

Alice Down the Healthcare Hole: A Musical Coma

Book and Satirical Lyrics by Nancy Hersage

Cast

Alice
White Rabbit
The Cards (4-8)
Chorus (size may vary, multiple roles)
Scrubs (4-8)
Tweedle Dum
Tweedle Dee
The Sick (played by the Chorus)
Dodo Bird
Narrators
Wall Street
Lobbyist
Senators
Mad Hatter
March Hare
Doctors in Scrubs
Big Pharma
Parts of the Caterpillar
Cheshire Cat
King of Hearts
Queen of Hearts
Singing Groups (various, as needed for your production)

Act 1

CURTAIN DOWN: Action in front of Curtain

(Narrators enter in front of curtain. They're dressed as playing Cards – hearts. Card 1 enters first.)

Card 1: Ladies and gentlemen, would you please give me a hand? (Audience applauds.) No, no! I need a hand.

(The rest of the narrator cards enter.) How 'bout that. It's a flush.

(Melody from the song USE WHAT YOU GOT from the musical *The Life*)

Cards: WE'RE THE CARDS YOU HAVE TO DEAL WITH
WE'RE THE HAND THAT YOU'RE MEANT TO PLAY
YOU KNOW WE'RE THE LUCK OF THE DRAW
THAT YOU LIVE WITH EVERY DAY

SOMETIMES WE LIKE TO SMILE ON YOU
THAT'S WHEN WE LET YOU WIN THE POT
SOMETIMES WE'RE THE LUCK OF THE DRAW
AND THEN THERE ARE TIMES WHEN WE'RE NOT

SO SHUFFLE THE DECK
CUT IT IN HALF
GENTLEMEN PLACE YOUR BETS
DEAL US AROUND
TWO UP AND ONE DOWN
LET'S SEE WHAT EVERYONE GETS

ONE DAY IT'S JACKS AND IT'S ACES
AND WE MAKE YOU KING OF THE HILL
NEXT DAY IT'S NOTHING BUT DUECES
AND WE MAKE YOU SUDDENLY ILL

Revision:

ONE DAY IT'S JACKS AND IT'S ACES
CARDS WITH WINNING FACES
AND WE MAKE YOU KING OF THE HILL
NEXT DAY IT'S NOTHING BUT DUECES
EVERY CARD JUST LOSES
AND WE MAKE YOU SUDDENLY ILL

YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT CARD'S COMING
CAN'T KNOW WHAT YOU'LL GET 'TIL IT'S GOT
SOMETIMES YOU'RE FEELING JUST SUPER
AND THEN THERE ARE TIMES WHEN YOU'RE NOT

YOU'RE SICK OR YOU'RE WELL
IN HEAVEN OR HELL
WE MAKE YOUR LIFE SUCH A MESS
NO ONE TO BLAME
WE'RE JUST A GAME
AND THE TRUTH IS WE COULDN'T CARE LESS

NOW YOU COULD HELP ONE ANOTHER
 YOU MAKE THE RULES AFTER ALL
 EVEN THE ODDS AND SPREAD OUT THE RISK
 AND STOP PLAYING WINNER TAKES ALL

BUT THAT WOULD REQUIRE NEW THINKING
 AND YOU LIKE TO GAMBLE A LOT
 'CAUSE WHERE IS THE FUN AND THE SUFFERING
 IF EVERYONE SHARES IN THE POT?

YOU'RE SICK OR YOU'RE WELL
 IN HEAVEN OR HELL
 YOU MAKE YOUR LIFE SUCH A MESS
 YOU TAKE THE BLAME
 YOU LOVE THIS GAME
 AND THE TRUTH IS YOU COULDN'T CARE LESS

NOW YOU COULD HELP ONE ANOTHER
 YOU MAKE THE RULES AFTER ALL
 EVEN THE ODDS AND SPREAD OUT THE RISK
 AND STOP PLAYING WINNER TAKES ALL

BUT YOU MAKE YOUR LIVES SUCH A MESS
 AND THE TRUTH IS YOU COULDN'T CARE LESS.

(The cards exit as Alice, who carries a picnic basket, enters in front of the curtain. SHE PASSES A LARGE ARROW ON A STAND STAGE LEFT THAT POINTS CENTER STAGE. SHE PAUSES, READ IT.)

ALICE: "PICNICS THIS WAY" OH, MY, ISN'T THAT HANDY? (SHE WALKS CENTER STAGE, spreads a blanket, opens the basket, takes out a bowl of salad.)

Alice: Oh, DEAR. Something's not right with this pear and arugula salad I picked up in the deli section at Molly Stone's. I'm feeling quite ill. (touching her forehead) Perhaps I'm allergic to goat cheese. I'm feeling quite faint. Or maybe it's the candied walnuts.

(She tries to stand up, but then sits down again.) Oh my, I'm feeling quite dizzy. (She lies down to sleep, when, suddenly, a white rabbit, wearing a white doctor's smock with a stethoscope, appears. He hurries along with small, nervous steps, completely frantic.)

White Rabbit: I care, I care,
 I'm needed everywhere!

(Alice sits up when she hears the rabbit. She clutches her aching stomach.)

I have the pills, to cure your ills,
 I just don't have the patience.

Alice: A talking rabbit! How strange.

White Rabbit: (spinning around in a circle)

Where have I left my patients?
 Next! Next, please!

Alice: And with a medical degree! How fortunate.

White Rabbit: (oblivious to Alice as she gets up to follow him)

I care, I care,
 I'm needed everywhere!

Alice: Pardon me, sir!

White Rabbit: I have the pills, to cure your ills,
 I just don't have the patience.
 (spinning around again)
 Where have I left my patients?
 Next! Next, please!

(STILL WITHOUT NOTICING ALICE, THE RABBIT SCURRIES STAGE LEFT, TURNS THE ARROW THE OTHER DIRECTION AND DISAPPEARS DOWN THE STEPS AND OUT OF SIGHT STAGE LEFT. ALICE FOLLOWS HIM AND NOTICES THE SIGN AGAIN. SHE READS IT, AS SHE CLUTCHES HER TUMMY.)

ALICE: (READING) RABBIT HOLE THIS WAY. OH, MY, (CALLING OUT) Is there a doctor in that hole? Oh, my. I certainly hope so!

(She BARELY STOPS TO THINK. SHE FOLLOWS THE RABBIT RIGHT DOWN THE STEPS AND DISAPPEARS OUT OF SIGHT STAGE LEFT AS THE LIGHTS GO TO BLACK.)

(The sound of Alice tumbling, then a thud. The CURTAIN RISES as a SPOTLIGHT comes up on Alice center stage, lying on the ground. She slowly gets up, shaken.)

Alice: Oh, my. (She looks around, bewildered.) Goodness! Where am I?
 (Someone dressed in scrubs steps into the spotlight and taps her on the shoulder.)

(Song: WELCOME TO HEALTHCARE LAND) (HURRAY FOR HOLLYWOOD)
 Scrubs 1: WELCOME TO

(LIGHTS UP as the stage is filled with dancing and singing doctors in scrubs)

CHORUS: HEALTHCARE LAND
 OUR SCREWY HOOEY HEALTHCARE LAND
 WHERE ANY TUMMY ACHE OR BROKEN BONE CAN GET ATTENTION IF YOU PLAY THE GAME.

AND ALL YOUR SCRATCHES DESERVE NICE PATCHES IF OUR LIST SAYS THAT WE HAVE YOUR NAME.

WELCOME TO HEALTHCARE LAND WHERE WE TELL EVERYONE THAT WE'RE THE BEST
 WHERE ANYONE AT ALL IS SURELY BLESSED ABOVE THE REST TO FINALLY BE (A)
 SPECIAL GUEST
 COME AND WE'LL TAKE YOUR HAND, AND YOU WILL UNDERSTAND HOORAY FOR
 HEALTHCARE LAND

HOORAY FOR HEALTHCARE LAND, OUR LOONEY TOONEY HEALTHCARE LAND
 WHERE NOTHING IS QUITE SIMPLE OR STRAIGHT FORWARD SO CLIMB ON BOARDWARD
 TO HAVE YOURSELF SOME FUN
 JUST BRING THAT POOR BRUISE AND ALL YOUR BOO BOOS
 'CAUSE WE'RE HERE TO SHOW YOU WHAT CAN BE DONE.
 HOORRAY FOR HEALTHCARE LAND

WHERE EACH ABSURDITY IS NEATLY PLANNED
 (Scrubs 2 and 3 pour medication from a pill bottle into the hand of a third Scrubs 1, who hides them in his fist.)

YOU CAN GET A PILL THAT CURES YOU QUICKER, OR MAKES
 (Scrubs 1 holds out two fists for Alice to choose from)
 YOU SICKER, AND YOU CAN CHOOSE WHICH HAND!
 THERE'S NO HESITATING, BECAUSE YOUR TREATMENT'S WAITING
 RIGHT HERE IN HEALTHCARE LAND!

(By the time the number ends and the chorus of doctors strikes their final pose, Alice is a bit overwhelmed. The doctors continue to hold their pose throughout the next dialogue.)

Alice: You mean, I can get all the help I need?

Scrubs 1: That's not what we said. What we said was, you'll need all the help you can get.

Alice: Oh, isn't that the same thing?

Scrubs 2: Not the same thing a bit. You might just as well say "I eat arugula because I like it" is the same as saying "I like arugula because I eat it."

Alice: (clutching her stomach) I don't think I like arugula at all.

Scrubs 3: Then perhaps you should get yourself some help.

Alice: I thought that's why I was here in Healthcare Land.

Scrubs 2: It is.

Alice: Will you help me?

Scrubs 1: Absolutely. Just as soon as you get yourself through the door.

(LIGHTS DIM as the doctors break their pose and disappear. A SPOTLIGHT COMES UP CENTER STAGE as a door marked 'ER' descends downstage of Alice. She looks at it, curiously, then tries to open it, but it won't budge. She knocks.)

Alice: Knock, knock.

(A funny little character with a name tag, glasses, colorful jacket and with a clip board appears. This is Tweedle Dee.)

Dee: Who's there?

Alice: Alice. Could you please let me out of here?

(A matching character with file folders appears. This is Tweedle Dum.)

Dum: But this door goes in.

Alice: In?

Dee: That's right. You're already out. (pointing to the door) That's 'in'.

Dum: You would need a release to get out. And we don't do releases.

Alice: Well, could you help me get 'in' then?

Dee: Certainly. Now that you know which way you're going.

Dum: We're experts at letting people 'in'.

(Music from Hairspray, You're Timeless to Me)

Dum: OH HOW BEFITTING
THIS IS ADMITTING
WE'RE TWEEDLE DUM, TWEEDLE DEE

Dee: THIS IS YOUR BIG BREAK
WE DO YOUR INTAKE
EACH TIME YOU COME TO EMERGENCY

Alice: (YOU) MEAN THAT I'VE COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE
TO HELP MY POOR ACHING TUM?

Dee: JUST LET ME SAY ABSOLUTELY

Dee: TRUST TWEEDLE DEE

Dum: AND THEN TRUST TWEEDLE DUM!

THIS IS SO THRILLING
FORMS NEED A FILLING
AND WE JUST CAN'T WAIT TO BEGIN

Dee: SO NOW HERE IS THE DEAL

SAY HOW YOU FEEL
 (ON) A SCALE FROM ONE TO TEN
 Dee: WHERE 1 MEANS YOUR FINE
 AND 10 MEANS YOUR DYIN'
 AND WE WILL WRITE DOWN HERE WHAT YOU SAID
 (BUT) IF YOU CHOOSE 2 THROUGH 9
 WE'LL FIND
 YOU'RE SICK IN THE HEAD!

Alice: OH, MY!
 THIS IS SO TRICKY
 (FOR) SOMEONE WHO'S SICKLY
 I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO CHOOSE
 I'M FINE OR I'M DE-AD
 OR SICK IN THE HE-AD
 WHATEVER I SAY, THEN I LOSE.

Dee: THAT'S RIGHT, YOU PUT IT SO SWEETLY
 NO NEED TO EXPLAIN ANYMORE
 Dum: WE SEE THAT YOU GRASP IT COMPLETELY
 THOSE ARE THE CHOICES TO GET THROUGH THE DOOR

Alice: IT'S ALL SO CONFUSING
 Dum: THAT'S WHY IT'S AMUSING
 A FUN LITTLE GAME THAT WE PLAY
 Dee: CHOOSE RIGHT AND YOU WIN
 AND WE LET YOU IN
 CHOOSE WRONG - WE SEND YOU AWAY!

Alice: BUT THIS ISN'T FAIR!
 Dum: YOU KNOW WE REALLY DON'T CARE
 Dee: (ARE YOU) FINE, DEAD OR JUST INSANE?
 Alice: BUT I AM NEITHER NOR
 (O)PEN THE DOOR
 PLEASE, I AM IN PAIN!

Dum: Wrong answer.
 Alice: But it's the truth.
 Dee: Truth is the hob-goblin of little minds.
 Alice: Pardon me?
 Dum: YOU DIDN'T PASS THE TEST
 BAD GUESS,
 THAT'S HOW IT MUST BE
 Alice: I don't believe this.
 Dee: YOU DIDN'T QUALIFY
 NICE TRY
 IT'S TRAGIC TO SEE
 Alice: Can't you reconsider?
 Dum: GAME'S ABSOLUTELY DONE
 WE WON
 WE BOTH DO AGREE

Both: You flunked, dear!
 TRUST TWEEDLE DUM TWEEDLE DEE!
 TRUST TWEEDLE DUM TWEEDLE DEE!

(They both disappear behind the door again.)

Alice: Is there no way to get help?

(Dum suddenly opens the door.)

Dum: Not without a referral. (Then he slams the door shut!)

(Alice tries to open the door but it won't budge.)

Alice: A referral. Where do I get a referral?

(The White Rabbit appears again.)

White Rabbit: I care, I care,

I'm needed everywhere!

(Alice clutches her stomach in pain.)

I have the pills. to cure your ills,

I just don't have the patience.

Alice: Mr. Rabbit! Mr. Rabbit! Perhaps you have a pill for me?

White Rabbit: Code Blue, Lots to Do

(without looking at her, he drops a piece of paper at her feet)

Where have I left my patients?

Next! Next, please!

(He scurries off. She picks up the paper.)

Alice: Oh, my. What a highly-trained, self-sacrificing, humanitarian that rabbit is. He's left me a referral!

(She runs to the door, and it opens without Alice having to do anything.)

Alice: (turning to look at the audience before she steps inside) Goodness! Isn't this a mystifying place?

(The door flies out as Alice steps inside. From all directions, characters dressed in gowns or bathrobes arrive.) (Music from Les Mis, The Poor)

The Sick:

AT THE END OF THE DAY YOU'RE ANOTHER DAY OLDER
AND THAT'S ALL YOU CAN SAY FOR THE LIFE OF THE SICK
IT'S A STRUGGLE, IT'S A WAR
AND THERE'S NOTHING THAT ANYONE'S GOTTEN
ONE MORE DAY STANDING ABOUT, NOTHING IS QUICK
ONE DAY MORE TO FEEL ROTTEN.

AT THE END OF THE DAY YOU'RE STANDING HERE COLDER
AND THE GOWN ON YOUR BACK DOESN'T KEEP OUT THE CHILL
AND THE DOCTORS HURRY PAST
THEY DON'T HEAR THE LITTLE ONES CRYING
AND THE WINTER IS COMING ON FAST, READY TO KILL
ONE DAY NEARER TO DYING!

Alice: Wait! Wait! Everyone stop! This is healthcare land. Aren't you being just a little ungrateful?

(The sick look at Alice as if she's crazy and begin again.)

Sick: AT THE END OF THE DAY THERE'S ANOTHER DAY DAWNING
AND THE SUN IN THE MORNING IS WAITING TO RISE
LIKE THE WAVES CRASH ON THE SAND
LIKE A STORM THAT'LL BREAK ANY SECOND
THERE'S A ILLNESS IN THE LAND
THERE'S A RECKONING STILL TO BE RECKONED AND
THERE'S GONNA BE HELL TO PAY
AT THE END OF THE DAY!

Alice: Oh, my! Oh, my. I knew things were bad, but I thought Obamacare was supposed to make them better. Perhaps I could talk to someone for you, and try to explain.

(The Dodo Bird enters, a la the Queen Latifah character in Chicago.)

Dodo: Sure, missy. Why don't you talk to me?

Alice: Who are you?
Dodo: I'm Dodo. Your insurance coverage specialist.
Alice: I'm afraid I don't know what that is.
Dodo: Then I'm doing a good job already! Now, what's your problem?
Alice: These people seem to be in need of medical attention. As am I, by the way. Can you help us?
Dodo: That depends, missy. Can you help me?
Alice: Well, I don't know. Help you what?
Dodo: Optimize my (slapping her butt) bottom line.
Alice: Is that what you do?
Dodo: Absolutely. And I do it without adding ANY value to your medical care. Isn't that a hoot?
Alice: I'm afraid I can't say.
Dodo: Well, believe me, I can.
Alice: I thought the new Affordable Care Act was supposed to help people like them --- and me.
Dodo: You mean, the pathetically uninsured? It WAS, missy it was. But only a little. Mostly, it was designed to help me.
Alice: You?
Dodo: You see, as a private health insurer, I used to get paid to do absolutely nothing for a few people. Now I will get paid to do absolutely nothing for a whole lot more.
Alice: But aren't struggling people supposed to be getting government subsidies?
Dodo: Read the bill, you silly little girl. They're not getting the subsidies, I am!
Alice: (surprised) Really? You don't look like you need a subsidy.
Dodo: Of course I need a subsidy. I'm part of corporate America. If you knew anything, and apparently you don't, you would know that Dodos like me are completely dependent on subsidies.
Alice: That doesn't sound very much like free enterprise to me.
Dodo: Nothing is 'free', missy. If you want private industry to succeed, then the taxpayers are just going to have to cough up the money.
Alice: (distracted) I don't understand any of this.
Dodo: Precisely as it should be.
Alice: Look, Dodo, I'm just a child. Can't you make this simple?
Dodo: Certainly. Why don't you think of me as your Big Mama. Okay? (Dodo puts out her hand.)
Alice: (thinking then taking Dodo's hand) Okay.
Dodo: It's about profitability. Do you know what that is?
Alice: Not really.
Dodo: Then why don't you let your Mama do your thinking for you?
Alice: Can you do that?
Dodo: Oh, I do it all the time. In fact, I do all the thinking for everyone in Healthcare Land, including the doctors.
Alice: That's amazing!
Dodo: Unbelievable. And I don't even have a degree. (From Chicago: When You're Good to Mama)

ASK ANY OF THE SICKIES IN MY PEN
I'M THE BIGGEST *MOTHER* IN MEDICINE
THEY GOTTA GET THEIR HEALTHCARE ALL THROUGH ME
BECAUSE THE SYSTEM WORKS
THE SYSTEM CALLED ELIGIBILITY...

GOT A LITTLE MOTTO
ALWAYS SEES ME THROUGH
THE MORE THERE IS FOR ME
THE LESS THERE IS FOR YOU.

THERE'S A LOT OF FAVORS
I'M PREPARED TO DO
(BUT) YOU GOTTA COME TO MAMA
TO FIND OUT WHAT SHE'LL DO.

Alice: Well, Mama, all these people are sick and need care.

Dodo: Is that so? Well, most of them live in states where the governors don't want them covered by Obamacare and rest aren't entitled to a subsidy. So they need to go. Now shoo! Shoo! Get out of here! (She shoos the sick off stage.)

Alice: Not covered?

Dodo: You see, in Healthcare Land, we have what we call the deserving and the undeserving sick. And these people are definitely undeserving.

Alice: I don't understand.

Dodo: SEE MEDICINE IS TIT FOR TAT
AND THAT'S HOW YOU SURVIVE
YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE A LOT OF TAT
JUST TO STAY ALIVE

DON'T YOU KNOW THAT THIS HAND
TAKES FROM OVER THERE
SO IF YOU DON'T HAVE NO MONEY
MAMA'S DOESN'T CARE!

IF YOU WANT MY GRAVY
PEPPER MY RAGOUT
SPICE IT UP FOR MAMA
SHE'LL GET HOT FOR YOU

GOTTA PAY THE PIPER
LIKE THE RICH FOLK DO
YOU PUT IN FOR MAMA
SHE'LL PUT OUT FOR YOU

Alice: So, you're just going to let all those people be sick?

Dodo: And illiterate and hungry. We let it all hang out here.

Alice: But why?

Dodo: Well, some people can't feel good, unless other people feel bad. That's just the system.

Alice: What system?

Dodo: Our system. The Best System in the World!
IT'S ALL ABOUT THE MARKET
WHERE BAD PEOPLE HAVE BACK LUCK
IT'S NOT MY JOB TO SAVE THEM, KID
I'M HERE TO MAKE A BUCK.

I'M JUST LIKE THE HANGMAN
WHOSE ROPE IS SURE AND QUICK
PROTECTING HEALTH INSURERS
(FROM) EVERYONE WHO'S SICK.

SO WHAT'S THE ONE CONCLUSION
I CAN BRING THIS NUMBER TO?
WHEN YOU'RE GOOD FOR PROFITS
MAMA'S GOOD TO YOU!

Alice: But things have changed. You can't just drop people's coverage anymore because they're sick, right?

Dodo: Oh, we'll find a way.

Alice: What do you mean, you'll find a way?

Dodo: I mean, insurance companies are not in this business for our health, missy. Or for anybody else's. As far as we're concerned, sick people are just another bad asset.

SO WHAT'S THE ONE CONCLUSION

I CAN BRING THIS NUMBER TO?
WHEN YOU'RE GOOD FOR PROFITS
MAMA'S GOOD TO YOU!

(Dodo gives Alice a quick peck on the cheek and dashes off.)

Alice: Wait, wait, Mama. I have a tummy ache. Is that good for profits?

Dodo: We'll just have to see, won't we?

(Dodo disappears.)

Alice: (to herself) I don't understand this 'system' at all. How could all this nonsense happen?

(We HEAR the musical introduction to Wall Street and the Lobbyist number, as the Narrators appear to the audience. As they sing, Wall Street and the Lobbyist appear. Wall Street is rotund and dressed like a 19th Century capitalist. The Lobbyist is very slick and modern in a pricey suit.)

(Music from Disney's Alice in Wonderland: The Walrus and the Carpenter.)

Nar: THE SUN WAS SHINING ON K STREET
SHINING WITH ALL ITS MIGHT
IT DID ITS VERY BEST TO MAKE
WHAT HAPPENED THERE QUITE BRIGHT
AND THIS WAS ODD BECAUSE THE PLACE
STAYED HIDDEN FROM THE LIGHT.

OLD WALL STREET AND THE LOBBYIST
WORKED THERE, HAND IN HAND
TO THINK OF WAYS
TO RAISE AND RAISE
THEIR STOCK IN HEALTHCARE LAND

Lobbyist: MR. WALL STREET
Nar: SAID THE LOBBYIST
Lobbyist: MY BRAIN BEGINS TO PERK
WE SHOULD DRAFT A BILL OR TWO
IF YOU DON'T MIND THE WORK

Wall Street: WORK?!
THE TIME HAS COME,
Nar: OLD WALL STREET SAID,
Wall Street: TO TALK OF OTHER THINGS
LIKE SCHMOOZE AND BOOZE AND INCOME TAX
AND FRIENDS LIKE SAUDI KINGS.
AND DEFICITS AND SHUT DOWNS
AND WHETHER PIGS HAVE WINGS.

Wall/Lobby: CALLOO-CALLAY
NO WORK TODAY!
WE'VE FRIENDS LIKE SAUDI KINGS.

(A group of Senators appears to one side of the stage.)

Wall Street: OH, UH, CONGRESS, COME AND WALK WITH US
THE DAY IS WARM AND BRIGHT
A PLEASANT WALK
A PLEASANT TALK
WOULD BE A SHEER DELIGHT

Lobby: YES, AND SHOULD WE GET SLEEPY ON THE WAY
WE'LL STOP AND, UH, STAY THE NIGHT.

Nar: THE SENATORS BEGAN TO BLUSH
THEN TURNED AWAY INSTEAD
THEY KNEW TOO WELL
HOW VOTERS FELT ABOUT WHERE FLIRTING LED
THEY SAID "NO NO
WE MUSTN'T GO
IT'S WRONG TO SHARE A BED"

Wall Street: YES, YES, OF COURSE, OF COURSE, BUT, UH, HA, HA
THE TIME HAS COME, MY LITTLE FRIENDS
TO TALK OF OTHER THINGS
LIKE SCHMOOZE AND BOOZE AND INCOME TAX
AND FRIENDS LIKE SAUDI KINGS.
AND DEFICITS AND SHUT DOWNS
AND WHETHER PIGS HAVE WINGS.

Wall/Lobby: (throwing their arms wide open)
CALLO-CALLAY! COME, RUN AWAY
WE'LL SHOW YOU PRETTY THINGS!
(The senators run to them, and join them on the walk.)

Wall Street: WELL, NOW, UH, LET ME SEE
FIRST, A LITTLE LUNCH IS
WHAT WE CHIEFLY NEED!

Lobby: LISTEN, HOW 'BOUT SOME CAPERS AND WINE AND CARVIAR, EH?

Wall Street: WELL, YES, YES, SPLENDID IDEA, HA HA!
VERY GOOD, INDEED

LOBBY: NOW, IF YOU'RE READY, SWEETIES,
WE CAN BEGIN THE FEED.

Senators: Feed?!

(The senators become very excited and begin to dance in anticipation.)

Wall Street: OH, YES, THE TIME HAS COME, MY LITTLE FRIENDS
TO FEAST ON MORE THAN SCRAPS
LIKE GOLF, AND JETS AND NEW CORVETTES
AND OTHER SAVORY TRAPS
WE'LL EAT UNTIL OUR BELLY'S SWELL
AND THEN WE'LL ALL TAKE NAPS!

Wall/Lobby: CALLOO-CALLAY
WE'LL FEAST TODAY
AND THEN WE'LL ALL TAP NAPS!

(The excited senators collapse to the ground, falling asleep.)

Lobby: I, UH, WEEP FOR YOU. I (HIC), OH EXCUSE ME
I DEEPLY SYMPATHISE

Wall Street: FOR WE'VE ENJOYED YOUR COMPANY,
OH MUCH MORE THAN YOU REALIZE

Lobby: (trying to wake them, as Wall Street puts his boot on top of one of the helpless group in triumph.)

OH CONGRESSMAN? OH, CONGRESSMAN?

Nar: BUT ANSWER, THERE CAME NONE
AND THIS WAS SCARCELY ODD BECAUSE
THEY'D CO-OPTED EVERY ONE!

Wall/Lobby: THEY'D CO-OPTED EVERYONE!

(All exit but Alice repeating 'they'd co-opted everyone!')

Alice: No wait! Please wait! Where are you going? Isn't someone going to help me?! (Alice gives up. Returns to center stage, feeling very dejected. Suddenly, the White Rabbit appears again. He's so self-absorbed, he bumps right into Alice.)

White Rabbit: I care, I care, I'm needed everywhere.
(knocking Alice over)
Well, excuse you.

Alice: Excuse me? Excuse *you*.

White Rabbit: All right. Good bye!

Alice: No, wait!

White Rabbit: (suddenly turning on her) No, *you* wait, nurse. I haven't seen you in ages. Where have you been?

Alice: Why, I've been right here.

White Rabbit: I thought as much. You should have been there.

Alice: Where?

White Rabbit: With my patients. Now I don't have any left. You are a terrible nurse.

Alice: But I'm not a nurse.

White Rabbit: It's too late to change now.

Alice: Please, Mr. Rabbit, I am looking for a doctor.

White Rabbit: Well, I'm a doctor. And I will stay a doctor. Because it's too late to change now.

Alice: I'm afraid I have a stomach ache.

White Rabbit: Afraid? How can you be afraid? I told you, I'm a doctor.

Alice: Can you help me?

White Rabbit: Of course, I can help you. Up to a point.

Alice: What point?

White Rabbit: The breaking point.

Alice: Where's that?

White Rabbit: I'm not sure. But I believe we may have reached it. Still, I have no choice but to help you. I've taken an oath.

Alice: What sort of oath?

White Rabbit: You should know. You're a nurse. Don't tell me you've never heard of the HYPOCRITIC OATH?

Alice: I'm sorry.

White Rabbit: I'll have you disbarred for this, my dear.

(Save the Best for Last-Vanessa Williams by by Phil Galdston, Wendy Waldman and Jon Lind.)

THERE IS A PLEDGE SOLEMNLY DEEP
THAT EVERY DOCTOR SWEARS TO KEEP
IT'S THERE TO GUIDE HIS MORAL GROWTH
IT'S CALLED THE HYPOCRITIC OATH

OH HOW I HAVE TRIED TO DO MY VERY BEST
AND EVERYTHING I SHOULD
BECAUSE IN HEALTHCARE LAND OUR SACRED VOW
IS FIRST TO DO NO GOOD.

AND NOW WE'RE STANDING FACE TO FACE

ISN'T THIS WORLD A CRAZY PLACE
 MY DEAR I DO CARE 'BOUT YOUR HEALTH
 THAT'S WHY YOU MUST SEE SOMEONE ELSE.

Alice: Someone else?

White Rabbit: YOU SEE, I DO PRIMARY CARE
 WHICH MEANS MY SERVICES ARE RARE
 I SIMPLY LISTEN TO YOU COUGH
 AND THEN I QUICKLY SEND YOU OFF.

Alice: But I don't have a cough!

White Rabbit: 'CAUSE I MUST REFER YOU TO A SPECIALIST
 FOR THE SYSTEM TO SUCCEED,
 SOMETIMES THE VERY THING YOU'RE LOOKING FOR
 IS THE ONE THING YOU DON'T NEED.

AND NOW WE'RE STANDING FACE TO FACE
 ISN'T THIS WORLD A CRAZY PLACE
 I DO WHAT'S USELESS FOR US BOTH
 THAT IS MY HYPOCRITIC OATH.

SOMETIMES THE VERY THING YOU'RE LOOKING FOR
 IS THE ONE THING YOU DON'T NEED.

Alice: But that's nonsense!

White Rabbit: (writing out a referral slip)
 I DO WHAT'S BEST NOW FOR US BOTH
 IT IS MY HYPOCRITIC OATH.
 BECAUSE ONE DOCTOR JUST WON'T DO
 WHEN YOU CAN EASILY PAY TWO
 or three, or four ...
 IT IS MY HYPOCRITIC OATH.

(He hands her a referral slip.)

Alice: What's this?

White Rabbit: A referral slip.

Alice: But I already have one of these.

White Rabbit: Excellent. Now you have two!

Alice: But stop.

White Rabbit: I can't. I'm needed.

Alice: Where?

White Rabbit: We're having a D-party.

(He exits.)

Alice: A D-Party. What's a D-party.

(She exits after him.)

(Light down. Lights up on a long table where a large group of doctors in scrubs sit with cups. One wears a Hat, a la the Mad Hatter, and the other is wearing bunny ears, a la the March Hare. There is much talking and laughing.)

Hatter: (Holding up a urine cup) If you go into the urine test an American, and you come out of the urine test an American, what are you during the test?

Hare: I don't know. What are you, what are you, what are you?

Hatter: Eur-a-pee-an!

The group breaks out in uncontrollable laughter.)
(The White Rabbit appears, highly agitated.)

White Rabbit: Enough! Enough, I say. I care! I care!

All: You're needed everywhere!

White Rabbit: Of course, I am. All right, Mad Hatter, let's get this D-Party started.

Hatter: Raise your cups, gentlemen. To the most expensive, expansive, exploitive, explosive department in Healthcare Land.

All: (Alleluia Chorus)

DIAGNOSIS, DIAGNOSIS,
DIAGNOSIS, DIAGNOSIS,
DIAGNOSIS!

Hare: WHAT IS THE SPECIALTY WE LOVE MOST?

All: DIAGNOSIS, DIAGNOSIS,
DIAGNOSIS

Hatter: WHY DO WE RAISE OUR URINE CUP TOAST?

All: DIAGNOSIS, DIAGNOSIS,
DIAGNOSIS

(Again, the group breaks out in laughter as they drink their toast.)

(Alice now wanders onto the stage, mesmerized by the proceedings.)

White Rabbit: Well, stop wasting time, gentlemen. Let's get testing.

Hare: But we can't test unless we have a patient.

Hatter: The March Hare is right. We've run far too many tests this fiscal quarter without having any patients.

All: We want patients! We want patients!

White Rabbit: But I told you, I've run out of patience!

Hatter: Well, then, we refuse to tell you what's wrong with them.

White Rabbit: This is heresy! A scandal. We cannot maintain our uncontrolled spending without needless testing. Now get on with it.

Hatter: Over my dead body.

Hare: That's a nice offer, Mad Hatter, but we prefer testing live bodies.

Hatter: But he (pointing to the White Rabbit) wants us to test no-bodies.

Alice: (tentatively) I'm somebody.

Hatter: What's that?

Alice: I said, I'm somebody and I'm not feeling all that well.

White Rabbit: Go away, you are not our problem.

Hare: But she could be our solution! At the moment, we need any-body, and she obviously has one.

Hatter: And it's sick! How delicious! Would you care to join our D-Party, and give us a cuppa?

Alice: Can you help me feel better?

Hatter: Absolutely not. However, we can probably tell you what's ailing you.

Alice: What's ailing me is my tummy. I have a stomachache.

Hare: Perhaps.

Alice: Perhaps?

Hare: That's for us to decide. We'll do the diagnosis, thank you very much.

(All the doctors begin to surround Alice, poking her, taking her temperature, listening to her heart. They lift her onto the table.)

Hatter: What's your name, my dear.

Alice: Alice.

Hatter: Well, Alice, you're certainly a lucky girl! Doctors ... tell Alice why she's here.

(Music from the Producers: Spring Time for Hitler)

(They continue to surround Alice with needles, cups, etc.)

All: ALICE DEAR IS HAVING TROUBLE
 WHAT A SAD, SAD STORY
 SHE WOULD LIKE A DOCTOR TO RESTORE
 HER FORMER GLORY
 THEN SHE CAME ALONG
 ASKED US WHAT WAS WRONG
 WE LOOKED TO SEE HER HISTORY
 HER PULSE, HER TEMP, HER PEE
 AND NOW IT'S ..

Hatter TEST TIME FOR ALICE IN HEALTHCARE LAND
 GET OUT YOUR NEEDLES AND PINS

All: PUT ON YOUR GLOVE AND MAKE A FIST
 WE'RE CHECKING EVE-RY ORIFICE
 TEST TIME FOR ALICE IN HEALTHCARE LAND

Hatter: WE WILL LEAVE NOTHING TO CHANCE

All: TEST TIME FOR ALICE IN HEALTHCARE LAND
 COME ON DOCTORS, GO INTO YOUR DANCE!

Hare: First she'll need a brain wave scan,
 MRI and eco-gram,
 pap smear, x-ray, EKG,
 and a colonoscopy!

Alice: What?! But it's just a tummy ache!
 (Dance sequence, as they continue to poke and prod Alice.)

All: TEST TIME FOR ALICE IN HEALTHCARE LAND
 WE LEAVE NO GALL STONE UNTURNED

Alice: Gall stone?!

All: WE WOULDN'T WANT TO SCAR-I-YA
 BUT IT COULD BE MALARIA

Hatter: TEST TIME FOR ALICE IN HEALTHCARE LAND
 WE'LL FIND WHAT'S MAKING YOU ILL

All: TEST TIME FOR ALICE IN HEALTHCARE LAND

Hatter: MEANS THAT..

All: SOON YOU'LL BE GETTING ...

Hatter: SOON YOU'LL BE GETTING ...

All: SOON YOU'LL BE GETTING ... THE BILL!

(The doctors, Hatter, Hare and Rabbit break out in screams of laughter, as they pick up the table, and their cups and exit. Alice is left alone, confused and annoyed.)

Alice: I don't need a test. I need a cure. Isn't there anyone in Healthcare Land who could actually help me?

(She sits down, exhausted. Upstage, on a riser, a large, obese caterpillar-like creature named Big Pharma appears, blowing bubbles from a bubble pipe.)

Pharma: What kind of help do you need?
 Alice: (turns around, startled) Oh, my! You startled me.
 Pharma: That's cool. What's the problem?
 Alice: I ate something I shouldn't have. Now I'm feeling very sick.
 Pharma: Bummer.
 Alice: Are you a doctor?
 Pharma: No.
 Alice: Thank goodness. I've had enough of doctors. Healthcare Land is very stressful.
 Pharma: I can help you with that.
 Alice: What?
 Pharma: Stress.
 Alice: No, no, it's my tummy.

Pharma: I can help you with that, too.
 Alice: Really. Are you some kind of healer?
 Pharma: Nobody does healing anymore. Old fashioned.
 Alice: What do you do?
 Pharma: We medicate.
 Alice: Pills?
 Pharma: For everything. Believe me.
 (Jefferson Airplane's Go Ask Alice)

ONE PILL MAKES YOU LARGER (want some Viagra?)
 AND ONE PILL MAKES YOU SMALL (how' bout Avodart?)
 AND THE ONES WE CALL PLACEBOS
 DON'T DO ANYTHING AT ALL
 TAKE THIS ALICE
 YOU'LL FEEL TEN FEET TALL
 (As the caterpillar offers her a pill, Alice pulls away)
 AND IF YOU GO CHASING RABBITS
 AND YOU KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO FALL
 TELL THEM A PILL PUSHING CATERPILLER HAS GIVEN YOU THE CALL
 HEY ALICE
 ARE YOU FEELING SMALL?
 (Alice is growing more creeped out by the moment)
 WHEN THE DOCS IN HEALTHCARE LAND
 GET UP AND TELL YOU WHERE TO GO (take some Flomax)
 AND YOU JUST HAD SOME KIND OF MUSHROOM
 AND YOUR MIND IS MOVING SLOW ('cause you're on lithium)
 TAKE THESE ALICE
 I THINK I KNOW

WHEN LOGIC AND PROPORTION
 HAVE FALLEN SLOPPY DEAD
 AND THE MAD HATTER IS TALKING BACKWARDS
 AND YOU ARE DIZZY INSIDE YOUR HEAD!
 REMEMBER WHAT THE DRUG COMP'NY SAID
 FEED YOUR HEAD
 FEED YOUR HEAD

Alice: Oh, I don't like this.
 Pharma: Come over here. Big Pharma won't hurt you.
 Alice: I want to go home.
 Pharma: No problem. I have a pill for that. I told you, I have a pill for everything!
 (All the doctors and characters we've seen so far enter.)
 (Music from Hair: Age of Aquarius)
 (As they sing, the Chorus circles Alice menacingly. She twirls around, dazed and confused.)

CHORUS:
 WHEN YOU'RE SICK AND FEELING SO ALONE
 AND ALL YOU WANT IS A FEW HUGS
 JUST TRUST IN OUR PRESCRIPTION
 AND WE WILL GIVE YOU DRUGS

THIS IS THE DAWNING OF THE AGE OF (PHARM)A-CEU-TI-CALS
 THE AGE OF (PHARM)A-CEU-TI-CALS,
 A-CEU-TI-CALS, A-CEU-TI-CALS!

BLOOD PRESSURE AND DIABETES
 OBESITY AND FAT ABOUNDING

ENJOY EXCESS AND BAD HABITS
WE HAVE FOUND THE MAGIC TABLETS
MYSTIC GEL CAP MEDICATION
THAT WILL BE YOUR LIBERATION
(PHARM) A-CEU-TI-CALS, A-CEU-TI-CALS!

WHEN YOU'RE SICK WE'RE ONLY HERE TO SERVE
BIG PHARMA LOVES IT WHEN YOU'RE ILL
JUNK FOOD FILLED UP WITH TOXINS
MEANS WE CAN SELL YOU PILLS

THIS IS THE DAWNING OF THE AGE OF (PHARM)A-CEU-TI-CALS
THE AGE OF (PHARM)A-CEU-TI-CALS,
A-CEU-TI-CALS, A-CEU-TI-CALS!

(The docs and caterpillar now surround Alice, who can no longer stand the pressure.)

Alice: No! Stop, please!

(The music stops. The Chorus stands over Alice, as if they're ready to pounce.)

Alice: Can't you just leave me in peace?

Pharma: Peace? No problem. I'm sure I've got something for that!

(Two of the docs grab Alice, while a third holds open her mouth. Big Pharma walks up and drops a pill down her throat.)

Pharma: There, doesn't that feel better?

CHORUS AND PHARMA:

THIS IS THE DAWNING OF THE AGE OF (PHARM)A-CEU-TI-CALS
THE AGE OF (PHARM)A-CEU-TI-CALS,
A-CEU-TI-CALS!!

(The chorus freezes, as Alice collapses onto the floor, asleep.)

(Lights to black, curtain.)

End Act I

Act II

(Lights up, curtain down as the narrator cards enter.)

Cards:

WE'RE THE CARDS YOU HAVE TO DEAL WITH
WE'RE THE HAND THAT YOU'RE MEANT TO PLAY
YOU KNOW WE'RE THE LUCK OF THE DRAW
THAT YOU LIVE WITH EVERY DAY

SOMETIMES WE LIKE TO SMILE ON YOU
THAT'S WHEN WE LET YOU WIN THE POT
SOMETIMES WE'RE THE LUCK OF THE DRAW
AND THEN THERE ARE TIMES WHEN WE'RE NOT

SO SHUFFLE THE DECK
CUT IT IN HALF
GENTLEMEN PLACE YOUR BETS
DEAL US AROUND
TWO UP AND ONE DOWN
LET'S SEE WHAT EVERYONE GETS

ONE DAY IT'S JACKS AND IT'S ACES
AND WE MAKE YOU KING OF THE HILL
NEXT DAY IT'S NOTHING BUT DUECES
AND WE MAKE YOU SUDDENLY ILL

YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT CARD'S COMING
CAN'T KNOW WHAT YOU'LL GET 'TIL IT'S GOT
SOMETIMES YOU'RE FEELING JUST SUPER
AND THEN THERE ARE TIMES WHEN YOU'RE NOT

YOU'RE SICK OR YOU'RE WELL
IN HEAVEN OR HELL
WE MAKE YOUR LIFE SUCH A MESS
NO ONE TO BLAME
WE'RE JUST A GAME
AND THE TRUTH IS WE COULDN'T CARE LESS

NOW YOU COULD HELP ONE ANOTHER
YOU MAKE THE RULES AFTER ALL
EVEN THE ODDS AND SPREAD OUT THE RISK
AND STOP PLAYING WINNER TAKES ALL

BUT THAT WOULD REQUIRE NEW THINKING
AND YOU LIKE TO GAMBLE A LOT
'CAUSE WHERE IS THE FUN AND THE SUFFERING
IF EVERYONE SHARES IN THE POT?

YOU'RE SICK OR YOU'RE WELL
IN HEAVEN OR HELL
YOU MAKE YOUR LIFE SUCH A MESS
YOU TAKE THE BLAME
YOU LOVE THIS GAME
AND THE TRUTH IS YOU COULDN'T CARE LESS

NOW YOU COULD HELP ONE ANOTHER
 YOU MAKE THE RULES AFTER ALL
 EVEN THE ODDS AND SPREAD OUT THE RISK
 AND STOP PLAYING WINNER TAKES ALL

BUT YOU MAKE YOUR LIVES SUCH A MESS
 AND THE TRUTH IS YOU COULDN'T CARE LESS.

(The curtain rises on a sleeping Alice. Suddenly, a giant striped Cat with the famous Cheshire grin appears.)

Cat VO: (Starshine from Hair)
 GOOD MORNING ALICE
 THE WORLD SAYS HELLO
 I SMILE ABOVE YOU
 YOU'RE SLEEPING BELOW

GOOD MORNING ALICE
 WAKE UP SLEEPY HEAD
 NO TIME TO BE A WASTING
 IT'S MORNING SO GET OUT OF BED

(Alice begins to stir.)

GLIDDY GLUB GLOOPY
 NIBBY NABBY NOOPY
 LA LA LA LO LO

(Alice stands, yawns.)

SABBA SIBBY SABBA
 NOOBY ABBA NABBA
 LE LE LO LO

(Alice hears the voice but doesn't see the smile yet.)

Alice: What's that?
 TOOBY OOBY WALLA
 NOOBY ABBA NABA
 EARLY MORNING SINGING SONG
 (Alice now looks up and sees the smile)
 GOOD MORNING ALICE
 HOW DO YOU DO?
 YOU LOOK LIKE YOUR LOST, DEAR
 HOW MAY I HELP YOU?

GOOD MORNING ALICE
 YOU'VE SLEPT QUITE A WHILE
 I AM CALLED THE CHESHIRE CAT
 AND THIS WOULD BE MY SPECIAL SMILE

(Alice wanders around the smile, looking at it curiously)

GLIDDY GLUB GLOOPY
 NIBBY NABBY NOOPY
 LA LA LA LO LO

Alice: Come again?
 SABBA SIBBY SABBA
 NOOBY ABBA NABBA
 LE LE LO LO

Alice: I don't understand.
 TOOBY OOBY WALLA
 NOOBY ABBA NABA
 COME ON ALICE SING ALONG

Alice/Cat SINGING A SONG
 HUMMING A SONG
 SINGING A SONG
 LOVING A SONG
 LAUGHING A SONG
 SINGING A SONG
 SING THE SONG
 SONG SONG SONG SING
 SING SING SING SING SONG

Cat: Now, there, doesn't that feel better?

Alice: Why, yes! Yes, it does.

(walking up to the smile, looking at it very closely) Can you help me?

Cat: I thought you had a tummy ache.

Alice: Now I have a headache, too. I just want to go home.

Cat: Well, there's only one way we can let you out of Healthcare Land. You have to follow procedure.

Alice: Procedure? What's procedure?

Cat: It means the rules. The forms. The protocol.

Alice: But I don't know the rules.

Cat: Of course you don't, Alice. Because we make them up.

Alice: We?

Cat: All the fat cats behind my smile.

Alice: But I don't see anyone behind your smile.

Cat: You see, it's like magic. We decide if you get into Healthcare Land, what we do to you when you're here and when you can get out. And nobody knows who we are.

Alice: That doesn't seem very fair.

Cat: Then you've grasped it completely. Now, what was your problem?

Alice: I want to go home.

Cat: Then you'll have to see the Queen of Heart Surgeons.

Alice: But there's nothing wrong with my heart.

Cat: Then you've grasped it completely!

(The smile flies out and Alice is left spinning.)

(Suddenly, there is the SOUND OF DRUMS as the Cards enter marching and HUMMING the tune from their song. They surround Alice.)

Card 1: (holding a clip board) Name, please.

Alice: (confused) You mean me?

Card 1: Is there anyone else here?

Alice: Well, you're here.

Card 1: We're playing cards. That hardly counts.

Alice: Sorry. My name is Alice.

Card 1: Didn't we just give you a tummy ache?

Alice: Did you?

Card 1: (to Card 2) Look here. What does the girl's file say?

Card 2: 'Alice draws a tummy ache.'

Card 1: There, you see. You have a tummy ache.

Card 3: And then a headache.

Card 1: And then a headache. Is that right?

Alice: Yes, yes it is. Did you give me those things?

Card 2: In a manner of speaking. We're the game cards.

Alice: What game?

Card 3: The game of chance.

Alice: Healthcare Land is a game?

(The cards ROAR WITH LAUGHTER)

Card 1: Do we look like we're taking this seriously?

Alice: You think being sick is funny?

Card 2: It doesn't matter what we think, my dear. We're just the luck of the draw. What do you think?

Alice: I think this all makes very little sense.

Card 3: That's because you're not really very sick. If you were really sick, you'd think this makes no sense at all!

(The cards ROAR WITH LAUGHTER again.)

Card 1: Maybe you'd like to draw again, Alice. Perhaps you'll get something contagious this time.

Card 2: Or genetic!

Card 3: Or fatal!

Alice: No, no thank you! I like my tummy ache just fine.

Card 1: All right, then. But the Queen of Heart Surgeons usually prefers something more dramatic before she operates.

Alice: Operates?! But I want to go home!

Card 2: Once you've come this far in Healthcare Land, Alice, major surgery is almost the only way to get out again.

(The drum beat resumes, and the cards march Alice off stage as the sing.)

Cards: YOU'RE SICK OR YOU'RE WELL
 IN HEAVEN OR HELL
 WE MAKE YOUR LIFE SUCH A MESS
 NO ONE TO BLAME
 WE'RE JUST A GAME
 AND THE TRUTH IS WE COULDN'T CARE LESS

(Lights out to black. curtain down.)

(Lights up as the King of Hearts with the White Rabbit in front of the curtain.)

King: Someone put the teapot on,
 She's really in a temper.
 We'll have to find a subtle way
 To try now to pre-empt her.

Rabbit: May I suggest a hot, bath sire,
 Or maybe a masseuse?

King: She's just so unpredictable
 when she is on the loose.

Queen: (from off stage)
 Scalpel! Forceps!
 Scissors! Thread!
 No, fool!
 Off with his head!

King: Someone put the decaf on,
 She's really up and going.
 We need to find a tactful way
 to keep this fit from growing.

Rabbit: May I suggest a brandy, sire?
 She might not be the wiser.

King: Or maybe we could shoot her
 with our hippo tranquilizer.

(The Queen appears in a surgical mask and hat, holding a scalpel.)

Queen: (to the Rabbit) Did you hear a word I said?

Rabbit: I'm sorry, Queen.

Queen: (taking off her mask)
Off with your head!

(The Rabbit runs to the King for protection.)

Queen: Someone mop my sweaty brow,
then hand me my retractor.
Ask me why, I'll give you my
decapitation factor.

King: May I suggest a time-out, dear
or maybe a vacation.
A little less of all this stress
might ease the situation.

Queen: Let me suggest some-
thing instead.

King: What's that, dear?

Queen: Off with your head!

King: Someone giver her what she wants,
That's full cooperation.
There's just no way to stop her now.
She craves an operation

Rabbit: May I suggest we all obey
and do what we are able?
Open the doors! (The curtain goes up.)
Light the lights!(Lights come up on all the doctors and nurses, assembled and waiting.)
and roll in the table!

Chorus: Scalpel! Forceps!
Scissors! Thread!

Queen: I'm ready, set!
Bring on the head!

(The cards wheel in a gurney/table with a patient covered by a sheet.)
(Bloody Mary from South Pacific)

ALL: QUEEN OF HEARTS IS DOIN' SURGERY
SHE CAN'T WAIT IT'S AN EMERGENCY
THIS IS SOMETHING THAT YOU GOTTA SEE
HERE IN HEALTHCARE LAND

Queen: FIRST I'LL DO A LAPARATOMY
THEN I DO A NICE LOBOTOMY
WITH THE KNIFE IS WHERE I GOTTA BE
AND IT DOESN'T HURT A BIT

All: QUEEN OF HEARTS IS DOIN' SURGERY
SHE CAN'T WAIT IT'S AN EMERGENCY
THIS IS SOMETHING THAT YOU GOTTA SEE
HERE IN HEALTHCARE LAND

(When the song and applause end, Alice pops up from beneath the sheet.)

Alice: (Jumping off the table) I am not having an operation!

Queen: That is hardly your decision, whoever you are. *I am the Queen of Heart Surgeons.*

Alice: Well, I don't care who you are.

Queen: (livid, puffing up with red rage) *You don't care who I am?* Off with her head! Off with her head!

(Alice tries to run away, but the doctors catch her and hold onto her.)

(The Queen goes for Alice with the scalpel.)

King: Just a moment! Just one moment, sweetheart! I have a thought.

Queen: A thought?

King: Perhaps the girl, here, would feel better if we had a little trial before you 'execute' your medical duties.

Queen: A trial? Whatever for?

King: (looking desperately to the Rabbit) Whatever for?

Rabbit: Well, sire, to illustrate the Queen's love for patients. Otherwise, she may appear to be losing hers.

(to the Queen) That is what happened to me, your majesty. I completely lost my patience.

Queen: Hmm. So you think a trial will give me more patients?

King: Absolutely.

Queen: What kind of trial?

Alice: How about medical malpractice!?

(There is an audible GASP from the entire chorus. They look at the Queen, waiting for an explosion.)

Queen: (pacing back and forth) Medical malpractice? (suddenly) Why that's brilliant!! And I shall be the plaintiff's attorney!

Alice: What?!

King: But if it's malpractice, dear, you would be the defendant.

Queen: That's right, and I would also be the trial lawyer. That way, I win no matter what happens! Court is in session!

Chorus: Court is in session!

(Bloody Mary reprise as they transform the operating room into a courtroom)

ALL: QUEEN OF HEARTS IS GONNA LITIGATE
 PAIN AND SUFFERING SHE WILL DEMONSTRATE
 WRONGFUL DEATH CAN NEVER BE TOO LATE
 HERE IN HEALTHCARE LAND

QUEEN: FIRST I'LL SUE MYSELF AND WIN MY PLEA
 THEN COLLECT A BIG CONTINGENCY
 NEXT I'LL RAISE MY SURGEON DOCTOR FEE
 AND IT DOESN'T HURT A BIT

ALL: QUEEN OF HEARTS IS GONNA LITIGATE
 PAIN AND SUFFERING SHE WILL DEMONSTRATE
 WRONGFUL DEATH CAN NEVER BE TOO LATE
 HERE IN HEALTHCARE LAND

Queen: Call the first witness!

King: Call the first witness!

(Group #1, all dressed in scrubs, steps center stage)

King: What would you like them to say, dear?

Queen: That the girl is guilty, of course.

Alice: But I'm not even on trial.

Queen: It doesn't matter. This is Healthcare Land and, in the end, the patient always pays. Have you ever heard of a poor insurance executive?

Alice: No.

Queen: Or a poor surgeon?

Alice: No.

Queen: Or a poor trial lawyer?

Alice: No.

Queen: But we have millions of poor patients. Let me tell you why that is. Better yet, (to the witnesses) YOU tell her.

Group # 1 Song—She Believes in Me – performed by Kenny Rogers, written by Steve Gibbs

WHILE YOU LAY AILING, WE TRY TO HAVE THE BEST CARE THERE CAN BE
WITH ALL THE BIGGEST BEST TECHNOLOGY
FROM ULTRASOUND TO LASER SURGERY, WE AGREE
WHILE YOU LAY AILING,
WE'D LIKE TO GIVE IT OUT TO EVERYONE
LIKE WE DO TO EVERY RICH MAN'S SON
(BUT) THAT KIND OF CARE'S TOO PRICEY TO BE DONE, AND WE THINK IT'S
WRONG

WE DON'T BELIEVE IN THAT, CAUSE UNIVERSAL CARE'S A LOAD OF CRAP
AND WE KNOW SOMEDAY IF WE MADE IT FREE, A CASTASTROPHE
WOULD UNDERMINE OUR BOTTOM LINE
WE DON'T BELIEVE IN THAT, IF FACT WE'D LIKE TO STAY JUST WHERE WE'RE
AT
AND WHO KNOWS MAYBE IF YOUR HEART IS PURE, YOUR PRAYERS ARE
HEARD,
THAT'S HOW YOU'LL BE CURED, YOU'LL BE CURED ...

WHILE YOU LAY AILING, WE'RE TRYING TO SAVE THOSE FOLKS WITH AGING
SKIN
WHOSE WRINKLES WE ARE SURE WILL DO THEM IN
AND WHO NEED BOTOX OR LIPOSUCTION, TO LIVE AGAIN,
WHILE YOU LAY DYING, WE JUST DON'T THINK IT MATTERS ALL THAT MUCH
WE KNOW YOU'RE SICK AND HOPE YOU STAY IN TOUCH
BUT WHEN IT COMES TO HEALTHCARE WE GO DUTCH
WE DON'T SHARE THAT MUCH

WE DON'T BELIEVE IN THAT, CAUSE UNIVERSAL CARE'S A LOAD OF CRAP
AND WE KNOW SOMEDAY IF WE MADE IT FREE, A CASTASTROPHE
WOULD UNDERMINE OUR BOTTOM LINE
WE DON'T BELIEVE IN THAT, IF FACT WE'D LIKE TO STAY JUST WHERE WE'RE
AT
AND WHO KNOWS MAYBE IF YOUR HEART IS PURE, YOUR PRAYERS ARE
HEARD,
THAT'S HOW YOU'LL BE CURED, YOU'LL BE CURED ... THAT'S HOW YOU'LL BE
CURED

Alice: This entire healthcare system is really despicable!

Queen: Nonsense. It may be exploitive. And ridiculous. But it's hardly despicable.

Alice: And you! You should be ashamed of yourself. What kind of example are you to others?

Queen: The perfect example. Why everybody in the healthcare industry wants to be just like me!

Alice: Who? Who on earth would like to be just like you?

Queen: Why all those ambitious young interns, right out of medical school, of course. They all want to be queen bee -- which means they want to be me!

(From the Abba: Dancing Queen)

Group #2, staff women enter, dressed like Queen of Hear Surgeon wannabes:

I'M SO COOL, AND I RULE, HAVING THE TIME OF MY LIFE
ON MY WAY (IN) MEDICEEN, I AM THE INTERN QUEEN.

I WORK RIGHT NOW, THE WAGES LOW
 DREAMING OF HOW HIGH I'LL GO
 I STAY UP ALL DAY AND NIGHT, WORKING IN A FOG
 PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE TREAT ME LIKE A DOG
 DOESN'T MATTER IT'S JUST A GAME
 I SACRIFICE NOW SO YOU'LL KNOW MY NAME
 BECAUSE WHEN I GET THE CHANCE
 I'M THE ONE WHO'LL ADVANCE

I'M THE INTERN QUEEN, YOUNG AND MEAN, I AM ON THE SCENE
 INTERN QUEEN, SOON I'LL BE CHIEF OF MEDICEEN
 I PRESCRIBE, I CAN JIVE, KEEPING MY PATIENTS ALIVE
 SEE THIS GIRL, WATCH ME PREEN, I AM THE INTERN QUEEN.

I'M A HOTSHOT, MAKING MY START
 PUT IN MY TIME, PLAYING IT SMART
 MY LIFELONG AMBITION TO BE QUEEN OF HEARTS
 I'M IN THE MOOD FOR MY CHANCE
 I'M THE ONE WHO'LL ADVANCE

I'M THE INTERN QUEEN, YOUNG AND MEAN, I AM ON THE SCENE
 INTERN QUEEN, SOON I'LL BE CHIEF OF MEDICEEN
 I PRESCRIBE, I CAN JIVE, KEEPING MY PATIENTS ALIVE
 SEE THIS GIRL, WATCH ME PREEN, I AM THE INTERN QUEEN.

Queen: You see, what a following I have! Thank you, girls. Thank you. Now get back to work. Your 16 hour shift isn't over yet.

Alice: But look, you're turning those young doctors into monsters.

Queen: Sit down, you little upstart! I haven't finished persecuting you.

King: I think you mean prosecuting, dear.

Queen: That, too! Next witness.

King: What witness, dear?

Queen: The marching band, you fool. How else are we going to tell the court how we help old people fill their prescriptions here in Healthcare Land?

King: Well, okay, call in the marching band!

Queen: Where are my operators?

King: What operators, dear?

Queen: The one's that are standing by ... to make sure our patients don't get the help they need.

King: Oh, THOSE operators. Send in the phone people!

(The phone people enter, wearing head sets)

Back In My Arms Again Lyrics Supremes

ALL DAY LONG YOU MAKE THE TELEPHONE RING
 YOU'RE CALLING FOR THE DOC'S ADVICE
 GOT A TUMMY ACHE
 OR A REAL BAD FLU
 RECORDING WON'T PUT YOU THROUGH

'CAUSE ALL YOU HEAR IS THAT MENU
 PUSH NUMBER 3, THEN 5, THEN 2
 NOW ENTER 6, THEN 4, THEN 3
 THEN YOUR 9 DIGIT CARD I.D.

OOOOO,
 WE GOT YOU WAITING ON HOLD AGAIN
 WE LAUGH YOU CRIED
 WE GOT YOU WAITING ON HOLD AGAIN
 SO SAITISFIED

OH WE JUST LOVE IT WHEN YOU CAN'T GET THROUGH
 JUST MEANS THERE'S LESS FOR US TO DO
 WE KEEP YOU THERE ON THE LINE
 WHEN YOU'RE HANGIN' WE FEEL FINE
 DON'T MATTER WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY
 IF WE KEEP YOU ON HOLD ALL DAY
 AND EACH TIME YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH
 THEN WE KNOW IT'S TIME TO CUT YOU OFF

OOOOO,
 WE GOT YOU WAITING ON HOLD AGAIN
 WE LAUGH YOU CRIED
 WE GOT YOU WAITING ON HOLD AGAIN
 SO SAITISFIED

SO WE'RE HERE TO TELL YOU WHAT TO DO
 DIAL THAT PHONE UNTIL YOUR FACE TURNS BLUE
 GET MAD, DIAL SOME MORE
 KEEP PUSHING BUTTONS 'TIL YOUR FINGER'S SORE
 TRY THOSE OPTIONS THEN YOU TRY AGAIN
 KEEP TRYING 'TIL YOU GO INSANE
 IT DON'T MATTER WHAT YOU TRY DO
 ('CAUSE) WE'RE NEVER GONNA LET YOU THROUGH

OOOOO, WE GOT YOU
 WAITING ON HOLD AGAIN
 WE LAUGH YOU CRIED
 WE GOT YOU WAITING ON HOLD AGAIN
 SO SATISFIED

OH, WE'RE SATISFIED, SO SATISFIED

Queen: I now call my bankruptcy experts to the stand.

King: Bankruptcy? Oh, no, no. Please. Just the thought of bankruptcy makes me sick, dear.

Queen: Wrong! Just the thought of sickness makes you bankrupt.

King: Oh, yes, of course! Call the experts.

"Zero to Hero" from Hercules

BLESS YOUR SOUL
 YOU WERE ON A ROLL
 THOUGHT YOU HAD YOUR PILLS AND ALL YOUR BILLS UNDER CONTROL
 WHAT A PRO
 WHO COULD STOP YOUR SHOW
 GIVE YOU A TOUCH OF FLU AND YOU'RE STILL GOOD TO GO
 YOU WERE HEALTHY,
 A HERO, HERO
 THEN YOU GOT (AN) ILLNESS
 NOW YOU'RE A ZERO

YOU'RE A ZERO

HERE YOU THOUGHT YOU HAD YOUR ACT DOWN PAT
(NOW) DEDUCTIBLES AND COPAYS CUT YOU FLAT

HERO TO ZERO JUST LIKE THAT

YOU WERE HEALTHY
YOU WERE WEALTHY WITH
OOHS AND AAHS
THEN DISASTER STRUCK
IT'S JUST BAD LUCK
IT'S JUST BAD LUCK

ALL THOSE SPECIALISTS AND HIGH TECH TESTS
YOUR CASH IS GOING FAST
FROM NOUVEAU RICH TO BUSTED
I CAN TELL YOU
IT'S NOT GONNA LAST.

CRY UNCLE
YOU'RE GONNA LOSE YOUR SHIRT
YOU'RE SICK AND GETTING BROKER
THIS IS REALLY GONNA HURT
BILLS PILE UP
SO YOU SPEND AND SPEND
YOU MIGHT BE FEELING BETTER
BUT YOU'RE BANKRUPT IN THE END

POOR YOU, HERE COMES
ANOTHER OV'RAGE
LOOK OUT, THEY'RE GONNA
CUT YOUR COV'RAGE
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO YOU CALL
FROM HERO TO ZERO, A MAJOR FALL
HERO TO ZERO YOU'LL LOSE IT ALL

YOU PUT THE CAN IN CANCELLATION
OH HOW SAD
YOU PUT THE TERM IN TERMINATION
JUST TOO BAD
YOU GOT SCREWED
'CAUSE THEY DROPPED YOU
FELT MUCH WORSE
NO ONE STOPED YOU
OH HOW SAD, JUST TOO BAD

BLESS YOU SOUL
YOU WERE ON A ROLL
NICE AND HEALTHY
RIDING HIGH

THE SMARTEST GUY
NICE AND WEALTHY

YOUR HAD COV'RAGE
A HERO, HERO
THEN CAME YOUR ILLNESS
AND YOU'RE A ZERO
HITTING BOTTOM AT BREAKNECK SPEED
FROM HERO TO ZERO
YOU WERE A HERO
NOW YOU'RE A ZERO
YES INEED!

Queen: Call our next witnesses.

King: Who are these people, my dear?

Queen: They're my actuaries.

Alice: Actuaries?

Queen: I use them to calculate my premiums here in Healthcare Land. So I know who's worth covering and who's not.

Alice: But isn't everyone worth covering?

Queen: Don't be absurd. Come my little love birds, tell me how you watch over my patients --- to save me money.

(A boy and girl come out and sing to Alice)

(From High School Musical)

Boy:

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE
THAT YOU COULDN'T SEE

Together:

WE ARE ALWAYS THERE BESIDE YOU
DETERMINING THE RISK
FACTORING THE COST
YES, WE ARE ALWAYS THERE BESIDE YOU

Girl:

WE WATCH YOU LIKE NO OTHER

Together:

WE WANT YOU TO KNOW
YOU'VE NEVER HAD SOMEONE THAT KNOWS YOU LIKE WE DO
THE WAY WE DO
WE KNOW JUST HOW TO MAKE A NUMBER OUT OF YOU
THAT'S ALL WE DO SO CAREFUL WE ARE TO CALCULATE
WHAT WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR

Girl

WE'RE NEVER SEEN
WE'RE NEVER HEARD

Together

DON'T HAVE TO SAY A WORD

Boy

WE FIND ALL YOUR FLAWS

EV'RY LITTLE COUGH

Together:
ALL FOR A WAY TO WRITE YOU OFF

Boy:
WE WATCH YOU LIKE NO OTHER

Together:
WE WANT YOU TO KNOW
YOU'VE NEVER HAD SOMEONE THAT KNOWS YOU LIKE WE DO
THE WAY WE DO
WE KNOW JUST HOW TO MAKE A NUMBER OUT OF YOU
THAT'S ALL WE DO SO CAREFUL WE ARE TO CALCULATE
WHAT WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR

TOGETHER:
DOO DOO DOODOO
DOO DOO DOODOO
DO DO

WOA-AH-AH-OH

DOO DOO DOODOO
DOO DOO DOODOO
DO DO

WOA-AH-AH-OH

(From the Music Man: Seventy-six Trombones)

Group #3: SEVENTY-SIX DRUG PLANS THERE FOR YOU TO CHOOSE
WITH A HUNDRED AND TEN MORE PLANS CLOSE AT HAND
THEY ARE FOLLOWED BY ROWS AND ROWS OF THE FINEST HMOS
THE CREAM OF EVERY FAMOUS PLAN

SEVENTY-SIX DRUG PLANS THERE FOR YOU TO CHOOSE
WITH A HUNDRED AND TEN MORE PLANS RIGHT BEHIND
YOU JUST FILL OUT A THOUSAND FORMS
SO YOU MEET OUR NORMS
AND WE GET RICH FROM EVERY SHAPE AND KIND

WE PRETEND WE'RE SAVING MONEY WHEN WE'RE REALLY NOT
PAD THE COST, DRIVE IT UP, SOMEONE'S GONNA PAY
(WE) MAKE IT SO CONFUSING THAT NO ONE CAN TELL
YOU THANK US FOR EVERYTHING WE SAY

THERE ARE FIFTY SHIFTY LOOPHOLES IN THE LAW WE PASSED
WIDENING WIDENING BIGGER THAN BEFORE
WE SAY WE'RE HELPING SENIORS OUT
BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT
THE TRUTH IS WE MADE A MAJOR SCORE

Alice: Really, I can't stand this. It's too confusing.
Queen: We'll I certainly hope so!

Alice: But you're overwhelming people with false choices, and endless paperwork, and limits on coverage. Why can't we just agree to make our healthcare simple and free.

Queen: What?! And spoil the fun of jerking sick people and their families around? (laughs manically) Not on my watch! I call the insurance company CEOs to the stand!

Group #3 (Treble Choir, dressed in white shirts and ties, or anything that suggests executives) Simple Gifts

TIS A SIN TO BE SIMPLE
 TIS A SIN TO BE FREE
 BECAUSE THAT'S NOT WHAT WE WANT HEALTHCARE TO BE
 WE LIKE OBSFUCATION IN A SYSTEM WHICH
 MAKES YOU DIZZY AND KEEPS US RICH.

WHEN TRUE COMPLEXITY IS GAINED
 OUR STOCK PRICE AND EARNINGS WILL NOT BE RESTRAINED
 THE MORE, MORE CONFUSION WE MAKE
 THE LESS YOU GET, YOU GET AND MORE WE TAKE

TIS A SIN TO BE SIMPLE
 TIS A SIN TO BE FREE
 BECAUSE THAT'S NOT WHAT WE WANT HEALTHCARE TO BE
 RED TAPE AND HASSLES ARE OUR BEST TRICK
 THEY MAKE US PROFITS AND MAKE YOU SICK

WHEN TRUE COMPLEXITY IS GAINED
 OUR STOCK PRICE AND EARNINGS WILL NOT BE RESTRAINED
 THE MORE, MORE CONFUSION WE MAKE
 THE LESS YOU GET, YOU GET AND MORE WE TAKE

Alice: I can't listen to this anymore! This is nonsense.

Queen: On the contrary! This is much better than nonsense.

King: What could be better than nonsense, my dear?

Queen: Insanity! Bring in the psychotherapists.

(Singers in white lab coats. The carry notes books, and jot down their observations as they sing.)

ONCE UPON TIME
 A FEW MISTAKES AGO
 YOU WERE IN OUR SIGHTS
 (NOW) WE GOT YOU AT LAST
 WE GOT YOU
 WE GOT YOU
 WE GOT YOU

YOU THOUGHT YOU WOULD ESCAPE
 AND THOUGHT YOU WERE SO SMART
 BUT THEN YOU FELL HARD
 YOU TOOK A STEP BACK
 WE GOT YOU, WE GOT YOU, WE GOT YOU

SANITY'S LONG GONE
 NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO
 AND WE EMPHASIZE THE BLAME IS ON YOU

CAUSE WE KNEW YOU WERE TROUBLE WHEN YOU WALKED IN
SO SHAME ON YOU NOW
YOU FLEW TO PLACES YOU'VE NEVER BEEN
TILL WE PUT YOU DOWN OH
WE KNEW YOU WERE TROUBLE WHEN YOU WALKED IN
SO SHAME ON YOU NOW
YOU FLEW TO PLACES YOU'VE NEVER BEEN
NOW YOUR STANDING ON THE COLD HARD GROUND
OH, OH, TROUBLE, TROUBLE, TROUBLE
OH, OH, TROUBLE, TROUBLE, TROUBLE

NO APOLOGIES
YOU'LL NEVER SEE US CRY
YOU'RE JUST A FOOLISH GIRL
THAT THE REASON WHY
YOU'RE DROWNING, YOU'RE DROWNING, YOU'RE DROWNING

YOU THOUGHT YOU'D MOVE ON
GET OUT OF HEALTHCARE LAND
THIS CRAZY CRAZY PLACE
A DISTANT MEMORY
BUT NOW YOU SEE, NOW YOU SEE, NOW YOU SEE
THERE'S NO WAY OUT
NOTHING TO DO
AND YOU REALIZE THE JOKE IS ON YOU

CAUSE WE KNEW YOU WERE TROUBLE WHEN YOU WALKED IN
SO SHAME ON YOU NOW
YOU FLEW TO PLACES YOU'VE NEVER BEEN
TILL WE PUT YOU DOWN OH
WE KNEW YOU WERE TROUBLE WHEN YOU WALKED IN
SO SHAME ON YOU NOW
YOU FLEW TO PLACES YOU'VE NEVER BEEN
NOW YOUR STANDING ON THE COLD HARD GROUND
OH, OH, TROUBLE, TROUBLE, TROUBLE
OH, OH, TROUBLE, TROUBLE, TROUBLE

WHEN YOUR SADEST FEAR COMES CREEPING IN
THAT YOU'LL NEVER GET OUT OR BACK OR ANYWHERE OR ANYWAY
YEAH

CAUSE WE KNEW YOU WERE TROUBLE WHEN YOU WALKED IN
SO SHAME ON YOU NOW
YOU FLEW TO PLACES YOU'VE NEVER BEEN
TILL WE PUT YOU DOWN OH
WE KNEW YOU WERE TROUBLE WHEN YOU WALKED IN
SO SHAME ON YOU NOW
YOU FLEW TO PLACES YOU'VE NEVER BEEN
NOW YOUR STANDING ON THE COLD HARD GROUND
OH, OH, TROUBLE, TROUBLE, TROUBLE
OH, OH, TROUBLE, TROUBLE, TROUBLE

WE KNEW YOU WERE TROUBLE WHEN YOU WALKED IN
TROUBLE, TROUBLE, TROUBLE

WE KNEW YOU WERE TROUBLE WHEN YOU WALKED IN
TROUBLE, TROUBLE, TROUBLE!

Alice: Objection!

Queen: No more objections. I've heard enough. The judge has reached a verdict.

King: But you're not actually the judge, dear.

Queen: Of course, I'm the judge. How could this system possibly work if I didn't control the outcome? Off with her head!

(There's no response.)

Mad Hatter: She is just a little girl, your majesty.

March Hare: Maybe we could spare her.

King: That does make sense, dear.

Queen: Precisely. And our job is to make nonsense. (to the chorus) Let me remind you that I have the power to deny your claims, drop your coverage and double your premiums.

All: Yes, your majesty.

Queen: So, when I say, disorder in the court. I mean, disorder in the court. *Off with her head!*

All: Off with her head!

(Reprise of the chaotic music, then ---)

(The chorus continues to sing or yell as it surrounds and closes in on Alice. Just as the Queen raises her scalpel, LIGHTS TO BLACK.)

(All exit except Alice.)

(Lights come up on Alice, sleeping.)

Soft music rises: GOOD MORNING, STAR SHINE

(Alice stirs, wakes up.)

Alice: Am I home? Am I really home? (She looks around, is satisfied. Rubs her eyes.) I must have been dreaming! Oh, my what a terrible, horrible, miserable dream! That was frightening. Thank goodness I'm safe again.

(The Cheshire Cat grin drops down.)

Cat: Not entirely.

Alice: But I'm home now.

Cat: Out of the frying pan, into the fire.

Alice: Say, what are you doing here?

Cat: Smiling.

Alice: Well, listen, you can just go back to the bad dream from where you came. I'm back in reality now, thank goodness. And I live in US of A, the greatest nation on earth! This is not Healthcare Land. In American, we have free medical care for everyone. (after a beat) Don't we?

Cat: Not quite. You do, if you live in the White House. Or are a member of Congress. Or the military. Or if you're a senior citizen. But if you're a little girl with a tummy ache –

Alice: You mean, nobody's going to help me?

Cat: If you can manage to put up with your abdominal pain until you're sixty-five, maybe we can do something then.

Alice: Whoa. I'm shocked. I had no idea things were this bad.

Cat: You're only a kid, Alice. It's always hard to believe your elders are that stupid.

Alice: So, I guess there's no way for me to get any help.

Cat: Well, you could move to England. Or Canada. Or France. They treat anybody whose sick. So does Cuba.

Alice: Cuba?

Cat: Don't ask. It just upsets the cable news networks.

Alice: I feel a little ashamed.

Cat: Ashamed? For who?

Alice: For all of us. Here in the greatest nation on earth.

Cat: Maybe you should try to do something about all the absurdity, then.

Alice: Me? But I'm only one small girl.

(One Small Girl from Once on This Island)

Chorus: (offstage) ONE SMALL GIRL

Cat: It's a beginning.

Alice: But how do I start?

Chorus: (offstage) ONE SMALL GIRL

Cat: With your imagination. Imagine something better. Fairer. More humane.

Alice: I'm not sure anyone will listen.

Cat: Just make sense, Alice. The grown ups have forgotten how. Remind them.

Chorus: (entering) ONE SMALL GIRL.

(Waiting for Life to Begin from Once on This Island)

Alice: Well, um, AH, I'D LIKE TO SAY

EVERYONE
SOMETHING DIFF'RENT
MUST BE DONE
HOW WOULD IT FEEL TO GET TREATED
WHENEVER YOU'RE SICK
GETTING THE HELP THAT YOU NEED
AND THEN GETTING IT QUICK
ALWAYS TO KNOW THERE'S A PLACE
AND A DOCTOR WHO'S THERE
TO LIVE IN A LAND FULL OF PEOPLE
WHO LOVE AND WHO CARE.

(The chorus begins to emerge slowly onto the stage, curious to hear what Alice is saying.)

OH FRIENDS
OH FRIENDS
HEAR MY PLEA
WHAT CAN I DO TO GET YOU TO BE WILLING TO SHARE
OH FRIENDS
OH FRIENDS
CAN'T YOU SEE
WE ALL COULD FALL ILL
OR GROW TOO OLD ONE DAY
WITH OUR FATE IN THE AIR
WAITING FOR OTHERS TO CARE

(The Chorus likes what Alice is saying, gathers closer to listen.)

Chorus: OOH LA OOH LA OOH LA OOH LA

OOH LA OOH LA OOH LA OOH LA

Alice: (WE) KNOW THERE'S ENOUGH TO GO ROUND SO

WE GET WHAT WE NEED

Chorus: OOH LA OOH LA OOH LA OOH LA

Alice: ALL WE MUST DO IS TO SHARE

WHAT WE'VE GOT TO SUCCEED

Chorus: OOH LA OOH LA OOH LA OOH LA

Alice: WE COULD HAVE HEAVEN RIGHT HERE

BUT WE'RE LIVING IN HELL

Chorus: OOH LA OOH LA OOH LA OOH LA

Alice: WE CAN MAKE MONEY OR ELSE

WE CAN MAKE PEOPLE WELL.

HOW SIMPLE!

WE COULD START TODAY

WORKING TOGETHER

WE CAN FIND A WAY

HOW EASY!
 ONE DAY WE'LL ARRIVE
 ALL THOSE IN PAIN
 WE'LL TREAT THE SAME
 AND WE WILL THRIVE, WE'LL THRIVE!

OH, FRIENDS
 OH, FRIENDS
 ARE YOU THERE?
 NOTHING IS CERTAIN
 AND NO ONE'S IMMUNE, YES, IT'S TRUE
 WAKE UP!
 BE BRAVE
 SAY YOU CARE
 REMEMBER THE SICK
 ONE DAY COULD BE YOU

OH, FRIENDS, OH FRIENDS
 HEAR MY VOICE

Chorus: OH, OH, OH

Alice: WE CAN DO SOMETHING
 SOMETHING MUCH BETTER, I KNOW

Chorus: OOH LA OOH LA OOH LA OOH LA

Alice: JUST SEIZE THIS TIME
 IT'S OUR CHOICE

Chorus: OH, OH, OH

Alice: IT'S TIME THAT WE RISE
 AND WE END THIS DEBATE
 BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE
 'CAUSE WE'RE WAITING, WAITING

CHORUS: WAITING

Alice: WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO CARE

Men: THAT SOUNDS GOOD

Women: ONE SMALL GIRL

Alice: WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO CARE

Men: THAT SOUNDS GOOD

Women: ONE SMALL GIRL

(A loud CRACK OF THUNDER)

CAT: And an idea sprang up and cracked the thick skulls of the American people,

Waking them up to the possibility that they would no longer have to live in fear:

fear of catching the flu

fear breaking a leg

fear needing major surgery

fear having a sick child

fear of going bankrupt from unpaid medical bills.

And their minds were filled with the realization that it was
 wrong to turn people away from an emergency room
 wrong to deny someone medical treatment for a pre-existing condition
 and wrong to cancel an insurance policy
 in order to increase the profits of the medical/industrial complex.

So the spirit of Alice touched their hearts
 And they came together, from the rural hills of Kentucky to the streets of New York, from the plains of
 Kansas to the shores of California. Using their common sense, they were determined to end the nonsense. It
 was time, they had decided, to heal the sick.

(We Tell the Story from Once on This Island)

Chorus:

AND WE STAND AGAINST THE LIGHTNING AND THE THUNDER
 AND WE'RE SHELTERED AND PROTECTED FROM ABOVE
 AND WE MARVEL AT THE POWER AND THE WONDER
 OF OUR LOVE

AND THIS IS WHY
 WE TELL THE STORY
 WHY WE TELL THE STORY

WHY WE TELL THE STORY
 WHY WE TELL THE STORY

IF YOU LISTEN VERY HARD YOU'LL HEAR US CALL YOU
 TO COME SHARE WITH US OUR LAUGHTER AND OUR TEARS
 AS WE WORK TO MAKE A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL WHO
 LIVE WITH FEARS

WE TELL THE STORY
 WE TELL THE STORY!

LIFE IS WHY
 WE TELL THE STORY
 PAIN IS WHY
 WE TELL THE STORY
 LOVE IS WHY
 WE TELL THE STORY
 GRIEF IS WHY
 WE TELL THE STORY
 HOPE IS WHY
 WE TELL THE STORY
 FAITH IS WHY
 WE TELL THE STORY
 YOU ARE WHY
 WE TELL THE STORY
 WHY WE TELL THE STORY
 WHY WE TELL THE STORY
 WHY WE TELL THE STORY

SO I HOPE THAT YOU WILL TELL THIS TALE TOMORROW
 IT WILL HELP YOUR HEART REMEMBER AND RELIVE
 IT WILL HELP YOU FEEL THE ANGER AND THE SORROW
 AND FORGIVE

FOR ALL THE ONES WE LEAVE
 AND WE BELIEVE
 OUR LIVES BECOME
 THE STORIES THAT WE WEAVE

Alice: There is a country
 Where the rivers run deep

Where the seas sparkling in the sun
 Earn it the name Land of Milk and Honey
 A country where the poorest of us can thrive
 And the wealthiest of us can share
 And that is why
 We tell the story.

Chorus:
 WE TELL THE STORY!

(Waiting on the World to Change – John Mayer)

ME AND ALL MY FRIENDS
 IT'S TIME WE'RE UNDERSTOOD
 WE'RE STANDING UP FOR SOMETHING AND
 IT IS CALLED THE COMMON GOOD.

NOW WE SEE EVERYTHING IS GOING WRONG
 WITH THE WORLD AND THOSE WHO LEAD IT
 WE JUST FEEL LIKE WE MUST FIND A WAY
 TO RISE ABOVE AND BEAT IT

SO WE KEEP CALLING (CALLING)
 CALLING ON THE WORLD TO CHANGE
 WE KEEP ON CALLING (CALLING)
 CALLING ON THE WORLD TO CHANGE
 IT'S HARD TO BEAT THE SYSTEM
 SO WE GOING TO MAKE THEM LISTEN
 SO WE KEEP CALLING (CALLING)
 CALLING ON THE WORLD TO CHANGE

WE KNOW WE HAVE THE POWER
 TO TREAT OUR NEIGHBORS WHEN THEY'RE ILL
 THERE'S NO NEED TO MAKE THEM SUFFER
 WE JUST HAVE TO FIND THE WILL

WE KEEP WAITING FOR OUR LEADERS
 BUT THEY'RE FALLING FAR BEHIND
 "CUZ WE DON'T NEED MORE INFORMATION OOOHHH,
 WE JUST NEED A CHANGE OF MIND

SO WHILE WE'RE CALLING (CALLING)
 CALLING ON THE WORLD TO CHANGE
 WE KEEP ON CALLING (CALLING)
 CALLING ON THE WORLD TO CHANGE
 GONNA TELL THE WORLD WE CARE
 IT'S TIME TO MAKE THIS WHOLE THING FAIR
 SO WE KEEP CALLING (CALLING)
 CALLING ON THE WORLD TO CHANGE

(GUITAR SOLO)

WE'RE STILL CALLING (CALLING)
 CALLING ON THE WORLD TO CHANGE
 WE KEEP ON CALLING (CALLING)

CALLING ON THE WORLD TO CHANGE
ONE DAY OUR GENERATION
IS GONNA HEAL THE POPULATION

SO WE KEEP ON CALLING (CALLING)
CALLING ON THE WORLD TO CHANGE
KNOW WE KEEP ON CALLING (CALLING)
CALLING ON THE WORLD TO CHANGE
WE KEEP ON CALLING (CALLING)
CALLING ON THE WORLD TO CHANGE
CALLING ON THE WORLD TO CHANGE
CALLING ON THE WORLD TO CHANGE
CALLING ON THE WORLD TO CHANGE

The End