

Another Alice Adventure:

The Throw-Away Database ã 1995 by *Peter Neuendorffer*

Alice got a job for a throw-away database company. They give her free samples as a fringe benefit, so she has been sporting various plastic wrist watches. They keep lousy time.

We went for a walk today. She looked at her wrist watch. "There should be a train coming in twenty-five seconds, although it's running late," she announced. The train came when she said. We got on and looked out the window at the passing scenery. "It will snow in two minutes," she declared. Two minutes later it began to snow. This was uncanny. She smirked at me: "We can get discount tickets to Madonna at the Garden if we hurry! They just had four cancellations."

She glanced at her wrist watch, and pushed a button. "They temporarily lost the tickets," she stated firmly. We got off the train and had dinner at Legal Seafoods. As she glanced at her watch I noticed instead of waiting the usual thirty minutes, it took one minute. "Good time to eat here, register records - you know."

On our way to get the concert tickets we passed a lottery agent. "Don't even think about it," I glared at her. She hurried us to a certain corner where there was a news story breaking, something about a visiting President- just us and CNN. She glanced at her wrist watch.

"Time's up, Cinderella," and tossed the disposable database into a nearby trash can. "Nothing like a little information!" she breezed. She reached into her satchel, got another watch, and put it on.

Peter Neuendorffer is the creator of Alice. Alice is on CDROM. She also lurks on the Channel One main board and is a regular contributor there.