

FROM PAGE TO STAGE

Sample Script Layout

1.

Scene: Lewis Carroll's study in Christ Church College, Oxford 1908. Set in Black Drapes. Lighting to suggest position of window. The desk L.C. has numerous piles of manuscripts, carefully placed in rows and a desk blotter. There is a table stage left, with table-cloth, two or three books and a teapot on a spirit warmer. There is a bookshelf up centre. Dressed in clerical black, he is 65 years of age but looks younger. Kenneth Grahame is 49 years of age but looks much older.

Grahame: (**Looking at the books**) Ranjitsinhji's "Jubilee Book of Cricket". There's a surprise!

Carroll: I am full of surprises.

Grahame: (**Puts book back**) I sometimes envied you.

Carroll: (**Pre-occupied with papers.**) Only sometimes?

Grahame: Having said, that, we have much in common.

Carroll: (**Condescending**) Do we really? You didn't come up to Oxford?

Grahame: No. I was at St. Edwards here...but...

Carroll: Hah! An arid barrack-like school.

Grahame: There were, at least, two redeeming features. It drove me to Nature for redress - and the level of disorganisation was so great, we were allowed to wander around this city at will.

Carroll: No wonder you went no further.

Grahame: Actually, my sour Scottish uncle refused to support any academic aspirations I may have had. (**PAUSE**) I'd have given my right arm to study here.

Carroll: Hardly conducive to the preparation of essays! To study, you say, but not to remain in Oxford, I presume.

Grahame: For ten years I couldn't bring myself to come back. Strange to think now, that you were working on *Alice Through The Looking Glass* when I was a boy here. (**PAUSE**) Finished up in a bank. Well, *the* bank! Of England. How ironic is that?

Carroll: *He thought he saw a Bankers Clerk, descending from a bus:*
He looked again and saw it was a hippopotamus:
"If this should stop to dine" he said,
"There won't be much for us!"

Grahame: Who wrote that? (**Carroll indicates himself**) I Wanted to study, wanted to write.