

QUEEN 1

Rabbit: Not teeny, I meant little. No, no. Not little. Just... I'll have it fixed shortly... I mean shortly.

Queen: Cards! Off with his head!

Rabbit: What?

King: That's very drastic. We need a handy-man 'round here, dear. You know you've already executed the painter, the plumber, the carpenter, the butcher, the baker, the candlestick-maker, the cook, the thief, his wife and...

Queen: **(Dismissive)** Yes, yes, yes.

King: It might be useful to keep him around.

Queen: **(To Rabbit)** So you're handy eh?

Rabbit: Yes your majesty.

Queen: Can you repair the roof?

Rabbit: Eh, no majesty.

Queen: Can you lay bricks?

Rabbit: No majesty.

Queen: Can you do dry-lining?

Rabbit: No majesty.

Queen: So what's handy about you?

Rabbit: Well, I just live 'round the corner.

Queen: Funny bunny, eh? Cards! Off with his head.

Jack: But majesty. He's just a poor harmless bunny. Look. Isn't he just so cute?

(Rabbit plays cute and encourages Audience to say Aw!)

Jack: **(To Audience)** Isn't he cute boys and girls?

Queen: Oh no he isn't!

Jack: Oh yes he is!

(Jack and Rabbit encourage Audience to join in. Repeat two or three times.)

Queen: Quiet. Well, I do have a little job I need doing. You might come in... handy. **(To Audience)** Shall I give him one more chance?

(Audience response. Repeat if desired.)

Queen: Shall I give you one more chance to prove your worth?

Rabbit: Oh yes please, your midget-sty... I mean, your majesty.

(Queen scowls at Rabbit.)

Queen: Well, if you want to keep your little bunny head on your little bunny shoulders then you'd better listen up. I want you to go above ground... to the surface.

Rabbit: What? Not likely.

Queen: No?

Rabbit: It's daylight up there. I'll be seen. There'll be people. **(Looking around and whispering)** And maybe... foxes.

Queen: Very well. Cards! Off with his head.

Rabbit: Oh, to the *surface*, did you say? Oh, I thought you said to the *circus*. I don't like the circus. It's like the **[local or national government buildings]**, full of clowns. No, I'll go to the surface for you. No problem.

Queen: That's better. Now then, when you get there, I want you to find a girl.

Rabbit: Oh, I'm grand thanks. I'm a hoppily married bunny with thirty-seven little bunnies at home.

Queen: Not for you. For *me*!

Rabbit: Oh. Whatever you're into.

(Queen produces a picture of Alice. Rabbit takes the picture. Rabbit produces a pencil and makes notes on the back of the picture.)

Queen: A sickeningly pretty girl with beautiful **[hair colour]** hair. A girl with rosy cheeks. A girl that goes by the name of Alice.

Rabbit: **(Making notes)** Sickeningly pretty. **(Aside to Jack)** Is sickening spelled with a 'C' or an 'S'?

(Jack whispers in Rabbit's ear.)

Rabbit: **[Hair colour]** hair. Rosy cheeks. Name: Alice. Got it.

(Queen produces a map.)

Queen: This map should lead you directly to her.