

Her Name Is/Was Alice

Her name is Alice.
She slays jabberwockys,
Learns riddle-speak
And topples tyrants.
Alice is a warrior. She fights.
She wins.
But Alice is a teensy-tiny bit broken.
She hurts in her
Mind.

Alice cannot sleep.
She still stings
Where the jabberwocky slashed her knee.
Alice cannot talk,
Without fear she is speaking in riddles.
Alice cannot breathe.
She sees blood-stained roses
If she closes
Her eyes for a moment.

Her name was Alice,
And she lived in her dreams.
But dreams do not last forever,
And Alice learned how to
Hurt herself with
Nightmares.
She learned to choke on tea,
And to fear the touch of a cat.
Alice remembers Wonderland
But not as a child.

Alice cannot cry.
She does not want to
Drown.
Alice does not want to be the hero.
She wants to sleep,
To close her eyes,
To breathe, to drink tea,
To smile and talk without going
Mad.

Alice does not want to lose her mind.
Alice wants to fall back down
The rabbit hole, and to be normal.
Again.