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Dramatic Publishing

DOROTHY MEETS ALICE
or
The Wizard of Wonderland

A One-act Play

Based on the musical version by
JOSEPH ROBINETTE and KARL JURMAN

Adapted by
JOSEPH ROBINETTE



Dramatic Publishing

Woodstock, Illinois • England • Australia • New Zealand

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(DOROTHY MEETS ALICE or The Wizard of Wonderland)

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Produced by special arrangement with
THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois

DOROTHY MEETS ALICE
or
The Wizard of Wonderland

A Play for Eleven Actors
(Flexible Casting*)
4-8 women, 3-7 men

CHARACTERS

DOROTHY
ALICE
JUDSON
MAD HATTER
SCARECROW
WHITE RABBIT
TIN MAN
DORMOUSE
COWARDLY LION
WICKED WITCH
RED QUEEN

*All animals, as well as the Scarecrow, Tin Man and Mad Hatter, may be played by males or females or any combination thereof.

THE PLACE: The Tulgey Wood.
(Between Oz and Wonderland)

THE TIME: The Present...and the Past.

DOROTHY MEETS ALICE
or
The Wizard of Wonderland

SETTING: A clearing in a wooded area. A large bush or clump of trees is upstage. Nailed to a UC tree is a large rustic sign reading TULGEY WOOD. A similar sign reading OZ, with an arrow pointing off right, and one reading WONDERLAND, with an arrow pointing off left, are also attached to the tree.

AT RISE: As the curtain opens, JUDSON WATSON, a teenage boy, is discovered onstage in a pool of light. The surrounding wooded area is dim. JUDSON looks around in awe and surprise. He then hears offstage voices. [Note: a sound effects tape with these voices and other effects is available or they may be done live by the actors.]

DOROTHY'S VOICE (offstage). Toto! Toto!

ALICE'S VOICE (offstage). White Rabbit! White Rabbit!

WHITE RABBIT'S VOICE (offstage). Must hurry! Must hurry! (The VOICES repeat themselves in unison, followed by laughter from the offstage voices of the WITCH and the QUEEN. A moment later a dog is heard barking offstage. The pool of light on JUDSON fades as the general lights come up.)

(DOROTHY, a girl, enters hurriedly.)

DOROTHY. Toto! Toto! Come back, Toto! *(She exits without seeing JUDSON.)*

(A moment later, the WHITE RABBIT enters quickly looking at his pocket watch.)

WHITE RABBIT. Must hurry! Must hurry!

(He exits as ALICE, a girl, enters.)

ALICE. White Rabbit! White Rabbit! Where are you, White Rabbit? *(She exits without seeing JUDSON.)*

JUDSON. Hey, wait a minute! Come back! Who are they? What are *they* doing here?... What am *I* doing here? I've never been here before in my life... Maybe I shouldn't be here at all. I might get in trouble... But I'll be in even bigger trouble when I get back home. I haven't done my homework for tomorrow... Book report... My book report! I put off my book report till the very last minute. In fact, I forgot all about it till after dinner when my mom said, "No TV till you've done your homework." Then I had a great idea. I'd get my book report *from* the TV. I mean the VCR. We have lots of movies on tape, and I knew some of them must be based on books. But not *one* was on Mrs. Dieffenbaker's approved reading list.

(DOROTHY enters.)

DOROTHY. Toto! Toto! *(She sees JUDSON for the first time.)* Have you seen my little dog?

JUDSON. Not recently. I mean—no. I'm sorry.

DOROTHY. Oh, dear. Where could he have gotten to?
(She exits. JUDSON starts to follow her, then stops when he hears a dog barking on the other side. He tries to stop DOROTHY, but he is too late.)

JUDSON. Excuse me, Miss!... Now where was I? Oh, yes. Finally, I discovered an old tape I had missed—and there it was on the list—*The Wizard of Oz*. I was saved! Actually, I'd never watched it before. By now, everyone was asleep—or so I thought—and I popped the tape into the VCR. But half an hour later, there stood my father in his robe, "Judson, time for bed."

(The WHITE RABBIT enters muttering, "Must hurry, must hurry," then exits. ALICE enters. She sees JUDSON.)

ALICE. Excuse me. Have you seen a white rabbit come along this way?

JUDSON. Was he wearing a pocket watch and a waistcoat?

ALICE. Yes.

JUDSON. I—I think he went that way.

ALICE. Thank you ever so much. *(Calling offstage.)* White Rabbit! White Rabbit! *(She exits.)*

JUDSON. But—but— *(He shrugs.)* Let's see. What happened next?... I went upstairs to go to bed, but then I ducked inside my sister's room—she's always yelling at me—and grabbed the first book I came to off her shelf and ran to *my* room. I looked at the list and—hooray!—there it was, *The Adventures of Alice in Wonderland*. So,

I got into bed with the book and some pencils and paper and a flashlight and pulled the covers up over my head and began to read... But before long, I started to yawn— *(He yawns.)*

(DOROTHY enters.)

DOROTHY. Toto! Toto! *(She exits.)*

(The WHITE RABBIT enters, then exits. ALICE enters.)

ALICE. White Rabbit! White Rabbit! *(She exits.)*

JUDSON. Toto? White Rabbit?... Dorothy? Alice? And me—Judson Watson. All in the same place—at the very same time. *(A pause.)* Maybe I'm hibernating. I mean hallucinating. And if I *am* hallucinating, how did it happen?... Wait a minute. I must have gotten so tired I fell asleep. That must be it. So that means—*(in awe)*—I must be in the middle of an incredible dream!

(DOROTHY and ALICE enter.)

DOROTHY. It's no use. I'll never find him.

ALICE. It's no use, I'll never catch him.

BOTH. No use at all. *(They become aware of each other.)*

ALICE. Who—who are you?

DOROTHY. My name is Dorothy. I'm from Kansas.

ALICE. My name is Alice. I'm from London. *(They become aware of JUDSON.)*

JUDSON. My name's Judson. I'm from New Jersey... Weehawken, New Jersey. [Note: any town or city and state may be substituted.]

DOROTHY. Never heard of it. (*ALICE shakes her head.*)

JUDSON. Weehawken?

BOTH GIRLS. New Jersey.

JUDSON. Well, that's okay. Anyway, I've heard of you.

DOROTHY. You have?

ALICE. Where?

JUDSON. I saw Dorothy on TV.

DOROTHY. TV?

JUDSON. Television. Oh, maybe you were born before television was invented. Anyway, I didn't get to see much. Just the tornado and then when you landed in Oz and met the Munchkins.

DOROTHY. That's right. And Glinda the good witch gave me these ruby red slippers to protect me from harm.

JUDSON. Yes. I saw that, too.

DOROTHY. She also told me I could get back to Kansas by following the Yellow Brick Road to Emerald City—

JUDSON. —to where the Wizard of Oz lives.

DOROTHY. Yes! Will I find him?

JUDSON. I don't know. My dad made me turn off the TV.

ALICE. What about me? How did you hear of me?

JUDSON. In a book. It tells all about how you were chasing a White Rabbit and fell down a rabbit hole into Wonderland.

ALICE. That's right. I did. And I found this little bottle which says "drink me." (*She takes the bottle from her pocket.*)

JUDSON. And if you drink it, you'll become so small—

ALICE. —that hardly anyone can see me.

JUDSON. Right.

ALICE. So what else did the book say? What happens next?

JUDSON. I don't know. I went to sleep.

ALICE. Was I that boring to you?

JUDSON. No, no. It's...it's a long story. *My* story, I mean.

ALICE. Oh, are you also in a book?

DOROTHY. Or on tele—vision?

JUDSON. No, I'm just a kid from Weehawken. But I don't think I'm in New Jersey anymore. My story is just that—I was supposed to write a book report and come to school in the costume of my favorite character. The best costume wins a blue ribbon.

ALICE. But you didn't read the book.

DOROTHY. Or come up with a costume.

ALICE. Because you waited until the very last minute to do your homework.

DOROTHY. Then you fell asleep.

ALICE. And now you're in the middle of a dream.

JUDSON. Well, I'm not the only one. You're both in a dream, too.

ALICE. Don't be silly. I'm in Wonderland.

DOROTHY. And I'm in Oz.

JUDSON. Alice, you fell asleep on the riverbank when your sister was reading to you. That's in the book. Dorothy, you got knocked unconscious during the tornado. That's in the movie.

ALICE. Then I have to get back home as quickly as possible. My sister will be very worried.

DOROTHY. And my Aunt Em and Uncle Henry will be worried, too.

ALICE. I must find the White Rabbit so he can lead me back to the rabbit hole.

DOROTHY. And I must find the Wizard so he can show me how to get back home. But first I have to find Toto. Goodbye, Alice. It was awfully nice to meet you.

ALICE. The pleasure was mine, I'm sure, Dorothy. Good luck.

DOROTHY. Thanks. Bye, Judson.

ALICE. Good luck to you as well.

JUDSON. But wait. If you leave, I'll wake up. And it'll be time for school. And...and—

ALICE. No book report.

DOROTHY. No costume.

BOTH GIRLS. *And no blue ribbon.*

JUDSON (*dejected*). Yeah. When I get back home I'm gonna be in big trouble. (*Brightening.*) Unless.

ALICE. Unless?

JUDSON. Unless I stay here.

DOROTHY. Here? Forever?

JUDSON. Sure. What's wrong with that?

ALICE. But you'll miss your home—

DOROTHY. Your friends—

BOTH GIRLS. Your family.

JUDSON. Aww. My mom's always making me do my homework. My dad's always making me turn off the TV. And my sister's always making me mad at her.

MAD HATTER'S VOICE (*offstage*). Mad Hatter? Who called the Mad Hatter?

DOROTHY. Who was that?

JUDSON. Probably just the wind.

ALICE. Judson, you cannot stay here all your life.

JUDSON. Why not? There are worse places to spend your life than right here in—what does that sign say?—the Tulgey Wood.

ALICE (*looking at the sign*). The Tulgey Wood... I think I've heard of this place before.

JUDSON. Great spot. Right between Oz and Wonderland. And the best part—no school, no homework and no sister.

DOROTHY. But when it gets dark here in the wood, you might get scared, you know.

SCARECROW'S VOICE (*offstage*). Scarecrow? Will someone help the scarecrow?

ALICE. Who was that?

JUDSON. Just an echo, probably. Listen. (*Loudly.*) Ec-ho!

SCARECROW'S VOICE (*offstage*). Scare-crow.

JUDSON. See? Hey, I've got a great idea. Why don't we all stay right here.

DOROTHY. Don't be silly.

ALICE. We couldn't possibly.

JUDSON. But if you leave, I'll wake up—remember?

DOROTHY. But we have to get home to our families.

ALICE. Our friends.

BOTH GIRLS. Our playmates.

JUDSON. But—we can be all the friends we need. And, who knows, we might make other friends while we're here as well... Please?

ALICE (*pulling DOROTHY aside*). What do *you* think, Dorothy?

DOROTHY. He does seem a bit desperate, Alice.

ALICE. Well...it is a rather nice place.

DOROTHY. And there's more fresh air out here than in a book that's closed up most of the time.

ALICE. That's true.

JUDSON (*a bit nervous, not having heard their brief conversation*). Well...what do you say? Will you stay?

BOTH GIRLS *(after a moment, breaking into smiles).*

What do you think?

JUDSON. Okay! *(They join hands and skip around.)*

(The MAD HATTER enters.)

MAD HATTER. No, no, no, no—no, no, no! *(DOROTHY, ALICE and JUDSON are startled.)*

DOROTHY & ALICE. Oh!

MAD HATTER. No, no, no, no—no, no, no!

JUDSON. Did you say, “No, no, no, no—

DOROTHY. —no, no—

ALICE. —no”?

MAD HATTER. Yes, yes, yes, yes—yes, yes, yes, I did indeed say, “No, no, no, no—no, no, no!”

ALICE. Who are you anyway, sir?

MAD HATTER. The Mad Hatter, of course, and I’m so mad I could tear a tomtit to tatters.

DOROTHY. Goodness.

JUDSON. Who has angered you so, sir?

MAD HATTER. You don’t know, sir?

JUDSON. No, sir.

MAD HATTER *(pointing to DOROTHY)*. Her.

ALICE. Why her?

MAD HATTER *(pointing to ALICE)*. And her.

DOROTHY. Why her?

MAD HATTER *(pointing to JUDSON)*. And you, sir.

JUDSON. Why me, sir?

MAD HATTER. You’ll see, sir—

ALICE. Excuse me—must you speak in rhyme?

MAD HATTER. All the time. That’s my speciality—riddles, reasons and rhymes. I also do jokes for special oc-

casions. I work hard at being a bard. My card. (*He hands a card to JUDSON.*)

JUDSON. Thanks.

MAD HATTER. Next time you're having a party, give me a call. Make it a tea party, and it's free for all.

DOROTHY. Excuse me, sir, but why are you so mad at us?

MAD HATTER. Because you plan to stay here in the Tulgey Wood.

ALICE. Where *have* I heard of this place before?

DOROTHY. Does the wood belong to you?

MAD HATTER. No more than it belongs to you.

DOROTHY. Then why don't you want us to stay here?

MAD HATTER. You don't know?

DOROTHY. No.

MAD HATTER. I really need some tea. Even when I'm not mad, I need some tea. But I'm always mad, so I would always need some tea anyway, wouldn't I? That's a riddle. My special-*tea*!

DOROTHY. Sir, why don't you want us to stay here?

MAD HATTER. Because people are depending on you.

ALICE. *Who* is depending on us?

SCARECROW'S VOICE (*offstage, muffled*). Help the Scarecrow!

MAD HATTER. Him, for one.

JUDSON. Him? The echo?

DOROTHY (*looking offstage*). It—it looks like a scarecrow.

ALICE (*also looking offstage*). His arms seem to be waving. But the wind's not blowing.

DOROTHY. He couldn't possibly be alive, could he? That only happens in stories.