

## Alice In Videoland

### "Preface"

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Child of the pure unclouded brow  
And dreaming eyes of wonder!  
Though time be fleet, and I and thou  
Are half a life asunder,  
Thy loving smile will surely hail  
The lovegift of a fairy-tale.

I have not seen thy sunny face,  
Nor heard thy silver laughter;  
No thought of me shall find a place  
In thy young life?s hereafter-  
Enough that now thou wilt not fail  
To listen to my fairy-tale.

A tale begun in other days,  
When summer suns were glowing-  
A simple chime, that served to time  
The rhythm of our rowing-  
Whose echoes live in memory yet,  
Though envious years would say ?forget?.

Come, hearken then, ere voice of dread,  
With bitter tidings laden,  
Shall summon to unwelcome bed  
A melancholy maiden!

We are but older children, dear,  
Who fret to find our bedtime near.

Without, the frost, the blinding snow,  
The stormwind?s moody madness-  
Within, the firelight?s ruddy glow  
And childhoods nest of gladness.

The magic words shall hold thee fast:  
Thou shalt not heed the raving blast.

And though the shadow of a sigh  
May tremble through the story,  
For 'happy summer days? gone by,  
And vanish?d summer glory-

It shall not touch with breath of bale  
The pleasance of our fairy-tale.

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