

ALAN TURING

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

Alan

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

A poisoned apple? And yet she didn't die.

Snow White (off stage)

Alan death is powerless against love.

Alan

Snow White?

Snow White (off stage)

Yes. Remember Alan that death is powerless against love and sometimes you have to die to find perfect love.

Alan

But ... what

Mother (off stage)

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 recognized 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)

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

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)

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)**

(Alan enters)

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

Dialogue 1min 10sec

Music 4mins 35

10 secs applause

TOTAL 5mins 45 secs

(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)

Dialogue 35sec

Music 2mins 50

10 secs applause

TOTAL 3mins 25 secs

Running Total 9 mins 10 secs

(Alan exits. Andrea becomes Head Teacher)

Head Teacher

(Shouts) Come in Turing!

(Alan enters)

Alan

You wanted to see me.

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)

(Mrs Morcom wipes away a tear and then exits)

Yours Sincerely,
Alan Turing

Dialogue 1min 15sec

Music 4mins 30

10 secs applause

TOTAL 5mins 55 secs

Running Total 15 mins 5 secs

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.

Dialogue 15sec

(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)

Dialogue 1min 15sec

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

Dear Mother

The mathematics department here comes fully up to expectations.

There is a great number of the most distinguished mathematicians here.

Yours, Alan

Dialogue 1mins 30secs

Music 3mins 35

10 secs applause

TOTAL 5mins 5 secs

Running Total 20 mins 10 secs

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)**

Dialogue 40 secs

Music 4mins

10 secs applause

TOTAL 4mins 50 secs

Running Total 25 mins

(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. 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)

Dialogue 50 secs

Music 4mins

10 secs applause

TOTAL 5mins

Running Total 30 mins

(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.

Song – 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.

Alan

Dialogue 1mins 15

Music 30 secs

TOTAL 1mins 45

Running Total 31 mins 45 secs

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!

Alan

Rather different actually!

Different – (Alan and Joan)

Dialogue 50 secs

Music 3mins

TOTAL 3mins 50 secs

Running Total 34 mins 35 secs

(Joan exits)

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)

Alan

Ah Joan. I was hoping to see you.

Song -Proposal (Alan and Joan)

Dialogue 40 secs

Music 2mins 30

TOTAL 3mins 10

Running Total 37 mins 55 secs

(Joan exits)

Snow White Voice Offstage

Alan you're making a mistake. Someday your prince will come.

(Alan shakes his head 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)

Dialogue 1mins 5 secs

Music 4mins 5 secs

TOTAL 5mins 10

Running Total 43 mins 5 secs

(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)

Dialogue 20secs

Music 3mins 55secs

TOTAL 4mins 15

Running Total 47 mins 10 secs

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)

Dialogue 30secs

Music 3mins 15secs

TOTAL 3mins 45secs

Running Total 50 mins 55 secs

(Alan exits)

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

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.

Alan enters

Song - I Chose Him (Alan and Andrea)

Dialogue 40secs

Music 3mins 10

TOTAL 3mins 50

Running Total 53min 45 secs

(Alan exits)

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)

Dialogue 20 secs

(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)

Dialogue 2mins

Music 4mins 5secs

TOTAL 6mins 25secs

Running Total 1hr 10 secs

(Policewoman exits and Alan stands centre stage)

Snow White (Voice off stage)

Alan ...

Alan

Go away. I'm finished. I'm can't work. I'm a security risk.

Snow White

You saved fourteen million lives.

Alan

That's all forgotten. No-one will ever know who I was. Why has this happened?

Snow White

They wanted you to be normal. I'll tell you the best kept secret of the entire world. No-one knows what normal is.

Alan

Then why am I taking this concoction of drugs? I only wanted a handsome prince.

Snow White

It's not too late.

Alan

It is. I've been chemically castrated. What would I do with him?

Snow White

You need to think of a solution. Think of it as a puzzle that needs solving.

Alan

I have nothing left to live for.

Snow White

There you are. There's your solution. You'll walk through the clouds and there will be sand and sea and handsome men.

Alan

Christopher will be waiting for me?

Snow White

Of course, he will. And others.

Alan

Are you sure?

Snow White

Have I ever been wrong?

Alan

You shouldn't have eaten the apple.

Snow White

Of course, I should. I found my prince. This is the answer. You'll find the apple on your desk. One bite and you'll be in a heavenly dream.

Song – Going Away (Alan and Andrea)

Dialogue 1min 10secs

Music 4mins

TOTAL 5mins 10

Running Total 1hr 5min 20 secs

Bows - 30 secs

TOTAL RUNNING TIME - 1hr 5min 50 secs- 76mins

CURTAIN