

Hare It wasn't very polite of you to sit down without being invited.

Hatter Your hair wants cutting.

Alice You shouldn't make personal remarks. It's very rude.

Hatter Why is a raven like a writing-desk?

Alice I believe I can guess that.

Hare Do you mean that you think you can find out the answer to it?

Alice Yes.

Hare Then you should say what you mean.

Alice I do!

[Silence.]

Hatter The dormouse is asleep again. [He pours some tea onto the dormouse waking him up.] Have you guessed the riddle yet?

Alice No, have you got the answer?

Hatter I haven't the slightest idea!

Hare Nor I.

Hatter [Sings]
 Twinkle, twinkle, little bat!
 How I wonder what you're at!
 Up above the world you fly
 like a tea tray in the sky.
 Twinkle, twinkle...

Dormouse [In his sleep] Twinkle, twinkle, twinkle...

Hatter I sang that for the queen once. Well I'd hardly finished the first verse when the Queen jumped up and shouted, 'Off with his head.' [He sips his tea] It's always six o'clock here. That's why it's always tea time. When we need a clean cup, we all move along.

Hare I'm getting tired of this. Can the young lady tell us story?

Alice I don't know one.

Hare and Hatter The dormouse will! Wake up dormouse. [They both pinch the dormouse.]

Dormouse [Waking up.] I wasn't asleep.

Hatter Tell us a story! And be quick about it, or you'll be asleep again before it's done.

Dormouse Once upon a time there were three little sisters, and they lived at the bottom of a well.

Hare What did they live on?

Dormouse Treacle. It was a treacle well.

Hatter I want a clean cup. Let's all move one place on.

Hare One indeed.

[They all move]

Alice I don't think...

Hatter Then you shouldn't talk!

Alice You should be more polite.

[Alice leaves.]

Music: Time Keeps Ticking.