... See? They feel just as terrible as me!

ALICE

What's wrong with all of you; are you sick?

LOST KID

Kinda. See, we all pinkie swore we'd never, never, NEVER grow up, but now we seem to find ourselves in a hurry to do just that- OOOWWW! Since Peter was taken and time got all fast, now, all I want to do is... is.... OPEN A SAVINGS ACCOUNT! EEEWWWW!

ALICE

Well that's quite responsible of you.

LOST KID

Yeah, responsible, very mature, very... grown up! UUGHGH!

ALICE

Being a grown up isn't so bad!

LOST KID

SHUT YOUR OLD MOLDY FLAP TRAP! We need to find Peter and I all want to do is shop around for interest rates, buy chapstick in bulk, or, shower and actually wash my neck!

ALICE

OKAY! Okay, I'm going to find him, but I need to ask you some questions.

LOST KID

Alright, I'll try to think and focus, (*suddenly very adult-y*) I love to focus. Focusing is my favorite. (*slips out of adult and back into painful kid*) Oh no, it's starting to take over!

Lost kid now slips in and out of pain filled kid and mature adult

ALICE

KID! Stay with me. Do you know why someone would kidnap Peter?

LOST KID

No idea. All Peter does is make sure we stay young forever, make mischief, and keep Neverland fun for everyone!

ALICE

Tell me what's the last thing you remember before Peter went missing. Begin at the beginning, and go on till you come to the end: then stop.

LOST KID

Well, last night, we all felled asleep real late-

ALICE

When?

LOST KID

Uhh... Midnight? It was after a pillow fight and cheese ball eating contest. I won. I'm the best; my personal best is 93 in a minute!

ALICE

Focus...

LOST KID

Right. After I fell asleep, you know that place between sleep and awake, that place where you still remember dreaming? I thought I dreamt someone came in and took Peter Pan. When I woke up-

ALICE

When?

LOST KID

Around 6 am? Peter's bed was empty and he was REALLY gone! Bed... Bed! Hey! I've got a great idea. Let's brush our teeth and go to bed at a reasonable hour!

ALICE

Before you do that, tell me, what you remember about that night. Did you hear someone? Smell anything, see anything? Anything at all?

LOST KID

Not a thing, they were in the shadows and absolutely silent. Oh wait! There was something! They made a sound

ALICE

A sound? What kind of sound?

LOST KID

A sound I've heard, many times before... A loud "tick-tock, tick-tock," with every step.

ALICE

A “Tick Tock” sound, eh? Now there’s only one creature in Neverland I know of that makes a tick tock sound with every step. Do you know who I’m thinking about? *(Let kids answer)* That’s right! The tick-tocking crocodile that ate Hook’s hand!

LOST KID

I hope he washed his hand before he ate it? Help me.

ALICE

But wait a second, something doesn’t make sense...

LOST KID

Speaking of no sense, I got a subscription to Better Homes and Gardens, and let me tell you, the things they do with ferns! You lost kids make a run for it, save yourselves! Everyone give them a big hand! Owwww!!!

LOST KID leaves stage in pain

ALICE moves downstage and noir music plays under ALICE’s speech

ALICE

Something smells fishy, so let’s take a step back and think critically. Tick Tock the Crocodile *does* tick and tock everywhere he goes, but we’re underground, and last I checked, a crocodile *does not* climb a rope ladder very efficiently. Maybe he was working with an accomplice... Either way, I needed to find that croc for a chat and see where he was between the hours of midnight and 6am. I know, I’ll ask the mermaids! If he went back to the water, they would have seen it all. I’ve got to chat with a fish.... A Person... *(confidently)* A fish person!

Music begins to play as we see PETER’S SHADOW comes onstage and sets up Marooner’s Rock. He gets two student volunteers to hold a blue piece of fabric against the rock as water. He has them wave the water while he grabs the MERMAID, who is quite bundled up. ALICE enters

ALICE

Usually the mermaids swim away from humans faster than a cat in a caucus race, everyone but Peter Pan, that is, but luck must have been on my side that day.

MERMAID

*I spend my days wandering
Throughout the great blue sea
Wondering and pondering
How wonderful life can be*

*I float among the waves
And I wave to all the fish
A mermaid’s life is perfect, save
For just one fungus-sized wish*

*I wish it weren't so cold!
My fin's completely frozen!
The water is so cold
No, don't even dip your toes in!*

*It's really freaking freezing!
I always have the chills!
I'm always [sneezes]
And it's coming out my gills!*

*I wish I had a sweater,
Or blubber, like the whales
Frankly, anything is better
Than these blasted, useless scales!*

*But alas, I can't deny--
As the goddess of the sea—
There are bigger fish to fry
Than poor, old, frozen me.*

ALICE

Today, I hope to hook the attention of one mercreature. (*realizes her joke*) Hooked, you get it? You fish with hooks?

MERMAID screams, ALICE screams, MERMAID screams

MERMAID

AAAAAHHHH!!! FISH HOOKS!?!

ALICE

Poor choice of words, forgive me. I'm Alice, I'm investigating Peter Pan's kidnapping miss... miss...

MERMAID

My name is Ms. BRRRIIINNNNNNNGGGGUUUUURRRRRRIIIIPPPPPY (*Think Dory's whale language*) But you can call me Marge. (*Shivering*) Brrr....

ALICE

Marge, the Mermaid, a pleasure to make your acquaintance. (*ALICE bows*) I have reason to believe you may have information that could lead to Peter Pan's safe homecoming. Is it alright if I ask you a few questions?

MERMAID

Sure! Anything to f-f-find P-P-Peter.

ALICE

Ms... BRRR... BRRRIIII.... Marge, I'm sorry to deviate from the subject, but, are you feeling alright? I've noticed you seem a bit-

MERMAID

C-C-COLD?!?!?

ALICE

That's it.

MERMAID

That's b-b-b-because I am! I'm freeeeezing faster than a fish stick in February! Since Peter went missing and time has thrust forward, we're s-s-stuck in w-w-w-winter! Do you know how hard it is to be a m-m-mermaid in w-w-w-winter?

ALICE

I'm guessing pretty hard-

MERMAID

You bet your sweet anchovy it is! I had to tackle two carps and a really angry crab to get this last seaweed blanket! It's Crab-shmere.

ALICE

I'm very sorry for the inconvenience and I want to help. But first I must ask, do you know if a crocodile could climb up and down a rope ladder unassisted?

MERMAID

A rope ladder? What does that have to do with the price of kelp in Calcutta?

ALICE

Nevermind. More importantly, have you seen Tick-Tock the Croc since last night?

MERMAID

No I haven't s-s-s-seen him. W-w-w-why are you looking for *him*? Tick Tock doesn't have anything against Peter Pan.

ALICE

Last night, between the hours of midnight and 6am, one of the Lost Kids heard a tick tock sound when Peter was kidnapped. If you haven't seen Tick Tock, do you know where he might be?

MERMAID

N-n-n-not n-n-necessarily, but if you find Hook, you find him!

ALICE

Brilliant! Tick Tock is always chasing after the dastardly devil, Hook, whose hand he's got a crazy craving for!

MERMAID

S-s-s-sure l-l-l-lady. Just p-p-p-please find Peter and bring back s-s-s-s-summer!

MERMAID jumps into the water and goes backstage.

ALICE

That would explain everything! It was Captain Hook who committed the crime and the Lost Kids only heard Tick Tock sound because the crocodile was lurking nearby! Plus, Hook is the only creature in Neverland with the motive or a reason to hurt Peter! (*Ominous music starts to play*) I was close; I knew it! But... I couldn't shake that feeling that I was somehow being watched, tracked! Observed... I could feel it in my toes, but when I looked around, there was no one to be seen. No time to worry about that, I needed to find that dastardly Hook!

Suddenly, something pulls ALICE underneath the water as music gets more intense. ALICE goes backstage. PETER'S SHADOW has the kids stand and hold the water up. ALICE 'swims' back onstage, it looks like she's underwater. During this monologue, PETER'S SHADOW has fish swim on and off stage to investigate ALICE. We hear underwater sounds during the next speech.

ALICE (V.O.)

Now I was sure of it. Someone was after me. Trying to get me to push up daisies, kick the bucket, swim with the fishes, (*eye roll*) so to speak. The tide had pulled me away from Mermaid Lagoon and into open water, far away from the safety of the shore! I could have panicked, (*she starts to panic*) but I didn't. (*composes herself*) I realized if someone was trying to throw me off the scent, I must be on the right track. Curiouser and curiouser! I had to be close, but, in this moment, I was a fish out of water, except I'm not and I wasn't. I had to find a way out of this pickle and in a hurry. Then, it hit me!

A large fishing hook is thrown over the backdrop and hits ALICE in the head. ALICE has a 'light bulb' moment. She grabs a passing fish, throws it on the hook, pulls, and is pulled up above the surface of the water... she goes backstage. Fun pirate-y music plays and we hear a 'Tick-tock' sound. HOOK enters with TICK-TOCK.

HOOK

Well poop. Isn't this a sad state for the Jolly Roger, isn't it Tick-Tock? If they don't need us, we don't need them, we'll get a *new* crew!

HOOK goes out in the audience and gets three kids, one to hold the flag, one to hold to tick tock sound maker, and one (maybe the principal?) to hold a steering wheel. Feel free to improv with them as you get them set up. Then he grabs his fishing pole from backstage.

As for me, I'm in charge of catching dinner. Oh this crew, this new crew is... really depressing (*he cries*) OOOHHH BOY! I got a bite! She's a real fighter this one! Yaaar!!! She's gotta be 100 pounds! We'll eat well for days! No, weeks! Years maybe! See? We ARE good for something! Shiver me timbers, here she comes Tick-Tock!

ALICE, still holding the hook, falls on the deck with a plop and we hear HOOK screams, ALICE screams, HOOK screams.

HOOK

What? A little girl? We can't eat her!

TICK-TOCK growls and seems like he might charge.

HOOK

NO Tick, we can't eat her! One girl is of more use than twenty boys!

TICK TOCK look disappointed

ALICE

Hold it right there! (*ALICE threatens them with her fish and HOOK and TICK-TOCK freeze*) I'm not just any little girl. My name is Alice, you know, from Wonderland, and I must warn you, I'm NOT to be trifled with. I've fought off a crazed queen, a whiny king, and a whole deck of really angry playing cards in one fell swoop and I could flatten you flatter than a flitter with nothing more than this flounder fish.

HOOK

No wise fish would go anywhere without a porpoise. (*both HOOK and TICK-TOCK laugh, and then sob*)

ALICE

Okay... No sudden moves! I'm investigating the napping of Peter Pan and I believe you're the salt-water scoundrel I'm looking for!

HOOK

Well that's just... that's just... unnecessarily hurtful! Isn't it Tick Tock?

HOOK breaks down into tears and TICK-TOCK comforts him

ALICE

Wait, he's comforting you? You hate each other. I mean, Tick Tock, you ate his hand!

TICK-TOCK cowers in shame

HOOK

That was before.

ALICE

Wasn't expecting that... but nevertheless, I'm on a mission and I WILL crack this case. I have reason to believe you sport-

HOOK sobs louder

You sport are playing games with-

HOOK sobs uncontrollably

I'm sorry, but I'm trying to accuse you of a hideous crime and your weeping is putting a bit of a damper on things.

HOOK

(Sniffling) I'm so sorry, how boorish of me, please, go ahead.

ALICE

I feel like a bully who didn't pick you for my dodgeball team.

HOOK wails

ALICE

Okay, what is going on here?

HOOK

Sorry, my apologies. It's a bit of a sensitive subject. When winter set in, a bunch of the crew thought it would be fun to start an ice hockey team.

ALICE

That's one way to turn lemons into lemonade.

HOOK

Yeah, really painful, hurtful, self-doubting lemonade.

HOOK and ALICE sway on the ship. HOOK addresses the person holding the wheel.

HOOK

Keep the course straight! Simpleton...

ALICE

What's painful about starting a hockey team?

HOOK

Well, the crew put my friend, my *best* friend in charge of the team and... and... Oh it hurts too much!

ALICE

What did he do?

HOOK

He was picking his team from all of us. So, I waited, and waited, waiting to be picked. One by one every pirate found themselves on a team. Everyone that is, but me because, with this hook, how could I ever hold a stick?

ALICE

Surely that's not the reason.

HOOK

THEY CALLED ME HOOKY HOCKEY HACK!

ALICE

Well that's not very nice...

HOOK

Better than what they used to call me in elementary school.

ALICE

What did they call you in-

HOOK

Dodgeball dunce.

ALICE

Wow, those kids-

HOOK

Dribble dweeb!

ALICE

Seriously they-

HOOK

PING PONG PUNKY POO POO HEAD!

ALICE

Oh boy. There there, it's alright. You have so many skills. No one is tougher or scarier than you, Hook!

HOOK

Not anymore. Now I'm just an oversized s'more roaster, without a fire!!!

HOOK and ALICE sway on the ship. HOOK addresses the person holding the wheel.

HOOK

Are you out of your mind? Stop trying to sink us Molly Brown!

ALICE

And wait, let's go back, *how* did you two become friends?

TICK-TOCK cowers in shame

HOOK

We've bonded because... we are the only two poor beasts who can't hold hockey sticks! Look at his tiny hands... (*HOOK and TICK-TOCK both wail*)

ALICE

Wait! That explains everything! If you're friends now, Tick Tock wasn't standing by to eat you, he was standing by to *help* you! I knew he couldn't do it alone. He was your accomplice in kidnapping Peter Pan from the Home Under the Ground.

HOOK

Peter's gone missing? (*HOOK and TICK-TOCK do a take to each other*)

ALICE

Don't play dumb. Peter's been taken, time is on its head, and that's why Neverland was thrust into winter.

HOOK

We had no idea! We thought someone left their freezer open.

ALICE

So, you didn't know about Peter's kidnapping? Where were last night between the hours of midnight and 6:00am?

HOOK

(*Looks at TICK-TOCK*) Well, that's a... difficult question to answer....

ALICE

If you can tell me where you were last night, it would mean you have an alibi, and that would prove you didn't do it.

HOOK

We would never go underground, we're creatures of the sea! Isn't that proof enough?

ALICE

You've got to tell me where you were if you want your names cleared!

TICK-TOCK pulls at HOOK's clothes

HOOK

Alright, I'll tell ya, but don't think any less of us. See, we were so hurt by our friend passing us over for the team, we wanted to get even, take revenge! So last night, at the stroke of midnight, we sneaked into their locker room and... and... we changed out their pucks for frozen blocks of mermaid poop.

ALICE

Mermaid poop?

HOOK

MERMAID POOP! We're not proud of it and we're sorry we did it, but that's where we were last night.

ALICE

Can you prove it?

HOOK

Well, my FORMER best friend caught us and gave us a stern talking to ALL NIGHT LONG! We didn't leave until 7am.

ALICE

Who is your former best friend?

HOOK

It's Smee.

ALICE

It's who?

HOOK

It's Smee.

ALICE

It's you....

HOOK

It's Smee!

ALICE

Sir, you can't be your own alibi!

HOOK

No, my former best friend is SMEE, you know, short pudgy pirate with massive amounts of unearned confidence?

ALICE

OH! It is. SMEE!

HOOK

Yes! You got it!

They high five in celebration

ALICE

Yes! Oh! No... If you have an alibi, I'm back at square one. My prime suspects have been cleared and I have no more leads.

HOOK

Oh, I guess that's true. We're sorry we weren't the kidnappers.

ALICE

And I'm sorry you're not on the hockey team. It's a terrible feeling, being left out.

HOOK

It really is.

ALICE

But that doesn't make it okay to pull tricks on those that hurt your feelings.

HOOK

We know... and we really are sorry. We apologized all night long.

ALICE

Hey, maybe there's a way to be on the hockey team after all! I bet they still need mascots!

HOOK

Shiver me timbers I bet you're right! We'd be GREAT mascots, wouldn't we Tick?

ALICE

I sure think you would!

HOOK

But, we did a terrible thing; I don't think they'll ever want to talk to us ever again, much less make mascots out of us.

ALICE

You won't know until you try; it's scary to face those you've hurt, but be brave and try.

HOOK

You're right! The worst he can do is say no!

HOOK and ALICE sway on the ship. HOOK addresses the person holding the wheel.

Thaaaat's it! Crew? You're dismissed! (*Sits the volunteers down*) Give them a big "ARRR!"

HOOK and TICK-TOCK "jump ship" and we hear a splash

ALICE

(*ALICE comes downstage for her speech*) I was thrilled Hook and Tick-Tock had found a silver lining to their situational cloud; however, my sky was grayer than ever. Peter has no enemies other than Captain Hook, and he had just been cleared. All the clues led me to Tick Tock, but he had an alibi as well. Who else would want to hurt Peter Pan? Everyone in Neverland loves him. Maybe he ran away? No, he would never risk growing up, plus, he'd never leave Tink and the Lost Kids to fend for themselves. I hit a wall, a dead end. I'd followed the clues to my prime suspects, only for the trail to go cold. I had failed. Oh what a terrible feeling! I can't tell Tinkerbell or Peter's Shadow; at best, they'll be mad. Or worse, they'll be disappointed. I can't face them, not now, I'm too ashamed, embarrassed... scared. Someone else will have to find Peter; I'm going home.

Sad noir music begins. TINKERBELL and PETER'S SHADOW peek out from around the curtain to see ALICE leave; they know all hope is lost and go backstage. The set goes back to Wonderland. ALICE comes back.

ALICE

I was feeling lower than the two of clubs in a room full of aces. How could I have been so wrong? I let down Tinkerbell, all of Neverland, and worst of all, I let down myself. I failed and now Neverland would be stuck in a perpetual winter with a bunch of grown up Lost Kids investing in the stock market and willingly eating their vegetables. Oh yeah, this was my rock bottom.

CHESHIRE CAT appears. I'm not sure if this is a puppet or a costume, but whatever he is, he shows up.

CHESHIRE CAT

Why the long face?

ALICE

Oh, it's you.

CHESHIRE CAT

Mostly.

ALICE

I'm not in the mood for your madness Cheshire Cat. Not today.

CHESHIRE CAT

I'm not mad, my reality is just different than yours.

ALICE

Not today!

CHESHIRE CAT

How about tomorrow then?

ALICE

Not tomorrow either.

CHESHIRE CAT

Not today, not tomorrow. Will you be in the mood for madness on Wednesday?

ALICE

What do you want Cheshire Cat?

CHESHIRE CAT

I always come see you when you're feeling lost, so, lost you *must* feel. Yet, you seem perfectly found to me. So are you lost or found?

ALICE

I don't really know.

CHESHIRE CAT

Where are you trying to be?

ALICE

I don't know.

CHESHIRE CAT

Then it doesn't much matter where you go, but now you're going nowhere, which won't get you much of anywhere, last I checked. So I ask again, why the long face? Cat got your tongue?

ALICE

I couldn't find Peter Pan, and I never will.

CHESHIRE CAT

Never is an awfully long time.

ALICE

You really know how to make a detective feel better.

CHESHIRE CAT

I'm not trying to make you *feel* better, I am trying to *make* you better.

ALICE

Well please stop.

CHESHIRE CAT

I'd rather not. Who could find Peter other than you? And how can you find him sitting in your office sulking?

ALICE

I'm not sulking.

CHESHIRE CAT

You're sulking.

ALICE

I'm not sulking!

CHESHIRE CAT

You're sulking if I've I've seen a sulker sulking sulk.

ALICE

Fine! I'm sulking!

CHESHIRE CAT

But why?

ALICE

Because I want to.

CHESHIRE CAT

But why?

ALICE

Because I feel like it.

CHESHIRE CAT

But why?

ALICE

BECAUSE I FAILED! I'm sulking because I failed and now Peter Pan is gone forever.

CHESHIRE CAT

There we are, the heart of the matter. You failed and now you feel stuck, sad, *lost*. Am I right?

ALICE

Right you are.

CHESHIRE CAT

Oh I knew that already. But now that we're actually *talking* about the issue at hand rather than talking circles around it, it's okay to be sad, especially when you try your best and fail at something important. But what isn't okay is giving up when someone needs you. And right now, Peter needs you more than ever. The way I see it, you can *either* keep sulking, Peter will stay lost, and Neverland will be perpetually stuck in winter...

ALICE

Or...?

CHESHIRE CAT

Or what?

ALICE

I can keep sulking or...?

CHESHIRE CAT

Oh I have no idea, but I bet you do. Go back to the beginning; I bet the answer is closer than you realize.

CHESHIRE CAT disappears

ALICE

He was right, I-

CHESHIRE CAT

And I'm taking this cup of pity tea...

ALICE

He was right, I-

CHESHIRE CAT

And say bye-bye to your sulking stool.

ALICE

He was right, I-

CHESHIRE CAT

It's awfully warm for a jacket, wouldn't want you to-

ALICE

Back off Cheshire.

CHESHIRE CAT

You do you girl. You do you.

ALICE

He was right, I did know what to do. I had been so afraid of failing, that I was scared to try again, but I had to be brave because my friends needed me. There are many different kinds of bravery. There's the bravery of thinking of others before one's self, and I needed to be brave now more than ever. I had to jump back in, head first, and think critically until I found something, anything, that would lead me to Peter Pan. Then it hit me, something the Cheshire Cat had said, "Go back to the beginning; I bet the answer is closer than you realize." Think Alice, think! Go back to the beginning, my very first clue. What sound did the Lost Kids hear that night? *(Give kids a chance to answer)* A tick tock sound, that's right. I had assumed it was Tick Tock the Crocodile, but if it wasn't him, maybe it was something else that makes a tick tock noise. What device makes a ticking sound? *(Give kids a chance to answer)* A clock. But why would someone carry a noisy clock when doing something sneaky like kidnapping Peter Pan? Someone would only carry a noisy clock with them during the act of kidnapping if they were very worried about being time. Who on earth would be that worried about being late, for a *date* of some sort...

ALICE has a light bulb moment

That's when it hit me. I KNEW who had Peter, and the answer was in fact, hopping here in Wonderland the whole time.

ALICE exits as we hear adventure type noir music with a tick tock sound. The trunk is sat on end on stage and we hear something fighting to get out of it. Then the WHITE RABBIT appears, holds the trunk still, checks his pocket watch, and snaps it shut.

WHITE RABBIT

Right on time! I mean me of course. And you should only have a few more minutes before you turn into... oh, I can't say it... Yes I can, a GROWN UP! HAHA! *(Something struggles from inside the trunk)* Oh keep fighting; it won't do you one bit of good. *(Something muffled is asked from the trunk)* Will I let you go? Naaaah. I like you right where you are. Oh! Have you heard about Neverland? *(Something muffled is asked from the trunk)* Of course you haven't! Ohhhh, it's going just terribly. Time is marching forward, those brats are growing up at an incredible rate, and all those mermaids will soon be frozen fish sticks. It's WONDERFUL! *(Something muffled is said from the trunk)* Why did I do this? I've had enough of you Peter Pan, with your flagrant disregard for the concept of time! Never grow up eh? Who do you think you are to... to.. ignore, no, DEFY the single greatest force that exists in our universe? Ha! Time is moving forward now and you will never interfere again! Never! *(A muffled sneeze from the trunk)* Gazuntite.

ALICE enters, ready to go!

WHITE RABBIT

Hello Alice. Well done and I must say you are right on time, and I do value punctuality.

ALICE

You were expecting me?

WHITE RABBIT

I was indeed. I knew it was only a matter of time until you solved the mystery; you are a very clever girl, after all, and you never could mind your own business.

ALICE

If everybody minded their own business, the world would go around a great deal faster than it does.

WHITE RABBIT

YES! THANK YOU! That's what I've been saying all along!

ALICE

It was you who was following me in Neverland, wasn't it?

WHITE RABBIT

Correct!

ALICE

And it was you who pulled me under the water in Mermaid Cove, wasn't it?

WHITE RABBIT

Oh yes, sorry about that.

ALICE

And it was you who kidnapped Peter Pan, wasn't it?

WHITE RABBIT

My goodness, you're more clever than I thought!

ALICE

Why would you do this? You were always such a shy, sweet rabbit. What could have driven you to kidnap Peter?

WHITE RABBIT

Oh, I did just explain it to him (*smacks the trunk and we hear a muffled, "Ow!"*) But I'll catch you up to speed. How would you feel if you devoted your whole life, your entire existence to maintaining the order

of time (*holds out his stopwatch*), and one boy, one *child*, managed to freeze it, just so he wouldn't have to grow up? Not anymore! He's mere moments away from being a grown up for good and time will move forward, forever!

ALICE

Forever is a very long time, Rabbit.

WHITE RABBIT

I know, isn't it wonderful?

ALICE

Time is chasing after us all, but maybe it doesn't have to...

WHITE RABBIT

(Beat) How do you mean?

ALICE

I mean, you've been so focused on that watch your entire life, you've forgotten to play, explore, live!

WHITE RABBIT

So? Who needs to play and explore when you can watch the hands slowly tick forward, tick by tock?!

ALICE

I bet you never even had a real bunny-hood, did you?

WHITE RABBIT

(Beat) Bunny-hood?

ALICE

Yes, bunny-hood.

WHITE RABBIT

I don't want to talk about that.

ALICE

I think you do though. What happened in your bunny-hood to make you so obsessed with time?

WHITE RABBIT

Nothing, nothing happened, I just like being on time is all!

ALICE

I don't think you're telling the whole truth. Something happened, something big, something that stuck with you for the rest of your life! What was it?

WHITE RABBIT

It's nothing!

ALICE

TELL ME WABBIT!

WHITE RABBIT

I was late! I was late. For a *very* important date. It was the first day of school and I was so excited, I pressed my favorite sweater vest, shined my cuff links-

ALICE

Oh yes, very kid like-

WHITE RABBIT

But I had to wait on my siblings, all 927 of them. By the time I got to school, it had already started. When I walked in the principal was giving an assembly and everyone turned and looked at me. That's when it happened.

ALICE

What happened?

WHITE RABBIT

It was the Mad Hatter, who was always a joker. When the room went quiet and everyone looked at me, he pointed, right at me yelled, "Don't you have a watch, Tardy Hardy?" For the next twelve years, my classmates called me Tardy Hardy and checked to see if I had a watch... which I always did.

ALICE

That was a terrible thing for the Mad Hatter to do.

WHITE RABBIT

IT WAS!

ALICE

And I'm sure it really hurt your feelings.

WHITE RABBIT

IT DID!

ALICE

But don't you see? You've been so obsessed with time, think of all the things you've missed! When was the last time you counted the stars? Or smelled the flowers? Or played croquet with the Queen?

WHITE RABBIT

Nope, she beheads you if you beat her in croquet.

ALICE

Bad example, heard it the moment I said it. My point is, obsessing over time won't bring your bunny-hood back or take that memory away. And you know what? Kidnapping Peter won't either. All you're doing is disrupting Neverland, not to mention taking away the bunny hoods, sorry, childhoods of Peter and the Lost Kids!

WHITE RABBIT

Oh my goodness you're right (*WHITE RABBIT hits trunk*), what have I done? (*WHITE RABBIT hits trunk*) I've got to undo this! (*WHITE RABBIT raises arms*)

ALICE

(*Diving onto trunk*) Peter's still in there!

WHITE RABBIT

We must get Peter Pan home before he grows up!

ALICE

Yes! That's the spirit!

WHITE RABBIT

Hold this for me. (*WHITE RABBIT gives her the watch*) I've got a flower to smell!

WHITE RABBIT leaves in a hurry! Because.... Ya know, he's got to change to PETER and get in the box.

ALICE

To the Tulgey Wood! The flowers there are simply marvelous! Now to get Peter Pan out and back home and close this case for good!

ALICE tries to carry trunk off stage

ALICE

OH my goodness, that's heavy! Don't worry Peter, we'll get you out of there in a jiffy!

(ALICE finally gets trunk off stage and drops it.)

ALICE

This is ridiculous, you can fly!

Magic is heard as PETER PAN runs on stage, playing, ALICE chasing him

ALICE

Peter?! Wait, where did you go?! (*run around set, chase!*) I mean it young man! We don't have time for this. Kids, where did he go?

PETER is in the audience and makes fart sound

ALICE

Peter, that's disgusting.

(PETER runs backstage. ALICE in pursuit)

ALICE

Peter! Look! Shiny!

ALICE brings PETER out by dangling the watch in front of him

PETER PAN

Oh! The cleverness of you!

ALICE

Well thanks. I doubted myself for a while, but I decided I had to be brave and keep trying. Now you've got to get back to Neverland and set things straight!

PETER PAN

Neverland! Where dreams are born, and time is never planned.

ALICE

You know the way, second star to the right and straight on 'til morning. I guess this is hello *and* goodbye.

PETER PAN

Never say goodbye because goodbye means going away and going away means forgetting.

ALICE

Then I won't say goodbye. Instead I'll say... go to bed young man.

PETER PAN

Nonsense. Young kids should never be sent to bed. They always wake up a day older, and then before you know it, they're grown.

ALICE

You're right. Instead I'll say, get back to Neverland before you grow up!

PETER PAN

Aye aye Captain! All I need is a little faith, trust, and pixie dust, Up, and away!

PETER PAN flies away backstage while ALICE waves

ALICE

So that's how it happened. The case was closed. Peter Pan returned to Neverland, bringing with him summer, eternal childhood, and unending joy. The pirates disbanded their hockey team since all the ice had melted, so Hook and Tick Tock formed a water polo league and made sure every pirate found a place on a team.

We hear a splash, whistle, and loud Pirate-y "It's your serve!!!"

The Mermaids welcomed back summer and eventually all the crabs forgave them for stealing the seaweed blankets.

We see the MERMAID peek out from behind the curtain to sing, "I'm flippin' on Sunshine, Oh oh! And don't it feel warm, hey!"

The Lost Kids grew back down, but luckily, bought low and sold high and are now Wall Street Moguls living of interest. They're the youngest millionaires in Neverland, Wonderland, or, any land!

We hear the Wall Street opening bell ring with sounds of ticking and tying, and we hear, "Buy! Sell! Buy! Sell! Cheeseball eating contest to determine who wins!"

The White Rabbit abandoned his pocket-watch and began to smell the roses. Literally. He decided to make up for lost time and he moved to Neverland, where he frolicked and hopped in the forest, smelling roses just, all the time. Seriously, he can't stop.

We hear lovely, idyllic music while the WHITE RABBIT pops out with a flower

WHITE RABBIT

Now I always try to be a little kinder than is necessary!

ALICE

And me? My agency became so popular after solving the case of Peter Pan, I had to expand and bring on an assistant. Maybe you know him?

PETER'S SHADOW comes out

ALICE

Alright Shadow, Tweedledee's mulberry bush was destroyed last night and Tweedledum's not talking. Are you ready for the case?

PETER'S SHADOW indicates in the affirmative

ALICE

Good because we're in the big leagues, no child's play.

PETER'S SHADOW indicates he's got this and leaves

ALICE

You're still here? Oh right, a moral. Everything's got a moral, if only you can find it. Sometimes, life can be scary or hard and it's tempting to give up. But, as a wise grown-up once said, there are many types of bravery. See if you can find yours.

Noir music plays us out of the show as ALICE puts on her hat, and leaves.

THE END