

# Humpty Dumpty

112

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

ACT II

AC

Start

ALICE

I said you *looked* like an egg, sir. And some eggs are very pretty, you know.

HT

HUMPTY DUMPTY

Some people have no more sense than a baby!

AI

ALICE

“Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall:  
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.  
All the King’s horses and all the King’s men  
Couldn’t put Humpty Dumpty in his place again.”  
That last line is much too long for the poetry.

HI

HUMPTY DUMPTY

Don’t stand chattering to yourself like that, but tell me your name and your business.

ALICE

My *name* is Alice, but . . .

A.

HUMPTY DUMPTY

It’s a stupid name enough! What does it mean?

H

ALICE

*Must* a name mean something?

A

HUMPTY DUMPTY

Of course it must: *my* name means the shape I am . . . and a good, handsome shape it is, too. With a name like yours, you might be any shape, almost.

ALICE

Why do you sit out here all alone?

HUMPTY DUMPTY

Why, because there's nobody with me! Did you think I didn't know the answer to *that*? Ask another.

ALICE

Don't you think you'd be safer down on the ground? That wall is so *very* narrow!

HUMPTY DUMPTY

What tremendously easy riddles you ask! Of course I don't think so. Why, if ever I *did* fall off . . . which there's no chance of . . . but *if* I did . . . *If* I did fall, *the King has promised me*—ah, you may turn pale, if you like! You didn't think I was going to say that, did you? *The King has promised me with his very own mouth . . . to . . . to . . .*

ALICE

To send all his horses and all his men.

HUMPTY DUMPTY

Now, I declare that's too bad! You've been listening at doors . . . and behind trees . . . and down chimneys . . . or you couldn't have known it.

ALICE

I haven't, indeed! It's in a book. (*Changing the subject.*) What a beautiful belt you've got on! At least, a beautiful cravat I should have said . . . no, a belt, I mean . . . I beg your pardon! (*Aside.*) I do wish I hadn't chosen that subject. If only I knew which was neck, and which was waist!