11th Hour Adventures

by Mario (Mars) Wolfe
Characters:

Alice – Trans W, black/brown
Tyme – Trans M
The Grass – Chorus of Anita Bakers
Mr. Hats – W
Cat-or-Pillar – Non-Binary, brown

Time and Place:

Tomorrow’s tomorrow
The other Looking Glass
RUN!!!
LET’S Go
Quick

ALICE:

Huh

TYME:

RUN
GIRL

ALICE:

Wait—you okay?
Slow down

TYME:

RUUUUN
Before it comes!

ALICE:

And before I knew
We were running
Zooming across the field
Past the old dog’s house
Past the janky mailbox
Deep near the trees
This fool gone have me
Lock up my knees

TYME:

Go–go–go–go–go!
It’s coming–

ALICE:

Wait—what’s coming?!?
I didn’t know what it was
Nor could I stop to see
Busy ducking
Getting hit with switches on my–ow–
Where he going?!
‘XCUSE ME
I’m not supposed to be out this far
But we stay running
Jogging, let’s be real
I’m outa shape
But as fast as I could
I’m running
From something

Wolfe 2020
Wanna look back
But don’t wanna fall
Slow my pace
Get snatched
Grabbed
Or trip
Twist my ankle

TYME:

JUMP

Huh!

TYME:

JUMP
QUICK

ALICE:

And–quick–I–jumped!
And fell or fall–flew
Body being pulled down
Gravity, but past the ground
Through it
Kitty Pride
Underground
Through a hole
A waterpark slide felt like
And–ouch–and–oofph
And
Twigs poke–hurt my–ow
Switches slap my ouU–
A bug in my–euehw
And why now it feel like I’m about to
Faaahil...
OOouhffphd.
...
...
Bit my tongue–ouw
Trying to catch my–
And
I look up at
Him
Already standing
...
He

TYME:

Are you okay?
Feel like
I
Broke my tailbo-ow-ow-ow.
And taste blood droplets...
How you gone say jump?!
And don’t warn me about the-
Yo that hurt like-mad-like-ow
Landed on my booty
And it’s a cushion,
Thank you mama,
Stouffers too,
But still it-ouu-ou
And now I got a migraine.
Head aching.
What’s wrong with you?!

You want some Aspirin?

Uh
Please.

Gotta go to Cat-or-Pillar.

Excuse you?

To get Aspirin
We’ve gotta walk-walk-walk
Like this
I mean
We could skip too
Over to the Cat-or-Pillar’s tree
It’s a healing palm tree

And it sound like Imma need a double dosage
Just to decipher what you trying to say.

Cat-or-Pillar’ll
Prescribe you one or three,
By the way you just fell,
Cubies to easeeee your pain.
I know the way...
Need a hand?
ALICE:

What it look like?
So he finally extends his arm to me
Butt hurt on the ground
He helps pull me up finally

TYME:

Nice to e-meet.
I’m Tyme

ALICE:

That’s cute.
...
Now you wanna know me?
Had me chase after you
Thinking I’m getting chased
And then I fall
Hurt my rump
Bit my tongue

TYME:

Your name is Alice?

ALICE:

How did you–

TYME:

Your handle.

ALICE:

Oh

TYME:

Nice to e-meet you.

ALICE:

My body hurtss.
My head is throbbing too
You hear that?!
Ears ringing like
Standing room near the front
Right under the speakers
Ow–ouu that’s sharp.

TYME:

We gotta get you to the Cat-or–Pillar.
Follow me.
Uh–uhn, Tyme  
Whatever–whatever  
I don’t know you.  
Don’t trust you.  
You lost me at jump  
From jump  
Telling my butt to.

I should have warned you.

I thought we were under attack  
Something above I swore  
War of the Worlds  
E.T. mama came back like  
“Where my baby at?!?”  
And you say run  
Real loud like  
This is not a drill  
Ring the alarm  
And here we are.

You were in danger  
I got you to safety.  
You are in pain.  
I help you relieve.

Don’t try to be cute  
I’m mad atchu

I’m sorry.

Apology  
Not accepted

...  

And then he just gone turn around  
And walk away like  
...  
Um.  
Excuse me

Wolfe 2020
TYME: What?

ALICE: I wanna go back.

TYME: And I wanna see the Cat-or-Pillar.

ALICE: And then again
He tuns his lil self around
And keeps walking
And I’m like
Uhh excue me

TYME: Wanna go to the Cat-or-Pillar now?

ALICE: Heg No.
I wanna go home.
Clicking my heels.
I got some Tylenol in the fridge
Next to the Baking Soda
Need to take two–three
Feel like
Soaking in some seltzer
How do I get back?

TYME: You wanna leave this place?

ALICE: Very much so

TYME: You wanna get back home?

ALICE: Soak in a hot bath
Warm me up two Hot Pockets
I’m hungry all of a sudden

TYME: To get home
You have to see the Cat–or–Pillar

ALICE: You want me to pop off
Don’t you?
TYME:
You coming or nah,
Beautiful

ALICE:
I hatechu.

...  
And then we go  
We start to walk down this yellow path  
Walking–walking–walking  
Like he say  
In what look like a forest  
But  
In here the trees: green brown  
Teal burgundy and gold  
At the same time  
A holographic Poké–card  
Up to the pink sky  
And the bushes bounce side to side  
Every third beat  
You saw that?  
He  
Mx. Tyme whateves  
Cute from back here...  
Walking a little fast and  
It dawn on me I need to keep up with him  
He seem to know where to go  
And I dare not get lost up in this peace.  
Get snatched  
Pulled into the neon woods  
Into a animal cult  
Can you slow down a lil bit?  
Tyme

TYME:
There’s no me to waste

ALICE:
Oh you think your clever?

TYME:
Almost there.

ALICE:
Where?

TYME:
Wonderland

ALICE:
Wait–forreal?!
TYME:

Nah
They closed.
Just wait til you meet the Cat-or-Pillar.
Alright watch your step up here

ALICE:

And the path
Opens up to this clearing
One of them open air music fest like plots
With large green-turquoise patches coloring
Acres of grass
Same glisten as the trees
But this grass seem like it got its own personality
Like a Dandelion named Jen live down there
And Bridget from HR a Grassling too
And the Weeds pass breeze
Swaying side to side
Sing
Sounding like
Ah silky butterscotch
Anita Baker
Smooth jazzy jazz
Yessss
Grass y’all sound good.
You hear them, Tyme?

TYME:

It’s fire.

I know

TYME:

No.
The Grass is fire.
Don’t step on it

ALICE:

Whatchu?
I poked my toe in
The gra-ouch!!

TYME:

Try to stay off it
It’s soups hot

ALICE:

But how do we cross?
Cat-or-Pillar way on the other side.
(sings)
With aaaaaall our heart
We’ll burn you lady
Don’t step on us
We’re hot
Yes, please trust.
We siiiiing
Melt your heart like gravy
Our tone might fool ya
But touch us
We’ll gruel ya
Don’t tryyyyy,
Those Abooooooooooove.
We will call you out your names
We don’t play no games
Keep off uUUus
Us the Grrrraaaaaaarass.
Cause we’re really made of lava
You’ll fry here don’t bother

Hold up
The ground is made of lava?

The grass is.

Why though?
Who does that?!

Gawd knows

And they sound so good.
In a
“Ring around the rosy”
“If I die before I wake”
Kinda way
Wait–I missed a verse
What they just say?

To cross the Grass,
Make it to the Cat–or–Pillar tree,
We must float above them

I can barely walk
Now I gotta float?
TYME: Correct...
MR. HATSSSS!

ALICE: Why you yelling?

TYME: So he knows we’re here.
MR. HATS
MR. HATS
Help me cross the clear

ALICE: So nursery rhymes gone help?

TYME: Say it with me
It’s the only way

THE GRASS: (sings)
Girl don’t Trrrrrrrryyyy
Swear we’ll burn
Right through your sneakers
We don’t lie
Believe us
Ohh Baby no.

TYME: MR. HATS

ALICE: Mister!
Celie!
“All my life I had to–”
What?
I’m trying.
Hat man…

TYME: MR. HATS

ALICE: Help me

TYME: MR. HATS

ALICE: Help me
Cross the path!

And then right there
A big steam cloud of smoke appeared
Before our eyes and
He appeared
Floating high
A sea of mist
The one we called
Mr. Hats
Wearing a big ole one
On his own flow

(sings)
Happy Birthday to me
Happy Birthday to me
Happy Birthday
Happy Birthday
Here’s a whiff of Mercury
Here’s a whiff of Mercury

Take a deep breath

What?

When the cloud comes
Up to your face breathe deep
Close your eyes

Huh.

Here it comes

And then we

Again

Wolfe 2020
ALICE:

(Deep inhale)

It's working.

TYME:

(Final deep inhale)

Yo
I'm starting to
Get
Light
Headed-ed-ed

ALICE:

It worked.

TYME:

Yo and when I tell you we was floating
We was Super-Man float-Ting
Felt like a durn dandelion pedal drifting
Gone with the wind

ALICE:

Follow me

TYME:

And me and Tyme
Swimming through the air
Floating
Like Bugs Bunny do
Doing backstroke
Cloud surf

ALICE:

Don’t forget to thank him

TYME:

Thank you

BOTH:

Mr. Hats!

MR. HATS:

Whoooo me?

Mister

Hattes.

M.D.

Thank whooo

Thank me?

For–for why?

For what?

Saving Democracy?
Bringing Booth

Out of the booth

Thank me?

For giving you a chance

To place your truth

In vote booth

Give yourself a five hand

Is how that’s feels

For score and 7 months ago

Baldy didn’t text me back

L-O-L

Cool–cool beans

I’ll just cry alone

Tomorrow another love brings

Goodnight.

BOTH:

Goodnight, Mr. Hats

ALICE:

Is he alright?

TYME:

I wouldn’t go there

ALICE:

Just keep swimming…
Mind my bizz
I can do that
Doggy pedaling the air
Worried about lonely
Sad Hat
Wading over there

TYME:

Warning
Here comes the ground.
Brace yourself

ALICE:

Oup–oh–ohh
Too fast–too fast
I’m faahli–

TYME:

Bend your knees–bend your knees!

ALICE:

Ou–ou–ou.
HHnmff.

...
You okay?

That actually wasn’t bad.
Landed on both feet
...
Thanks

No worries
We’re here.

And that’s when we come up to
This huge palm tree
Middle of the path
Tall and long it stretched
Beanstalk wouldn’t laugh
Leaves just ah drooping
Like sad dog cheeks
All the way to the ground
15 ft deep
Giant palms shading the
Coconut’s qualms

You have tough skin?

Do I
Have tough skin?
Just ask my friends.
Chris and Raven be roasting me
Like I aint got feelings
And some of that stuff do be lowkey
Be getting to me
But end of the day
Those my M-ing F-ing Marys
So yeah I overall I have–
Hold up...
Imma need a minute...

It’s them.

Them?
TYME:

They
Them
The Cat–or–pillar

ALICE:

So they/them
Want what?

CAT–OR–PILLAR:

(sings)
Fly me to the Moon
Quick, buckle up
We’re on the ride
Reel me in a star
So I can glow
You’ll stay subpar
In other words
I speak Truth
In other words
Enter the shade rooom
Fill my mouth with reads
A simple task
Just look at these
One’s a broke down duck
The other’s yuck
And out of luck
In other words
I speak Trueee
In other words
Just look at you twooo

ALICE:

So the Cat–or–Pillar
Got jokes?

TYME:

Brace yourself

CAT–OR–PILLAR:

Chicka Chicka
Boom Boom
Open the library and
Move back
I need room
6 feet pleaseeeen
Cause look at you.
You–yes–you.
Looking like Trolls–R–Us
Looking like she need to be
Shoulda been–finta be taking a bubs bath
Three days ago though.
Just busted and funky and with
What is that a flower crown?!
Girl no–go
Bye–girl–bye
Ta–ha!
Hold your head high
Was it me whomst
Made you cry

How come Shady Cat
Only picking on me?

Trust and believe
I had my fix years ago
Still recovering...
They known for the low blow

So mean...

And now it’s your turn.

My turn what?

You have to read
Cat–or–Pillar
It’s their unique
Open–says–me

Crickets–crickets
Comeon sis, really?
You aint got nothing up
Up your cuff and collar
With seams that thick

Lemme homeschool you
Right quick:
If you don’t shut
Your ole pink and green
Cat–or–thriller
Big ole turkey neck
Head aih
Undercooked
Bowlegged
Pussycat self
Daaang

Aint have to tell me thrice
To read this ole big ole B
Liter box
Walking sock
No edges
Shake and go fur

TYME:

ALICE:

Access
Granted.

TYME:

ALICE:

Michael’s yarn ball
Body having

TYME:

ALICE:

Ole big gorgonzola
Garfield!
Cough into your hand
Corona meal!

TYME:

ALICE:

You’re good!

TYME:

CAT-OR-PILLAR:

You won.
They’re pleased

TYME:

ALICE:

Pressed or pleased?

CAT-OR-PILLAR:

Catty-cats have feel-feels too.

TYME:

Our deepest apologies
Cat-or-pillar.
She’s anxious
She wants to go back
The way she came.
And you were hoping
Cat—Pillar
Would grant your wish?

And some pain relief
If you have left over
In your dish
He say this palm a
Healing tree

Cat—Pillar
Will see what they can spare
And where is home?

Birthplace of the tax deductibles
And overdraft fees

Uptown
The city.
I know it well
You know Niko?

Word?
Niko off 135th hooking you up?

Only place I get
My girl scout cookies

That’s what’s up.

Take two of these.
Hold them underneath your tongue
Until they dissolve
And then you’ll be home.
Head ache free

And the Cat—or—Pillar
Puts two Aspirin sugar cubes on
My sore swollen tongue
And they say
Underneath and hold tight
Let it dissolve slow
Be sure not to bite.

Before I go
I gotta know
What the heck we were running from
In the first place?

Tomorrow.

What?

I saw Tomorrow coming way too fast
I saw you sitting alone by yourself
I thought
How can I make this Friday last

It's the only thing not promised too.
Tomorrow roll up and
Pull through like:
Who done it and why
With a bag of burdens and a
Pocket full of epiphanies
That's shole enough to
Make a grown Cat-Pillar cry

And I didn’t want you to be alone.
So I said
RUN
Like a mad-hatter
Thought I’d show you a quick glimpse of your throne
Your legendary made up home

My throne?

You Alice aintcha?
Girl that fell

Down
Down
Remember-Fell
Alice

And right just then
It all came back
Or maybe it was the B/C
Aspirin
Dissolving
Kicking in
Bringing back my memory

Nostalgic
Dizzy
I
Re-gain
Or finally enters the refrain cause
Tyme and Cat-Pillar vanish steam
Dot-dot-dots
Blur the front of my eyes
Turning all the neon
Vibrant to a
Crystal clear guise
Only not the same hue as before
Now my aching body is back here.
Home.
On couch.
Alone.

... Missing my city
Missing the club
Miss getting litty
Giving strangers love
Holographic bar signs
Oldies karaoke
Dancefloor crying
Puffing–stink blur–Red lines
“Gift” buying
Reading queens for filth
Going home with zilch
Raven, Chris, all the Judy’s
One day we’ll meet in
Wonderland
Until then
I fall asleep to
Old Disney movies...

End of Play.