

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

**DOWN THE RABBIT-HOLE**

Alice was tired. She was with her sister and a book. A boring book. There weren't pictures.

The day was hot. She felt sleepy and stupid. Suddenly<sup>1</sup> a White Rabbit with pink eyes ran near her.

That was not VERY strange. Then the Rabbit said 'Oh dear! Oh dear! I'm late!' And that was not VERY strange for Alice. Then the Rabbit TOOK A WATCH, looked at it and ran faster. Alice was so surprised that she ran after the Rabbit. She saw that the Rabbit went down a large rabbit-hole<sup>2</sup>.

Alice went down after it.

The time stopped. Alice fell<sup>3</sup> slowly. The rabbit-hole was strange. There were books and pictures on the walls.

Down, down, down. She was still falling. She said: 'I'm falling to the centre of the Earth. Four thousand miles down, I think' (Alice learnt it at school. It was not a VERY good time, but it was good practice).

Down, down, down. She was sleepy. Suddenly, she the fall was over.

Alice stood up: she looked up, but it was dark. She could see only the White Rabbit. She ran after the Rabbit, but it was faster.

She was in a long corridor. There were many doors, but they were all closed. Alice tried to open the doors. Nothing. She sat sadly in the middle of the room.

Suddenly she saw a small key on the table, she took it. It was too small or too big. In the corner there was a little door. The key was from this door!

Alice opened the door and looked into it. She saw a very beautiful garden. There were flowers and fountains. The door was too small.

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<sup>1</sup> Suddenly – вдруг, внезапно

<sup>2</sup> A rabbit-hole – кроличья нора

<sup>3</sup> To fall - падать

She went back to the table. She wanted to find another key or a book of rules. But now there was a little bottle on it, ('It was not here before,' said Alice,). It had the words on it 'DRINK ME'.

'I'll look first,' she said, 'is it "poison"<sup>4</sup> or not?'. She knew some stories about children who DID not remember the simple rules.

This bottle was NOT marked 'poison,' so Alice tasted<sup>5</sup> it. It was nice. She drank all.

She became smaller and smaller. She was so happy that was the right size to go through the little door. Oh, that lovely garden.

First she waited for a few minutes. She didn't want to get too small. But nothing happened. She decided to go to the garden. Poor Alice! She forgot the little key on the table. She could not take it. The little girl sat down and cried.

'Don't cry!' said Alice to herself; 'Stop crying!'

Soon she saw a box under the table: she opened it, and found in it a very small cake. It had the words 'EAT ME'. 'Well, I'll eat it,' said Alice, 'and if it makes me bigger, I can take the key. If it makes me smaller, I can go under the door. I'll get into the garden!'

She ate a little, and said to herself, 'Which way? Which way?'. But she was the same size. She was sad.

And soon she finished the cake.

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<sup>4</sup> Poison - яд

<sup>5</sup> To taste – пробовать