

Slippery Slope  
A Ten Minute Play

by

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### Characters:

Alice, early 20s; her looks hold up to her name with blonde hair and blue eyes and constantly wears a black headband; a young, newly graduated English major who is not sure what she is doing with her life.

Person 1, early 20s; female, a changing character.

Person 2, early 20s; male, a changing character.

### Note on casting:

Persons 1 and 2 can be played by any ethnicity/racial identity.

### Setting:

Within Alice's mind: graduation, a fast food joint, a strip club, on the streets, and Purgatory.

(LIGHTS UP on the stage.  
ALICE is dressed in a white  
graduation cap and gown; the  
cap says "Curioser and  
curioser..." on it. Some  
balloons are on the ground.  
It is the aftermath of a  
graduation. She walks around  
the stage questioningly.)

ALICE

Huh...

(ALICE looks to the audience  
and breaks the forth wall.)

ALICE (cont.)

When you plant a seed you only think about when the flower  
is going to be fully bloomed, when it's perfect if you  
will. The part where the color is brightest, the bloom is  
fullest. You water it and nurture it every single day. But  
you never really know when that day will happen. I mean,  
you know it will eventually. But, like, not specifically.  
And then when that day does come, it's thrilling. A moment  
you want to capture in time. Photographs, putting it in a  
vase, pressing it into a book. But then that day passes.  
And it starts to wither away. And you wonder to yourself:  
"now what?"...Now what.

(PERSON 1 and PERSON 2 walk  
on stage. They are both  
wearing cap and gowns.  
Person 1's cap says "Disney  
or bust" on it. PERSON 2 is  
holding a selfie stick with  
his phone to it. They walk  
over to ALICE.)

PERSON 1

...so then I was, like, "please, no one fully appreciates the  
use of cell animation until you watch Keane create Ariel."

Person 2  
(To ALICE)

Oh! Hey!

(They run over and give  
ALICE a huge hug.)

PERSON 1

AHH! Congrats!

ALICE  
(smiling)

Congrats yourself.

PERSON 2

Can you believe it? This is crazy!

PERSON 1

I personally can't wait for Cali!

ALICE

We got it, Mary Blair, you'll be there soon enough. You'll  
do well I know.

PERSON 2

Farrow and Farrow want me in Dallas ASAP. You wouldn't  
think this was an internship with how they've been calling.

ALICE

You'll have to send me a picture of a tumbleweed.

PERSON 2

What? No suit and tie pic?

ALICE (jokingly)

Ehh, I've seen you in a suit enough to last.

PERSON 1

So, have you been thinking about that book again?

ALICE

A bit...it's just...it'll...it'll get done. Don't worry. It's  
fine.

PERSON 1

Well, I know it'll be on the *Times'* list soon enough!

PERSON 2

Picture time!

(ALICE, PERSON 1 and 2 take a picture together. There is a flash.)

PERSON 2

Awesome! I like it. Well, I gotta run and go find my parents. Text me!

PERSON 1

Yeah, me too. My dad's probably complaining about why we aren't at DePalma's yet. Talk soon?

ALICE

Probably tomorrow.

(They hug and PERSON 1 and 2 and they run off stage. As ALICE talks PERSON 1 and 2 run back on stage with PERSON 1 with a dress and PERSON 2 with a uniform on. They take off ALICE's cap and gown and put on a matching hat and apron. Balloons are gone and now there is only a cashier podium.)

ALICE

(Back to audience)

So about that book...I tried...and I tried again...and retried...and retried again...but nothing was really going. I was home. I had loans to pay. So I decided to get a job.

ALICE (cont.)

(fake thrilled)

Yeahhhhh...

(ALICE is now behind the podium and turns to talk to the customer.)

ALICE

That'll be \$4.65.

PERSON 1

(in a Valley Girl accent)

But, like, don't you take off for the no mayo?

ALICE

No, we don't. Here's your change.

PERSON 1

Uhh, this is, like, not enough.

ALICE

You gave me a five. I may not have been a math major, but I know that you get back 35 cents.

PERSON 1

(disgusted)

Well, maybe if you were, like, a computer scientist you wouldn't be here. Ugh.

ALICE

(to herself)

Tell me about it.

ALICE (cont.)

(to manager)

So, Jeff, I was thinking about, you know, how we go about scheduling? I thought if we tried using an online app instead of the paper sheet that we use that it would be quicker and more efficient.

PERSON 2

Well, I'll, I'll take that into consideration. But I, I, think we have an uhhh important, what's the word I'm looking for? Important man to...woman...talk.

ALICE

Uhh...I'm sorry, Jeff. You seem like a nice guy, but I'm talking to this guy on Tindr and...

PERSON 2

Oh, oh, no. I'm sorry, I mean, well, see that machine over there?

ALICE

...yeah?

PERSON 2

Well, all of the McChickadie's are getting uhh new technology which I know as a young person you totally love and are thrilled about.

ALICE

...sure. So what does this have to do with me again?

PERSON 2

Well, I'm, I'm sure because of being a young person and a new McChickadie's chick-chick that you would understand if our...ummm...longer-termed workers continued their jobs and...

ALICE

Wait. Am I'm being fired?

PERSON @

I, I wouldn't call it "being fired"...I'd call it, well, downsizing. I know that you'll make a great employee...uhh...elsewhere...but you can always come back for a classic McChickadie's slider.

ALICE

...for free?

PERSON 2

Uhh, no.

ALICE

And that was how I was fired. From my first job. Because I was apparently not worth putting money into. Unlike new tech. But soon I got a call from an old friend and she told me that she had a job for me. How lucky right? She said I could take a dancing job. I, mean, I do love my ballet. Mom will be so glad to hear those thousands of dollar are finally paying off!

(ALICE is stripped down to a black leotard and tights. The podium is removed and instead a dancing pole is placed in the middle. PERSON 1 is

dressed in a really tight  
black dress with really high  
heels. PERSON 2 is dressed  
like a club body guard.)

PERSON 1

So you've had training before, Chalice?

ALICE

Yeah, I've worked with a good ole barre before. And it's  
Alice, by the way.

PERSON 1

Oh, I thought that was your stage name. No biggie. You can  
be called "Bunny."

ALICE

Uhh, okay then?

(They turn around and ALICE  
notices that the barre is  
vertical and not horizontal.  
She looks at it sideways.)

ALICE

Umm...I can...make it...work...I think.

PERSON 1

Great! You'll be on soon. That one CD right? Also, I like  
the ballet look. Very...unique...

ALICE

Yeah totally...Okay...Thanks...yeah...

(ALICE gives PERSON 1 a  
thumbs up. She goes over to  
the pole and looks at it.  
She takes out a Kleenex and  
wipes what she can reach  
down.)

PERSON 1

Ready?

ALICE

As ready as I'll ever be...

(All of sudden Taylor Swift's "I Knew You Were Trouble" blasts from the speakers. ALICE tries to be ballet-like in the beginning, but as it the song gets harder she goes more full out (twerking, etc.). Like she's trying to be sexy, but it's so horrible that it's anything but.)

PERSON 2

Wow...she straight up sucks...and not in a good way...

PERSON 1

(annoyed)

Ugh.

(PERSON 1 goes off stage and "turns the music off" and walks back on to see ALICE slightly confused.)

PERSON 1 (cont.)

I'm sorry, love, but you're just not...sorry...Alice...you can go now...

ALICE

And that's how I failed the oldest job in the history of mankind. You know...I really, really didn't know what to do then. Parents kicked me out because I turned to, well, "stripping." Lost everything I could to write. Soon all of my funds were kaput. Gone. Zero. Zilch. Nada...So I found this cozy, little corner off on a side street actually not too far from McChickadie's. Irony.

(The pole is gone. There is now a card board box. ALICE is helped into a large pair of pants a large jacket and

a trucker hat is on the ground next to a sign that says "Will create poems for money." ALICE sits next to the box and PERSON 1 and 2 are dressed nicely and they start to walk past her.)

PERSON 1

(very southern accent)

EW! Homeless person.

ALICE

I may be broke, but my ears aren't.

PERSON 2

(laughs; very southern accent)

That was pretty bad. "Will create poems for money?" Hmmm...

PERSON 1

Oh, hunny! I want a poem!

PERSON 2

Okay, okay. We'll give you a five if you make a nice poem, how 'bout that?

ALICE

Okay, about...?

PERSON 1

Me! Of course about me! My name is Sarah Belle.

ALICE

Okay then. There once was a girl named Sarah Belle, but she didn't have any friends to tell, about her secrets and lies, and really big thighs, so she paid for a hobo to spill.

PERSON 1

UGH! How dare you?!

ALICE

Never said you had to like it. Now, five please.

(PERSON 2 reaches into his pocket.)

PERSON 1  
(disgusted)

Hunny!

PERSON 2  
Now, sugarplum, I did promise her I would give her a five.

(He flicks ALICE a nickel.  
PERSON 1 sees and they both  
begin to laugh before they  
walk away.)

ALICE  
(angrily)  
It's not nice to cheat! CHEATERS NEVER PROSPER!

ALICE (cont.)  
(to audience)  
And so this is the story of how I died. Not too long after I starved to death and found myself in what was presented to me as Purgatory. If anything it was like one of those doctor's waiting rooms and smelled sterile. And there was only five different magazines! And a TV which only played old re-runs of *I Love Lucy*.

(ALICE is changed back into her original outfit without the cap and gown. There are a few chairs and a table which holds the magazines. PERSON 1 is dressed like a nurse and PERSON 2 is dressed in every day clothes. The *I Love Lucy* theme song plays on loop in the background.)

ALICE  
So, home sweet...home...

(She walks over and sits next to PERSON 2)

ALICE (cont.)

Hey, I'm Alice.

PERSON 2

Bill.

ALICE

How long have you been here? I hope that's not too...personal?

PERSON 2

Nah, that's fine, but to be honest I have no idea. My watch has said 2:34 for a good while now. But hopefully soon.

ALICE

Ahh...okay then.

PERSON 1

Bill Benson?

PERSON 2

Oh! That's me! Good luck! May God be with you!

ALICE

Thanks and, well, He'll be with you soon...?

(PERSON 2 waves and is led off stage by PERSON 1)

ALICE

Okay, then...

(ALICE picks up a magazine and flips through a few magazines, but soon falls asleep.)

PERSON 1

Alice Edmonton? Alice? ALICE!!

ALICE

(groggily yet loudly)

Lucy!!!

(She wakes up sitting in the chair oddly.)

ALICE (cont.)

What?

PERSON 1

It's your turn to move on.

ALICE  
(nervously)

Oh...okay then.

PERSON 1

If you could please follow me.

(The table and chairs get moved off stage. Alice is helped into her cap and gown.)

ALICE

Will it hurt?

PERSON 1

Will what hurt?

ALICE

You know, moving on?

PERSON 1

Some say it does. Others say it doesn't. I guess it depends on you really. On your perspective. Don't worry. It's nothing to be ashamed about. Everyone has to move on.

ALICE

Well, okay then.

PERSON 1

But before you move on we like to take a picture for you to hold onto so you can see that you made it.

(PERSON 2 comes back onstage with his selfie stick and phone.)

PERSON 2

Picture time!

(ALICE, PERSON 1 and 2 take a picture together. There is a flash. Balloons are once again on stage. It's graduation again.)

PERSON 2

Awesome! I like it. Well, I gotta run and go find my parents. Text me!

PERSON 1

Yeah, me too. My dad's probably complaining about why we aren't at DePalma's yet. Talk soon?

ALICE

Probably tomorrow.

(They hug and PERSON 1 and 2 and they run off stage. PERSON 1 runs back onstage and goes over to hand ALICE a card.)

PERSON 1

Oh! I almost forgot. I have a friend who has an e-book service and I told him about how you. He wanted me to give you his card. He says they are always looking for fresh writers. So don't give up on that book, okay?

ALICE

I would never dream of it.

(LIGHTS FADE on stage. End of play.)