

## L. FRANK BAUM'S WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ



By  
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**In 1939 the world went over the rainbow. Seventy years later, you'll finally learn what really happened.**

Dorothy Gale lived in the home her Grandfather built with his hands. It was a pleasant farmhouse with a wraparound porch that overlooked the Gale farm on the plains of Kansas.

For those not familiar with Kansas, aside from a brief period of time in the 30's, Kansas's farmland shines like a golden reflection of the sun. Corn and wheat wave in the summer breeze and from a child's eye, it is a wonderful place to live.

Dorothy was born in Kansas City, but her parents died when she was only two and she was taken in by her mother's sister, Emily and her husband Henry. The Gales were a kind couple, but the toil of farm life had taken its toll on them.

Life on a farm was heaven to Dorothy. The tall fields of wheat were her playground transporting her anywhere her imagination might go.

On this particular day Dorothy and Toto were playing hide and seek in the hayloft of the barn. Dorothy hid under a pile of loose straw while Toto searched. The dog spotted the girl's foot and he playfully pulled her shoe off. Tossing it around, both Toto and Dorothy looked down in concern as the shoe sailed out of the barn and into the cattle stockade below.

Now there may be something fiercer than a full-grown bull, but nothing comes to mind. Unfortunately for Dorothy her shoe had landed on the horn of a bull. As she climbed down a rope and into the stockade, the animal shifted and twitched making the task of purloining the shoe all the more difficult.

From up in the loft Toto barked but down below Dorothy was all business. With the dexterity of a jewel thief she wove past the cows carefully plucking her shoe from the bull's horn. Turning to show Toto her prize, she didn't notice the laces still hooked on the horn. As she attempted to leave, the shoestrings tugged on the bull's right horn.

What happened next is still folklore around the Gale farm. The bull snorted and in a domino effect spooked all the other cattle. With twenty meters to the fence the chase was on. Ducking, diving, twisting and turning, Dorothy's moves were incredible. Remarkably, she smiled as she dodged...this was fun for the farm girl and who knows how it might have ended if not for the firm arm of Uncle Henry that plucked her from the stockade. Breaking into an all-to-familiar lecture about how to stay out of trouble, Dorothy's impish grin told her Uncle there would be no lessons learned today.

At dinner Dorothy recounted her adventure in the barnyard. Glances between Henry and Em weren't lost on her. Auntie Em was almost at tears as she spoke about Dorothy's mother, Grace, and what she would have wanted for Dorothy. With somber faces, Em and Henry explained the time had come for Dorothy to go to Kansas City to live with her Aunt Bridget. A girl her age needed to attend a proper school and learn how to be a lady. Neither Henry nor Em wanted Dorothy to become a farmer's wife and while they didn't want to lose their ward, they knew that the city was the only place she would be able to grow and learn.

Shocked and saddened Dorothy sprang from the table and took off running. She would never survive in Kansas City. She was a farm girl, used to the outdoors. Toto chased her out into the wheat where Dorothy stopped and cried. The dog licked her face and both were oblivious to the darkness developing in the skies above them.

Emily and Henry scanned the fields looking for any sight of Dorothy and what they saw filled them with horror. A twister, dark and sinewy, snaked its way across the horizon.

The two raced around the farmhouse looking for their niece always keeping an eye on the twister as it approached. With the winds ripping the clapboard from the walls, the Gales climbed into the storm cellar and with a forlorn look closed and sealed the doors in protection from the wrath of Mother Nature.

Out in the field the winds pushed and pulled the wheat in waves as Dorothy stomped away. Toto barked relentlessly and Dorothy agreed with him that they needed to run away. They could live off the land, just the two of them. Auntie Em and Uncle Henry would be sorry they tried to send her to the city.

Across the wheat field the huge twister bore down on the Gale farmhouse and with a whoosh lifted it from its foundation. The quaint home whirled around and around staying near the ground and moving with the momentum of the twister.

Objects flew all around Dorothy but she didn't notice, too angry to concern herself with anything but her problem. A roar finally got her attention and she pivoted to see her house twirling around the twister and mowing down the wheat as it came at her. Breaking into a sprint, Dorothy had to literally run away from her home as it came spinning after her. With windows as eyes and an open doorway for a mouth, the house closed in on the girl and her dog inhaling them both inside.

With a slam the door shut tight and Dorothy could see her farm far below as the twister took them higher and higher into the sky. Dorothy became weightless and every object in the room began to spin around as if in a minicyclone. The farm gave way to the county; the county gave way to what looked like all of Kansas. Then...they started to fall. Swimming across the room Dorothy grabbed Toto and held him tight as gravity returned and she landed on the bed.

THUD! A scampering across the roof and a sound at the door got Dorothy's attention. She called to Uncle Henry and Auntie Em as she raced to open the door only to reveal...a monkey. Not just any monkey, one with enormous feathered wings. The creature looked as shocked to see Dorothy as she to see it and it took to the sky.

A growling voice, British sounding (John Cleese?), called to Dorothy and she spun around to see no one in the room except Toto. The voice spoke again and Dorothy soon realized it was Toto who was doing the speaking. Her surprise that her dog could now talk was only outdone by his surprise that she could understand him. No sooner did he gain this skill when he put it to use complaining about anything and everything. For so many years he'd led a dog's life and now everyone in earshot was going to hear about it.

Dorothy surmised they were in the cornfield, a few yards from where the house used to stand. She would need to see if Auntie Em and Uncle Henry were okay. Pushing aside the corn she found herself looking at a quaint village of small homes.

By small, you need to understand that everything was miniature. As if the inhabitants were only about three feet high. But where were the people? In the center of town was a full sized black horse attached to a black cart, the cart had tall wooden sides and looked like a prison cell on wheels. As Dorothy approached she could see the cart contained a tiny man – a Munchkin. The little man cowered in fear from her. Realizing he was a captive, Dorothy began to open the back of the cart when suddenly a doorway rose up from the ground and she could see through the doorway to the throne of some distant palace. Then a beautiful young woman, with red hair in a clinging white dress walked through the doorway, which closed behind her and disappeared.

The woman examined Dorothy oddly and asked if she was a, “witch, or a sorceress”. Dorothy, confused and a bit frightened, explained that she was just a child from Kansas and that witches and sorceresses are not real. The woman introduced herself as Glinda, the Good Witch of the South, which was rather shocking to Dorothy. Dorothy asked why the Munchkin was trapped in the cart and Glinda explained that the Wicked Witch of the East, the evil witch who rules this land, had come to round up more slaves to work in her castle. But now that Dorothy had killed the Witch the Munchkins had nothing to fear.

Dorothy was confused explaining that she hadn’t killed anyone. Glinda pointed her wand toward Dorothy’s house. What Dorothy hadn’t seen when she walked out were two legs sticking out from under the home.

Glinda explained that the legs belonged to the Wicked Witch of the East and that Dorothy had killed her with her house. Glinda was impressed since no one had ever used a house against a wicked witch before. She’d have to remember that one for the future.

Glinda pronounced Dorothy the new ruler of Munchkinland...Princess Dorothy, and the Munchkins all gathered around thanking her for killing the witch.

The celebration was short lived as a second doorway appeared. This one was far more gothic than Glinda’s with an ominous iron black door. The door creaked open scaring the Munchkins into their homes leaving only Dorothy and Glinda. Through the doorway Dorothy could see the inside of a dark castle. Then she emerged...The Wicked Witch of the West, truly the meanest and most evil being to ever inhabit Oz.

The Wicked Witch seemed to glide across the threshold with a thick green mist coming from beneath her flowing black gown. Her shriveled features

were grotesque and she wore a patch over her left eye. Her raven hair was braided into three pigtails and her teeth were sharp as razors.

Glinda placed a protective arm around Dorothy who cowered from the ghastly woman. The Wicked Witch demanded the Silver Slippers from Glinda who pointed to Dorothy's feet. Dorothy was as surprised as anyone to see a pair of glistening silver slippers on her feet. As the Witch glided over to Dorothy she lifted her eye patch to reveal her all seeing eye. The eye was large and seemed to move independent of her other eye. Sticking out of its socket the eye studied Dorothy up and down.

The Wicked Witch demanded, "Give me the silver slippers. They belonged to my sister and now they are mine".

Glinda told Dorothy that there was a powerful charm on the Silver Slippers and she must never let go of them.

The Wicked Witch did not take this news well. She went into a tirade of threats, but when Glinda waved her arms and thunderclouds darkened the skies, she was reminded she was not the most powerful person and backed off. The gothic doorway reappeared and she went through leaving Dorothy a parting warning that Dorothy's death was one way to get those slippers off...and that would be soon. With that she entered the door which closed behind her and she was gone.

Dorothy looked back at her house and started to cry. She didn't mean to kill the witch, she didn't want to be a princess and she just wanted to go home. She asked Glinda if she couldn't make a doorway for her to go back to Kansas, but Glinda pointed out that doorway travel is only for witches. She could take Dorothy to her castle in the South and teach her to be a witch, but it would take many years and even then Kansas might still prove elusive.

Dorothy continued to cry and the Munchkins whispered to Glinda suggesting that Dorothy go see the Wonderful Wizard Of Oz, who lived far away in the Emerald City. The trip would be a long one, but the Wizard might be able to help. Glinda agreed. The Wizard was known to have traveled far beyond Oz and if anyone knew where to find Kansas, it would be him.

Glinda warned Dorothy of the many creatures that the Witch had enslaved including the Winged Monkeys. Leaning over she gave Dorothy a kiss on the forehead which left a mark that could not be wiped off. The Witch would be out there, but the Silver Slippers and a kiss from Glinda would keep her safe.

Dorothy looked down at the yellow inlaid brickwork under her feet then looked in the distance. The yellow brick road was an ancient road and in places that age was showing. From Munchkinland the road stretched over hill and dale as far as the eye could see. Glinda explained that all roads in Oz lead to the Emerald City and with a step Dorothy and Toto set off to find their way home.

Toto was complaining about his tired feet which he felt the privilege to whine about since he had twice the number of feet she had. Dorothy was lost in the beauty of Oz and the grumbling of her stomach when they came across a field of odd-looking vegetables growing on vines. Being of country stock, Dorothy knew a farmer would never begrudge a hungry traveler of a bite to eat and she stepped into the field, picked a fruit and smelled it. A voice nearby told her to, "Please, go away". Toto whispered that it wasn't him. Looking around she saw no one and proceeded to bite the fruit.

Across the field she saw a murder of crows with ominous eyes perched on a thin sapling. The voice again asked, "Please go away". Moving toward them she noticed the crows weren't sitting on a tree, but on a scarecrow perched on a pole. The poor scarecrow could hardly be seen beneath the black birds who had no intention of leaving. Again the scarecrow asked the birds to, "Please go away" but the birds only replied by pecking at the straw man's face. Realizing the scarecrow was alive, Dorothy picked up a rock and threw it at the birds who were too quick and took flight before they could be hit. The rock struck the Scarecrow knocking him from his perch into the field below. Dorothy ran to his side apologizing while Toto took the opportunity to talk tough to the now dispersed birds.

The Scarecrow introduced himself and it became apparent he didn't have a brain in his head. As it was, the man of straw had only been created a few days ago by a farmer. Almost infantile in his knowledge of the world, the Scarecrow bemoaned his lack of intelligence. After all he had not been able to think of a way to stop the birds from eating the vegetables.

The Scarecrow showed Dorothy all his best scare moves, but each one brought peels of laughter from the girl. This only made him more depressed. Dorothy apologized for her giggles and truly felt sorry for the straw man. There was a charm in his innocence that made him a kindred soul and Dorothy proceeded to tell him of her adventures from Kansas to now.

It was the Scarecrow's idea that he might tag along and ask the Wizard for some brains. Toto on the other hand, was not terribly excited at having a gangly man of straw and questionable intelligence accompany them with an angry witch on their tail. But this was Dorothy's journey and even though he now had words, he was often ignored. It was agreed they would set off together and so they did.

It was in the dark woods that Dorothy, Toto and the Scarecrow came upon a small home, no doubt belonging to a Munchkin. Looking inside it seemed long abandoned and they were about to move on when the squeaking of rusted metal caught their attention. Standing next to a fallen tree was a small metal man holding an axe. Dorothy mistook him for a statue until she noticed his eyes, melancholy blue puddles of sadness. Although the man stood frozen, his eyes moved side to side seeming to plead with Dorothy to come to his aid. It was the Scarecrow who found the oil can and in a matter of minutes had all the Tinman's joints lubricated.

Pleased to be free from his frozen state, the Tinman told of being caught in a rainstorm more than a year ago and rusting solid. In that year no one had discovered him until now. Dorothy remarked that she had never seen a man of tin before, and he explained that she probably never would again...after all, he was the only one. But this had not always been the case.

As he sharpened his axe, the Tinman recounted a time when he was a Munchkin in love with a beautiful young lady but her mother asked the Wicked Witch of The East to curse his axe. Each time he went to use it, the axe severed a limb. Undaunted, the woodsman had the missing limbs replaced with metal ones. When finally he was more metal than man, he had the tinsmith replace the rest of his body with metal so as to be immune to his axe blade. Only when the job was done did the woodsman realize the tinsmith forgot to give him a heart. Eternally sad, he remained in the woods, chopping logs until the rains came and seemingly ended his life.

Dorothy was almost taken to tears at the story and it was the Scarecrow's idea to invite the metal man along on their journey. This was done in spite of Toto's very vocal protestations that one more misfit would not make the journey any easier. Dorothy apologized for her dog's rude disposition explaining that he was new to conversation and perhaps the Wizard would offer him some manners.

The Wicked Witch stood in the highest tower of her castle looking at a huge globe in the center of the room. The globe was a living image of the Land of Oz. In one region Munchkinland was visible with its people moving about. From the Emerald City, the yellow brick road, a red brick road, a blue brick road and a green brick road all spread out in four directions. Other villages and hamlets were visible as well. With a wave of her hands the globe turned and zoomed in until Dorothy and the others could be seen from above as they happily traversed the yellow brick road.

Moving to a shelf stocked with bizarre items she pulled a glass vial down holding a lone fierce bee. The insect was angry and attempted to sting the glass. Holding the glass over the living globe, the Witch released the bee

while reciting a wicked spell. The bee flew into the mist of the globe, multiplying as it went.

As Dorothy and company walked and talked the sound of buzzing began to grow. Looking off in the distance the group saw a storm cloud rising. The cloud seemed to move toward them at a furious pace snaking through the trees until it became evident the cloud was a huge swarm of bees. The swarm stopped in front of the group then shifted to become the head of the Wicked Witch. The bee head witch snarled at the group and spoke in a voice made up from the buzzing wings. Looking at the Tin Man and the Scarecrow she warned them against helping Dorothy who was doomed.

The bee swarm witch head broke apart and Dorothy ran. The Scarecrow motioned her to a hollow log nearby and she crawled inside. The Scarecrow took off his torso and stuffed it in one end of the log. His lower section wandered around trying to find the other end which it finally did. With his legs sticking out one end of the log and his torso out the other, the Scarecrow became an effective blockade from the bees. The angry insects began stinging the hay and the log as well as attacking the Tinman who felt nothing.

The bees that had not perished in the attack retreated and the Tinman went to help Dorothy from the log when it started to roll. Down the steep hill went the log with Dorothy inside, the Scarecrow's pieces sticking out and the Tinman giving chase. The log rolled a great distance and came to rest just an inch from the tail of a sleeping lion. As the Scarecrow pulled himself free of the log and Dorothy crept out they saw the lion and attempted to sneak away...but the Tinman came running happy to see his friends and sat on the log to rest when it rolled a few more inches onto the lion's tail who woke with a growl that caused every noise in the forest to go silent.

Rising and turning to face those that had wakened him, the angry lion jabbed at the Scarecrow with his meaty paws and then smacked the Tinman around. When Toto challenged the mighty beast the lion took off after him. Dorothy grabbed the big cat's tail and yanked it causing him to fall backwards. Then a surprise. The lion began to cry. Not just a whimper, but tears and howling. Somewhat taken aback, Dorothy asked if the lion was hurt. His reaction was to run and hide in the bushes. As it turned out the Lion was afraid Dorothy would pull his tail again. Using a tone reminiscent of Auntie Em, Dorothy sternly called the lion out demanding he explain himself. The lion crept out of the bushes and explained that he was a coward...the greatest coward in all of Oz.

Toto rolled his eyes. Another misfit. He knew where this was going and offer to speed up the obvious by inviting the Lion to join them in visiting the

Wizard. The Lion was too afraid to accept the invitation so the group started to go. Afraid of being left alone, he joined them. Toto wondered aloud if there could possibly be anyone left in this land that didn't need the help of a wizard.

The Witch cursed the bees and her luck, then continued to study the globe. Pointing a long fingernail, the Witch scratched the globe's surface creating a long chasm. She then called to her flying monkeys and told them to open the Kalidah pens. Out in the dark woods, the monkeys worked the iron gates in front of dark caves. With a mighty roar, the Kalidahs raced into the woods. Never seen in the real world, the Kalidahs were some of the most feared creatures in all of Oz. The head of a tiger and the body of a bear, the creatures were kept near starving by the Witch. Wild and uncontrollable, the Kalidahs chased a winged monkey that unbeknownst to them, was leading them directly toward Dorothy.

When Dorothy and the others arrived at the chasm, it became apparent that there was simply no way to go around. A stand of tall trees gave the scarecrow the idea that perhaps the Tinman could chop down a tree creating a bridge across the chasm. The small woodsman went to work looking each tree up and down, feeling the grain. He was a master of his craft and could not be rushed.

Everyone would have been fine to let the Tinman take his time if it weren't for the collection of Kalidahs that had just emerged from the woods and were coming their way. The Lion went weak in the knees and the Scarecrow urged the Tinman to make haste.

Remaining steadfast, the Tinman chose a tall tree, aimed his axe and with one fell swoop toppled it perfectly over the crevasse. The group climbed on the log one after the other. Although he wanted to go first, the Lion waited for the others to get out on the log because he wasn't sure what he was more afraid of...the charging Kalidahs or the likelihood of the log falling into the ravine.

Dorothy climbed on all fours and was half way over the bridge when her foot got stuck in a branch. Struggling to get it free, she was able to pull her foot out, but the silver slipper remained stuck. She attempted to pull it free, but now the Kalidahs were only a few feet away. The Lion, unable to wait a second more, ran across the log, picking up Dorothy as he went. The log started to roll and as the first Kalidah got his paws on it, it tumbled into the ravine. The Cowardly Lion sprang from the falling log with Dorothy on his back landing safely on the opposite side.

The log fell and with it several of the Kalidahs who foolishly charged out into nothingness only to be met with a little something called gravity. The

tree trunk plummeted with the slipper attached. A whoosh from the sky and a Winged Monkey dove down and plucked the slipper from the air before it was dashed on the rocks below. Taking to the sky he flew to the west, half the prize in hand.

The group was thankful to be alive and all agreed that one slipper was still better than no slippers at all. With the Emerald City close at hand everyone grew more and more excited at their impending meeting with the great and powerful Oz.

The Witch's castle when seen from outside often reflected her mood. When she was irritated, the castle seemed angry, sprouting new towers and turrets. At this moment the gothic keep was exhibiting some wild transformations. In her highest tower the Witch pondered. Perhaps something more subtle to do away with Dorothy...flowers. Again to the shelf, she pulled several red poppies from a planter. The flowers screamed in pain and their roots kicked like legs to get back into the dirt. Another spell and she dropped the flowers onto the living globe.

Dorothy and her friends came over a hill to get their first glimpse of the Emerald City. There is no picture drawn or painting produced that can capture the sheer beauty and grandeur of the capitol city of Oz. Sleek, functional, and ultra modern, the city was perched atop a large butte which was in fact the central wellspring for all of Oz because not only did all roads leave from the Emerald City, so did all the rivers.

So caught up in the sight of the city, the travelers did not notice the horde of flowers moving across the landscape like paint from a brush. They settled into the ground all along the yellow brick road. The flowers all turned to the road and with a wispy puff sent a fine mist of red pollen into the air. The pollen quickly settled on the road turning it from yellow to red. The flowers hummed a melodic sound that could rival a Siren's song. The red dust was stirred up by the group as they ran toward the city.

Dorothy and Toto yawned and slowed to a walk. Soon the Lion stopped and laid down to catch his breath. In a matter of minutes they were sound asleep. Not just a light sleep, but a slumber so deep it seemed that they might never waken. The poppies' lullaby intensified and Dorothy's breathing grew shallower. The Tinman started to cry and with that, rust. His tears gave the Scarecrow an idea.

At great personal risk the Tinman waded into the waters of the Emerald River. Water began to fill his hollow interior finally spurting out of his funnel head like a garden hose. Tipping his head forward the water shot out over the Yellow Brick Road washing the poisonous pollen from its path. The water ran over Dorothy and the Lion and both woke in a haze wondering

how they got wet. The flowers tried to launch more pollen, but the water's spray made the pollen wet and sticky and unable to get airborne.

Pulling the now rusted Tinman from the water, he was soon oiled up and the band was on their way to the gates of the Emerald City. If you listened well, you could hear the Wicked Witch screaming in anger from her castle so many miles away.

Water bubbled up in a huge geyser in the center of the city then ran below the walls and cascaded over the cliffs creating a waterfall around the entire capitol city. The city itself was a natural fortress with only one entrance.

There were four roads coming into the city, the Yellow Brick Road from the east, the Green Brick Road from the west, the Blue Brick Road from the north and the Red Brick Road from the south. Each road came to the city and circled clockwise until they all ran together in a multi-color mosaic that terminated at the water's edge. The only way into the city was over a gigantic drawbridge.

The rage of the waterfalls kept the city permanently enshrouded in a fine mist but even behind the blur of the water, the Emerald City shone like a green beacon.

A lone guard atop the high walls called to them asking why they were coming to the Emerald City. When they mentioned their wish to see the Wizard, the guard turned to walk away. A bit of sunlight got through the mist and happened upon the silver slipper. The resulting reflection caught the Guard's eye and he used a telescope to get a better look. Meanwhile Toto was belting out a few choice words when the drawbridge began to lower. With a swagger, Toto sauntered back to the troop proud of his persuasive skills.

In lock step, the four crossed the drawbridge and entered the city where there was much excitement. No sooner had they entered when the drawbridge began to close sealing the city once again from the outside.

From what they could hear it seems a very powerful visitor had arrived. It was only a matter of time before they figured out that the visitor was none other than Dorothy. Everyone knew the silver slippers belonged to the Wicked Witch of the East so, when they saw one of the shoes on Dorothy's foot, they knew she must be a very powerful witch herself.

The inside of the Emerald City was every bit as green as the exterior. The buildings were green, the people wore green, and their eyes were all green. It was a happy city, the center of all trade and commerce in the land. Finding the Wizard's palace was not too difficult. It was obvious the

Wonderful Wizard of Oz was a great man, as his palace outshone all other buildings.

Inside the main room of the palace were hundreds of chairs, all empty. A Receptionist sat at a table scribbling notes. As Dorothy approached, the woman looked right through her and called out, “number 15.” Realizing she needed a number Dorothy took the next available one...95. Looking around Dorothy went to the woman who would not talk to her lest she miss number 15. Dorothy pleaded with the woman telling her she needed to see the Wizard right away. The Receptionist offered to make Dorothy an appointment when her number was called. Dorothy was insistent mentioning the silver slipper and the fact that Glinda had sent her. This got the Receptionist’s attention. She looked at Dorothy’s foot and saw the slipper and when the young girl brushed back her hair the Receptionist caught sight of the mark left by Glinda’s kiss. Her reaction was instantaneous as she picked up a phone and whispered into it.

The Receptionist stood and announced, “The Wizard will see you now!”

Behind them the huge doors to the Wizard’s throne room opened. Dorothy proudly marched into the throne room followed by Toto and her new friends. What she saw there removed any airs of undue confidence she might have carried for that brief moment.

Inside the grand hall of Oz was a throne forty feet tall. On the throne sat a huge man at least fifty feet tall wearing a turban and dressed in green robes. His disposition was fierce and he demanded to know why they were bothering him. One by one the group made their requests. The Wizard’s eyes turned to flames and his anger grew at what he perceived to be their insolence. The Wizard asked Dorothy to come forward and he looked at her one silver slipper. As Dorothy explained how the Wicked Witch Of The West had the other shoe, the Wizard told her to be quiet. He would grant Dorothy and her companion’s wish but first they would have to prove themselves worthy. They would need to bring him the silver slippers. Both of the slippers. When the Scarecrow asked what the Wizard how they were supposed to get the silver slippers the man angrily burst into flames and he was gone but his voice still boomed. “The silver slippers...or nothing.”

The group left the Emerald City and traveled down the Green brick road talking about their families. The Scarecrow didn’t think he had a family, seeing as he was only a few days old...still he often wondered whose clothes he was wearing and what kind of family did that person have. The Lion’s parents left him when they saw what a coward he was. The Tinman had no family, but longed for the love of Nimme Amee, the girl of his dreams. When his transformation from man to tinman was complete he realized that without a heart he could not love, and went to live alone in the woods. With

his heart, his plans were to find Nimme and win her back. Dorothy went last, speaking about Auntie Em, her stern ways and dry sense of humor. She spoke of Uncle Henry and his strong hands and good heart and of her mother whom she didn't really remember, but yet she felt as if she was here with her in Oz, looking out for her.

In her castle the Wicked Witch laughed with glee as she watched the adventurers traveling along the Green Brick Road. They were walking directly toward her. Summoning her Winged Monkeys she ordered them to bring the girl and the lion and drop the rest where they'd never be found. The Monkey King bowed. Outside the monkeys took to the air.

Leaving the road the journey took them through a forest of dead trees and dry weeds. It was apparent this was the way to the castle. The rocks all around looked like tormented souls trapped in sheer agony. The wind blew sulphuric mist around like wispy ghosts. The flapping of wings grabbed their attention and once again they found themselves running from the Witch's denizens. The Winged Monkeys flew in over the treetops picking up each of the adventurers and lifting them into the air. The Lion, coward that he was, attempted to run, but was grabbed by his tail and hauled skyward. The King of the flying Monkeys ordered his legions to drop the Tinman, the Scarecrow and the dog in the rocks but keep the Lion alive to haul the Witch's carriage.

As the castle appeared in the moonlight, Dorothy cried out for Toto. The dog told Dorothy he would come for her, no matter what. With that the monkey's released Toto, the Tinman and the Scarecrow then flew on. All three began to freefall toward the razor sharp rocks below. The Tinman grabbed Toto as the Scarecrow took his head off and dumped out the stuffing then held the empty bag with two hands allowing it to fill with air turning it into an impromptu parachute. The Tinman held on to the scarecrow's legs and the three gently floated down through the mist landing in the rocks far below the Witch's castle. Looking up they could see the horrible castle perched atop the hand shaped outcropping and realized the perils they would face to get there would be incredible.

High above in the castle's keep Dorothy waited in a small cold room as the Wicked Witch glided down the steps from her tower to examine her prey. Zeroing in on the remaining silver slipper she placed her hands on the shoe and attempted to pry it off the girl's foot. At the first touch, the Witch's hands began to smolder and wither. Pulling her hands free they returned to normal. Cursing the girl and the spell of the slippers she ordered Dorothy taken away.

The Witch kept Dorothy locked in a small cage hanging from a chain. For the next few days she came to visit the girl asking for the slipper, even offering to pay for it with jewels. Heeding Glinda's words, Dorothy resisted.

Finally the Witch came for Dorothy and pulled her down several long halls until they came to a large pit. In the center of the pit was the Cowardly Lion, curled up in a cage. He looked horrible. Dorothy ran to the side of the cage and stroked his mane. Looking up the Lion professed that they had been starving him and he felt close to death. The only thing keeping him alive was the hope he might see Dorothy one more time.

Dorothy turned to the Witch who smiled victoriously. "Give me the slipper and he gets fed. You can save his life," the old woman exclaimed. Dorothy took off the slipper and meekly handed it to the Witch. "Make him better, and feed him" she demanded. The Witch agreed and proceeded to recite an enchantment over the poor beast.

When the enchantment was done the Witch and the slipper disappeared in a brilliant flash. The cage around the lion also vanished and Dorothy ran to her friend only to be pushed back by a ferocious roar.

The Lion approached still hungry and confused. It was apparent in his eyes, that he no longer knew who Dorothy was. Turning heel she ran as the beast chased. Quick and nimble she was able to climb onto a crumbling ledge. The Lion jumped at her snapping his jaws inches from her feet. Then the ledge crumbled and she fell.

Out of options, Dorothy's intuition spoke to her and she stood before the ravenous beast and held out her hand. He roared but she stood firm. This exchange went on for several minutes then the Lion finally paced away. Dorothy breathed a sigh of relief then looked up to see the Lion bounding toward her and when he was upon her...he gave her a huge lick of affection and she wrapped her arms around him.

Outside, Toto, the Scarecrow and the Tinman made their way up the twisted stairway that led to the castle far above. The steps were perilous and more than once the awkward Scarecrow nearly tumbled over the side. Toto was more determined than ever to find Dorothy and had every intention of handling the Wicked Witch himself.

The climb up from the bottom of the valley to the bowels of the castle had taken several days. Now the group found themselves looking at the high walls of sheer stone. The Tinman took out his axe and started cutting footholds in the stone. The scarecrow stuffed Toto into his shirt as he followed the Tinman up the side of the sheer wall. The climb was a slow and

dangerous procedure with the scarecrow slipping several times all the while having to listen to Toto's incessant badgering.

Dorothy and Lion pushed on the huge doors with no luck. There was only one way out and a small girl and a weakened lion had little chance of getting through.

Toto was leading the charge with his nose to the ground he followed Dorothy's scent until they came to two huge oaken doors. "She's in there", the dog exclaimed, he gave another sniff, "And the Lion, too". The Tinman took out his axe and studied the door then proceeded to cut it to bits.

Dorothy hugged her comrades telling them she knew they would come. Everyone agreed it was time to leave, but Dorothy resisted. She had to retrieve the silver slippers. If she didn't bring them back to the Wizard, she would never get home and they would never get what they wanted. The Tinman was against the idea; he couldn't bear to see anything happen to Dorothy and the others agreed.

There was no talking Dorothy out of it and the group crept through the evil castle looking for the Witch. Finally they came to a black door which when they opened it, revealed the wicked woman. She was floating in the center of a large room, three feet off the ground. On the ground below the woman were the silver slippers. Dorothy stifled a scream then realized although her eyes were open, the Witch was asleep.

Alone, Dorothy crept into the room as her friends watched from the doorway making silent gestures as to where to step and what to do next. Like her adventure through the cattle stockade in Kansas, Dorothy moved nimbly, never making a sound. Finally getting to the Witch she looked up at the gaunt woman and shuddered. Reaching out for the slippers she gently put them on her feet and retreated.

A lone Winged Monkey guarding the drawbridge bowed deeply as the Witch rode into view on the Lion's back. The gates had lowered and the Witch and Lion bound out of the castle at a full gallop.

Out in the woods, the scarecrow pulled off the Witch's robes to reveal himself, Dorothy, the Tinman and Toto. The Lion kept running into the dark forest as a blood curdling scream came from the castle. The Witch was awake and none too pleased.

Back in the castle, at the Witch's command, the winged monkeys took to the air, the kalidahs were released from their pens, the bees swarmed as did every evil creature of the forest. Using her all seeing eye, she scoured the countryside for Dorothy and the Silver Slippers.

The look in the Lion's eyes was not of fear, but determination as he ran for hours into the daylight until the poor beast could barely stand. Exhausted and feeling hopeless, the group thought all was lost when they saw something through the bushes and got a glimpse of something wonderful...waters of the Emerald City. They had made it. Rather than running around to the entrance, which was on the other side of the city, they jumped into a small boat and pushed off. A crashing from the woods revealed itself to be the Witch riding on the back of the largest and meanest Kalidah ever seen.

Screaming in anger, she ran down to the water's edge and cast a strange incantation. At once it got cold. So cold the waters of Oz froze instantly. The boat was trapped, mid-way across and now the Witch was gliding over the ice.

Up on the walls of the Emerald City hundreds of citizens watched in horror as their greatest fear (the Witch) was approaching.

Dorothy could only look on helplessly as the Witch came for them. The Tinman rolled out of the boat and faced the evil woman. As he raised his axe he slipped and the axe slid away from him. The Witch glided across the ice toward the Tinman. As she towered over the little man of tin, Dorothy picked up the axe and threw it to her friend. The axe spun through the air and embedded in the ice in front of the Witch.

A deep crack that ran directly toward the wicked woman splintered the ice. The crack spider webbed in several directions breaking the ice into chunks. The panicked Witch looked for a way out. Then the section of ice she was balanced on tipped sideways and she was dumped into the waters of Oz. All around her the water began to boil. An oil slick spread as the Witch melted away to nothing, screaming as she disappeared. The people of the Emerald City cheered.

Dorothy and the others watched as the Witch melted away. She then noticed the Tinman struggle as the section of ice he stood on crumbled and sank beneath the water's surface. Dorothy screamed and reached for him, but he was gone. Dorothy looked to the Scarecrow who for once seemed out of ideas. Suddenly the huge Lion leaped into the water and disappeared. For a moment there was nothing...then bubbles and then the Tinman came shooting out of the water and into the boat. After what seemed like an eternity, two meaty paws gripped the boat and the Lion pulled himself back inside. Dorothy came to his side thanking him for saving a friend.

With the ice broken up the waterfalls resumed and the boat was drifting perilously close to the edge. As if that were not enough, the sky filled with

Winged Monkeys and the end seemed near. On a command from the Monkey King, the winged creatures swooped down and lifted the adventurers up and over the green walls of Oz as the boat went over the side and was destroyed.

Taking the group directly to the doors of the Wizard's palace, the King of the Winged Monkeys bowed before Dorothy and thanked her for killing the witch and freeing them from her spell. They would be forever in her debt.

Entering the giant halls of the Wizard's palace, the travelers were met by the same Receptionist who informed them the Wizard was not seeing visitors today. It was the Lion who stepped up and with a terrible roar explained that Dorothy, had killed the Wicked Witch Of the East and the West, wore both Silver Slippers, freed the Winged Monkeys and that had not eaten in a week... "So open the door before I get famished and she gets angry."

The doors opened and the group followed the Lion to see the Wizard. As they approached the Wizard, Dorothy stood before him and announced they had the silver slippers.

The Wizard transformed into a large head and studied the group then commanded the group to do "One more task...bring me the wand of Glinda the Good Witch..." Dorothy blanched. Another task? Take something from Glinda? The Lion roared at the Wizard.

The Wizard laughed and explained... "No wand, no brains, no heart, no courage and no way home"

Toto's extra-sensitive nose got the best of him and he wandered away from the group until he came upon a curtain covering a vestibule. Ducking under the curtain he saw a short plump man with shocking white hair dressed in an ill fitting suit. The man sat in a chair with cables attached to his limbs working a wall of Rube-Goldberg controls. Toto looked back at the Wizard talking to Dorothy and then to the man. As the man spoke, so did the Wizard. Toto interrupted the man who looked at him and said, "Go away." Out on the throne, the words came from the Wizard. Dorothy declared that she, "would not." This confusing exchange went back and forth until the man in the booth lunged at Toto to get him out causing the Wizard on the throne to go berserk with the same movements.

Toto called the group to the vestibule finally exposing the man who, obviously had been pretending to be the great and powerful Oz. The man sighed and confessed...he was the great and powerful Oz and yes, he was a fraud...a great humbug.

Dorothy was in tears. The Wizard was just an ordinary man and he could not help her. The Wizard revealed his name as Oscar Zoroaster, “a second rate magician from Omaha”. At the word “Omaha”, Dorothy’s eyes widened. She knew Omaha. She had been there with Uncle Henry. Dorothy asked the Wizard how he came to Oz. With that the Wizard urged the group to follow him to the domed chamber at the center of the palace where a huge hot air balloon took up much of the space. The balloon was green (naturally) and on its side was the word “OZ” which were, his initials. When he arrived in the Land of Oz years ago he did a few magic tricks and the people all thought him to be a sorcerer. Seeing this as an opportunity, he allowed them to make him the ruler of the land.

Lately, fearing the Wicked Witches and often pining for his hometown he kept the balloon at the ready. He would take Dorothy home himself. With the things he learned here in Oz, back in Omaha he would be the greatest magician of all time.

Overjoyed, Dorothy thanked the Wizard then remembered that she didn’t come alone and asked him what he might be able to do for her friends. The Wizard thought for a while then went to a shelf and pulled down boxes of bric-a-brac. Pulling a clump of cotton the wizard took a box of pins dropped them in the cotton then unstitched the scarecrow’s head. Placing the pins and cotton in his head, the Wizard explained that brains themselves don’t possess knowledge. Experience is the only thing that brings knowledge, and the longer you are on earth the more experience you are sure to get. These brains will retain all your experiences and with that, knowledge grows. When asked why the pins, the Wizard explained that the Scarecrow would, “only have sharp thoughts”.

For the Lion he brought out a brown bottle marked COLA. Explaining that Cola stood for: COURAGE OF LEGENDARY APTITUDE. In the bottle was a sweet liquid and when consumed it would make the drinker fearless. The Lion quickly consumed the brown drink...then waited. Finally he delivered a knee-shaking belch. With a smile he roared so loud the people of the Emerald City stopped in their tracks.

The Tinman waited with great patience and the Wizard had to dwell on his plight for a few minutes. Asking the Tinman to tell him about the love of his life. The Tinman thought of Nimme Aimee and started to cry. The Wizard caught the tears on a single rosebud which blossomed as the tears soaked it. The Wizard unbolted the Tinman’s chest plate and placed the rose inside and explained that the rose would be his heart until the day came when he would find his lost love. He should give her the flower and she would give him a piece of her heart to share forever.

It was with great pomp and circumstance that the people of the Emerald City came to see the great Oz and Dorothy fly away in the balloon. Dorothy hugged each of her friends leaving them with a kiss and a kind word.

The domed roof of the palace opened via unseen gears and the balloon was made to be ready. The Wizard made an impromptu speech and Dorothy was about to climb into the basket of the balloon when she realized Toto wasn't with her. The Wizard held the ropes tight as she ran from the platform looking for her pet. She found Toto sitting alone and asked him to come home with her. Toto sighed, knowing his return to Kansas would mean losing his voice, but Dorothy was his best friend and in his eyes, she was his responsibility and he would never let her down. Toto let Dorothy know that he would miss talking to her, but even if she would not understand what he said when they got back to Kansas, he would always understand her. When the Wizard finished his speech the crowd cheered and he lifted his hands in victory absentmindedly letting go of the rope and setting the balloon free.

As the balloon rose, Dorothy ran through the crowd, leapt up to grab the rope, but it was too late. The Wizard's balloon drifted off and with it, Dorothy's hopes and dreams of ever getting back to Kansas.

The Tinman, Scarecrow and Lion came to Dorothy's side and tried to make her smile. They wanted her to stay with them. They were a family and she tried to smile but could not.

Just then a huge doorway appeared and everyone stepped back in awe. The doorway opened revealing a beautiful white carriage drawn by six white stallions with no driver. The carriage clattered to the center of the gathering stopping in front of Dorothy.

The doors opened. Dorothy asked her friends to join her, but everyone knew that this was a journey she must make without them. Giving each a hug and a kiss, she wished them each well and told them that if they ever were in Kansas, she would love to see them again and if there were ever a way, she would someday return to Oz and bring Auntie Em and Uncle Henry with her.

Climbing into the coach, Dorothy held Toto tight as she waved goodbye to the citizens of the Emerald City and she was off. The horses picked up speed and then raced through the doorway and vanished.

Dorothy watched as the Emerald City turned into the throne room of Glinda's castle. The horses came to a stop and Dorothy stepped out. Walking toward the throne she was almost blinded by the brightness that seemed to emanate from Glinda.

Greeting Dorothy, Glinda politely asked about Dorothy's adventures even though it was apparent that she knew each and every detail. Glinda asked Dorothy what she had learned on the journey through Oz. Dorothy recounted friendships, courage, knowledge and love.

Dorothy smiled sadly and said she would gladly go to live in Kansas City if she could just see Auntie Em and Uncle Henry one more time. Glinda sat on the steps next to her, like a mother might, and put an arm around the girl.

"There is one person who can take you home... you, yourself," Glinda added. The Silver Slippers possess some of the most powerful magic in all of Oz. she said, "but the magic is too powerful for children and will only work for those who've grown. When you came to Oz you were a child, but the things you've seen, the adventures you've had...you've moved on from childhood and the magic of the slippers is yours to command".

Dorothy stood and hugged Glinda with a smile. Glinda urged her to, "click your heels three times and wish." Shutting her eyes, she clicked and said, "take me home to Auntie Em," and then the thunder struck.

Dorothy found herself and Toto sitting in the wheat field as a roll of thunder echoed in the distance. Her feet were bare but she was too excited to notice. Looking up she saw her home and ran. Outside the house Auntie Em and Uncle Henry were frantic. The tornado had passed hours ago and they were beside themselves with fear over Dorothy's fate.

When they caught sight of Dorothy they greeted each other with a hug so strong it has never been duplicated. Em was in tears and she told Dorothy she could not bear to send her to the city to live and would she be happy staying with them on the farm. Dorothy hugged them again and proceeded to tell the story of her adventures in Oz. She asked Toto to confirm her story which he did with barks and growls.

That night, Dorothy's Aunt and Uncle kissed her goodnight and she closed her eyes and snuggled up to her pillow. Later, she woke with a start. A noise outside, something skittering across the roof. Getting out of bed Dorothy went to the front door and opened it. There, in the sky, silhouetted by the full moon, flying away from the farmhouse, was an honest-to-God Winged Monkey. Looking down Dorothy saw the Silver Slippers on her doorstep. Smiling, she took them inside and closed the door.

**The End...for now**