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THE AUTHOR



Lewis Carroll's real name was Charles Lutwidge Dodgson. He was born in Daresbury in Cheshire, England on 27th January 1832. He had three younger brothers and seven sisters. When he was eleven, the family moved to a small, lonely village in Yorkshire. Charles enjoyed doing magic tricks, putting on puppet shows and writing poems and stories to entertain his brothers and sisters.

Charles Dodgson went to famous Rugby School from 1846 to 1850. After that, he went to Oxford University's Christ Church college to study Classics and Mathematics. In 1855 he became a teacher of Mathematics at Christ Church, where he spent most of the rest of his life. He never married.

Charles was a very good photographer, and he loved to photograph children. One girl he often photographed was Alice Liddell, a daughter of the dean of Christ Church. He spent a lot of time with Alice and two of her sisters, Lorina and Edith. His most famous books, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1865) and *Through The Looking Glass* (1871), began as stories he told the Liddell girls.

The *Alice* books were very popular, and Charles Dodgson wrote several other stories and various funny 'nonsense' poems. However, people remember him best for the strange and amazing stories about a little girl called Alice.

Charles Dodgson died in Guildford in Surrey, England on 14th January 1898.



BACKGROUND

All his life, Charles Dodgson loved entertaining children. At the age of 30, he spent a lot of time with the Liddell girls – Lorina, Edith and his favourite, Alice. He often photographed them, played ‘nonsense’ games with them, and told them long stories.

On a sunny afternoon in July 1862, Charles Dodgson and a friend took the Liddell girls rowing on the River Thames near Oxford. The children asked Dodgson to tell them a fairy tale, and 10-year-old Alice Liddell said she hoped the story would have “nonsense” in it. So Dodgson told them an amazing tale, full of nonsense, about a little girl called Alice and her adventures in a magical underground world. Alice liked the story so much that she said, “I wish you would write out Alice’s adventures for me!”

Dodgson wrote down the story, drew pictures for it, put a photograph of Alice Liddell on the last page and gave the ‘book’ to her. Later Dodgson made some changes to the story and published the book as *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* in 1865. The book was soon a success, and Dodgson wrote *Through the Looking-Glass* in 1871, based on more stories he told the Liddell girls. When Dodgson died in 1898, *Alice* was already the most popular children’s book in England. Translated into dozens of languages, it became – and still is today – one of the most popular and most famous in the world.

THE PLOT

Alice and her older sister are sitting by the river on a hot afternoon when Alice sees a White Rabbit. He is very worried because he is late. Alice follows the White Rabbit into a rabbit hole. She falls and falls for a very long time. When she gets to the bottom, she is in a strange new world where very funny things happen. She meets talking animals and birds, and some very strange people. She eats magic cakes and drinks magic drinks. Some of these make her smaller, and some of them make her bigger. She has tea with a March Hare and a mad Hatter, and plays croquet with the King and Queen of Hearts. Life in Wonderland is magical, but very, very strange. How can Alice get home again?



THE CHARACTERS



ALICE

... is a clever little girl who loves adventure. She likes to learn new things, and she enjoys meeting new people.

Alice loves animals, and she loves her cat, Dinah, most of all. She

hates rude people and she doesn't like people who shout. She is very kind and cares about other people.

THE WHITE RABBIT

... is a very nervous animal. He is always late, and he worries a lot, because he is scared of the Duchess and he doesn't want to get into trouble. He

works for the King and Queen of Hearts. He is quite bossy to people who are smaller than him, but he is afraid of people who are bigger than him!



THE DUCHESS

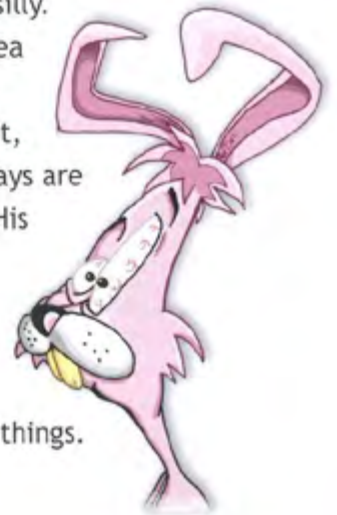
... is a very bossy woman who shouts a lot. She always tells people what to do. She can be friendly,

but she can also get very angry. She is not very nice to her cook, but she likes Alice and wants to be her friend.



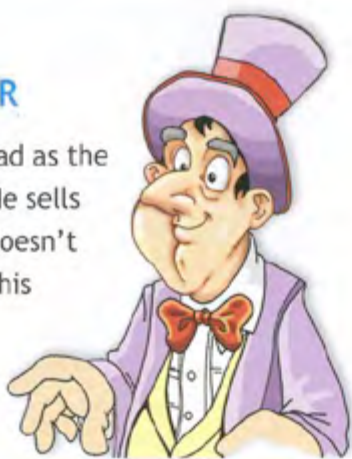
THE MARCH HARE

... is mad and very silly. He loves drinking tea and he likes to tell jokes. He talks a lot, but the things he says are not very sensible! His best friend is the Hatter, and they spend all day drinking tea and arguing about silly things.



THE HATTER

... is just as mad as the March Hare. He sells hats, but he doesn't have a hat of his own, so he wears hats from his shop. He is lazy, so he doesn't work very hard. He sits and drinks tea with the March Hare all day, and he can be very rude to people.



THE QUEEN OF HEARTS

... is very bossy and shouts all the time. She gets very angry with people and wants to cut off their heads, but she never really hurts anyone. She changes her mind a lot, and can be happy one minute and angry the next, so she makes people feel very nervous. She likes to win, and she doesn't like rude people.



THE KING OF HEARTS

... is a gentle man. He never shouts, and he doesn't get angry very often. He knows that the Queen gets angry a lot, and he tries to calm her down and stop her from shouting at people. He doesn't talk very much, but he is quite kind.



THE CHESHIRE CAT

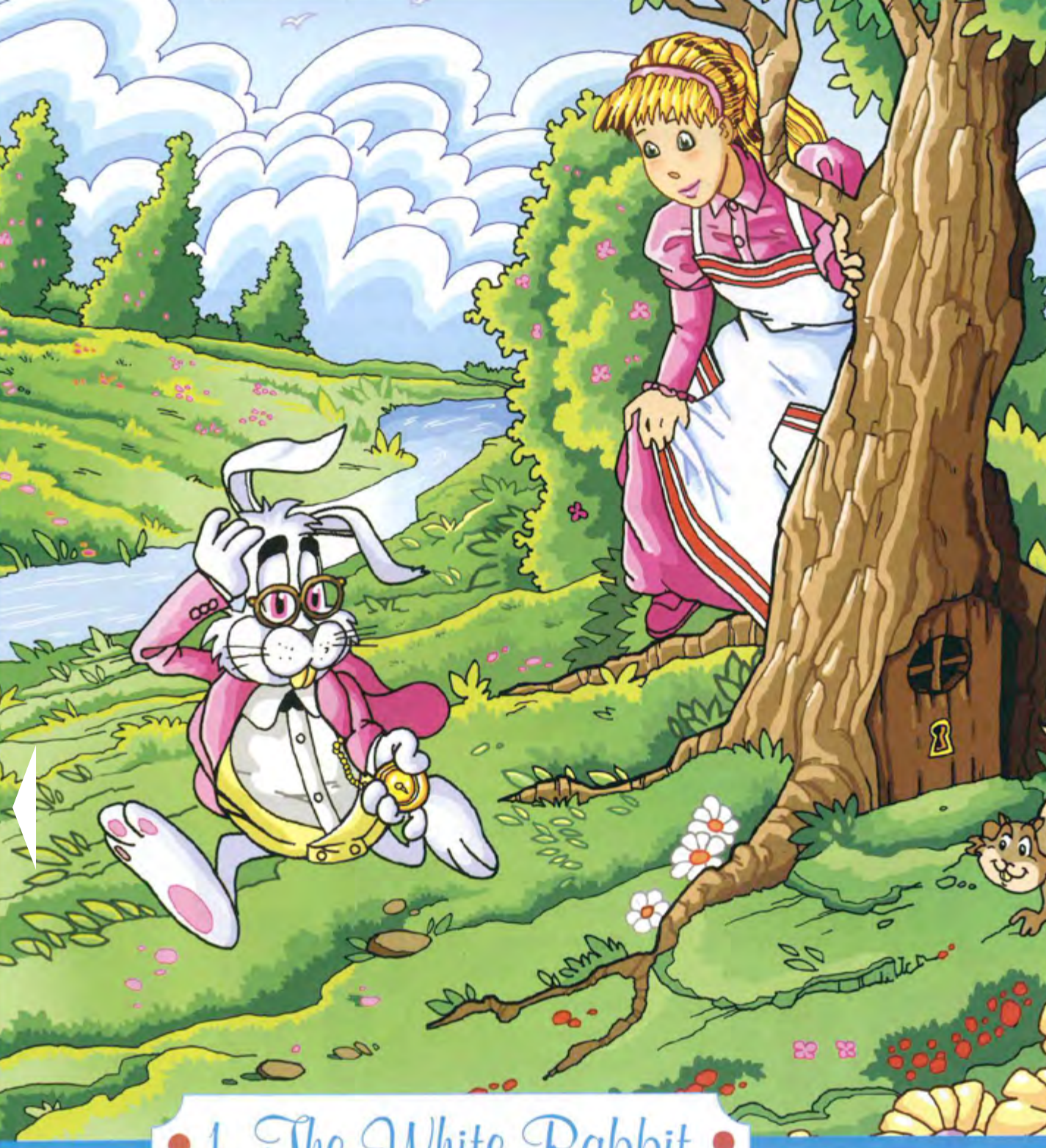
... is friendly and cheerful. He is always smiling, because he is a happy cat. He likes Alice and tries to help her when she is lost. He wants to be her friend. He always stays calm, even when the Duchess or the Queen shouts at him.



THE MOCK TURTLE

... is a very sad animal. He cries all day and he thinks that his life is very bad. He likes to tell people his story and sing songs about his life, but he is very boring and nobody likes to listen to him because he is always crying.





1. The White Rabbit

Alice was hot, bored and sleepy. She didn't have anything to do. She sat by the river, waiting for teatime. Her older sister was also there, reading a book. Alice looked at the book. It was very boring because there weren't any pictures in it.

Just then, a white rabbit with pink eyes ran past Alice, and she heard it say, "Oh dear! I'm very late!" The rabbit took a watch out of its waistcoat pocket, looked at it and started to run even faster. "A rabbit with a waistcoat and a watch!" thought Alice. "That's very strange."

She stood up and followed the rabbit. It ran across a field and went through a little door in a tree. Alice went through the door, too.



There was a hole behind the door. It went straight down, like a deep well, and Alice fell down and down. She fell very slowly, and for a very long time.

"I must be near the centre of the earth," she thought. Suddenly she landed on some sticks and dry leaves.

Alice stood up and looked around. She saw the white rabbit running down a tunnel, so she ran after it. "Oh my ears and whiskers! I'm so late!" said the rabbit.

The rabbit ran around a corner. Alice followed, but when she turned the corner the rabbit wasn't there. Alice was in a long, low room with doors all around it. She tried to open the doors, but they were all locked.

"What am I going to do now?" she thought. "How am I going to get out of here?"