

The Chronicles of Oz:  
The Wonderful Wizard Of Oz

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A six-part audio drama by Aron Toman

A Crossover Adventures Production  
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## EPISODE FIVE

56 PREVIOUSLY:

Catching everyone up on the previous four episodes.

## OPENING CREDITS

57 EXT. WITCH'S COURTYARD

Quox the dragon roars across the courtyard as people scream.

DOROTHY

A dragon? The Wicked Witch had a dragon? Seriously?!?

UGU

How else was she going to take over Munchkinland?

DOROTHY

I thought that's what the shoes were for!

UGU

You had the shoes. She had a Plan B!

LION

Look out! It's swooping again!

They all scream as the dragon swoops the crowd.

DOROTHY

Now we have a confused dragon attacking us!

LION

Dorothy, we gotta get out of here!

DOROTHY

You think?

UGU

It's setting fire to the town! We have to stop it!

DOROTHY

How? How do you stop a dragon?

LION

Last week you asked the same thing  
about stopping a witch.

DOROTHY

Great. Anyone have a giant bucket  
of water handy? Get me a house,  
I'll drop it on its head.

Dragon swoops by. People scream.

DOROTHY

All right, I've had enough.

LION

We're running away?

DOROTHY

No. Ugu, where did the Witch keep  
her magic?

UGU

Magic?

DOROTHY

You know, her spell book. Her one  
true ring, her whatever it is that  
made her all powerful? Look, the  
Witch of the East had these shoes,  
didn't the other one have something  
we could use against this thing?

UGU

Everything like that she kept in  
her tower. The room where -

DOROTHY

The room where I killed her. Ok.  
Follow me!

She rushes off, with the Lion and Ugu behind her.

58 INT. TOWER

Dorothy, the Lion and Ugu rush in. Dorothy searches through  
items, tossing them aside. The dragon screeches outside.

DOROTHY

Lion, you take that side of the  
room. Ugu, you take the other. I'll  
check the wardrobe.

LION

What are you hoping to find in here?

DOROTHY

I don't know yet.

LION

That's not very helpful.

DOROTHY

Something that can stop the dragon. Like the Silver Slippers.

UGU

Why don't you just use the Silver Slippers on it?

DOROTHY

Great, I'll kick the dragon. I don't know what makes these shoes go, or even if they do anything but sparkle in the sunshine. The Witch had to have something else in her arsenal.

UGU

Most of her power came from within.

DOROTHY

(grabbing at items)  
Broomstick? No. Crystal ball - could that do much?

UGU

Only if you want to watch the dragon from afar and cackle at it.

LION

I'd like to watch the dragon from afar. Very afar.

DOROTHY

Shut up and keep looking. There must be something. Book of Shadows, magic lasso, dragon Kryptonite even.

UGU

What's Kryptonite?

DOROTHY

Nevermind just - what's this?

LION  
An ugly hat.

DOROTHY  
It's tingly it's... Ugu?

UGU  
That... that's the Golden Cap.

DOROTHY  
You mean because it's a cap and  
it's golden-y? You Ozians and your  
way with words.

UGU  
You don't want to use that. It's  
dangerous.

DOROTHY  
What does it do?

UGU  
It summons the Winged Monkeys.

LION  
Oh no!

DOROTHY  
You mean those things that brought  
us here?

UGU  
Yes.

DOROTHY  
The things that killed the  
Scarecrow and the Tin Woodman?

UGU  
Yes.

DOROTHY  
I see. Right. Well how does it  
work?

LION  
Dorothy, no!

DOROTHY  
Lion, you saw how powerful those  
things were. They pulled the Tin  
Woodsman apart like... they're  
strong. We know that. We can ask  
them to fight the dragon.

UGU

The wearer of the Cap can command the Monkeys three times only. But their power is fickle - they're bound by the Cap but they're unpredictable -

DOROTHY

How does it work?

LION

Dorothy, are you sure?

DOROTHY

Of course not, but the alternative is getting roasted alive by that thing. Ugu?

UGU

Put the Cap on your head and recite the inscription on the inside band.

DOROTHY

How can I read the inscription if I'm wearing the cap?

UGU

You'll have to memorise it.

LION

And quickly. That dragon is circling closer.

DOROTHY

Thank God I have a photographic memory then.

UGU

You do?

DOROTHY

Of course not. All right...

She mutters the spell under her breath for a moment then puts on the hat.

DOROTHY

(intoning)  
Ep-pe, pep-pe, kak-ke.

LION

That's it? That's the spell?

UGU

Shh!

DOROTHY

Hil-lo, hol-lo, hel-lo.

A magical winds begins to form.

LION

Something's happening...

DOROTHY

Ziz-zy, zuz-zy, zik!

A crash of lightning, just as in Episode 4, and the demonic screech of the Monkeys echoes.

In front of Dorothy appears the WINGED MONKEY - ghostly, apparition and spokesman of the Monkey Tribe.

WINGED MONKEY

This is the first of three times you have summoned the Winged Monkeys. What is it you command of us?

DOROTHY

I... whoah. I did a spell. Cool!

LION

Dorothy!

DOROTHY

Right. Sorry. Umm, I command you to do battle with the -

The dragon screeches outside - too close for comfort.

DOROTHY

(frantic)

The dragon! Fight the dragon, get it away from here!

WINGED MONKEY

As you wish.

The Winged Monkey vanishes. An army of Winged Monkeys appear and fly past Dorothy, screaming all the way as they face off against the dragon.

DOROTHY (V.O.)

That poor dragon. It was the same as the Winkies, really. For years it had been under the Witch's

(MORE)

DOROTHY (V.O.) (cont'd)  
 thrall and now it was finally free.  
 It was confused and scared and  
 lashing out. And now it was facing  
 an army of screaming, magical  
 flying monkeys. It was probably  
 terrified.

The skies above the Witch's castle  
 became a battleground. The dragon  
 stopped attacking the Winkies and  
 instead turned its attention to the  
 Winged Monkeys that surrounded it.  
 We watched from the window as it  
 swooped, dodged and tried to elude  
 its new enemies.

The Dragon continues to screech at his attackers, belching  
 fire and fighting. And the Monkeys keep coming.

DOROTHY (V.O.)  
 In the end, the dragon couldn't  
 hold out against the onslaught.  
 Dozens of Winged Monkeys descended  
 upon the creature, grabbing its  
 legs, its wings, anything they  
 could. And before we knew it, they  
 dragged the screaming monster away  
 beyond the horizon.

The dragon is dragged away. The Winkies begin to cheer  
 below.

LION  
 They did it. The Monkeys saved us.

DOROTHY  
 That makes a change I guess.

LION  
 What did they do to the dragon?

DOROTHY  
 I don't know. Flew it away  
 somewhere else I guess.

LION  
 Where it can scare another village  
 of people.

UGU  
 As long as it isn't here. Dorothy,  
 I don't know what to say. You've  
 saved the Winkies again.

DOROTHY

Good.

(pause)

Now it's time the Winkies did something for me.

UGU

What? Anything, we'll do it.

DOROTHY

Point me in the direction of your best tin smith.

59 INT. BLACKSMITH

Sounds of a forge and anvil slowly build up around Dorothy's narration.

DOROTHY (V.O.)

It had taken me a while, but I finally realised something. Oz was a magic land. I know, obvious right? Clueless Dorothy. Talking scarecrows and royal mice and witches and wizards and I was only now realising the significance. Until now I'd been treating Oz like any other place back home. But Oz is no place like home. It has its own rules. Its own magic rules. And it was time I used that to my advantage.

My two closest allies in this magical land had been taken from me - but they were the most magical of my allies. So I figured magic could bring them back. I had the remains of the Tin Woodman taken to the Winkie who used to be the city blacksmith in the days before the witch. And I asked her to restore my metal friend to his original condition - better than new.

LION

What's that going to do?

DOROTHY

I don't know yet. I'm playing a hunch. He's a tin man, for God's sake. Remember the other night, he said he doesn't sleep because he's

(MORE)

DOROTHY (cont'd)  
 not really alive? Then he can't  
 really be dead either, can he?

60 INT. WITCH'S GREAT HALL

DOROTHY (V.O.)  
 Next it was time to find the  
 Scarecrow. I assembled the Winkie  
 Guards and took them into the  
 wasteland where the Winged Monkeys  
 first found us. And we started a  
 search for whatever we could find  
 of my brainless friend - whatever  
 remained. Even if it was just his  
 hat, I wanted it.

In a few short hours, we found him.  
 The straw had long since blown  
 away, but we still had most of his  
 his clothes, his gloves, his face -  
 and yes, even his hat - still  
 hanging there in the tree. We  
 gathered the materials together and  
 brought him back to the castle,  
 where I personally set about  
 restoring him.

I'm from Kansas, after all. I've  
 been fixing scarecrows all my life.  
 I had this. And no sooner had I  
 repaired his head -

SCARECROW  
 Hello Dorothy - miss me!

Dorothy jumps.

DOROTHY  
 Jesus Christ!

SCARECROW  
 You're renaming me? Cool!

DOROTHY  
 Scarecrow! Are- are you really -

SCARECROW  
 A head on a table? Apparently.  
 Dorothy, where's my body?

DOROTHY

It's, over there, I'm still  
stuffing it. I'll help attach it as  
soon as...

(she gives his head a big  
hug)

Oh Scarecrow, I thought we'd lost  
you!

SCARECROW

(slightly muffled)

Wow, hugs. Nice hugs. I should get  
ripped apart by Winged Monkeys more  
often!

DOROTHY

Don't you dare!

Door opens and the Tin Woodman and the Lion enter.

LION

Hey Dorothy, look who I found  
escaping from the blacksmith!

TIN WOODMAN

I wasn't escaping, I just wasn't  
sitting around waiting on them to  
re-rivet me again.

DOROTHY

Tin Woodman!

She stands up and gives him a hug too.

TIN WOODMAN

Careful now, this breastplate was  
only just polished.

SCARECROW

Look out, Tin Woodman! She's in a  
hugging mood!

LION

Scarecrow!

DOROTHY

Oh I can't believe it! You're both  
back and you're both here and ...  
(she sniffles)

SCARECROW

Dorothy, are you crying again?

TIN WOODMAN  
Careful, your jaw will rust.

DOROTHY  
(teary with joy)  
Oh shut up. Both of you.  
(sniff)  
I'm never letting either of you out  
of my sight ever again, got it? All  
of you, even you Lion.

LION  
So what do we do now?

SCARECROW  
Nothing until you reattach my body!

DOROTHY  
That won't take me long. Then I  
think it's time we went back to the  
Emerald City. Together.

TIN WOODMAN  
Off to see the Wizard!

DOROTHY  
And I have every intention on  
making an entrance.

61 INT. EMERALD CITY OFFICE

Omby Amby and Jelias Jamb have a meeting.

JELIAS JAMB  
Have you seen this?

She dumps a paper on Omby's desk.

OMBY AMBY  
It's a photo. Cute kid.

JELIAS JAMB  
Cute Munchkin kid. Cute wounded  
Munchkin kid - see his arm?

OMBY AMBY  
Oh crap.

JELIAS JAMB  
It's been circulating around the  
city. Now they're calling for some  
definitive action from the Wizard  
to stop the conflict.

OMBY AMBY

What do they expect us to do? If the Munchkins want to hack each other to pieces -

JELIA JAMB

I need to tell them something. Has the Wizard given any indication what he's going to do yet?

OMBY AMBY

What do you think?

JELIA JAMB

They're asking me the question, Omby. They want to know what the Wizard plans to do.

OMBY AMBY

The Wizard, as ever, plans to do nothing. The policy of the Emerald City is to protect the Emerald City at all costs, skirmishes in -

JELIA JAMB

It's turned into civil war!

OMBY AMBY

What do you want from me, Jelias?  
The Wizard commands and we -

Sudden alarms all over the building.

JELIA JAMB

Omby?

OMBY AMBY

Don't look at me, I don't know what's happening.

(shouting)

Faramant!

Faramant rushes past.

FARAMANT

Can't talk, being invaded.

JELIA JAMB

What!?

OMBY AMBY

Faramant, what's happening.

FARAMANT

(into communicator ring)  
Storkgard platoons four, twelve and fifteen, take position on the east and south borders. I repeat, east and south. I don't want anything else coming in from the rear while we're all looking ahead.

(to Omby)

You haven't heard?

JELIA JAMB

We've heard the alarms!

FARAMANT

Winged Monkeys. Coming in from the West.

OMBY AMBY

This is it then. Battle stations.

FARAMANT

Already on it.

JELIA JAMB

The Witch is finally invading?

OMBY AMBY

Guess sending that girl was one step too far. I'll have to brief the Wizard -

FARAMANT

Wait a second

(into communicator)

Say again Storkguard?

(pause)

They're going to land in the Palace Square.

OMBY AMBY

Then shoot them down, Faramant!

FARAMANT

You can't shoot down Winged Monkeys, you know that.

(to communicator)

All guards to the Palace Square.

Repeat, all guards to the Square.

They all rush from the room.

## 62 EXT. EMERALD CITY SQUARE

A crowd has formed. People everywhere, mostly citizens, onlookers, checking out what's going on. Guards hold them back. Faramant, Omby Amby and Jelia Jamb rush in.

OMBY AMBY

What are all these citizens doing here? They'll get themselves killed!

FARAMANT

It's lunchtime on a weekday, this place is always packed.

OMBY AMBY

Well get them out! It'll be a bloodbath!

JELIA JAMB

It's too late! Look!

The screech of the Winged Monkeys comes closer. Then we hear Dorothy's laugh as they land and disappear.

DOROTHY

Miss me?

OMBY AMBY

You... you're dead!

DOROTHY

You don't look so fresh yourself, buster.

FARAMANT

But you went to the Witch of the West.

JELIA JAMB

Willingly!

OMBY AMBY

You either died or she made you her slaves!

TIN WOODMAN

Well, both, technically.

SCARECROW

But we came back. Aren't we good?

LION

Not until we'd killed her of course.

DOROTHY

We? How was this a 'we' thing? It was my bucket of water.

OMBY AMBY

This is ... well it's... you killed her?

DOROTHY

Yes. We'd like to see the Wizard now please.

OMBY AMBY

I -

DOROTHY

He did ask us to return once we did what he asked, and not before. And we're in a hurry so if you could just show us the way -

OMBY AMBY

Stay where you are! The Great Oz does not take audiences on the whims of -

DOROTHY

Guys, I do believe this guard hasn't been listening to what we've been saying.

TIN WOODMAN

Wax in the ears. Always gives you flesh people trouble.

DOROTHY

Let me explain this again. I'm Dorothy Gale. You've just seen me command the Winged Monkeys. You've been informed that I've battled and destroyed the Wicked Witch of the West. You will notice I have been blessed by the Witch of the North and I'm wearing the shoes of the Witch of the East, whom you recall I also killed. Granted, I haven't yet met the Witch of the South but three out of four ain't bad. So what does this tell you? It tells you that I am one super powerful

(MORE)

DOROTHY (cont'd)  
 person and you had better not mess  
 with me. Do I make myself clear?

OMBY AMBY  
 (gulp)  
 Perfectly.

DOROTHY  
 Take us to see the Wizard.

OMBY AMBY  
 Right away.

FADE OUT

63 INT. THRONE ROOM

DOROTHY (V.O.)  
 There was no way I was letting them  
 send us in one at a time. All or  
 nothing, and I wouldn't accept  
 nothing. It's amazing how much you  
 can get away with once you kill off  
 half the ruling caste of a country.

The doors open ominously and the four friends enter timidly.

DOROTHY (V.O.)  
 That doesn't mean I wasn't scared  
 out of my wits as we entered the  
 throne room together.

SCARECROW  
 (whisper)  
 I don't see him anywhere.

TIN WOODMAN  
 (whisper)  
 Me neither.

LION  
 (whisper)  
 I think I'm going to wait outside,  
 let me know how it goes.

DOROTHY  
 (normal volume)  
 Don't you move. I'm fed up with  
 this, I want to go home already.  
 (yelling)  
 Wizard! Are you here? I am Dorothy  
 Gale and I demand you show  
 yourself!

WIZARD  
(booming voice)  
I am Oz the Great and Terrible! Why  
do you seek me?

SCARECROW  
Where did the voice come from?

WIZARD  
I am everywhere. To the eyes of  
common, pitiful mortals I am  
invisible. You may address me by my  
throne. Now explain how you dare  
approach me in such a manner!

DOROTHY  
(false bravado)  
We come to claim what you promised  
to us.

WIZARD  
What promise?

DOROTHY  
What do you mean what promise?

SCARECROW  
You, you promised me a brain, and  
the Lion some courage.

TIN WOODMAN  
And me a heart.

DOROTHY  
And you were going to send me home  
to Kansas.

WIZARD  
Is the Witch of the West truly  
destroyed as we agreed?

DOROTHY  
I-I melted her with a bucket of  
water myself.

Pause

DOROTHY  
Are you still there?

WIZARD  
I will need to consider this  
carefully. Come back tomorrow.

DOROTHY

Excuse me?

WIZARD

The Great Oz has spoken!

TIN WOODMAN

No, I don't think so.

SCARECROW

You've had plenty of time already!

WIZARD

(louder and boomier)

Do not speak to me in such a tone!  
I am the Great and Terrible Wizard  
of Oz! I should crush you into an  
infinitesimal atom!

Toto yelps and runs away to a corner to hide.

DOROTHY

Toto, come back here!

(to Wizard)

You frightened him!

LION

He's in trouble now. She gets mad  
when people frighten her dog.

WIZARD

You should all show such wisdom as  
the animal! I am the Wizard of Oz!  
Obey me and leave this place before  
I bring a terrible something upon  
you -

Toto yelps and knocks over a screen. The Wizard's rant  
echoes into feedback as his microphone falls over.

WIZARD

(normal voice)

Oh crumbs.

DOROTHY

Can everyone else see that weird  
little man with the microphone  
trying to hide behind the screen?

WIZARD

Ahh... pay no attention to me, I'm  
just a little friend of the  
Wizard's here...

TIN WOODMAN

(shouting at the throne)  
 Wizard! Do you hear me! Give us  
 what we want or we will end your  
 little friend here! I'm not  
 kidding!

SCARECROW

Tin Woodman, wait. I think ... he  
is the Wizard.

Pause

DOROTHY

But he's just... you're just...

WIZARD

(very humble)  
 I'm the ... Great and Terrible  
 Wizard of Oz. Yes.

LION

I don't believe it.

WIZARD

I'm afraid it's true. I'm very,  
 very sorry for fooling you all...

DOROTHY

But you can't be. The Wizard is all  
 powerful. The entire country is  
 afraid of him. Wicked Witches are  
 afraid. You're just a little ...  
 old...

TIN WOODMAN

Nice try. All right, Wizard, enough  
 mind games - show yourself! I'll  
 kill him, I will! I'm heartless  
 remember, I'll do it.

WIZARD

Please, don't strike me, please! I  
 really am the Wizard, I promise  
 you. My name is Oscar Zoroastor  
 Diggs, balloonist extraordinaire,  
 Ruler of the City of Emeralds and  
 the greater lands in Oz for many  
 years now.

DOROTHY

It's ... it's another disguise  
 then? You're only pretending to be  
 (MORE)

DOROTHY (cont'd)  
a little old man, you're still all  
powerful, right.

SCARECROW  
I don't think he is, Dorothy. I  
don't think he has any powers at  
all.

DOROTHY  
But he has to.

SCARECROW  
All-powerful wizards don't cower in  
the corner like that.

DOROTHY  
But ... you were my only hope. The  
only one who could possibly help  
me. Help us.

WIZARD  
I'm sorry my dear, I'm really  
sorry.

LION  
Sorry? You're a humbug!

WIZARD  
Shh! Please keep your voices down.  
If somebody heard you out there I'd  
be finished. Nobody besides you  
knows I'm a fraud. You have to  
promise not to tell anyone.

LION  
Why should we?

DOROTHY  
You've been lying to the people of  
Oz for so long, don't they deserve  
to know the truth?

WIZARD  
And what do you think they'd do to  
me then? Please, I beg of you, tell  
nobody. Oh I knew I shouldn't have  
let you in here. They said you were  
so demanding, and when they said  
you killed the Witch of the West I  
was so afraid you'd come in by  
force...

SCARECROW

If you're not really a wizard, how did you do all those things you did? The booming voice and the glowing heads and... stuff.

WIZARD

Oh, nothing to it, just a few video projections, some hidden speakers and a microphone or two. Lots of little tricks that have kept the people of Oz mystified...

TIN WOODMAN

What's a video projection?

DOROTHY

What do you mean, what's a video projection?

(realising)

Oh, you don't know what videos are, do you? Nobody in Oz does, cause they don't have them here. Which means you mustn't be from Oz. That's how you knew about Kansas and the United States.

WIZARD

You're right. I'm originally from Omaha, Nebraska. I used to work in a circus, travelling from town to town, showing the locals little magic tricks, that sort of thing. I was hoping to become a ringmaster someday. I guess I got my wish, in a way.

DOROTHY

What happened? How did you end up here?

WIZARD

I don't know. I was working as a balloonist, giving folks rides around the circus grounds - just a bit of fun. Anyway, one day I was up in the balloon, in the air waiting for customers, when a storm whipped up. The ropes twisted and I couldn't lower myself down again. Then the wind picked up - the ropes snapped and before I knew it the balloon and I were flung away into the storm, tossing and turning.

DOROTHY

Sounds like what happened to me and my house.

WIZARD

Well what goes up must come down, and eventually the balloon came to rest here in Oz, right outside the gates of the Emerald City. They were having a spot of trouble at the time. The king was dying, there were wicked witches trying to take control and, well, they needed someone to lead them. So when they saw my balloon land from the sky, with my initials painted on the side... they assumed I must have been sent to help them.

TIN WOODMAN

Your initials? Oscar Zoroaster...

WIZARD

O. Z. The name of your country, yes. So I did a few tricks for them, I managed a small sound and light show which scared the wicked witches away from their beautiful city. After that, well, they all called me a Wonderful Wizard. And who was I to disagree?

SCARECROW

So you lied to everyone?

WIZARD

I merely accepted the position offered to me. And being trapped in another world, unable to get back home, I thought it was the best action to take at the time. And I haven't been bad for Oz in the long run. I've kept the Wicked Witches at bay for years. The Emerald Citizens have been kept safe.

DOROTHY

You've not done much for Oz in general though have you? It's a mess! The Winkies have spent the last decade possessed, the Munchkins have descended into civil war. That doesn't sound too wonderful to me.

WIZARD

I do what I can, but -

DOROTHY

How long has it been since you left this room? Have you spoken to your subjects out there? Everyone thinks you're all powerful, you can do anything. Want a brain? Want a heart? Need a way to get back home again - go see the Wizard! They call him wonderful! He's great and terrible, fantastic powers at his command, because of the wonderful things he does. And in the end I've got more power in my little finger than you do, and I'm just a girl from Kansas. You're a very bad man, Mr Diggs.

WIZARD

No, no, I'm really a very good man. I'm just a very bad wizard.

DOROTHY

I beg to differ. Come on guys, let's go.

SCARECROW

Wait, isn't he -

DOROTHY

He can't give you your brains Scarecrow. He can't give the Tin Woodman his heart or the Lion his courage. He'd need to have all those himself first, and he's just proven he hasn't got any of them. And as for getting Toto and me back home... Well, best we can do is tell the Emerald Citizens what we know.

TIN WOODMAN

I agree.

WIZARD

What? No, you can't!

LION

They deserve to know the truth.

WIZARD

Please, you don't know what they will do to me. You'll bring Oz to its knees! The people are already distressed with the sudden deaths of the witches - you expose me now and you doom Oz to chaos and war! They need me now more than ever to keep them safe!

DOROTHY

You can't keep them safe! You haven't got any power!

WIZARD

But they don't know that! Without me there will be panic. People will die.

DOROTHY

I think you're more concerned with what they'll do to you when they find out. And you know what, I don't care. You sent me to the Witch of the West knowing she would probably kill me and you didn't care. I think it's your turn.

WIZARD

Wait! I'll do anything. I'll give you what you came here for!

SCARECROW

You will?

WIZARD

I can give you your brain, Scarecrow. I'll give you a heart, I'll give you some courage, I'll even send you back home if I can, just please don't let them know what I am!

SCARECROW

He might be able to do it.

DOROTHY

How? You're a fake.

WIZARD

Give me a chance, please. Let me prove myself to you.

LION

It can't hurt to give him a chance  
Dorothy.

SCARECROW

We haven't got much to lose at this  
point.

TIN WOODMAN

It would be worse to have been  
through all we have to come out  
with nothing.

WIZARD

Please, Dorothy. Don't go out that  
door. Not yet.

Pause

DOROTHY

All right. Show us what you've got,  
'Mister Wizard'.

64 INT. PALACE CORRIDOR

Faramant listens to the final few moments of the previous  
scene.

FARAMANT

(whispering)  
I don't believe it...

JELIA JAMB

Faramant!

FARAMANT

Shh!

JELIA JAMB

You're not listening in at the  
throne room door? The Wizard will -

FARAMANT

The Wizard's a fake!

JELIA JAMB

He's what?

FARAMANT

I just heard it. They figured it  
out. The Wizard... he's a fake! I  
need to tell Omby Amby!

He rushes off down the corridor.

JELIA JAMB  
Faramant, wait! What do you mean!

She follows behind him.

65 INT. EMERALD CITY OFFICE

OMBY AMBY  
Faramant, are you drunk?

FARAMANT  
I heard it as clearly as I hear you now.

OMBY AMBY  
That's not a no.

FARAMANT  
Of course I'm not drunk. They worked it out. He was begging them not to tell anybody. The Wizard - begging!

OMBY AMBY  
Jelia, shut the door.

He waits for her to close it.

OMBY AMBY  
Have you told anybody else this? Either of you?

JELIA JAMB  
No, we came straight here.

OMBY AMBY  
Keep it that way. We don't want this sort of nonsense getting out. The city is nervous enough as it is.

FARAMANT  
You believe me, sir?

OMBY AMBY  
Of course I don't, it's nonsense. Of course the Wizard is real. You don't think he could fool the whole of Oz for this long, do you?

JELIA JAMB

No, but...

OMBY AMBY

What?

JELIA JAMB

Well it's just it makes a bit of sense.

OMBY AMBY

Oh Jelias...

JELIA JAMB

Well have you heard of anyone who's actually seen the Wizard? Lately I mean? Omby, you're the only one who speaks with him on a regular basis, but even you only hear a voice in the room, don't you.

OMBY AMBY

This is ridiculous.

JELIA JAMB

He's never seen in public, he hardly ever takes audiences and when he does he appears as strange fantastical beings -

FARAMANT

Fantastical beings from afar. Never close up.

OMBY AMBY

Because he's a Wizard and he chooses these shapes -

JELIA JAMB

And let's be honest, there's always been those theories -

OMBY AMBY

And I expect better of you to believe in them. Yes, crackpots have said for decades the Wizard isn't real. They also say the government puts implants in their heads, and crossing the Deadly Desert won't turn you into sand. Idiots will believe anything.

JELIA JAMB

That's exactly what I'm afraid of.

FARAMANT  
And I'm not just a crackpot -

OMBY AMBY  
Ha!

FARAMANT  
- I heard him. I heard the Wizard himself admit it.

OMBY AMBY  
Now that's enough.

FARAMANT  
Omby, I'm telling you -

OMBY AMBY  
And I'm telling you to drop it. Both of you. We are entering a period of uncertainty that Oz hasn't seen since Pastoria died. The Emerald City needs a strong leader now more than ever. They do not need rumours seeding doubt and suspicion in the Wizard that they need to depend on -

FARAMANT  
But -

OMBY AMBY  
Drop it, and that's an order.

He marches out and slams the door.

JELIA JAMB  
I think we've been told.

FARAMANT  
I can't. I can't drop this. It's too important. I need a Ring.

JELIA JAMB  
Faramant, no, don't do it.

FARAMANT  
(opening a ring)  
Operator, put me through to the broadcasters. I have breaking news.

66 INT. THRONE ROOM

The Wizard is seeing the Scarecrow first.

WIZARD

Mister Scarecrow, if you could just sit here.

SCARECROW

Of course.

WIZARD

Now, I have something here that I think could do the job quite well. If you'll just allow me to open the seam at the back of your head I'll make the installation and you'll be thinking genius thoughts in no time.

SCARECROW

What are you putting in?

WIZARD

It's a bag of bran. Oh, I mean, erm, bran-new brains, of course. Yes, here we go.

SCARECROW

It's a bit pointy for brains, isn't it?

WIZARD

I put some pins in there, that way you'll know your brains are sharp.

DOROTHY

Oh brother.

SCARECROW

Does that make me a pinhead?

DOROTHY

Yes.

WIZARD

Quiet, please, I am about to make the first incision.

67 EXT. EMERALD CITY SQUARE

A crowd is forming, an uncomfortable crowd, listening to a general broadcast.

## RADIO REPORTER

(distorted)

Wonderful or worthless? That's what the Emerald Citizens are asking of the Wizard today after a surprising revelation from deep in the Wizard's inner circle. Faramant, the Guardian of the Gates himself, issued a statement a few hours ago, declaring the Wizard of Oz is in fact a fake with no true power. He claims to have only discovered this today, and feels it his civic duty to spread the news. He has also made it clear that this statement is from him personally and is not the official position of the Emerald City administration.

Of course, rumours of the true extent of the Wizard's power have circulated among certain circles for many years. However this is the first time someone so close to the Wizard himself has made such a claim. In the hours since this the statement was made, members of the public have begun to gather in the streets and outside the Wizard's Palace. And all of us are asking the same question - is the Wizard truly as wonderful as we were led to believe? If so, then will the Wizard give us a demonstration of his powers and settle this issue once and for all?

68 INT. THRONE ROOM

The Wizard attends to the Tin Woodman.

TIN WOODMAN

All right, my turn. I want my heart and I want it now.

WIZARD

Easy son, easy. I'm not sure I should give you one while you're this excited. Might give you an attack, eh?

He chuckles, awkwardly.

TIN WOODMAN

Funny. Are we doing this or not?

WIZARD

Don't get your cast iron knickers  
in a twist. Here we are.

TIN WOODMAN

Is that meant to be a joke?

WIZARD

It's a heart, isn't it?

TIN WOODMAN

It's a bit of silk shaped like a  
heart.

WIZARD

Yes, quite. What I thought I'd do  
is cut a hole in your chest and  
place it in there. You'll have  
emotions before you can blink!

TIN WOODMAN

Why do I feel doubtful?

WIZARD

See, it's already working! You feel  
something! Imagine how much better  
it'll work once it's installed!

69 EXT. EMERALD CITY OFFICE

Faramant, Jelias Jamb and Omby Amby are inside. The sound of  
a building mob can be heard outside.

OMBY AMBY

You are so fired.

FARAMANT

I had a duty.

OMBY AMBY

You're also under arrest for  
treason!

JELIAS JAMB

Faramant, don't you realise what  
you've done?

FARAMANT

I had a duty.

JELIA JAMB

You have a city about to tear this palace apart!

OMBY AMBY

I told you the people were already nervous. I warned you that letting this sort of thing get out would start a panic. I'd lock you in the prisons except leading you through the crowds in chains would just make things worse.

FARAMANT

Is that why there's a guard pointing a sword at me?

OMBY AMBY

I should make him cut your head off.

JELIA JAMB

Omby, enough.

OMBY AMBY

You're right. We need to focus on damage control.

JELIA JAMB

I don't know what we can do. We can issue a blanket denial, but that might give this credibility -

OMBY AMBY

It's got credibility! He's the Guardian of the Gates! Until now anyway.

JELIA JAMB

And I don't think it would do any good to just deny it. They're assembling at the Palace steps, and they're not going away.

OMBY AMBY

This is just what I was afraid of. The Munchkins are in revolt, the Winkies are a mess. Now the Emerald Citizens are taking up arms.

JELIA JAMB

They haven't taken up arms yet. But give them time.

OMBY AMBY

You're the expert in public relations, Guardian of the People. What do we do from here?

JELIA JAMB

We have to handle it delicately -

FARAMANT

Why not ask the Wizard to prove he's not a fake?

OMBY AMBY

Shut up.

FARAMANT

Get him to do something wonderful, that will fix it.

OMBY AMBY

Someone get him out of here. Lock him in a cupboard.

JELIA JAMB

I think he might be right.

OMBY AMBY

No he's not.

JELIA JAMB

If our stance is that the Wizard is really a Wizard, then we're going to have to back it up. Faramant may have done the wrong thing, but he's tapped into nagging doubts that have been there for decades. That's not going to be undone with just words.

FARAMANT

And what do you do when the Wizard can't deliver?

JELIA JAMB

Then we - well maybe that's something the people need to know too.

OMBY AMBY

There will be chaos. A whole city realising their all-powerful ruler isn't nearly as powerful as they believed? They'll put our heads on pikes before you can blink. It'll

(MORE)

OMBY AMBY (cont'd)  
 be worse than the Munchkin war ever  
 was.

FARAMANT  
 But you've got nothing to worry  
 about, do you Omby? The Wizard is  
 real, isn't he? Why not ask him to  
 prove it so we can all go home.

OMBY AMBY  
 Faramant I swear if you don't...  
 You know what? Fine. I'll go ask  
 him. I'll seek an audience, I'll  
 alert him to the problem, I'll  
 request a special one off  
 demonstration of his power. Then  
 you'll see.

70 INT. THRONE ROOM

The Lion's turn to see the Wizard.

WIZARD  
 It's all right Lion, you don't need  
 to be scared.

LION  
 I'm not scared, I'm p-p-petrified.

WIZARD  
 I understand completely. I've been  
 scared an awful lot in my time.  
 Actually, I don't know many who  
 haven't.

LION  
 Not as frightened as me.

WIZARD  
 I don't know. You should have seen  
 me when I tried to battle the Witch  
 of the West. You should have seen  
 me squirm!

LION  
 Maybe you need some courage too?

WIZARD  
 Wouldn't say no, I don't mind  
 telling you. How about some of  
 this?

He uncorks a bottle. The Lion takes a sniff.

LION

What is it?

WIZARD

A bottle of courage, I mixed it myself. Quite a good vintage if I dare say so - have a drink.

LION

I have to drink that?

WIZARD

Well, courage can only come from within, can't it? So for it to work, you have to drink.

LION

Well, ok, if you say so...

He drinks the bottle.

WIZARD

What do you think?

LION

(hiccup)  
Smooth.

WIZARD

Everyone's a critic.

Mystical beeping noise - a Ring is ringing.

DOROTHY

What's that?

WIZARD

Just a Ring. One of the little communications devices we have here in the Emerald City. Somebody needs the Wizard's attention.

(he answers it and puts on a voice)

Who seeks the Great Oz?

OMBY AMBY

(distorted)

Your Ozness. It is the Guardian of the Throne. I- I seek your wisdom and advice.

WIZARD

You may speak!

OMBY AMBY

(distorted)

Your people have... they have come to doubt your... they've stopped believing you're really a Wizard.

WIZARD

(whisper)

What?

OMBY AMBY

There was a rumour. There's always a rumour but this is... They're assembling on the Palace steps. They're demanding proof of your mighty power.

WIZARD

(angry)

You told them!

DOROTHY

We haven't left this room, how could we?

WIZARD

You promised me that if I helped you you'd keep this quiet, and now they all know!

TIN WOODMAN

You don't think they might have worked it all out for themselves?

SCARECROW

Anyone with a brain could guess it eventually. Which actually includes me now, thanks for asking.

WIZARD

I shouldn't have trusted you. I should have kept you out while I had the chance.

OMBY AMBY

(distorted)

Great Oz, if you could make an appearance, show them you are truly the Wonderful Wizard that they have come to trust -

WIZARD

I need to get away from here.

DOROTHY

Where do you think you're going?

WIZARD

I have to escape.

DOROTHY

You can't leave us to deal with all this. What about getting me back to Kansas?

WIZARD

I haven't got time, they're coming for me!

TIN WOODMAN

You can't just run away.

SCARECROW

Who's going to rule the Emerald City?

WIZARD

You do it. With your bran-new brains you might be better at it than I was.

He runs out of the back of the throne room.

DOROTHY

Mr Diggs, get back here! Wizard! Lion, what are you smiling at?

LION

(tipsy)  
My face has gone all numb.  
(hiccup)

DOROTHY

Oh God. Wizard, get your ass back in here and face the music!  
(to the others)  
You guys stall them, I'm going to drag Oz the Great and Terrible back whether he likes it or not.

She rushes after the Wizard.

SCARECROW

Rightio, I'm sure I'll be able to think of something!  
(he laughs)  
I got a brain you know.

TIN WOODMAN

Good. Then maybe you can think of something to tell the Guardian of the Throne out there!

71 INT. WIZARD'S TOWER

DOROTHY (V.O.)

At the back of the throne room was a hidden door that led to a windy staircase that led to what I presumed was the Wizard's private rooftop courtyard. There I found a huge orange hot-air balloon with - just as he'd said - the letters 'O' and 'Z' emblazoned on the basket. The Wizard himself was already inside and firing up the burner.

WIZARD

Keep back, Dorothy! I mean it!

DOROTHY

Oh no you don't. Get out of there and face your people!

WIZARD

I can't, I'm sorry.

DOROTHY

You can and you will, even if I have to drag you out! You lied to them, you owe them the truth!

WIZARD

They'll destroy me!

DOROTHY

Not if you come clean they won't! Tell them what happened, be honest and you'll be fine.

WIZARD

Don't be so naïve, what would you do if you were in their position?

DOROTHY

I am in their position! I trusted in your great power too, remember, and look where it's got me!

WIZARD

I'm sorry, I really am. But I can't stay here. I just can't. I had this balloon prepared for just this situation, ready to go at any time. And that time has come.

DOROTHY

Don't you even think about dumping this on us. What are we supposed to tell your people?

WIZARD

Whatever you like. Tell them I was killed. Tell them I went to heaven. Tell them I was a Wicked Wizard who abandoned them all, I don't care! Oz is yours now, tell them what you like!

He fires the burner again and starts to float away.

DOROTHY

Don't you float away while I'm yelling at you. Get back down here right now!

WIZARD

(drifting away)  
Goodbye Dorothy! I hope you find your way back to Kansas. Perhaps we'll meet again there someday!

DOROTHY

You'd better pray I never see you again! Wizard! Wizard!!!!

WIZARD

(now far away)  
Goodbye and good luck!

DOROTHY

(to herself)  
I'm gonna kill him. If I ever see that man again I am going to kill him...

The crowd below screams in surprise as the balloon flies by.

DOROTHY

As long as the Emerald Citizens don't kill us first...

CLOSING CREDITS