

**(B)ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND, BY L. CARROLL**  
**CHAPTER 1**

**DOWN THE RABBIT-HOLE**

Alice was beginning to get very tired of sitting by her sister on the bank<sup>1</sup>. She just had nothing to do. Once or twice she looked into the book her sister was reading, but it had no pictures or conversations in it. 'And what is the use of a book,' Alice thought 'without pictures or conversation?'

The hot day made her feel very sleepy and stupid. She was thinking about making a daisy-chain<sup>2</sup>. Even the fun of making it didn't make her get up and pick the daisies. Suddenly a White Rabbit with pink eyes ran close to her.

There was nothing so VERY strange in that. Alice wasn't VERY surprised that Rabbit said to itself, 'Oh dear! Oh dear! I'll be late!' (Then she couldn't understand why she wasn't surprised). But when the Rabbit actually TOOK A WATCH OUT OF ITS WAISTCOAT-POCKET, and looked at it. Alice got up. She had never seen a rabbit with a waistcoat<sup>3</sup>-pocket, or a watch. So she ran across the field after it, and saw that the rabbit went down a large rabbit-hole.

In another moment Alice went down after it, having no idea how she could get out again.

The rabbit-hole went straight on like a tunnel for some way, and then down. That was so sudden that Alice had no time to think about stopping before she found herself falling down a very deep well.

Either the well was very deep, or she fell very slowly. Alice had plenty of time look around her and to think of the thing that could happen next. First, she tried to look down, but it was too dark to see anything. Then she looked at the sides of the well, and noticed that there were cupboards and bookshelves. She saw maps and pictures. She took down a jar from one of the shelves. It was labeled 'ORANGE MARMALADE', but to her great disappointment it was empty. She did not like to drop the jar, so managed to put it into one of the cupboards as she fell past it.

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<sup>1</sup> A bank – берег реки

<sup>2</sup> A daisy-chain – венок из маргариток

<sup>3</sup> A waistcoat - жилет

‘Well!’ thought Alice to herself, ‘after such a fall as this, falling down the stairs is nothing! They’ll all think that I’m brave! Why, I wouldn’t say anything about it, even if I fell off the top of the house!’ (Which was very probable.)

Down, down, down. Would the fall NEVER come to an end! ‘I wonder<sup>4</sup> how many miles I’ve fallen by this time?’ she said aloud. ‘I must be getting somewhere near the centre of the earth. Let me see: that would be four thousand miles down, I think--’ (for, you see, Alice had learnt several things of this sort in her lessons in the schoolroom, and though this was not a VERY good opportunity to show it, as there was no one to listen to her, still it was good practice) ‘--yes, that’s about the right distance’.

Presently she began again. ‘I wonder if I fall right THROUGH the earth! How funny it’ll be with the people that walk on their hands!’ (She was happy that there WAS no one listening, to her) ‘but I’ll have to ask them the name of the country, you know. Please, Ma’am, is this New Zealand or Australia?’ ‘Maybe I’ll see the name written somewhere.’

Down, down, down. There was nothing else to do, so Alice soon began talking again. ‘Dinah’ll miss me very much tonight, I think!’ (Dinah was the cat.) ‘I hope they’ll remember to give her milk at tea-time. Dinah my dear! I wish you were down here with me! There are no mice in the air, I’m afraid, but you there are bats. But do cats eat bats?’

And here Alice began to get sleepy, and went on saying to herself, ‘Do cats eat bats? Do cats eat bats?’ and sometimes, ‘Do bats eat cats?’. She fell asleep and dreamt that she was walking hand in hand with Dinah, and saying to her, ‘Now, Dinah, tell me the truth: did you ever eat a bat?’ when suddenly she came down on a heap of sticks and dry leaves, and the fall was over.

Alice jumped up on to her feet in a moment: she looked up, but it was all dark. In front of her there was another long passage, and the White Rabbit was still in sight running down it. Alice went away like the wind, and was just in time to hear it say, as it turned a corner, ‘Oh my ears and whiskers<sup>5</sup>, how late it’s getting!’ She was close behind the rabbit when she turned the corner, but couldn’t see it. She found herself in a long, low hall, there were a lot of lamps hanging from the roof.

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<sup>4</sup> To wonder – задаваться вопросом

<sup>5</sup> Whiskers – усы, усики

There were doors all round the hall, but they were all locked. When Alice tried every door, she walked sadly to the centre of the room, thinking only about getting out.

Suddenly she saw a little table. There was nothing on it except a tiny golden key, and Alice's first thought was that it could open the doors of the hall. But the locks were too large, or the key was too small. It didn't open any of them. However, on the second time round, she noticed a low curtain with a little door behind it. She tried the little golden key in the lock, and it fitted!

Alice opened the door and found that it led into a small passage. There was the loveliest garden you ever saw. She wanted to get out of that dark hall, and walk among those beds of bright flowers and those cool fountains. But she was too big.

'I think I could get into it, if I only know how to begin.' So many strange things had happened to her, that Alice had begun to think that very few things were really impossible.

She went back to the table, hoping to find another key on it, or a book of rules. This time she found a little bottle on it, ('which certainly was not here before,' said Alice,) and round the neck of the bottle was a paper label, with the words 'DRINK ME' beautifully printed on it in large letters.

It was all very well to say 'Drink me,' but the wise little Alice was not going to do THAT in a hurry. 'No, I'll look first,' she said, 'and see whether it's marked "poison"<sup>6</sup> or not'. She knew some little histories about children who had got burnt, and eaten up by wild animals and other sad things, all because they WOULD not remember the simple rules. For example, if you cut your finger VERY deeply with a knife, it usually bleed<sup>7</sup>s, if you drink much from a bottle marked 'poison...

However, this bottle was NOT marked 'poison,' so Alice tasted it. That was very nice so she very soon finished it.

'What a strange feeling!' said Alice; 'I must be shutting up like a telescope.'

She was now only ten inches high, she was so happy that she was now the right size for going through the little door into that lovely garden. First, however, she waited for a few minutes to see if she was going to be smaller: she felt a little nervous about this.

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<sup>6</sup> Poison – яд, отравка

<sup>7</sup> To bleed - кровоточить

Nothing more happened so she decided to go into the garden. But, poor Alice! She had forgotten the little golden key, and when she went back to the table for it, she found she could not possibly reach it. She tried to climb up one of the legs of the table, but it was too slippery<sup>8</sup>. And when she was tired with trying, the poor little thing sat down and cried.

`Come, there's no use in crying like that!' said Alice to herself. `I advise you to leave off this minute!' She gave herself very good advice, (and seldom followed it).

Soon her eye fell on a little glass box that was lying under the table: she opened it, and found in it a very small cake, on which the words `EAT ME' were beautifully marked in berries. `Well, I'll eat it,' said Alice, `and if it makes me grow larger, I can reach the key; and if it makes me smaller, I can creep under the door; so either way I'll get into the garden, and I don't care which happens!'

She ate a little bit, and said to herself, `Which way? Which way?', holding her hand on the top of her head to feel which way it was growing. She was quite surprised to find that she was the same size. So she set to work, and very soon finished the cake.

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<sup>8</sup> Slippery – скользкий, гладкий