

ALAN TURING

A Musical Biography

(Alan is on stage wearing a school cap and reading a book)

Alan

The Wicked Queen turned into a witch. Does that mean she was two people? She kills Snow White. Then a prince stumbles upon Snow white lying in her glass coffin, the poisoned apple lodged in her throat.

Mother (off stage)

Alan are you ready?

Alan

(Calls to mother) I'm reading. A poisoned apple? And yet she didn't die.

Mother

Alan don't let me tell you again. You're going to be late for school.

(Alan runs off stage)

(Andrea enters stage in the middle of a phone conversation.)

Andrea (On the phone)

(Passionately) To be recognised for my work! That's my life's goal.

(Pause)

I don't want to write romances.

(Pause)

Yes, I'm still with Steve.

(Pause)

I don't want to write novels Mum! I want to write biographies.

(Pause)

He reminds me of Ben.

(Pause)

Look I need to prepare for tonight. I've been nominated for the James Morton Award.

(Pause)

Biography of the year. I've been shortlisted out of hundreds.

(Pause)

(Sarcastically) Thanks for the encouragement.

(Pause)

I've got to go.

(Hangs up - then to herself as her mother)

Good luck Andrea I hope it goes well.

Would it be so hard?

(Facing a mirror)

Thank you all for coming along this evening. I am so excited to share with you all, my biography on Alan Turing. Writing this book has been quite a roller coaster ride, exciting, had it's ups and downs - No, God, no! That's terrible! Call yourself a writer! (Shakes her head)

Song - A Winner, A Fellow (Alan and Andrea)

I feel honoured that my work on Alan has been nominated for the best biography of the year. (And if I don't win I sit smiling while hating the person who wins and hoping they die a painful death).

Before I start though, I'd like to ask you all, what does Alan Turing mean to you?

(pause)

A genius who cracked the Enigma code and helped bring World War 2 to an end?

ENTER ALAN

Alan

(Letter in hand reading the stamp mark) 16th March 1935

Andrea

A man who laid the ground work for artificial intelligence?

Alan

(Opening an envelope)

King's College Cambridge?

Andrea

The inventor of the modern day computer? Or perhaps posthumously a martyr for gay rights?

Alan

A fellow of King's College Cambridge?

Andrea

What does his name mean to you? (pause)

BOTH: Recognised for my work

Andrea: Recognised for putting pen to paper
For summing up a life in sentences
Chapters are years and words our fleeting days
Telling secrets untold

Alan: Recognised for putting pen to paper
Typing countless words with hand drawn symbols
A language that most could not comprehend
Telling secrets untold

Andrea: A winner

Alan: A fellow

BOTH: What an honour

Andrea: A winner

Alan: A fellow

BOTH: What an honour

Andrea: Standing here before my peers

BOTH: Accepted after all these years

Alan: Running onward

Andrea: Striving forward

Alan: Questions to answer

Andrea: Stories to be told

Alan: No longer an imposter

BOTH: Recognised for thinking years beyond now

Alan: We can only see a short distance ahead

But we see plenty that needs to be done

Andrea: Plenty that needs to be done

Alan: The person who follows the crowd

Andrea: Will go no further than the crowd

Alan: The person who walks alone, finds places no one has known

Andrea: (at same time) finds places no one has known, no one has known

Andrea: A winner

Alan: A fellow

BOTH: What an honour

Andrea: A winner

Alan: A fellow

BOTH: What an honour

Alan: Recognised, a winner a fellow,
Recognised, what an honour

A fellow, recognised.

Andrea: (at same time) A winner a fellow, recognised,
What an honour, what an honour,
A winner, recognised.

(Alan exits)

Andrea (A text message comes in as Andrea is getting ready)

Siri read my message

(Siri Voice Over) Sorry Andrea a train strike has stopped me getting to the awards tonight. I'm totally gutted. Steve x

Bloody train strike. A train strike almost prevented Alan from attending his first day at School, but he decided to ride his bike sixty-two miles to get there!

Why don't you ride a bike Steve! It's 5 miles! Oh I really wanted you there tonight. Lacks confidence that's what my school reports used to say. Could try harder. Alan's weren't that much different.

Song - School Report (Alan and Andrea)

Andrea: Careless, untidy the boy is idle
Neglect of elementary work
A strong foundation is essential
He's slow, unenterprising
Can do much better when he tries
A strange mixture
Scrappy, slovenly, his work is dirty
And as for mathematics, not very good!

Alan: Sherborne School abode of monks
A boy king made us their heirs
And gave this great mark of his love for posterity
Let the Founder's name resound
Long live King Edward the 6t
Long live King Edward the 6th
While the ancient church still stands
Taking pleasure in the new,
Generation's education
The founder's name lives on,
Long live King Edward the 6th
Long live the King.

Andrea: He's wasting time at public school,
A gentleman should be well read.
Dreams are all that fill his head.
He's taken up with his own thoughts
I'd like to see more life in him
He's bound to be a problem

His mind seems rather chaotic
His ways tempt persecution,
I don't think he is happy!
Absent-minded, unmethodical, rather disappointing
Not a normal boy!

Alan: I'm an odd number in an even world!

Head Teacher

You are a disgrace Turing. An utter disgrace.

Alan

I've improved in Maths and Science.

Head Teacher

Maths and Science. What good are they! English that's what you need. The pen is mightier than the sword. Do you really think you're going to make something of yourself by being able to calculate the value of pi to thirty-six decimal points when you can't tell an adjective from an adverb. Forget maths and science. Now get out of my sight.

Alan

Yes Marm. **(Turns to go)**

Head Teacher

Turing, were you a friend of Christopher Morcom?

Alan

Yes Marm. He is my very best friend.

Head Teacher

I'm afraid he has died. Tuberculosis.

(Head teacher exits)

Alan (Alan cries and begins to write a letter)

Dear Mrs Morcom,

(Andrea enters and becomes Mrs Morcom and continues reading)

I want to say how sorry I am about Chris. During the last year I worked with him and I am sure I could not have found another companion so brilliant and yet so charming and unconceited.

I regarded my interest in my work and such things as astronomy, to which he introduced me, as something to be shared with him.

Song - A Like Minded Friend (Alan and Mrs Morcom)

BOTH: Requiem
Dona eum requiem Agnus Dei
Dona eum requiem Per ardua ad astra

Alan: I think he felt a little the same as me
An unspoken bond, I'm certain that he'd agree
A short life full of courage and happiness
My feelings for him, are too late for me to express
A like minded friend who could comprehend
The nature of spirit we shared

Andrea: Like minded friends until the end.

Alan: I think he felt a little the same as me

Andrea: Two school boys having fun.

Alan: Passing notes back and forth,
Our teachers never did see
Where does the soul fly?
What if it does not die?

Andrea: What happens when we pass?

Alan: I feel sure that I'll meet, Christopher Morcom again
That there will be some work for us
As I believed there was here
The stars don't shine as bright
And it seems so dark at night
Oh to gaze up one more time
With you there by my side
I shall bury myself with work A monument to you
The stars don't look the same Without you here.

I think I feel a little the same as her
His mother's love, his mother's loss, We shared his life
It helps to somehow think of Chris as here, with us both

BOTH: The stars don't shine as bright
And it seems so dark at night
Oh to gaze up one more time With you there by my side
The stars don't look the same Without you here.
Per ardua ad astra

(Mrs Morcom wipes away a tear and then exits)

Yours Sincerely,
Alan Turing

(Soundscape of University Cambridge Graduation Ceremony)

(Alan exits)

(Joan enters in cap and gown and looks round. Alan enters in cap and gown and throws cap in air)

Joan (catches Alan's cap)

Alan congratulations on your first.

Alan

Thank you. How did you get on?

Joan

I got a first too. Erm ... Would you like to celebrate? Some of us are going out tonight.

Alan

Thank you but I'm off to Germany with a friend. A cycling holiday.

(Joan and Alan exit. Joan becomes Mary)

(Mary enters and sits down with a drink. She keeps looking round)

(Alan enters. He is in Germany in a Bar with newspaper in his hand. He reads the newspaper)

(Mary approaches him.)

Mary (with drink in hand)

Well look who's here.

Alan

Who is here?

Mary

Alan Turing no less.

Alan

Is he? Where? I'd like to meet him.

Mary

Alan, I know it's you. What are you doing in Germany?

Alan

I'm on a cycling holiday. I started in Cologne. I'm doing thirty miles a day. Do I know you?

Mary

I'm Mary from Cambridge.

Alan

Forgive me. My mind is elsewhere today. You haven't read the news?

Mary

I don't speak German. I read English.

Alan

English! Not my strong point. I kept well away from all the learned discussions on Marvell, who isn't one in my estimation. So how come a poetry intellectual knew me?

Mary

Everyone knew you. Rowing, running, sailing, chess and didn't you invent some machine that can calculate anything? Is there anything you can't do?

Alan

Last night a hundred people were murdered for political reasons. The papers are calling it The Night of the Long Knives. The war has started. Hitler has started a war and I am going to have to win it. I hope I can do that.

Mary

A war. We must go home.

Alan

You must go home. I must go to Princeton to study cryptology. After I've studied cryptology. I am going to win the war.

Mary

Wouldn't you be better off learning to shoot a gun?

(Mary exits)

Alan (calls after her)

The pen is mightier than the sword! And the human brain is mightier than both.

(Andrea enters)

Song - Princeton PHD Song (Alan and Andrea)

(Alan sits down to write to Mother)

Alan

My Dear Mother,

(Writing a letter by hand)

You have often asked me about the possible applications of various branches of mathematics. I have just discovered a possible application of the kind of thing I am working on at present. It answers the question "What is the most general kind of code or cipher possible", and ... enables one to construct a lot of particular and interesting codes.

(Andrea becomes Mother)

One of them is pretty well impossible to decode without the key and very quick to encode. I expect I could sell them to Her Majesty's Government for quite a substantial sum but am rather doubtful about the morality of such things.

I'm glad that Sunday School taught him something.

Alan

Yours, Alan

Alan Singing

Alan: Five days upon the Atlantic Ocean
Off to find a brand new notion
Princeton here I come

With people there like Albert Einstein
Poised to run I'm on the starting line

Andrea: On the starting line.

Alan: Manhattan's skyline keeps on growing
This Ocean liner's started slowing
Princeton here I come

BOTH: Dei Sub Numine Viget
Under God's power she flourishes

Andrea: He wrote long letters to his mother
A new department like no other
A Princeton PhD

A wealthy university
Protected from austerity
A fellow once again

Alan Spoken

Dear Mother

The mathematics department here comes fully up to expectations. There is a great number of the most distinguished mathematicians here. Neuman, Weyl, Courant, Hardy, and Einstein.

Yours, Alan

Alan Singing

Alan: Time to think, reflect, and dwell
I'm a different man, no one can tell

BOTH: Treasure hunts, cricket games, chess, dinner parties

Alan: A new world, new people, the same charade
I'm an odd number in an even world
Time to think, reflect and dwell,
I'm a different man, no one can tell.

Andrea: Five days upon the Atlantic Ocean
Off to find a brand new notion

BOTH: Dei Sub Numine Viget

Alan: Princeton here I am.

Alan

My Dear Mother

Mother reads

I have been sent a notice of lecturers in mathematics to be appointed next term.
At present the Fibonacci ...

Fibonacci was he an Italian opera singer?

(Back to reading the letter) Each number is equal to the sum of the preceding two numbers: 0,1,1,2. I had such hopes for Alan. I always thought he'd be a doctor. He was always interested in medical matters. He was fascinated to think that Snow White had eaten the poisoned apple and then was able to come back to life.

Alan

and then $8 + 5 = 13$ and so on and so on.

Yours Alan

(Mother becomes Andrea)

Song - Lost In An Intricate Maze (Alan and Andrea)

Alan: A pine cone, what you hold's a small pine cone,
But I do grasp a sequence in my hand
Which nature's designed and carefully planned

A sunflower, you see a sunflower
Spirals unrav'ling before my own eyes

BOTH: Simple patterns lost to you in disguise

Alan: Upon the surface there lies a question
Simple patterns lost to you in disguise
You just accept what's so easily seen
Where I ask myself, what does it all mean?

BOTH: We view the world in such contrasting ways
Alan: Patterns of numbers that follow our rules
Andrea: Beauty beyond the reach of our tools
He became lost in an intricate maze, he became lost.

Alan: There is a meaning to all that is here
Andrea: Perhaps it was God is that such a fear?
Alan: There is a meaning.

Alan A snail's shell, to you it is a snail's shell
To me an ever expanding series
You just accept what's so easily seen
Where I ask myself,

BOTH: What does it all mean?

We view the world in such contrasting ways
Patterns of numbers that follow our rules
Beauty beyond the reach of our tools

He/I've become/became lost in an intricate maze

Andrea: He became lost

Count count count I'm certain of the amount
One two three five eight thirteen twenty-one
Add add add it's how this cypher's code is spun
One two three five eight thirteen twenty-one

BOTH: We view the world in such contrasting ways
But the miracle of our existence
Whether scientific or religious
Gives us each our ways to sing songs of praise

(Alan exits after song)

Andrea (putting umbrella up)

My mother's been awful, Steve's not coming and now rain. Come on Andrea, you're nearly there. Just think Alan won the war, you can get a bit wet.

(Andrea exits)

(Alan enters and sits at desk and looks at paperwork. In frustration he throws it down.

Alan:

Mirror, mirror on the wall. Who is the worst code breaker of them all.

(He picks up wire paper basket and puts it on his head. The phone rings)

Alan

(Picks up phone and answers very curtly)
Bletchley, Turing speaking.

(Alan is horrified) Good morning Commander ...

Pause

Alan

I don't know why I sound muffled.

(Takes basket off his head)

(Pause)

Alan

Is that better?

(Pause)

Commander we are working all hours to try and crack the code. We need translators, typists. more code breakers ...

(Pause)

You can't do that. You can't ... We can't manage with less money. We need more.

(Pause)

Yes I know that everyone needs resources but if we don't crack ...

(Pause)

We're human not machines.

(Pause)

Yes, perhaps we do need a machine.

(Andrea enters)

Song - Need A Machine (Alan and Andrea)

Alan: War's on the horizon glowing deep red
Reporting for duty, you'll need my head
Off to hut eight,

Andrea: Off to hut eight,

Alan: There's work that can't wait

Andrea: That was his fate

Alan: Dip the apple in the brew
Let the sleeping death seep through
Codes needs to be broken or we shan't eat

Andrea: Boats lost to the ocean

Alan: I'll crack this enigma, I'll be discreet

Andrea: He saved our fleet

Alan: Out in hut eight, there's work that can't wait

Andrea: Out in hut eight, he rescued our freight

Alan: Dip the apple in the brew
Let the sleeping death seep through

Alan: We need a machine, trial and error's futile

Andrea: He built a machine, his method was worth while

Alan: Bring the odds back in our favour.

Andrea: His method was worthwhile

BOTH: Victory, Agnus Dei, Colossus,

Alan: My machines, my machines.

One hundred thousand pounds, it's a small price to pay
I'll draft a letter to Mister Churchill, right this very day
Here in hut eight, our budget's underweight

Andrea: There in hut eight, things could no longer wait.

Spoken

Alan made an urgent request in a letter to Mr Churchill

Alan: "Dear Prime Minister, Some weeks ago you paid us the honour of a visit, and we believe that you regard our work as important. We think, however, that you ought to know that this work is being held up, and in some cases is not being done at all, principally because we cannot get sufficient staff to deal with it."

Yours Sincerely, Alan Turing

Sung

Alan: We need a machine, trial and error's futile

Andrea: He built a machine, his method was worth while

Alan: Bring the odds back in our favour.

Andrea: His method was worthwhile

BOTH: Victory, Agnus Dei, Colossus,

Alan: My machines, my machines.

BOTH: A war is won with numbers.

(Andrea exits after song)

Alan is writing at his desk muttering to himself and Andrea becomes Joan and enters)

Alan

(Without looking up) Yes.

Joan

I've erm been moved from Hut 6 and I was told to report to you.

Alan

Why?

Joan

I'm quite good at maths.

Alan

Do you like Snow White?

Joan

Erm I haven't read it for a long time.

Alan

Not the book. The film.

Joan

I haven't seen the film.

Alan

If you're going to work with me then you need to see the film. Do you think there is a nervous substrate in us, apart from the cerebrum, that can think and perceive, or whether the psychic process that goes in us during loss of consciousness are synchronistic phenomena.

Joan

It's a fairy story.

Alan Such a remarkable fairy story. 'Dip the apple in the brew, Let the sleeping death seep through'. (Looks at her for the first time). You're Joan from Cambridge.

(Shakes her hand enthusiastically). I remember you well. Lets get to work. We have to get the Bombe working.

Joan

The Bombe?

Alan

Of course, you wouldn't know. It's a machine called the Bombe and we need to crack the code.

Cracking the Code - (Alan and Joan)

Cracking the code music to underscore

This machine has over one hundred and fifty million million possible combinations for each message that we intercept. The human brain is simply not quick enough ...

There are too many combinations. Even if we get one or two correct in a day, we're not able to decipher the messages. The German submarines are stopping our supplies getting through and killing so many of our men. I feel every death is on me. I should be able to do this.

Joan

Surely some words in the messages they send must be the same every day.

Alan

(Mutters to himself)

Yes ... No ... Yes ... Dip the apple in the brew, let the sleeping death seep through. Yes, no ... yes.

Joan

Heil Hitler

Alan

Joan how could you?

Joan

Every day in the code. At the end they would say Heil Hitler.

Alan

Yes, yes, yes. Joan you are heaven sent. Of course, you're right. Weather forecast sent every day... End of message Heil Hitler. You must work with me.

Joan

If I am going to work with you. Can I ask you something?

Alan

Of course. Ask me anything?

Joan

Why is your tin mug chained to the wall?

Alan

To stop it being stolen.

Joan

But who would steal a tin mug?

Alan

Nobody because it's chained to the wall.

Joan

You are rather odd!

Different - (Alan and Joan)

Alan

Rather different actually!

Joan

A mirror confirms what I already know
Both inside and outside it cannot help but show

Alan

The gait of my walk and the way that I talk
I had no choice as I developed that way

My side parted hair

Joan

My glasses and wooly cardigan

Alan

I'm not always capable of blending in
And part of the man that I am lives in sin

Joan

No wonder I am single at my age
I've yet to find a man that's on the same page

BOTH

It's clear that we are
A little bit different
Slightly eccentric
A little bit quirky
Perhaps odd

Alan

This is me

BOTH

the way I am

Alan

Not wired the same
I'm programmed to stand out

BOTH

I'll celebrate being me

Alan

Who can say was it nature or nurture?

Joan

Was I born this way or was it life?

Alan

Was it life?

BOTH

You and I
We're both different

Alan

I've learnt to embrace all that sets me apart
Life's not always easy because I am smart

Joan

A woman should look pretty, not think too much
I've never adhered to the stereotype

BOTH

It's clear that we are
A little bit different
Slightly eccentric
A little bit quirky
Perhaps odd

Alan

I am happy being me

BOTH

I'm an odd number in an even world

Alan

But sometimes it can be hard
Not conforming as I am

Andrea

I don't quite fit in

Alan

I'll embrace the things that make me the man that I am

Andrea

He's a man that's just like me
A logical mind with a lot of mathematics
I'm unique a one off I'm different.

Alan

I'm different

(Joan exits)

End of Song

Alan

(On phone)

Mother its Alan ...

(Pause)

Something extraordinary has happened.

(Pause)

(Teases her) I can't tell you. Official secrets.

(Pause)

Ok, ok, no need to shout. I've met someone.

(Pause)

She works here with me.

(Pause)

No, not exactly pretty.

(Pause)

She's different.

(Pause)

Her brain is amazing. I'm totally intrigued by her brain.

(Pause)

Yes, I'll bring her to meet you ...

(Pause)

When I've won the war. Bye Mother.

(Alan is working at his desk. Joan and enters)

Song -Marry Me (Alan and Joan)

Enter Joan

Alan

Ah Joan. I was hoping to see you.

Song -Marry Me (Alan and Joan)

Alan

I have a question
Well more of a query
An enquiry of sorts call it a quiz

Joan

Alan what are you talking about?

Alan

I will be brief
I'll keep it short

Joan

Keep what short?

Alan

A little probe, perhaps just tick a box?

Joan

Tick what box? Is this one of your maths questions?

Alan

Yes or no Joan please? Won't you tell me now?

Joan

Alan Make sense!

Alan

Yes or no Joan? Please? I'll only ask you once?
You and I are friends. Perhaps we could be more?

Joan

ALAN?

Alan

I wonder how it would be? With you there by my side?

Joan

Alan are you asking me to?

Alan

Yes, no, maybe!

Marry me Joan, our minds could become one.

Joan

I think you mean our hearts

Alan

The maths we could discuss

Joan

The MATHS!?

Alan

With you there by my side

Joan

Alan have you lost your mind?

Alan

Joan it's quite clear that you need a husband

Joan

What?

Alan

And I need a...

Joan

Need a what?

Alan

A companion

Joan

A companion?

Alan

Yes we are so well suited

Joan

Says who?

Alan

We are both highly intelligent. Both of us are Cambridge graduates.

Joan

Alan this is not how I dreamed it would be.

Alan

Marry me Joan, the problems we could solve!

Joan

You are a problem!

Alan

The codes that we could write

Joan

(Shakes head in disbelief)

Alan

With you there by my side.

Marry me

Joan

No

Alan

Marry me

Joan

No

Alan

Marry me

Joan

Maybe

Alan

Marry me

Joan did you know that if a person is asked the same question repeatedly. The probability that they will change their answer increases exponentially.

Alan

Marry me

Joan

OK

(Joan exits)

(Alan shrugs his shoulders and exits)

(Andrea enters)

Andrea on phone

Mum I can't talk now. I'm late.

(Pause)

Because I wanted to write about Alan Turing.

(Pause)

Of course he's relevant today. Haven't you ever been asked whether you are a human or a robot online?

(Pause)

And then you have to say which pictures have cars or traffic lights in them.

(Pause)

Well that's CAPTCHA - Completely Automated Public Turing Test to Tell Computers and Humans Apart.

(Pause)

Turing. Did you hear the name Turing. It was Alan Turing that realised that machines might have Artificial Intelligence. He called it the Imitation Game.

(Pause)

Of course, I've researched it all. I've written a whole book about him. Mum I've got to go. I'm so late.

(Pause)

Sorry, did you say you hope I win.

Song - Unable to Accept All This (Alan and Andrea)

Alan: Five minutes to question man and machine
Interrogating... deliberating...
Computers that think? Are we on the brink?
A conscious device, what could be the price?

Fifty years from now we'll hardly discern
The differences between man and machine

What should one enquire to tell them apart
To determine of the two, who is who?
The subject of Picasso's art
Or the length and the colour of their hair?

BOTH: Fifty years from now we'll hardly discern
The differences between man and machine

Andrea: What's your favourite food?

Alan: Define your present mood.

Andrea: Can you tell a lie?

Alan: What has made you cry?

Andrea: Have you suffered pain?

Alan: How do you find this game?

BOTH: The imitation game.

Alan: Imitation of behaviour of man
Three components required that we must scan
The initial state of the new born mind,
Education it's been subjected to
Other experience, hard to define

BOTH: Fifty years from now we'll hardly discern
The differences between man and machine

Alan: The objections are many and varied
God's given souls to all men and women
Thinking's a function of our timeless souls
Hence no animal or machine can think

Alan: Imitation of humans could become reality

Andrea: Why did Alan question these things

Alan considered Religious Objection: This states that thinking is a function of man's immortal soul; therefore, a machine cannot think. Should we really be playing God and continue on our quest to create artificial intelligence? What did Alan think?

Alan: Unable to accept all this
I put forth my thoughts within this paper
Computing machines and intelligence

Andrea: Blue or red what would you choose?

Alan: How will you feel if you lose?

Andrea: What did you dream last night in your sleep?

Alan: Are our questions a little too deep?

Andrea: Man or machine we have to find out

Alan: I know who is who without a doubt

BOTH: The imitation game.

Imitation of behaviour of man
Three components required that we must scan
The initial state of the new born mind,
Education it's been subjected to
Other experience, hard to define

BOTH: Fifty years from now we'll hardly discern
The differences between man and machine

Alan: We can only see a short distance ahead,
But we see plenty there that needs to be done.

(Andrea exits. Alan paces up and down very troubled. Andrea becomes Joan and enters)

Alan

Joan I've made a mistake.

Joan

Why are you changing into your running gear?

Alan

I'm going running.

Joan

(Teasing) You're running away from me?

Alan

Yes ... no. In a way. Joan I can't marry you.

Joan

Why not?

Alan

I'm not what you think I am.

Song - The Secrets We Keep (Alan and Joan)

Alan: Don't speak the truth to friend or foe
As words can deal a fatal blow
Lies can hide behind pretty blue eyes
Deep in a place from your closest allies

Don't speak the truth to friend or foe
Carry your burden don't let it show

Andrea: Keep a stiff upper lip to remain resolute

Alan: Conceal all you know to avoid the dispute
The secrets we keep hold us as hostage

Andrea: The secrets we keep contain dangerous knowledge

Alan: Bury them deep, so they can't be found

Andrea: When you are asked, don't make a sound.

BOTH: Silence is our saviour
 Silentium est aureum
 Silentium est aureum

Andrea: Don't speak the truth to friend or foe
 For who knows where it may go
 The truth may cost your life.

Alan: Shall I confess?

BOTH: The truth may cost your/my life

Spoken

Andrea: The official secrets act was first passed in 1911.

Sung

LX54 - Snap to slow chase of lanterns (blue white wash if needed)

BOTH: Bound by law

Spoken

Andrea: It was in response to the growing threat of international espionage. A
 person commits the offence of spying for sharing information with an
 intent to harm the state.

Sung

Alan: The secrets we keep hold us as hostage
 The truth may cost my life

Andrea: The secrets we keep contain dangerous knowledge
 Bottle it up and bury it deep
 When you are asked don't make a sound
 Silence is our saviour

Alan: Don't speak the truth

BOTH: Remain quiet

Alan: Don't Speak, don't speak

BOTH: Don't Speak, don't speak

Spoken

Andrea: The law stated that severe criminal consequences would happen if anyone ever disclosed anything about what happened there.

Sung

LX58 - Snap to slow chase

BOTH Silence is our saviour
Silentium est aureum
Silentium est aureum

(Andrea becomes Joan)

Joan

What secrets Alan?

Alan

I'm erm I'm homosexual. Please don't hate me.

Joan

Why would I hate you. I've always known that.

Alan

How did you know?

Joan

It's obvious.

Alan

Then why did you agree to marry me?

Joan

You were better than nothing.

(Joan exits)

(Alan exits and Andrea enters)

Andrea

OK I can do this. If Alan could run 40 miles to London, when he was needed for meetings I can do this.

(Andrea runs until Alan enters)

Song - Running (Alan and Andrea)

Alan: Run think breathe think
Run think breathe think

A marathon gives the time I need to get my thoughts refined
Adrenaline rushes through my veins and helps to clear my mind

I'm chasing after new concepts in a race against the clock
Papers to be written that will give the world a... shock

As I fall into a rhythm a hypnotic state ensues
The race for knowledge that I seek, is one that I can't lose
Pumping arms and piston legs, an algorithm to pursue
To overcome a computing error this is how I must break through

As the wind hits my face and the sun strikes my skin,
I consciously develop new ideas
My increasing pulse, gets cogs to spin
As I work my way up through my fastest gears

Run think breathe think
Run think breathe think

Andrea: Run think breathe think find your flow!
Run think breathe think marks set go!

Alan:

This is only a foretaste of what is to come, only the shadow of what is to be.
A mathematical marathon, speed is critical, taking ideas into reality
Ahead of my peers, perhaps by years, pen racing on paper maintaining the pace!
A mechanical brain, I'm yet to create, a computing machine that I shall call ACE

Re-routing cables, miles of copper, setting the switches, bulbs alight
My electrical bird's nest starts the quest, machines to read the code that I write
Resistors, capacitors, fuses will blow, sparks will fly, circuits will glow
The knowledge I have I'm unable to share, what I built in the war still remains
classified

Alan: As the wind hits my face and the sun strikes my skin,
I consciously develop new ideas
My increasing pulse, gets cogs to spin
As I work my way up through my fastest gears

Andrea : And so he'd run
For miles and miles
For hours and hours

BOTH: The future is man and machine x 2

Run run run run

(Alan exits)

(Andrea arrives at venue flustered. Andrea gets out a mirror and checks her hair
and makeup. Andrea now addresses the audience directly)

Andrea

Thank you so much for coming out on a rainy London night during these train strikes as well.

Many people have asked me why I decided to write about Alan. It's not an easy question for me to answer as it's a painful reminder of my own brother, who I sadly lost too early.

We grew up in a very religious family and our parents (not the easiest of people) refused to support him being gay..

I wrote this book for all the people who have suffered for their sexuality.

Song - I Chose Him (Alan and Andrea)

Andrea:

I'm inspired by people determined to reach their peak
The one in a million soaring over the rest
Visionary leaders fighting for rights
Inventors ahead of their time
These are the people who I want to write about

New ways of thinking and solving the problems we face
A once in a generation mind

I chose him for you
And others who should have been heard
I chose him for all the unsung heroes that we've never known
And the bravery that they've all shown
I chose him

I'm in awe of a person who questions the world we've made
Who strives to improve it
Works and researches
Forging the way ahead

Recognised for his work
Recognised for putting pen to paper
For summing up a life in sentences

I chose him for you
And others who should have been heard
I chose him for all the unsung heroes

For those who have the nature of spirit of champions
A winner a fellow a good man
I chose him

Andrea (answers phone)

Hello. Steve ...

(Pause)

You got a lift.

(Pause)

No you haven't missed the awards.

(Voice off stage)

And the winner of the James Morton Award for the best biography of the year is ...
Andrea McLoughlin

Andrea

I've won. Alan we're both winners.

(Andrea exits)

(Alan enters and paces the stage looking worried)

(Andrea enters as Policewoman)

Policewoman

I understand you've reported a burglary Sir.

Alan

Yes I'm missing a shirt, some knives, a pair of trousers, shoes, razors, a compass and an open bottle of sherry.

Policewoman

Hardly the great train robbery. Any idea who did it?

Alan

Yes. His name is Arnold Murray.

Policewoman

In what circumstances do you know this man?

Alan

I met him outside the cinema. We got on well.

Policewoman

You got on so well, he broke into your house and stole your trousers.

Alan

And other things.

Policewoman

Strange thing to steal - your trousers.

Alan

You seem fixated about my trousers.

Policewoman

This Arnold, you met him outside a cinema and then what happened?

Alan

What's this got to do with the burglary.

Policewoman

The burglary is insignificant. Why did Arnold steal your trousers?

Alan

I don't know. Isn't it your job to find out?

Policewoman

I want to know what you were doing with Arnold.

Alan

Are you suggesting that I am homosexual?

Policewoman

I'm simply asking you questions. Are you homosexual?

Alan

Yes, but I've been burgled. It has nothing to do with the burglary.

Policewoman

Did you have sexual relations with Arnold?

Alan

Yes. I had intercourse with him three times. Are you satisfied now?

Please will you investigate the burglary?

Policewoman

Sexual relations with another man Mr Turing is a crime. The commission of an act of gross indecency with another male person, and the reciprocal crime of being party to the commission of an act of gross indecency is six separate criminal offences in total. You'll be going down for this.

Alan

I came to report a burglary. And you're talking about me going to prison.

Policewoman

This is a far more serious crime. You people all need locking up. Polluting decent society.

Song - No Right (Alan and Policewoman)

BOTH: Guilty x 4

Recorded: "The court finds Mr Alan Turing guilty of Gross Indecency"

Alan: I'm a kind and gentle soul
No axe to grind, that you'll find
Yet you seek control

Andrea: Yet you seek control

Alan: Over my life

I was born the way I am
I'm in my prime, is it a crime?
To lie beside another man

Andrea: Is it a crime?

Alan: Who made you, the judge and jury?
What you do, just leads to fury

BOTH: Fear and sadness, shame and torment
Alan: A proud gay man, who won't repent

I don't believe in God,
So how can you, decide who
I'm allowed to love

Andrea: Love's a human right
Alan: This is my life!

BOTH: If two grown men consent
You have no right, to use your might
To alter their intent

Alan: I'll take the drugs to keep some freedom
Inject me with immoral serum
Who knows how I shall emerge from this

Andrea: Drugs changed this man
Alan: Not quite the man I was before
Andrea: Body and mind

Alan: Perhaps I should have taken prison walls
My sentence is unjust

BOTH: Guilty x 4

Alan: No doubt I shall emerge from it all a different man, but quite who I've
not found out

Alan: Who knows how I shall emerge from this?

(Policewoman exits and Alan stands centre stage)

Alan

I'm finished. I can't work. I'm a security risk. I saved fourteen million lives. That's all forgotten. No-one will ever know who I was. Why has this happened? They wanted me to be normal. I'll tell you the best kept secret in the entire world. No-one knows what normal is. Then why am I taking this concoction of drugs? I only wanted a handsome prince like Snow White. And now I've been chemically castrated, what would I do with him? I want to be able to feel again. Longing, desire and fulfilment. I need to think of a solution. Think of it as a puzzle that needs solving. The reality is I have nothing left to live for. Of course that's the solution. I'll walk through the clouds and there will be sand and sea and handsome men. And Christopher will be waiting for me. How to do it though? Yes, a poisoned apple. One bite is all it will take. And there's an apple on the desk.

Song - Going Away (Alan and Andrea)

Alan: Dreams are vivid now
Since this painful vow
I'm changing each day
It's clear I'm on my way to...
Becoming straight
Though I do not accept it awake or in dreams

Andrea: The drugs, the laws, betrayed him
BOTH: The drugs, the laws, destroyed him

Alan: Mother's been staying
We get along

I've been enlightening her
Mothers opinion of me in bed with men, she said
'Oh very well, but don't go walking about the place naked like you did
before.'"

Alan: Sunshine on my back
Sand beneath my toes
Making love with handsome men

Andrea: Sunshine on his back
Sand beneath his toes
Sadly it remained a dream

Alan: Dip the apple in the brew
Let the sleeping death seep through

Andrea: Dip the apple in the brew
Let the sleeping death seep through

Alan: I built a machine.
I was a fellow, had a Princeton PHD

Alan: Sunshine on my back
Sand beneath my toes
Making love with handsome men

Andrea: Sunshine on his back
Sand beneath his toes
Sadly it remained a dream

Alan: Dip the apple in the brew
Let the sleeping death seep through

Andrea: Dip the apple in the brew
Let the sleeping death seep through

Alan: I've become lost in an intricate maze

Andrea: Lost in an intricate maze

Alan: Count count count
I'm certain of the amount
The stars don't shine as bright
The stars don't shine as bright

THE END