

ALL (BUT ALICE)

THIS IS WHERE THE STORY ENDS -  
GO DOWN YOUR HOLE AND HOLE UP.

ALICE

SENSELESS, HEARTLESS IDIOT - I WILL NOT GIVE HIS SOUL UP!

*(With that, ALICE banishes the JABBERWOCK. HE disappears behind ALFRED's quarantine curtain and everyone else disappears as well. Now ALICE pulls back the curtain - only ALFRED's empty cot remains. She looks about a blank and darkened stage, unsure what world she's in, and where to go next.)*

\*start

"Which way? Which way?" Alice asked." But no one answered.

*(Silence. ALICE looks about. She calls out:)*

Cheshire Puss! Cheshire Puss!

Tell me, which way I ought to go from here.

*(The CHESHIRE CAT appears, from a perch above.)*

CHESHIRE CAT

That depends a good deal on where you want to get to.

ALICE

To him.

Though, in truth, I'm now so lost.

CHESHIRE CAT

Then does it matter, really, which way you go?

ALICE

Yes, it does. Of course. It *must*.

CHESHIRE CAT

Well, I'm sure you'll wind up somewhere.

*(The CHESHIRE CAT disappears.)*

ALICE

Stay. Tell me. *Where?*

It all keeps disappearing.

The pages turn so quickly...

Why can't he stay?

*(The CHESHIRE CAT reappears beside ALICE.)*

## CHESHIRE CAT

The question is: when someone needs to go,  
"whoooo are youu" to make them stay?

## ALICE

But there's so much left—of our story!

## CHESHIRE CAT

Perhaps that *is* the story.  
It isn't hard to say hello, it's how we say good-bye.

## ALICE

"I shall find that tiny golden key," Alice said—and bring him with me,  
into that "loveliest garden, among the roses"—

## CHESHIRE CAT

Alice!  
You cannot keep believing impossible things.

## ALICE

"Sometimes," Alice says, "I've believed in as many as six impossible things before  
breakfast."

## CHESHIRE CAT

You want too much—

## ALICE

All I want is time with him. More time.

## CHESHIRE CAT

It isn't how much time. It's how we use the time.

## ALICE

But he is always out of time.

## CHESHIRE CAT

Perhaps he hasn't much to give.

*(Music rises)*

Alice, pause, and let the picture in.  
To be *there*, Puss, that's to be in Wonderland.