

The Chronicles of Oz:
The Wonderful Wizard Of Oz

A six-part audio drama by Aron Toman

A Crossover Adventures Production
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EPISODE THREE

31 PREVIOUSLY:

Recap of the key events of the previous two episodes.

OPENING CREDITS

32 EXT. RIVER

Dorothy, the Tin Woodman and the Lion are trapped on a raft while the Scarecrow is stuck on a pole.

SCARECROW
(getting further away)
Don't leave me like this!

DOROTHY
Hold on Scarecrow, we'll find a way
to get ashore and rescue you!

SCARECROW
(fading into the distance)
Don't be too long! I don't know how
long I can hold on...

LION
He really should have let go of
that pole.

DOROTHY
He really should have done a lot of
things, letting go of the pole is
just the latest. What are we going
to do?

LION
We can't stop. We can't get ashore.
He's got the pole. We haven't got
any way to propel us to the side -

TIN WOODMAN
(panic)
Lion, please stop reminding me of
how hopeless this is!

DOROTHY
I can't think of anything either.
Apart from swimming ashore...

TIN WOODMAN
Ok, how about no? I'd rust the
second I put my foot in that water,
you know that. Besides, I'd sink!

LION
You wouldn't if you're hollow.

TIN WOODMAN
Shut up!

DOROTHY
No, wait! Swimming! That could
work!

TIN WOODMAN
What part of 'I would rust in
seconds' didn't you get, Dorothy?

LION
She doesn't mean you, do you
Dorothy? You meant me.

TIN WOODMAN
Him?

DOROTHY
The Lion could drag us to shore!
You're strong enough, aren't you?

LION
Not really.

DOROTHY
I don't care, it's the best idea
we've got. What have we got to
lose?

LION
A lion as well as a scarecrow from
the group?

DOROTHY
Of course, we could just sit here
on this raft until we go over a
waterfall.

TIN WOODMAN
Ahh!

DOROTHY
Lion?

LION
Well... Oh all right. If I have to.

DOROTHY
You have to. Jump in and I'll grab
your tail.

LION
(revving himself up)
Ok. Here we go. I'm going in. Right
now. This second. Ok, maybe this
second -

Lion!

DOROTHY

Lion! TIN WOODMAN

LION
Ok, I'm going!
(deep breath)

He leaps into the river.

DOROTHY
Lion? Lion can you hear me?

The Lion resurfaces.

LION
(gasping)
This water is freezing!

TIN WOODMAN
Oh, I am so sorry that the
temperature of the water is not to
your liking. Shut up and give
Dorothy your tail!

LION
Ok, argh. There! Got it?

DOROTHY
Yep! Yep, right. Start swimming!

LION
(panting, pulling the raft)

DOROTHY
Not that way Lion! The other shore!

LION
Sorry! I got confused.

TIN WOODMAN
Don't try to talk, Lion, just swim.

The Lion continues pulling the raft.

33 EXT. RIVERBANK

DOROTHY (V.O.)

And so the Lion was able to bring us ashore without a drop of water rusting a single Tin Woodman joint. Do you think he said thank you? We let the Lion recover, then spent the rest of the morning working our way back along the riverbank.

Soon we came across a familiar figure clinging desperately to a pole that was slowly tipping into the river...

SCARECROW

(singing tunelessly)

Laaaaaa, laa la la la laaaaaaa, laa la laaaaaa.

DOROTHY

Scarecrow! Scarecrow, it's us!

SCARECROW

(shouting from afar)

Dorothy! Oh, Dorothy, I've never been so glad to see anyone - agh!

The pole slips.

DOROTHY

Don't move!

TIN WOODMAN

The more he wiggles the more he makes the pole fall over.

DOROTHY

I know, and he's going to sink any minute.

(shouting)

Hold on and keep still! We're going to rescue you!

SCARECROW

(shouting)

Oh, that's good! For a moment there I thought you were just going to watch me drown!

TIN WOODMAN

Lion, could you swim out there and get him?

LION

Not without getting him wet too. By the time we got back to shore, all that'd be left would be mush.

DOROTHY

There must be something we can do. He'll go under in a minute.

STORKGUARD

(official, policeman-like)
Yeah, you're all going under. Hands in the air. All of you.

DOROTHY

What?

STORKGUARD

You heard me. Get them up.

LION

(trembling)
Oh no...

DOROTHY (V.O.)

It was a stork. Seriously. A stork in a green tunic, holding a weird sword in its wing. Birds in Oz have opposable thumbs. Who knew?

TIN WOODMAN

Sorry, can we help you?

STORKGUARD

Yeah, you can drop the axe. Nice and slow.

A pause. Then the Tin Woodman lets the axe clatter to the ground.

DOROTHY

Are you robbing us?

STORKGUARD

Hardly. Identify yourselves.

DOROTHY

Well, my name's Do-

TIN WOODMAN

Why should we tell you who we are?
What's it to you? Who are you?

STORKGUARD

Emerald City Border Enforcement.
Identification now.

TIN WOODMAN

One of the Wizard's Storkguards. I
should have known.

DOROTHY

Border Enforcement? Have we crossed
state lines or something?

TIN WOODMAN

Yeah. The river's the boundary.

STORKGUARD

That's right, and you were seen
crossing further downstream. The
Wizard has forbidden all travel in
and out of Munchkinland, so I need
to you to identify yourselves now.

DOROTHY

I'm not identifying myself to you.
You're a freaking bird for God's
sake!

STORKGUARD

I'm a Storkguard, miss.

DOROTHY

I don't really care. See that guy
on the pole in the river? He's
going to drown unless someone helps
him, so I am not answering a single
question of yours until you do
something about it.

STORKGUARD

I am not going to -

DOROTHY

He hasn't got much time!

TIN WOODMAN

Look, if you just fly out there and
pick him up -

STORKGUARD

So you can escape into Emerald City territory? I don't think so. Identify yourselves now and consider yourselves under arrest.

LION

I don't think he's kidding, you know.

DOROTHY

If you won't go out there then at least send someone else to help. Don't you have backup?
(pause)
Please!

STORKGUARD

(activating a Ring)
Storkguard 3, are you near area sixteen? Please respond, over.
(magical buzzing sound)
Request assistance with four unidentified illegal entrants and in retrieval of a fifth in the river, over.
(more buzzing)
Understood. Out.

DOROTHY

Well what does that mean?

STORKGUARD

It means, miss, someone will be here to rescue your friend shortly.

DOROTHY (V.O.)

And he was right. Within moments another stork carrying his own weird magical sword-thing flew above our heads and across the river. It swooped down onto the Scarecrow, grabbed his shoulders and whipped him away just as the pole toppled into the water. It was over within seconds, and before we knew it, the big bird dropped the Scarecrow on the ground beside us.

Scarecrow lands and hugs Dorothy.

SCARECROW

I was so scared!

DOROTHY

I know, but you're ok now. Safe on dry land -

STORKGUARD

Right, I've helped your friend, now it's your turn. Identification. Now.

TIN WOODMAN

There's no need to be so rude you know.

DOROTHY

Look, all we want to do is get to the Emerald City.

STORKGUARD

Yeah, not going to happen.

DOROTHY

Why not?

STORKGUARD

The Emerald City is under lock down until the Munchkinland crisis is over. Nobody in, nobody out.

LION

What, not even us?

TIN WOODMAN

What crisis?

STORKGUARD

What crisis? The Witch of the East was assassinated! Munchkinland has descended into anarchy. The Wizard will not permit this chaos to spread to his city.

DOROTHY

Well he's too late, it has. And there's nothing he can do about it.

STORKGUARD

What?

DOROTHY

You wanted me to identify myself? Well perhaps I should.

SCARECROW

Dorothy, perhaps you shouldn't -

STORKGUARD

Dorothy?

DOROTHY

(stepping forward)

That's right. I'm Dorothy. Dorothy Louise Gale, from Butterfield, Kansas. I'm the girl who killed the Wicked Witch of the East.

STORKGUARD

Stay back, that's close enough.

DOROTHY

See the shoes I'm wearing? Look familiar at all?

STORKGUARD

The ... the Silver Slippers!

DOROTHY

That's right. You'd better tell your Wizard to keep the doors open. I'm coming to see him.

STORKGUARD

I - I -

(he regains his composure)

You are under arrest. All of you. Put your hands on your head and -

A magical zing as Dorothy's forehead glows.

LOCASTA

(echoey, ethereal voice)

Let Dorothy pass!

STORKGUARD

I-I-I... oh Lurline I have to ... to....

(He screams and flies off, terrified)

DOROTHY

Well... that took an unexpected turn.

SCARECROW

How did you do that?

DOROTHY

I don't know. I thought I could maybe bluff him a bit, but I never thought he'd -

SCARECROW

I mean your forehead. How'd you make it glow and go 'zing' and stuff?

DOROTHY

I ... my what?

TIN WOODMAN

He's right, you had a spot on your head that lit up like a... I don't know what.

LION

Was a bit scary really.

DOROTHY

Here?

SCARECROW

Yeah.

DOROTHY

That's where the Good Witch of the North kissed me.

TIN WOODMAN

It sure gave that Storkguard something to think about.

DOROTHY

Well - yay for us?

LION

I don't think you should have done that to him, Dorothy. I don't think you should have talked to him like that.

DOROTHY

Oh, you don't, do you?

LION

I think that's going to come back to bite us before we know it.

DOROTHY

Why? It got us out of trouble -

LION

Cause those Storkguards are going to go back to the Emerald City. And that's where we want to go. I can

(MORE)

LION (cont'd)
 smell trouble, and I don't like
 it...

34 INT. EMERALD CITY OFFICE

Continuing office chatter. Jelja Jamb approaches Omby Amby.

JELIA JAMB
 Omby, can I have a word?

OMBY AMBY
 If that word is 'the Munchkins have
 finished blowing each other up'
 then sure. Otherwise, go away.

JELIA JAMB
 That would be eight words.

OMBY AMBY
 You're funny.

JELIA JAMB
 That's what I keep telling you. You
 need to speak to Faramant.

OMBY AMBY
 Do I now?

JELIA JAMB
 He's sorry he didn't tell you about
 the girl. He's been here all night,
 he hasn't slept, he honestly
 thought he brought it up -

OMBY AMBY
 Has he doubled the security like I
 asked?

JELIA JAMB
 I don't know. He's been kicking
 himself a lot since you yelled at
 him.

OMBY AMBY
 Oh for Lurline's sake, I haven't
 got time for this. Right now I'm
 sifting through diplomatic whinging
 about other missing dignitaries
 that doesn't bode well for the rest
 of us. If Faramant can't -

JELIA JAMB
 Other missing dignitaries?

OMBY AMBY

Looks like the Witch of the East
isn't the only one in trouble in Oz
today.

He gives her the paper.

JELIA JAMB

That's not a good list.

OMBY AMBY

Tell me about it. The Oogoboo Queen
has vanished, apparently. Nobody's
seen the Queen of the Field Mice.
King Krewl of Jinxland had an
attack on his life a few hours ago,
he's gone into hiding.

JELIA JAMB

Minor monarchs, not in the same
league as the witches, but still...
is it who we think it is?

OMBY AMBY

There's no obvious evidence, but
I've narrowed down my list of one
suspect. She's taking an
opportunity.

JELIA JAMB

Clearing a path to the Wizard?

OMBY AMBY

Which is why I don't have time to
coddle Faramant right now. We need
to start planning a possible
defence against the Winkies.

JELIA JAMB

All the more reason you need
Faramant on your side. You can't
defend the Emerald City without a
fully functioning Guardian of the
Gates.

OMBY AMBY

(sigh)
All right. I'll talk to him. Where
is he?

JELIA JAMB

At his desk. Sulking.

OMBY AMBY
Of course he is.

Omby Amby walks through the office and arrives at Faramant's desk.

OMBY AMBY
Ahem.

FARAMANT
Omby! Look, I've been through the records, all the metrological reports for any other signs of bizarre weather and -

OMBY AMBY
Look, Faramant, I just want to say, I know you've been working hard and -

FARAMANT
Oh Lurline... I'm fired aren't I?

OMBY AMBY
What?

FARAMANT
I'm going to be sacked! The Wizard wants my head because I didn't warn everyone about Dorothy!

OMBY AMBY
You're not going to be beheaded - who's Dorothy?

FARAMANT
The girl. The assassin. They're saying she's called Dorothy.

OMBY AMBY
Stupid name. Anyway, I just wanted to let you know... We're in for a strange couple of days. While the Munchkin crisis is on, we need to all work together to make sure the Emerald City stays safe. You understand?

FARAMANT
Yes, yes, I do. And I'm truly sorry I never -

OMBY AMBY

Yes, well nevermind about that.
Have you got anything new yet?

FARAMANT

Storkguards are on the lookout for her, but nothing yet. Last anyone saw she was still in the Munchkin City.

OMBY AMBY

Good. Let's keep it that way. Last thing I want to hear is that she's got out of Munchkinland and heading for us.

A Ring sounds. Faramant answers it.

FARAMANT

This is Faramant.

(pause)

What? Say that again? What do you mean she's crossed the border? She's wearing what?

OMBY AMBY

Oh boy...

35 EXT. POPPY FIELD - AFTERNOON

DOROTHY (V.O.)

It was the Scarecrow who had the idea of deviating from the river. He reasoned - and quite rightly too - that if we cut across land rather than follow the river, we'd eventually meet up with the Yellow Brick Road closer to the Emerald City and make up for lost time. The new route seemed easy enough. The forest had petered out at the river, so all we had to deal with was a huge field of poppies, stretching out for nearly as far as the eye could see.

Yeah, you heard me. Poppies.

SCARECROW

You know, Dorothy, if we had to set up camp for the night here, I don't think this would be a bad place. Everything looks so pretty!

DOROTHY

(yawning)

It's not even dark yet, what makes you think we're setting up camp?

SCARECROW

You've been yawning for the past ten minutes. I thought you must be tired.

DOROTHY

That's nonsense I'm absolutely fine.

(she yawns as she says this)

All right, so I'm a little weary. I have been walking for nearly two days now.

SCARECROW

The Tin Woodman and the Lion don't seem tired.

DOROTHY

The Tin Woodman doesn't get tired. As for the Lion...

SCARECROW

You should be nicer to him. He saved us all from the river after all. And the Kalidahs, a bit.

DOROTHY

He tried to eat Toto.

SCARECROW

He said sorry.

DOROTHY

I don't care.

SCARECROW

I don't think he would have actually done it, anyway. Not when it came down to it. I think Toto scared him more than the other way around.

DOROTHY

That's not the point. I just don't like the....

(MORE)

DOROTHY (cont'd)
(she drifts into a yawn)
Oh God, what's the matter with me?
(she slaps her face)
Come on, wake up Dorothy.

SCARECROW
Would you like me to slap you?

DOROTHY
I'd like to see you try. No, I'm
fine. Just need to get to the
Emerald City and then try and find
somewhere ... to ... sleep.

She collapses into the flowers.

SCARECROW
Dorothy? Dorothy, are you ok? Tin
Woodman! Lion! Come quick,
Dorothy's not well!

DOROTHY
(sleepy)
I'm fine, Scarecrow. I just need to
rest for just a minute...

The others come running up

TIN WOODMAN
What happened?

SCARECROW
She fell over. I think she's
asleep.

DOROTHY
I'm not asleep, I'm just resting my
eyes...

LION
Toto's asleep too! I gotta say, I'm
feeling a bit sleepy myself...

TIN WOODMAN
Oh no. I should have seen this
coming.

LION
Seen what?

TIN WOODMAN
It's the poppies. There's too many
of them. A few bushes here and
there are fine, but when you get so
(MORE)

TIN WOODMAN (cont'd)
many blooming at once they put you
to sleep!

SCARECROW
But I feel fine.

TIN WOODMAN
You're a scarecrow, you don't
sleep.
(shaking Dorothy)
Dorothy, Dorothy can you hear me?
You can't sleep here, you have to
stay awake!

DOROTHY
Hmm, what?

TIN WOODMAN
Stay awake! You must stay awake,
are you listening to me? Dorothy?
Dorothy?

The Tin Woodman's voice disappears into muffled oblivion as Dorothy drifts off to sleep.

DOROTHY (V.O.)
And that was the last thing I heard
for a while. The poppies
overwhelmed me entirely, sending me
into such a deep sleep that I
didn't even dream. After the
stresses of the last few days it
was probably just the thing I
needed. But the poppies in Oz are
mighty powerful. Unless you can
escape their scent, get away from
their influence, you're stuck in
that sleeping state until you die.
Of course, I didn't know that until
much later. At the time I was
oblivious to everything as I
slipped into my coma. As deaths go,
I guess it's not so bad.

So, you'll have to forgive me if
the next part of the story isn't
quite as accurate as I'd like. I
only know what the others told me.
But the way I hear it, it sorta
went like this. The Scarecrow said:

SCARECROW

(over the top and pompous)
Why Tin Woodman, even though I have not got a brain and have nothing to think with, I believe we need to get Dorothy and the Lion out of here as soon as possible!

DOROTHY (V.O.)

And the Tin Woodman said:

TIN WOODMAN

(also in a similarly fake manner)

As the most intelligent and wisest person in our group, I am taking charge. Lion, you should run away from this poppy field as quickly as you can, for while we may be able to carry Dorothy and Toto from this place, you will be far too heavy.

DOROTHY (V.O.)

So the Lion said:

LION

I agree, as I am so cowardly and so scared of my own shadow, I fear disagreeing with you in any way. I will run away now, as I so often do.

TIN WOODMAN

It is as you say. And it is such a burden to be the most reliable member of our group. Now, Scarecrow, let us make a chair with our hands and carry Dorothy away from this powerful aroma.

SCARECROW

Indubitably Tin Woodman. You are so wise and so amazing and so...

DOROTHY (V.O.)

You can probably guess who told me most of that. However, knowing these three travelling companions of mine as I do, I'm fairly sure the exchange went more like this:

SCARECROW

(Over the top panic)
Oh no! Oh no, oh no oh no!!!

TIN WOODMAN
 (screaming)
 Dorothy! Dorothy Waaaaaaake
 uuuuuup!!!!

SCARECROW
 She's not waking up, Tin Woodman,
 what are we gonna do???

TIN WOODMAN
 I don't know, I don't know, stop
 shouting at me!!

LION
 What happens if we can't wake her!
 (Yawn)
 Oh gosh, now I'm yawning....

TIN WOODMAN
 Lion, get the hell out of here!

LION
 But I -

TIN WOODMAN
 We can carry Dorothy out of here
 but we can't carry you! You fall
 asleep in here you're dead!

SCARECROW
 Run, Lion! Run!

LION
 I'm going, I'm going! Oh holy
 Lurline, I gotta get out of
 here....

As he bounds away, the Scarecrow and the Tin Woodman descend
 into comedy panic.

SCARECROW
 Dorothy! Dorothy, you gotta wake
 up!

TIN WOODMAN
 It's no use, Scarecrow, she's gone!
 Help me carry her!

SCARECROW
 We can't carry her, it's no use!
 Stop shouting at me!

TIN WOODMAN

I'm not shouting at you, we have to help Dorothy!

SCARECROW

We're never going to get away from here!

TIN WOODMAN

Stop yelling!

SCARECROW

I'm not yelling!

TIN WOODMAN

You are yelling!

SCARECROW

I'm not yelling, you're yelling!

And the two of them scream at each other.

DOROTHY (V.O.)

Oh, all right, it probably wasn't that bad. But not far off.

Anyway, between the two of them they were able to get Toto and myself out of the poppy field. Problem solved you might think. Not quite. You see, a few feet away from the edge of the field they came across a large, cowardly sleeping figure. Poor Lion. So close to escaping, but even he couldn't quite resist the power of the poppies.

TIN WOODMAN

Dammit!

SCARECROW

There's nothing we can do for him, Tin Woodman. He's much too heavy.

TIN WOODMAN

I know. It's just ... He's going to die here you know.

SCARECROW

I know.

TIN WOODMAN

It's not fair. All he wanted was
some courage and now he's....

(angry sigh)

Come on.

SCARECROW

I guess we'll just have to leave
him here... But at least there's
some good news! Look!

TIN WOODMAN

What?

SCARECROW

Over there! Across that meadow!
It's the Yellow Brick Road! We're
back on track!

TIN WOODMAN

Only if we can wake Dorothy up.

DOROTHY (V.O.)

Making sure we were well clear of
the poppy field, the Scarecrow and
the Tin Woodman lay me down and
waited for me to wake up again.

Meanwhile, someone else nearby was
facing an even greater danger...

CUT TO:

36 EXT. POPPY FIELD - LATER

A screech of a vicious wild cat. A mouse squeaks alarmingly.
The WILDCAT is chasing the QUEEN MOUSE.

QUEEN MOUSE

(out of breath, terrified)

Oh my goodness. My goodness, I
can't keep this up for much
longer...

WILDCAT

You can't escape your 'majesty'!
The Witch of the West wants you out
of her way. And I'm more than happy
to oblige!

QUEEN MOUSE

Please don't hurt me! Please, I'm
begging you.

WILDCAT

I like it when I my dinner begs for it.

QUEEN MOUSE

What have I ever done to the Witch? I've kept my subjects out of her way, out of everyone's way -

WILDCAT

I don't ask questions, I do as I'm told. And the Witch wants you out of her way.

QUEEN MOUSE

But I'm no threat to her! I'm Queen of the Mice!

WILDCAT

You're mince meat, majesty!
(terrifying screech)

QUEEN MOUSE

(scream)
Help me! Help me, somebody please, save me! Save me!

WILDCAT

(continues its war cry,
then stops with a sudden
thud)

Sound of an axe cutting into flesh.

DOROTHY (V.O.)

That sound you heard just then? That would be the wildcat's head being sliced open by a woodsman's axe.

SCARECROW

Eww.

QUEEN MOUSE

I ... I

TIN WOODMAN

Are you all right, ma'am? Hello?

QUEEN MOUSE

Yes? I'm sorry, I'm a bit shaken. But otherwise quite agreeable, considering the circumstances.

SCARECROW

Huh?

TIN WOODMAN

She says she's fine. Well that thing won't be chasing you any more.

QUEEN MOUSE

Indeed. I thank you, most sincerely. I owe you my life, man of tin.

TIN WOODMAN

Think nothing of it. Always happy to help anyone in danger. Even if it's just a mouse - no offence.

QUEEN MOUSE

Just a mouse? Don't you realise who I am?

SCARECROW

Oh! Meeting new people! I love meeting new people! Who are you?

QUEEN MOUSE

I am Queen Ramina, Monarch of Mice.

SCARECROW

Monarch? As in Queen of all the Mouses?

QUEEN MOUSE

And I am forever in your debt, man of tin.

TIN WOODMAN

Oh. Great.

SCARECROW

I don't understand. If you're the queen, why was that wildcat trying to kill you?

QUEEN MOUSE

It was an agent of the Wicked Witch of the West. I expect she's taking advantage of the Munchkinland situation to clear the way for her own ends.

SCARECROW

I see.

TIN WOODMAN
Do you, Scarecrow?

SCARECROW
No. But I had you convinced for a
second there, right?

TIN WOODMAN
No.

SCARECROW
Oh.

QUEEN MOUSE
In any case, I owe you my life. If
there is anything I or my subjects
can do to repay you, tin man, then
simply name it.

SCARECROW
Oh, I have an idea!

TIN WOODMAN
No you don't, shut up. Thank you,
your Majesty, but to be honest
there's nothing that we -

SCARECROW
No, really! I have an idea! She can
help us!

TIN WOODMAN
How?

SCARECROW
She can save the Lion!

QUEEN MOUSE
(alarmed)
A lion!?!

TIN WOODMAN
Oh Scarecrow...

QUEEN MOUSE
You've just saved me from a vicious
wildcat, now you ask me to face
down a lion!?

SCARECROW
No not face - save! You can save
him!

QUEEN MOUSE

How?

TIN WOODMAN

Yes, I'd quite like to know myself.

SCARECROW

Tell me, your majesty, how many subjects do you have? Nearby I mean.

QUEEN MOUSE

Thousands. My subjects live all over Oz.

SCARECROW

Then summon them here. As soon as you can. And tell them all to bring with them a piece of string, as long as they can carry. Then I'll explain what I want them to do...

DOROTHY (V.O.)

I really have to stress, I didn't see any of this myself, this is what they told me. And yes, it seems as unlikely to me as it does to you, but that's apparently how it went. While they waited for the mice to arrive, the Scarecrow put the Tin Woodman to work.

SCARECROW

I want you to chop down some trees and build me a... what would you call it? A thing with wheels? And a... you know... a platformy thing...

TIN WOODMAN

A truck?

SCARECROW

Is that what you'd call it? Ok then, yes! A truck! Build me a truck!

TIN WOODMAN

Just what are you planning, Scarecrow?

SCARECROW

Just trust me, this'll work!

TIN WOODMAN

Trust you and your lack of a brain? Seriously? Oh whatever. It's been about ten minutes since I last chopped down a tree, must be about time I did it again. You know, by the time I get my heart there won't be any trees left in Oz.

SCARECROW

Thanks, Tin Woodman!

TIN WOODMAN

Truck off.

DOROTHY (V.O.)

So the Tin Woodman built a trolley thing on wheels out of what he could find nearby, big enough to fit the Lion on. He spent most of the afternoon putting it together - the Tin Woodman is nothing if not meticulous with his work. Once it was constructed, the Scarecrow and the Tin Woodman used what strength they had to load the Lion onto the trolley. I really wish I'd been awake to see them trying to manage that.

By nightfall, the mice returned, in their thousands, and each of them carrying a tiny bit of string.

Mice scatter everywhere, squeaking and making noise.

SCARECROW

Ladies and gentlemice, can have your attention please! If you could all line up in single file in front of the ... truck? Cart? Trolly? What are we calling it, Tin Woodman?

TIN WOODMAN

Who cares?

SCARECROW

Yeah, if you could all line up in single file in front of the Who Cares, carrying your string, and the Tin Woodman will tie you to the front. Please do not line up if you do not have your string with you!

QUEEN MOUSE

You heard the straw man, line up!

The mice assemble.

DOROTHY (V.O.)

It was around this point that I woke up. As I yawned myself awake, I saw one of the more unexpected sights in my time in Oz. The Lion, fast asleep on a cart, with hundreds of little mice ahead of it, pulling it through the poppies as hard as they could, each tied to the cart by a string. The Scarecrow and the Tin Woodman were behind the cart, doing their best to help.

TIN WOODMAN

And... Heave! And... Heave!

The Tin Woodman and the mice continue in the background.

DOROTHY

What the...

QUEEN MOUSE

Ingenious, is it not?

DOROTHY

Ahh!

QUEEN MOUSE

Did I startle you? My apologies.

DOROTHY

I ... I think... you're a mouse.

QUEEN MOUSE

Correct.

DOROTHY

A talking mouse.

QUEEN MOUSE

Also correct. I understand that you are Dorothy Gale of Kansas. I am Queen Ramina, Monarch of Mice. You may curtsy.

DOROTHY

I... ok. I can go with that.

QUEEN MOUSE

Your friend the Scarecrow is quite the towering intelligence. Your lion was trapped by the spell of the poppy field, but being so small the poppies have no effect on we mice. Quite a deduction for him to make.

DOROTHY

Amazing for someone that doesn't have a brain.

QUEEN MOUSE

Indeed. I understand this is why you are seeing the Wizard. You all have things you require of him.

DOROTHY

That's right, yes.

QUEEN MOUSE

Be vigilant. That's all I'll say. The Wizard has great power, but that doesn't always equate to great wisdom.

DOROTHY

Do you know the Wizard? Have you met him?

QUEEN MOUSE

I'm afraid not. My understanding is nobody has seen him for many years. He lives the life of a recluse and only engages with his people through his advisors.

DOROTHY

Will he see me?

QUEEN MOUSE

He might. Those shoes will give you certain advantages. It may encourage him to admit you into his Throne Room.

DOROTHY

(sigh)

If we ever get that far. It seems like there's delay after delay and we never seem to be any closer to the Emerald City.

QUEEN MOUSE

You're a lot closer than you think,
my dear.

DOROTHY

What?

QUEEN MOUSE

Take a look beyond that hill over
there.

DOROTHY (V.O.)

I stood up and took a few steps
towards the Yellow Brick Road. In
the darkness, just past the next
hill, I could see a brilliant green
glow dancing on the horizon. It
beckoned warmly and excitedly.

DOROTHY

Is it ... Is that... It is! It's
the Emerald City! Scarecrow! Tin
Woodman! Look, we've made it! It's
there! It's the Emerald City!

DOROTHY (V.O.)

That was the first time I ever saw
the Emerald City. At last our long,
long journey was over. Or so we
thought.

37 EXT. YELLOW BRICK ROAD - MORNING

DOROTHY (V.O.)

First thing in the morning, we
began our final march towards the
City of Emeralds.

DOROTHY

(excited)

Come on, everybody, come on! Don't
be so slow!

TIN WOODMAN

We're not being slow, we're being
dignified. I'm not about to
embarrass myself in front of the
Emerald Citizens before we even
make it to the gate.

DOROTHY

But we've wasted so much time
already! I don't see why we

(MORE)

DOROTHY (cont'd)
 couldn't get moving last night when
 we saw it.

LION
 Because I was still asleep, that's
 why.

DOROTHY
 Oh blah. You're excited, aren't you
 Scarecrow?

SCARECROW
 I can't wait!
 (singing, conga style)
 I'm gonna get a bra-ain! I'm gonna
 get a bra-ain!

DOROTHY
 (joining in)
 I'm gonna go back ho-ome! I'm gonna
 go back ho-ome!

TIN WOODMAN
 All right, we get the point. Now
 shut up.

They stop walking.

LION
 Is this it? Is this the gate? Are
 we finally there?

DOROTHY
 Looks like. Who wants to ring the
 doorbell?

LION
 I think you should do it, Dorothy.

DOROTHY
 Me?

SCARECROW
 Well, it was your idea to go see
 the Wizard after all.

DOROTHY
 It was Locasta's actually but,
 well, if you think I should -

TIN WOODMAN
 Oh for Lurline's sake, I'll do it!

He bangs on the gate.

DOROTHY

Thanks Tin Woodman. Thanks a lot.

TIN WOODMAN

Look, the sooner we get into the Emerald City, the sooner I get my heart.

DOROTHY

I'd have thought it might have been so you could finally get away from us and our silly singing.

TIN WOODMAN

No comment.

DOROTHY

Ha. Oh come on, how long does it take to open a gate? Hello! Visitors waiting to get in! Come out, come out wherever you -

Various swords unsheathe and point in their direction.

DOROTHY

- are.

FARAMANT

(loudspeaker)

Stay exactly where you are. Put your hands up and do not move. You are under arrest by order of the Wizard of Oz.

TIN WOODMAN

Great.

LION

I knew this would go badly.

DOROTHY

But we haven't done anything! We just want to see the Wizard!

FARAMANT

Yeah, I'll bet. All right, men take them inside for questioning. Resistance will be met with maximum force!

The Emerald City guards rush out and arrest the four of them.

38 EXT. EMERALD CITY

Hustle and bustle of a Victorian-era city. Carriages, etc - no cars.

DOROTHY (V.O.)

The City of Emeralds truly is as beautiful as its name suggests. Over its long history it's seen so many regime changes and revolutions that it's got a very odd, varied and bizarre architecture. And it's green. Very green.

Centuries ago, some pompous ruler or other decided to make the centre of Oz the epitome of extravagance. Every wall, every building, even a lot of the pavements and roads were embedded with emeralds to the point that it was almost, in my opinion, a bit over the top. I don't know if everything in the Emerald City is made of emeralds - that would be silly. There must be some green rocks in there to pad out the building materials. But there are enough gems around to make it look as if the streets themselves glow when the sunlight hits them. Every wall shines and the whole city has an aura of magical wonderfulness.

Of course, I saw very little of it the first time I entered the city. Handcuffed by burly guards, we were escorted very quickly through the streets into a green building which I presumed to be military barracks of some kind. Toto was taken from me, as were my new friends, and I was locked in a room, alone, awaiting interrogation.

I was not, as you may imagine, having a 'merry old' time in any sense of the word.

39 INT. CORRIDOR

Omby Amby marches ahead while Faramant follows.

OMBY AMBY

How the hell did she get here?
Don't we have Storkguards for a
reason?

FARAMANT

I showed you the report that said
she was stopped at the border -

OMBY AMBY

Then why is she showing up at our
front door? You're Guardian of the
Gates, Faramant, you shouldn't have
let her get this far.

FARAMANT

What was I supposed, to do, drop a
house on her at the river?

OMBY AMBY

That's not funny. Do we know what
she wants?

FARAMANT

We haven't questioned them but ...
She said something about wanting to
see the Wizard.

OMBY AMBY

I'll bet she does.

FARAMANT

I'll have more information after I
question her.

OMBY AMBY

Oh, you are not going anywhere near
that interrogation room, Faramant.

FARAMANT

But I'm the Guardian of the Gates,
and this is a security matter!

OMBY AMBY

The girl assassinated the Witch of
the East, this has gone far beyond
Emerald City Security.

FARAMANT

Omby -

OMBY AMBY

The Wizard will want a full report
on what she's doing here, and as
(MORE)

OMBY AMBY (cont'd)
Guardian of the Throne that has to
come from me. I'm doing it, end of
discussion.

Jelia Jamb approaches.

JELIA JAMB
Omby Amby, there you are! Is it
true?

OMBY AMBY
Is what true?

JELIA JAMB
That you've got her here? The Witch
Slayer?

FARAMANT
Holy Lurline, is that what they're
calling her now?

OMBY AMBY
How did you find that out?

JELIA JAMB
It's all over the City. People are
saying that she showed up at the
eastern gate.

OMBY AMBY
Faramant...

FARAMANT
What? You expect me to have a weird
group like that arrested and keep
it quiet? They're scarecrows and
lions and things. They stand out.

JELIA JAMB
Well, rumours are flying wild out
there. There's talk that she's come
here as a refugee, others are
saying she showed up brandishing
weapons with witch blood still on
her hands. I need some facts to
spin this, Omby. What's going on?

OMBY AMBY
We don't know yet.

FARAMANT
Our fearless Guardian of the Throne
is going to interrogate her.

JELIA JAMB

Really? Shouldn't Faramant -

OMBY AMBY

I am not having this argument again! Look, you are the Guardian of the People. Go guard them from stupidly speculating more than is necessary. Faramant, you're Guardian of the Gates, go guard the gates or something.

FARAMANT

I beg your -

OMBY AMBY

I suggest you start with doubling the Storkguard patrols and making sure no more Munchkin refugees cross the border.

FARAMANT

Already done.

(pause on Omby Amby's glare)

But I suppose double checking them can't hurt.

Faramant exits.

OMBY AMBY

No it couldn't.

(to Jelias Jamb)

Anything else?

JELIA JAMB

One more thing. They know about the Slippers.

OMBY AMBY

Oh great.

JELIA JAMB

They're not exactly inconspicuous footwear. People saw them on her feet and made their own conclusions.

OMBY AMBY

I see.

JELIA JAMB

There's already people calling her the new Witch of the East, and

(MORE)

JELIA JAMB (cont'd)
 that's why she's come here, to take
 on the Wizard when the last one
 couldn't.

OMBY AMBY
 All right, do what you can to keep
 it under control for as long as you
 can.

JELIA JAMB
 To keep it under control I need to
 tell them facts, Omby.

OMBY AMBY
 And facts are exactly what I'm
 going to get.

He knocks on the cell door and it opens.

40 INT. INTERROGATION ROOM

Small confined space, where Omby Amby interrogates Dorothy.

OMBY AMBY
 I'm going to ask you again, where
 are you from? Who are you working
 for?

DOROTHY
 I've told you. I'm from Butterfield
 in Kansas. I work for my aunt and
 uncle on the farm.

OMBY AMBY
 Kansas. There is no such place.

DOROTHY
 No place like it.

OMBY AMBY
 Who sent you? What was your plan?
 Kill the Witch of the East, incite
 rebellion and anarchy amongst the
 Munchkins, and now you want to kill
 the Wonderful Wizard?

DOROTHY
 Oh my God! For the last time, I did
 not mean to kill her! It was not my
 fault! Read my lips - My. House.
 Fell. On. Her. By. Accident.

OMBY AMBY

We have reports from Munchkin eyewitnesses who say that you were casting spells on the house as it soared across the sky -

DOROTHY

Then they're lying! I was in the house! Look, I never wanted to get caught up in your crazy politics, or whatever this is. A few days ago I was home living my normal, boring life, and then a twister picked up my house while I was still inside it. When it finally hit the ground, it landed on the Witch. All I've wanted to do since then is go back home! That's all! The Witch of the North said the Wizard might be able to help me, so I came here.

OMBY AMBY

So! You're a Gillikin agent!

DOROTHY

I'm nobody's agent, that's what I'm trying to tell you.

OMBY AMBY

And yet you bear her mark on your forehead.

DOROTHY

I'm wearing the Witch of the East's shoes too, perhaps I was working for her when I dropped my house on her?

OMBY AMBY

So, at last you confess -

DOROTHY

That was sarcasm, you numnut!

OMBY AMBY

This will go a lot better for you if you co-operate.

DOROTHY

I am co-operating, you're just not listening to me. Look, I didn't come here to kill anyone. I never met the Witch of the East, or even heard of her until I stepped out of

(MORE)

DOROTHY (cont'd)
 that house. All I want to do is go home. That's it. Your Wizard and the various witches can do whatever the hell they want for all I care.

OMBY AMBY
 Is that a fact?

DOROTHY
 It's absolutely the truth I swear it. If I could just see the Wizard
 -

OMBY AMBY
 (overly sarcastic)
 Oh, oh of course. Why yes. I will definitely let you in to see our beloved ruler. You're only just a known killer who has destabilised one regime this week. Absolutely, I'll give you free access to the one man who keeps the land of Oz together.

DOROTHY
 When I do sarcasm it's cute. With you, it's just sad. If you won't let me in to see the Wizard then maybe someone else can help?

A Ring Communicator beeps.

OMBY AMBY
 Excuse me a moment
 (he answers the Ring)
 What is it? What? Faramant, calm down, I can't follow... what are you doing talking to his Ozness? Yes, I know I'm busy but you shouldn't be answering the... he does? Are you sure? Really sure? ... Fine. Fine, I'll send her through.
 (he hangs up)
 On your feet. You're coming with me.

DOROTHY
 What? Where are you taking me? I'm telling you the truth!

OMBY AMBY

Looks like your wish is coming true. You're off to see the Wizard. He's requested an audience.

Pause.

DOROTHY

He's requested an audience with me?

41 INT. THRONE ROOM

Big, echoey, scary, intimidating. The huge doors open and Dorothy walks in.

DOROTHY (V.O.)

When you want something badly enough, you'd do anything to get it. You jump at any chance that's offered to you, regardless of how unusual it sounds or what weird and fabulous footwear you have to take on. You trek across a dangerous land with three complete strangers on the hope - the mere hope - that when you get to where you're going that you get what you want and everything will be fine. I wanted to get back to Kansas more than anything. But standing there in that magnificent Throne Room for the first time, I was starting to think that maybe the cost would be too high...

DOROTHY

Hello? Is ... is anybody there? Look, they said I should just go in. You ... you asked to see me?

The doors slam shut.

DOROTHY

(yelp)
Oh my God....

WIZARD

(booming voice, American accent)
Not your God. Your Wizard.

DOROTHY
(panic rising)
Oh dear....

WIZARD
(big terrifying voice full
of sound and fury)
I am Oz! The Great and Terrible!
Who are you, and why do you seek
me? Well! Answer me! Who are you!

DOROTHY
(terrified)
I-I-I'm Dorothy. Dorothy Gale.

WIZARD
Why have you come to see the Great
Oz?

DOROTHY
I-I want to go home. The Witch of
the North said -

WIZARD
How did you get the Silver Slippers
of the Wicked Witch of the East!

DOROTHY
Locasta gave them to me.

WIZARD
The Witch of the East gave them up
willingly?

DOROTHY
No, she's dead.

WIZARD
You killed her!

DOROTHY
My house fell on her, it was an
accident!

WIZARD
And now?

DOROTHY
Now? I ... I just want to go home.
Back to Aunt Em and Uncle Henry in
Butterfield.

WIZARD
Butterfield?

DOROTHY
It's a tiny place in Kansas.

Pause

WIZARD
Kansas? In the United States of
America?

DOROTHY
(gasp)
You know it?

WIZARD
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz knows
all!

DOROTHY
Well then you must know how to send
me back home!

Pause

WIZARD
Why should I do this for you?

DOROTHY
I... well... because you're a
wonderful wizard and these are the
wonderful things you...?

WIZARD
You were strong enough to destroy
the Witch of the East. Use your own
power!

DOROTHY
I haven't got any power, I'm just a
girl! Please, can you help me?

WIZARD
You have no right to expect me to
send you back to Kansas unless you
do something for me in return. In
this land, everyone must pay for
what they get. If you wish me to
use my great power to send you
home, then you must do something
for me first. Help me and I will
help you.

DOROTHY
What do I have to do?

WIZARD

Kill the Wicked Witch of the West!

DOROTHY

(gasp)

I can't! I told you, I haven't got any power!

WIZARD

You killed the Witch of the East and you wear her Silver Slippers. There is now but one Wicked Witch left in all of Oz, and when you can tell me she is dead I will send you back to Kansas - but not before!

DOROTHY

But I can't kill a witch! Last time was an accident. Look, you're a Great and Terrible Wizard and I'm nobody. If you can't kill her how on Earth could I do it?

WIZARD

This is my answer and that is my condition. Until the Wicked Witch dies you will not see your uncle and aunt again. Leave my presence, and do not return until you have completed your task!

CLOSING CREDITS