

START***(ALICE)**

I mean, "This can't be me—not as I was yesterday."

Still, it's no use going back to yesterday.

I was a different person then.

But, if I am not *me*...

(A trunk from the Tube Station encampment opens, and the CATERPILLAR emerges from a cloud of smoke.)

CATERPILLAR

Whooooo are yooooou?

Remind me.

ALICE

Well, once upon a time, I knew. Mr. Caterpillar.

But, I find I've changed today.

CATERPILLAR

Do you mean—you've changed your mind?

ALICE

And body too:

CATERPILLAR

Oh don't I know.

ALICE

I'm afraid I'm some new me.

CATERPILLAR

Well, you are some new you to me—

CATERPILLAR 2

No matter really who you are to you.

(ALICE looks. Another CATERPILLAR emerges from behind the trunk.)

ALICE

But... who are you?

CATERPILLAR 2

Come, look.

ALICE

But, are you part of him?

CATERPILLAR

(To ALICE)

Or, is she part of you?

ALICE

Now, I'm confused.

CATERPILLAR

You?

CATERPILLAR 2

Or the new you?

ALICE

(From the Book)

"'The first thing I must do as me,' Alice said,
'is to find that tiny golden key,
and make my way to that loveliest of gardens...'"

CATERPILLAR

(To ALICE)

You you you must put put down that book.
In your head, that is.

CATERPILLAR 2

Yes, do.

CATERPILLAR

Set it down a minute—
all that Alice-ness...

CATERPILLAR 2

That By-the-Bookness...

CATERPILLAR

One puff... ?

ALICE

But it's not like that—in the pictures.
Not as I remember.

CATERPILLAR 2

A girl can't change the pictures?

(The CATERPILLAR takes a puff from a hookah, and offers it.)

CATERPILLAR

Just one?

(ALICE shakes her head.)

CATERPILLAR 2

Stops time, it does.

ALICE

It *does*?

CATERPILLAR 2

To whom Time may concern, it does.

ALICE

(An idea dawning)

But, does it work on... other creatures too?

CATERPILLAR

Let's start with you.

ALICE

I have a friend, you know—my dearest friend—spends so much time, *pursuing* time...

CATERPILLAR 2

Always thinking forward, and remembering backward?

CATERPILLAR

Chasing before, and chasing after?

ALICE

Yes. Exactly.

