

Alice's Adventures with Poorly Cooked Cafeteria Seafood

By Don Zolidis

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Cast of Characters

Real World

Alice
Waldo
Moob
Mom
Ms. Snodgrass
Tammy
Mary
Stacy
Melanie
Kaylie
Joey
Trisha

Wonderland

Alice
Mad Hatter
Cheshire Cat
Mom
Red Queen
Caterpillar
March Hare
Mouse
Gryphon
Mock Turtle Ninja
King of Hearts
Rabbit

(A dark stage. ALICE emerges.)

ALICE

Hello there. My name is Alice. I live in a town near you. I could be the girl sitting next to you. I could be the girl you never talk to. You might not even know I exist.

WALDO

My name's Waldo. And I'm a genius.

ALICE

Get out.

WALDO

No.

ALICE

This is my story.

WALDO

I don't see your name on it.

ALICE

Mom! MOMMM!

WALDO

I live in your town too. I haunt your dreams. Are you ready for me? Are you ready for this much man?

ALICE

GET OUT OF MY ROOM!

MOM (*off-stage*)

You kids play nice!

ALICE

He's interrupting my monologue!

WALDO

When I was seven I discovered I had supernatural powers. Powers over life and death.

ALICE

You do not.

WALDO

At the moment I'm making my older sister die slowly.

ALICE

Get out!

WALDO

Very slowly. She doesn't even realize it, but—

(ALICE gets WALDO in a headlock.)

A curse on you! May your bones rot!

ALICE

You're weird, and I hate you!

(The MOM bursts in.)

MOM

Stop it right now!

(ALICE lets go of WALDO.)

WALDO

You're lucky, Alice.

ALICE

You're a freak, Waldo.

WALDO

From now on I am known as Morgoth the undying. You shall address me as the Dark Lord.

ALICE

Mom, he's being weird again.

MOM

Alice, what did I say to you about calling your brother names?

ALICE

He's like this because you watched those Lord of the Rings movies while you were pregnant.

MOM

What did I say about calling your brother names?

ALICE

I don't know!

MOM

I said that your brother is a genius and our role as family members is to encourage him to reach his full potential.

WALDO

That's right I'm a genius!

MOM

All the tests say so. And standardized testing is never wrong. And those same tests showed that you were slightly below average—

WALDO

More than slightly—

MOM

So we shouldn't waste too much time educating you or encouraging you. Look, it's no sin to be average.

WALDO

Below average.

MOM

It's just that I don't have a lot of money to put both of you through college, so I've decided to concentrate on the smart one.

WALDO

In your face!

MOM

Look, you know I want the best for you Alice, but let's be honest here. Do you really deserve the best? Okay? Set your sights low. I love you, honey.

ALICE

I just want him to leave my room so I can continue the opening!

MOM

Oh. Waldo? Why don't you let your sister continue?

WALDO

Because I hate her and I want her to suffer.

MOM

Well, that's good enough for me.

(she leaves.)

ALICE

I'm not doing very well in school. My last report card, I got a 57 in math. And that was one of my better grades.

(WALDO snorts.)

And my stupid little brother is in the same classes as me cause he skipped two grades.

WALDO

Do you want to play Dungeons and Dragons with me?

ALICE

No. I don't want to play Dungeons and Dragons with you.

WALDO

Is it because you're intimidated by me?

ALICE

No, it's because you're weird.

(MOOB enters.)

MOOB

Hey Waldo.

WALDO

Hey Moob.

ALICE

His weird little friend is in my room!

MOOB

Hi Alice. Are you going to play D and D with us?

ALICE

No.

(MOM returns.)

MOM

Why can't you get along?

ALICE

Because he's a freak.

WALDO

Because she's inferior.

MOOB

I get along with everyone.

MOM

Boys, let me talk to Alice for a moment.

WALDO

Fine. Come on, Moob. You can be a half-orc.

Ooh.
(They leave.)

MOOB

Can I get a lock on my door?

ALICE

I just took a look at your report card.

MOM

Oh shoot.

ALICE

Darling, you know I love you, right?

MOM

Yes.

ALICE

Well I'm going to stop unless these grades improve.

MOM

What?!

ALICE

I've only got so much love to give, and most of it is reserved for little Waldo.

MOM

Morgoth!

WALDO *(off-stage)*

Or Morgoth.

MOM

If Dad were here he'd support me.

ALICE

Your father is too busy supporting his secretary to care about you. Now run along. Mommy is tired dear. She needs to spend some time away from you.

MOM

But you're in my room.

ALICE

MOM

I own the house. Technically, they're all my rooms.

ALICE

Fine.

(She leaves. WALDO is in the other room, setting up his Dungeons and Dragons game.)

WALDO

I'm the Dungeon Master cause I said so.

MOOB

I want to be a half-orc wizard.

WALDO

That's a stupid combination.

MOOB

Why?

WALDO

Cause half-orcs have penalties to their intelligence, loser. Gosh you're dumb. Are you going to play with us, Alice?

ALICE

Why would I want to play with you?

WALDO

Mom! She's not supporting my intellectual development!

MOM

You play Dungeons and Dragons with your little brother!

ALICE

No! Mom!

MOM

You do it or your cat's not allowed back in the house!

ALICE

Muffin! Fine.

WALDO

Okay, now, I am the Dungeon Master. The entire world of this game exists inside my imagination.

MOOB

It's cool.

WALDO

And in my imagination you are an amazon barbarian named Snorkus.

ALICE

Fine. Whatever. I don't care.

WALDO

And you have a comeliness of 12.

MOOB

More like nine.

WALDO

Yeah, that's right. Nine.

(MOOB and WALDO laugh.)

ALICE

You guys are dorks. You know that, don't you? You know that's why no one wants to hang out with you.

MOM *(off)*

No one wants to hang out with him because everyone else is stupid!

WALDO

Okay, let's begin our world of adventure. You two noble adventurers are attempting to solve the quest given to you by the evil warlock Grimna—

MOOB

Can my character be going out with her character?

WALDO

Yes.

ALICE

I kill myself.

WALDO

You can't do that.

ALICE

Yes I can. I find the nearest cliff and throw myself off.

WALDO

There are no cliffs. You're in a flat desert.

ALICE

Fine. I eat sand until I die.

MOOB

I save her life.

WALDO

Moob's character saves you.

ALICE

I decide not to breathe any more.

WALDO

Everyone knows breathing is an involuntary process. How stupid do you have to be not to know that?

(ALICE gets up and leaves.)

Hey! Hey! You're missing out on our adventure of the imagination!

(ALICE finally escapes from them and finds the audience again.)

ALICE *(to the audience)*

Okay, sorry about that. As I was saying before I got so rudely interrupted. This is my story. And it all began at school one day. You see, I was having trouble passing Ms. Snodgrass' Biology class.

(Students begin arriving, carrying chairs and setting up the classroom.)

It wasn't that I hated Biology. I didn't really care about Biology either way. It's just that Ms. Snodgrass was the kind of teacher who—

MS. SNODGRASS

Silence! Sit down!

(ALICE sits quickly.)

ALICE *(to the audience)*

Unfortunately, since my brother skipped two grades...

(WALDO enters and sits next to ALICE.)

WALDO

So did you do your homework?

ALICE

We had homework?

(WALDO smirks.)

What was the homework?

WALDO

I'm sorry I cannot reveal that information.

ALICE

Tell me.

WALDO

I could tell you, but then I'd have to kill you.

ALICE

I'm going to kill you.

MS. SNODGRASS

Why is there talking?

(The students are very, very silent. MS. SNODGRASS paces.)

It is time for Biology class, children. Time to leave behind your senseless cares of the outside world and concentrate on the mysteries of life itself.

(She stops.)

Do I smell gum? Is someone chewing gum?

(No one says anything. MS. SNODGRASS survey the class, moving from kid to kid, sniffing them.)

TRISHA *(breaking down)*

I had gum before class! I'm sorry, I'm so sorry... please don't hurt me.

(she begins to cry.)

MS. SNODGRASS

I appreciate your honesty Trisha. Unfortunately, honesty will not always save you. Pick another student in this room to receive a zero on their test grade.

TRISHA

What?

MS. SNODGRASS

Or everyone will get a zero.

TRISHA

That's not fair!

MS. SNODGRASS

Life isn't fair! Biology is the study of life. Therefore, Biology isn't fair. You will receive a one hundred for your honesty, someone else will receive a zero as a result. Who will it be?

TRISHA

Um... Kaylie?

KAYLIE

What?

MS. SNODGRASS

Very well, Kaylie it is. Kaylie I'm very disappointed in you. You just received a zero on a test grade.

KAYLIE

But I didn't—

MS. SNODGRASS

Silence!

KAYLIE (*whimpering*)

I'm not going to get Christmas now.
(*MELANIE raises her hand.*)