



# Children's Stories That Never Grow Old.

DOWN THE  
RABBIT HOLE  
FROM  
ALICE IN WONDERLAND

**A**LICE was very tired of sitting by her sister on the bank, and, having nothing to do, once or twice she looked at the book her sister was reading; but it had no pictures, and she saw no use of a book without pictures. The day was hot and she grew very sleepy, when suddenly a white rabbit with pink eyes ran close by her. The rabbit said to itself:

"Oh, dear! oh, dear! I shall be late!" at the same time taking a watch out of its waistcoat pocket.

Alice started to her feet and ran across the field after the rabbit just in time to see it pop down a large rabbit hole. In another moment down went Alice after it. The rabbit hole went straight on like a tunnel, and then suddenly down.

Alice had not a moment to think when she found herself falling down what seemed to be a very deep well.



"**I** WONDER how many miles I've fallen!" she said aloud. "I wonder if I shall fall through the earth!"

Suddenly, thump, thump, down she came upon a heap of sticks and dry leaves. She looked up, but it was all dark overhead, but before her was a long passage, down which the White Rabbit was still hurrying. Away went Alice like the wind after him, and was just in time to hear him say, as he turned a corner: "Oh, my ears and whiskers! how late it is getting."

But when she turned the corner the rabbit was no longer in sight, and she found herself in a long, low hall. There were doors all around the hall, but they were all locked. Alice went down one side and up the other, trying every door; then she walked down the middle, wondering how she was ever to get out again.



**S**UDDENLY she came upon a little table all made of glass, lying on which was a tiny gold key. Alice thought, of course, it was the key belonging to one of the doors of the hall, but alas! the locks were so large that it would not open any of them. At last she saw a curtain she had not noticed before, and behind it was a little door about fifteen inches high. She tried the golden key in the lock, and to her delight it fitted.

Alice opened the door and found it led into a small passage no larger than a rat hole. She knelt down and looked into it, and there was the most lovely garden she had ever seen. How she longed to wander among those beds of bright flowers and those cool fountains, but she could not even get her head through the door. She went back to the table again, and there she found a little bottle which certainly was not there before. Tied round the neck of the bottle was a paper label with the words, "Drink Me", printed on it in large letters.



**I**T WAS all very well to say, "drink me," but Alice was not going to do that in a hurry.

"I'll look first," she said, "and see whether it's marked 'poison' or not."

The bottle was not marked "poison," so Alice tasted it, and finding it very good, drank it all.

"What a curious feeling," said Alice: "I must be shutting up like a telescope," and so she was. She was only ten inches high, and now could easily go through the little door, which led into the beautiful garden.

She ran to the door, but it was locked and the key was on the table, and when she went back for it she could not possibly reach it, as she was so much shorter, though she could see it through the glass plainly. She was so much upset that she sat down and cried.

**B**Y AND BY her eyes fell upon a little glass box that was lying under the table. She opened it and found a very small cake, on which the words "Eat Me" were marked in currants.

"Well, I'll eat it," said Alice, "and if it makes me grow larger, I can reach the key, and if it makes me smaller I can creep under the door, so either way I will get into the garden."

"Curiouser and curiouser!" cried Alice, just as she finished the cake. "Now, I'm opening out like a big telescope."

Just at that moment her head struck against the roof of the hole; in fact, she was now nine feet high. She at once took the little golden key from the table and hurried off to the garden door. Now, however, it was as much as she could do, lying down on one side, to look through into the garden with one eye, but to get through was more hopeless than ever.



**A**LICE began to cry again, and shed so many tears that a large pool formed all around her. By and by she heard a little pattering of feet in the distance, and she dried her eyes to see what was coming. It was the White Rabbit, splendidly dressed. In one hand he carried a large fan, muttering to himself as he came: "Oh! the Duchess. She'll be in a rage if I am late!"

When the rabbit came near enough Alice said in a timid voice: "If you please, sir."

The rabbit started, dropped the fan, and scurried away into the darkness.

Alice took up the fan and burst into tears. "Oh!" she cried, "I am so tired of being all alone down here!"



"**I** MUST be growing smaller again," she thought, and she found she was only about two feet high now, and was going on shrinking. She soon found out the cause of this was the fan she was holding, and she dropped it in a jiffy. Just then her foot slipped, and in another moment, splash! she was up to her chin in salt-water. It was the pool of tears which she had wept when she was nine feet high.

Something was splashing about a little way off, and at first she thought it must be a walrus or hippopotamus, but then she remembered how small she was now. It turned out to be only a mouse that had slipped in like herself.

"Oh, Mouse!" she cried, "do you know the way out of this?"

The mouse looked at her and winked with one eye, but it said nothing, and swam past her.

"Mouse, dear! do come back, and we won't talk about cats or dogs," she called softly after it.



**W**HEN the mouse heard this it turned and said in a trembling voice: "Let us get to shore, and then I will tell you my history, and you will understand why I hate cats and dogs."

It was high time to go, for the pool was getting quite crowded with birds and animals that had fallen into it. Alice led the way, and the whole party swam to the shore.

"Wake up, Alice, dear," said her sister. "What a long sleep you've had!"

"Oh, I have had such a curious dream," said Alice, and she told her sister of her dream that you have just been reading about.

