

# The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

By L. Frank Baum

Adapted by Jason Richards

Rich STUDIO Lab Production, Spring 2024

## Scene 1: The Cyclone

*Kansas, 1900. Dorothy's Farm. Everything is gray—the grass, sky, house, livestock, people—except, somehow, Dorothy. There may be a windmill and a fence. We may hear a chicken and the occasional pig.*

*Lights up on Dorothy—in a dingy dress and worn-out leather shoes—playing with her little dog Toto. Uncle Henry looks out the screen door at the weather..*

*Our narrator is dressed in all black. She'll pop into the action as multiple characters throughout the course of the show.*

NARRATOR

This is a fairytale. But instead of a faraway land, this one starts in the great Prairies of Kansas, in a small house. There were four walls, a roof, and a floor, which made one room. Once, the house had been painted. But now the sun blistered the paint and the rains washed it away. The sun and wind embrittled everything in that barren land. Now the house was gray like everything else. Looking out from the doorway, one could see only the great dry, gray prairie surrounding them. And Dorothy's Aunt Em, once a young and pretty farmer's wife, whose eyes sparkled like the blue sky, now stared from eyes as gray as that prairie. But Dorothy herself, though she lost her mother and father, still had her sparkle.

*Narrator puts on a shawl and picks up a broom or some needlework to become Aunt Em, as she steps into the action of the scene.*

*Dorothy laughs at Toto. Startled by the laughter, Aunt Em presses her hand to heart.*

AUNT EM

You can find *anything* to laugh at, child.

DOROTHY

Look, Aunt Em! Toto found my old ribbon! I knew I brought it with me.

AUNT EM

Look at that! You don't have need for such a pretty ribbon here.

DOROTHY

I'm still glad he found it. It reminds me of when mother got me it, for the ball. The same night I found Toto.

AUNT EM

That was a big evening.

DOROTHY

Oh, it was splendid. Dancing, music, cake and ice cream...so many people! All of it so beautiful. *(beat)* But was I glad to get home that night! Toto was, too. He was ragged when I found him—you should've seen his fur. But he cleaned up so nicely...I've always thought he might have been a prima ballerina's dog, or a duchess's...between that and his manners. *(beat)* Somehow he must have gotten left behind. Or lost.

AUNT EM

Well, he's not lost anymore. He's found a good home here.

DOROTHY

He has.

*Aunt Em soberly returns to her work. After a moment, she notices Henry at the door.*

AUNT EM (CONT'D)

Henry, I've never seen you stand still this long.

UNCLE HENRY

*(Still looking out)* The sky. Don't like it. Grayer than usual.

*They hear (SFX) a sharp whistling—the beginning of the cyclone. Uncle Henry realizes the danger.*

UNCLE HENRY (CONT'D)

There's a cyclone coming, Em! *(exiting)* I'll go look after the stock!

*Aunt Em drops her work and looks out at the weather. The storm gets louder.*

AUNT EM

Quick, Dorothy! Run for the cellar!

*She takes Dorothy by the hand, leaving Toto behind. Dorothy breaks free and goes back for the dog. Aunt Em, no stranger to cyclones, is horrified she has lost her grip on Dorothy, but too terrified to go back for her.*

AUNT EM

No, Dorothy! No!

*Dorothy grabs Toto. Lights flash, whirl, etc. as the house takes flight. After a moment, she stumbles around a bit, and gets a look outside.*

*Everything swirls around in front of the audience, as actors carry props/set pieces in a rapid procession around the play space.*

AUNT EM (*offstage*)

Henry! The house is flying away! Please, God—no!

*(Aunt Em returns to being the narrator.)*

*Toto gets loose and flies out the window.*

DOROTHY

Toto!

*Dorothy manages to get him back in, and hunkers down, clutching Toto tightly.*

NARRATOR

Hour after hour passed, and Dorothy wondered if she would be dashed to pieces when the house fell again. At last, in spite of the swaying of the house and the wailing of the wind, she soon closed her eyes and fell asleep.

*Lights fade.*

## **Scene 2: The Land of Oz**

*When the lights come back up... All is quiet and calm. And Oz is bright and verdant—in stark contrast to Kansas.*

DOROTHY

Is it over? (*beat*) We're alive, Toto. We made it!

*Still holding Toto, Dorothy peeks out the door. She doesn't see the Wicked Witch's silver shoes sticking out from under the house.*

*Dorothy is met by three Munchkins (who always speak in rapid succession) and the Good Witch of the North (not Glinda...she comes later), who is a sweet old fairy-godmother type lady.*

NORTH WITCH

Welcome, noble sorceress, to the land of the Munchkins. We are so grateful to you.

*Dorothy wonders what for...*

MUNCHKIN

For killing the Wicked Witch of the East!

MUNCHKIN

And setting our people free from her bondage!

DOROTHY

*(beat)* You are very kind; but I have not killed anything. And I'm no sorceress.

NORTH WITCH

*(curious)* But you wear white. *(beat)* And look...

*A Munchkin directs her attention to the dead witch's feet.*

DOROTHY (CONT'D)

Oh dear. Oh dear! What ever shall we do?

NORTH WITCH

There is nothing to be done. She has held all the Munchkins in bondage for many years, and now they are all set free.

MUNCHKIN

We are grateful to you!

DOROTHY

If I may... Where are we? Who are you?

NORTH WITCH

This is the land of Oz, and I am the Witch of the North.

DOROTHY

Oh, gracious! I thought all witches were wicked...

MUNCHKIN

Not this one!

MUNCHKIN

She's a good witch!

NORTH WITCH

Here in Oz, we did have two wicked witches. One in the west, and one in the east. Now, thanks to you, it's just one. And then, you see, Glinda—she's the witch of the south—she and I are both quite good.

MUNCHKIN

*(overlapping)* Yes, very good.

MUNCHKIN

*(overlapping)* Very good indeed.

DOROTHY

But Aunt Em told me all the witches *died* years and years ago.

NORTH WITCH

Who is Aunt Em?

DOROTHY

My... *(starts to say 'mother')* She's...home, back in Kansas.

NORTH WITCH

I've never heard of Kansas. Is it a civilized country?

DOROTHY

Oh, yes.

NORTH WITCH

That accounts for it. You see, Oz is cut off from the rest of the world. We've never been civilized. Therefore, we still have witches and wizards.

DOROTHY

Wizards?

NORTH WITCH

Oz himself is the great wizard. More powerful than us all.

*The Munchkins suddenly get riled, rallying around the dead witch's feet. Dorothy and the North Witch turn to see the dead witch's legs deflating/deflated, the silver shoes now resting on the ground.*

DOROTHY

*(Shrieks in dismay)* What has happened?

NORTH WITCH

She was so old, she dried up quickly in the sun.

MUNCHKIN

*(glad)* That's the end of her!

NORTH WITCH

*(handing the silver shoes to Dorothy)* These are yours now, fair *(starts to say 'sorceress')*...young lady.

*Dorothy takes the shoes to be polite, though she doesn't really want them.*

DOROTHY

Oh my. They're...silver!

NORTH WITCH (CONT'D)

What were you expecting? Rubies? *(beat)* Yes, they are genuine silver. And they have some magic charm connected to them, though we know not what.

DOROTHY

Oh, that is very nice. But really I just want to get back home, to Kansas.

NORTH WITCH

Oh dear, I'm afraid that's quite impossible. The entire land of Oz is surrounded by a great desert.

MUNCHKIN

You would never make it across!

MUNCHKIN

*(overlapping)* No one ever has.

MUNCHKIN

*(overlapping)* Not even the monkeys.

NORTH WITCH

Sadly, they are right. *(happily)* You will have to live with us.

*Dorothy, upon hearing this, starts weeping.*

MUNCHKIN

Oh, don't do that. *(starts crying, too)*

MUNCHKIN

*(Crying)* No, no. Please don't cry. *(Wipes own eyes, then offers handkerchief)*

DOROTHY

I'm sorry. *(still crying)* I just don't know what to do.

*A bird tweets a bit. The North Witch's ears perk up with the bird's message.*

NORTH WITCH

Is your name Dorothy, my dear? *(Sees her nod yes)* A little birdy told me to send you to the Emerald City to see the Great Oz himself.

MUNCHKIN

Perhaps he will help you.

MUNCHKIN

Yes, perhaps.

*Dorothy calms down a bit.*

NORTH WITCH

It is a long journey, through a country that is sometimes pleasant...sometimes dark and terrible.

DOROTHY

Won't you go with me?

NORTH WITCH

No. But I will give you this...

*She kisses Dorothy on the forehead, which leaves a round, shining mark.*

NORTH WITCH

It will keep you safe.

MUNCHKIN

No one would dare injure a person kissed by the Witch of the North!

MUNCHKIN

*(overlapping)* Oh, no.

MUNCHKIN

*(overlapping)* Never.

NORTH WITCH

The road to the City of Emeralds is paved with yellow brick, so you cannot miss it.

DOROTHY

So I should follow... *(starts to say "follow the Yellow Brick Road")*

MUNCHKIN

Follow the road with the yellow bricks!

DOROTHY

You mean I should follow the yellow...

MUNCHKIN

The yellow road paved with bricks, yes!

DOROTHY

Well okay, then.

MUNCHKIN

Now she's got it.

MUNCHKIN

*(overlapping)* Yes, yes.

NORTH WITCH

Do not be afraid. And when you get to the City of Emeralds, ask the Great Wizard to help you.  
Good bye, my dear!

*The munchkins bow low and Dorothy waves back as the witch waves bye with her wand. The lights fade and she disappears. Dorothy expects such a thing, but the Munchkins are taken off-guard by her disappearance.*

MUNCHKIN

Where'd she go?

MUNCHKIN

She was just here...

MUNCHKIN

And then she wasn't.

MUNCHKIN

Much like you. First you were in Kansas...

MUNCHKIN

Now you're in Oz.

MUNCHKIN

And soon you'll be in the City of Emeralds...

MUNCHKIN

If you choose to go.



*The Munchkins exit, leaving Dorothy and Toto all alone.*

DOROTHY

Well, Toto, we're off to see the Great Oz in the City of Emeralds.

*Dorothy skips off as the lights fade.*

### **Scene 3: The Wicked Witch**

NARRATOR

Much like the cyclone that brought her, Dorothy's presence had caused a disturbance in the magical atmosphere of Oz.

*Lights fade up on the Wicked Witch of the West. She peers into the distance, that one crazy eye wide open.*

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Now, the Wicked Witch of the West had only one eye. But it was powerful as a telescope, and with it she could see everywhere.

WICKED WITCH

By my one eye! The Witch of the East has been murdered for her magical Silver Shoes. This new little witch is powerful. *(Stops peering, rubs eye)* She'd better be. If she thinks I'll just hand her my Golden Cap... Ha! She's got another think coming.

*She schemes as the lights fade.*

### **Scene 4: The Scarecrow**

*Morning. The Scarecrow stares blankly down at her from his pole, surrounded by ears of corn.*

*Dorothy enters, watching her steps. Feeling she is being watched, she stops...and looks up into the Scarecrow's perfectly still face. She relaxes. But then the Scarecrow winks at her!*

SCARECROW

Good day!

DOROTHY

*(Shocked)* How do you do?

(PAGES OMITTED FOR SAMPLE)

*They enter the cottage, and Dorothy finds a spot to lie down and makes herself comfortable.*

DOROTHY (CONT'D)

Good night, Scarecrow. I'll see you in the morning.

*The Scarecrow looks around for a moment, then finds a nice spot to stand and stare blankly all night.*

*Lights fade.*

### **Scene 5: The Tin Woodman & the Lion**

*Sunlight and birdsong wake Dorothy. She stretches, then shrieks, seeing Scarecrow—standing in the corner, eyes wide open.*

DOROTHY

How long have you been up?

SCARECROW

I never went to sleep. I don't sleep.

DOROTHY

Oh, dear.

SCARECROW

I don't mind. Ready to go see Oz?

*Dorothy stands and gathers her things.*

SCARECROW

Ah, the forest. You know, I think it's growing on me.

*They hear a GROAN behind them.*

DOROTHY

*(stopping)* What was that?

SCARECROW

I think it's called a pun.

*They hear the GROAN again.*

DOROTHY

No, what was *that*?

*They turn and see the lights come up on the Tin Woodman, frozen with uplifted axe next to a partially hewn tree. Dorothy & Scarecrow approach with caution.*

DOROTHY

Did you groan?

TIN WOODMAN

Yes.

SCARECROW

Was it my pun?

TIN WOODMAN

I've been groaning for a year. Last fall, a sudden rainstorm hit and I rusted right up!

SCARECROW

What can we do for you?

TIN WOODMAN

Get an oil can and oil my joints. You'll find one on the shelf in my cottage.

*Dorothy & Scarecrow share a look—they know the cottage!—then Dorothy runs off for the oil can. While she is gone, Scarecrow talks his ear off...the poor tin man is totally powerless to stop it.*

SCARECROW

Why is your jaw not rusted? *(looks closely at his jaw for clues)* You don't keep an oil can closeby? I feel that, if I had any brains, and my joints were prone to rusting, I would never leave home without one.

*Dorothy returns with the oil can.*

TIN WOODMAN

Start with my arms, please.

*She oils his shoulder and elbow as Scarecrow continues.*

SCARECROW

Why did you leave home without yours? Do you have any brains? 'Cause I don't. I wish I did, that's for sure. Why, I'd unravel every riddle, I'd...

*During the above speech, the Tin Woodman tries to use his newly freed arm to silence Scarecrow—trying to slap his face; finally putting a shush finger on his lower lip.*

*Dorothy hands Scarecrow the oil can to give him something to do besides talking. He finishes the process as they get introduced.*

TIN WOODMAN

Oh, thank you. Thank you so much. I am so glad to be able to set this axe down at last. Could you oil my legs? (*As they do*) I might have stood there always, had you not come along. How did you happen to be here?

DOROTHY

We are on our way to the Emerald City. To see the Great Oz.

SCARECROW

We stayed in your cottage last night!

*Dorothy shoots the brainless Scarecrow a glance—why did he tell that detail?*

TIN WOODMAN

What for?

SCARECROW

It was dark. She was tired. I don't get tired.

*Tin Woodman eyes the Scarecrow, confused. Dorothy steps in.*

DOROTHY

I want to ask Oz to send me back to Kansas.

SCARECROW

I want a brain.

TIN WOODMAN

Wait! (*Squats down, looks closely where his foot was*) What was that? (*backs away from the spot*) Oh no.

DOROTHY

What is it?

TIN WOODMAN

Oh no.

SCARECROW

Are you okay?

TIN WOODMAN

No, no, no, no. This can't be! *(Starts crying, sits)*

DOROTHY

Don't cry, you'll get all rusted again.

SCARECROW

What happened?

TIN WOODMAN

I stepped on a beetle!

SCARECROW

Oh, I'm sure he's fine. *(looks at the crushed bug—it's not fine)* Gee, I'm real sorry about that.

DOROTHY

Come on, Tin Woodman. *(Helps him up)* Let's get those joints moving. *(They start walking again)*

TIN WOODMAN

Okay, but help me keep an eye out. You people with hearts do it naturally, but I have to be extra careful not to be unkind to anything.

*Tin Woodman thinks deeply for a moment.*

TIN WOODMAN *(CON'T)*

Do you suppose the Great Oz could give me a heart?

DOROTHY

I guess so. If he can give the Scarecrow brains...he can do anything.

TIN WOODMAN

If you will permit me to join your party, I'd love to ask for a heart.

SCARECROW

Come along!

*They gather their things—Dorothy puts the oil can in her basket—and they start walking.*

DOROTHY

Great! Then we're off.

(PAGES OMITTED FOR SAMPLE)

**Scene 12: The DEAD Witch of the West**

NARRATOR

The weeks dragged on, and poor Dorothy thought she would end up a prisoner in that Witch's castle for the rest of her life.

*Lights shift to the Wicked Witch, pacing back and forth next to Dorothy's pail and mop.*

WICKED WITCH

What hope have I of remaining in power here? Very little, I say. What, with my wolves killed, and my crows dead. I've used all my wishes from the Golden Cap. And what did it get me? Those miserable Monkeys left me with a senseless sorceress to look after! And she with those glorious Silver Shoes. If I could get those shoes...why, they'd give me more power than the Cap, the crows, and the wolves combined! It's not right they're hers. She has no idea how to use them, or any of her power! *(makes up her mind)* That's it—I kill her and take the shoes. *(looks for a weapon, remembers)* No, I daren't—the mark. *(fumes a second)* Wait a second...

*The Witch takes the dry mop in her hand.*

WICKED WITCH (CONT'D)

Little girl, Come hither!

*When Dorothy enters to present herself, the witch (facing away) whirls around and trips her with the mop handle. Dorothy falls and lands by the bucket. Her shoe comes off in the fall, and the Witch grabs it straightaway.*

WICKED WITCH (CONT'D)

Ha! Mine!

DOROTHY

*(stands, moves toward Witch)* Give me back my shoe!

WICKED WITCH

I will not.

*The Witch holds her ground for a moment, then backs away. Dorothy's anger causes her to forget herself.*

DOROTHY

Why, if you don't give me back my shoe, I'll... I'll...

WICKED WITCH

*(laughs)* You'll what? Stutter me to death?

DOROTHY

You...

WICKED WITCH

Some day soon I shall get the other shoe from you, too! And then you'll be sorry.

DOROTHY

You...

*Dorothy gets so angry she looks for something to use against the Witch.*

WICKED WITCH (CONT'D)

See, I know how to use the powers I have.

*Dorothy picks up the mop bucket.*

DOROTHY

You... *(raising the bucket) ...are awful! (douses the Witch)*

*The Witch, soaked, instantly starts melting. Dorothy backs away, frightened by the result.*

WICKED WITCH

*(Shrieks)* What have you done?! In a minute I shall melt away!

DOROTHY

Oh! I am very sorry, indeed! I was angry...

WICKED WITCH

*(wailing)* Didn't you know water would be the end of me?!

DOROTHY

How should I?

*The Witch, realizing this is the end, suddenly turns pitifully remorseful.*

WICKED WITCH

I have been wicked in my day, but I never thought a little girl like you would ever be the end of me and my wonderfully wicked deeds.

DOROTHY

Oh dear. I...

*Finally, she dissolves completely.*

DOROTHY (CONT'D)

She's gone. We're free! *(exits)*

*Dorothy recovers her shoe, dusts it off, and puts it on her foot again.*

*Lights shift to the Lion in the courtyard as Dorothy runs in.*

DOROTHY

*(panting)* She's dead...the Witch.

*The Lion clearly has questions, but celebrates. They do a little dance together, holding hands and circling around.*

LION (CONT'D)

Yahoo!! *(shouting)* Hey, you yellow Winkies! The Wicked Witch is dead! We're getting out of this mausoleum, and you needn't stop us! *(Links arms with Dorothy. They start to go. Then he adds...)* And if you try, I'll eat you! *(laughs)*

NARRATOR

With the Wicked Witch of the West dead, Dorothy and the Lion started wondering about their friends the Scarecrow and the Tin Woodman. The newly freed Winkies were more than happy to help find them and repair them. Some were very good tinsmiths.

*The Tin Woodman enters, examining himself.*

TIN WOODMAN

I'm as good as new!

NARRATOR

Some walked all day and part of the next, until they finally found the Scarecrow's clothes in the top of a tall tree.

*Scarecrow enters in similar fashion, smelling his forearm.*

SCARECROW

Mmm! Fresh straw.

*The four friends celebrate their reunion with hugs, dances, etc.*

NARRATOR

In their grandest display of gratitude, they presented Dorothy with the Witch's Golden Cap.

*Dorothy raises the Golden Cap in admiration.*



DOROTHY

Thank you! It's magnificent.

SCARECROW

What are we waiting for? Let's get back to Oz, and claim his promise.

TIN WOODMAN

My heart.

SCARECROW

My brains.

LION

My courage!

DOROTHY

Yes! Let us start for Emerald City...right after breakfast. Tomorrow.

*The four consider this, then agree. [possible intermission]*

NARRATOR

That night, they had a feast to celebrate their victory over the Wicked Witch of the West. And the next day they bade farewell to the Winkies, who—as it happens—had grown quite fond of the Tin Woodman. The next day, they formally asked him to become their ruler. To which he replied...

TIN WOODMAN

*(loving the admiration)* Do stop.

LION

*(To Woodman)* You may stay, friend, but I'm going to get my courage.

TIN WOODMAN

I can't stay. *(To Winkies)* I'd never be able to love you as much as you love me—without a heart. So for now must I bid you, my fair Winkies, adieu.

SCARECROW

Farewell!

DOROTHY

We will miss you!

*Lights fade as the four travelers exit.*

(PAGES OMITTED FOR SAMPLE)

DOROTHY

We have come to claim our promise, O Great Oz.

OZ (VO)

What promise?

DOROTHY

Why, you promised to send me back to Kansas when the Wicked Witch was destroyed.

SCARECROW

And you promised to give me brains!

TIN WOODMAN

And me a heart!

LION

And you promised to give me courage.

OZ (VO)

*(quavering a little)* How did you kill the Wicked Witch of the West?

DOROTHY

I melted her with a bucket of water.

OZ (VO)

That's all it took? *(recovering)* Well, then... Come to me tomorrow, for I must have time to think it over.

TIN WOODMAN

*(angrily)* You've had plenty of time already!

SCARECROW

We shan't wait a day longer!

DOROTHY

You must keep your promises!

*The Cowardly Lion, caught up in the moment, gives a loud, fierce roar. The others instinctively move away, and in doing so, one of them tips the screen(/pulls the curtain) which hides the Real Oz from them, a little old man standing before a bank of dials and instruments and speaking into a microphone. He looks surprised and more than a little frightened.*

*The Tin Woodman raises his axe and confronts the man.*

TIN WOODMAN

Who are you?

OZ

*(into the microphone)* I am Oz... *(lowering the mic and speaking to them directly)* ...the Great and Terrible. Please, don't strike me. I'll do anything you want.

DOROTHY

Are you not a great wizard?

OZ

Hush, young lady. If you are overheard, I am ruined!

TIN WOODMAN

You're a humbug!

OZ

Sadly, yes. I am a humbug. Just an ordinary man. I was born in Omaha.

DOROTHY

Why, that's in my country!

*Lights dim on the Throne Room.*

OZ

As a young man, I joined the circus. My dream was to become a magician, but I had to start somewhere... So I spent time as a ventriloquist, then as a fire breather, and then eventually I became a balloonist. I would go up high in the balloon to attract people's attention to the big tent. It was exhilarating; I enjoyed it immensely! Until one day a sudden storm twisted my ropes and I couldn't get down without untangling them. When I tried, my ropes pulled free and a strong air current carried me high above the clouds and far, far away. I was sure I would never make it back to earth alive. Yet two days later, I landed safely here—in this strange and beautiful country which now bears my name. You see, because I came down from the sky, the people thought I must be a wizard. So I let them. They made me their ruler straightaway, and built me this majestic city and beautiful palace. All the while, my greatest fear has been the Witches. For while I have no magical powers, they are truly able to do wonderful things. So you can imagine how thrilled I was when your house fell on the Wicked Witch of the East. And as for the Wicked Witch of the West...

LION

You didn't think we could do it, did you?

OZ

Of course not. I did not think you would even try!

SCARECROW

Well we did, didn't we!

OZ

And now that you have melted her... I am afraid I cannot keep my promises.

*They all take a moment to let this sink in.*

DOROTHY

I think you are a very bad man!

OZ

Oh no, my dear; I'm a good man. I'm really just a very bad wizard.

SCARECROW

Can't you give me brains?

OZ

You don't need them! You're learning new things every day. Experience is the only—

SCARECROW

*(interrupting)* That may be true, but I shall be very unhappy unless you give me some brains.

*Oz, seeing their stares, caves.*

OZ

Very well. I'm not much of a magician, as I said. But if you will come to me tomorrow morning, I will stuff your head with brains. I cannot tell you how to use them, though, mind you.

SCARECROW

Oh thank you. Thank you!

LION

How about my courage?

OZ

Why, you have plenty of courage! True courage is facing danger even though you are—

LION

*(interrupting)* Perhaps! But I shall stay scared until you give me some real courage.

OZ

All right, then. I will give you that courage tomorrow morning.

TIN WOODMAN  
And my heart?

OZ  
A heart makes most people unhappy. If you think about it, you...

TIN WOODMAN  
*(interrupting)* Oh, if you would only give me a heart!

OZ  
Fine—tomorrow. I suppose I can play Wizard just a little longer.

DOROTHY  
Oh, that's grand! *(beat)* And now, how am I to get back to Kansas?

OZ  
Ah... For that one I shall need you to give me two or three days to consider how to carry you over the desert. In the meantime, you are all my guests. My people will obey your slightest wish. But...you must keep my secret.

LION  
*(loudly)* I solemnly swear... *(raises his paw)* I will tell no one that you are a humbug.

OZ  
Shhhh!

*Lights fade.*

### **Scene 17: The Next Morning**

*Tin Woodman, Cowardly Lion, and Scarecrow take their place on stage, with their new heart, bottle of courage, and freshly stuffed head, respectively. They present their prize to each other in turn.*

*Tin Woodman opens his chest door and proudly shows a new, stuffed satin heart.*

TIN WOODMAN  
See? This one will never harden.

*Cowardly Lion presents an empty green tonic bottle.*



L O  
LION

He made me drink this bottle of “Liquid Courage.” But the taste...! (*shudders*) I’m ready to take on an army. Even a whole pack of Kalidahs!

*The Scarecrow removes his hat, showing off his extra stuffing—including pins and needles.*

SCARECROW

He stuffed my head with “brans”—which, I may add, bear a striking resemblance to oatmeal. He also added some pins and needles. Now I’m “extra sharp!”

DOROTHY

He might have just given you a diploma.

SCARECROW

I don’t even know what that is. But I soon will! (*proudly replaces his hat*)

*Each shows her their prize.*

NARRATOR

Then, for three sad days, Dorothy heard nothing from Oz. She longed more than ever to get back home. Finally, on the fourth day, Oz sent for her.

*Dorothy celebrates, and exits. The others stay on stage and eavesdrop.*

OZ (*offstage*)

I think I have found a way to get you out of this country.

DOROTHY (*offstage*)

Oh, joy! How?

OZ (*offstage*)

I have plenty of silk in the palace. We can make a balloon and fill it with hot air.

DOROTHY (*offstage*)

You’ve certainly got that. Can you fly it?

OZ (*offstage*)

I certainly can. And this wizarding business has grown tiresome. I shall be glad to return home.

DOROTHY (*offstage*)

I shall be glad to have your company.

*Dorothy and Oz enter with a large swath of silk, and all five set to work “sewing” the cloth and attaching it overhead.*

(PAGES OMITTED FOR SAMPLE)

GLINDA

The shoes will carry you any place in the world in just three steps, and each step happens in the wink of an eye. All you have to do is knock the heels together three times and command the shoes where to take you.

*Dorothy takes a step away from the others, in preparation for her flight. At the last moment, she finds herself hesitant to leave her friends and her new home.*

DOROTHY

I am so very glad to have met you all. *(dries eyes)* But there's no place like home. *(clicks heels together)* Take me to Aunt Em in Kansas!

*There is a whooshing sound as the lights flash, whirl, etc. Glinda and her friends swirl away. This goes on for a while, reminiscent of the cyclone at the top of the story.*

## Scene 20: Kansas

*Kansas is as gray as ever, but somehow nicer. Dorothy lands, awkwardly rolling across the ground. She still has Toto, but she has lost the Silver Shoes. She examines her feet, wondering what happened to them.*

DOROTHY

They must have fallen off during my flight home.

*Uncle Henry passes through with a feed pail. At first—because of her white dress, etc.—he doesn't recognize Dorothy.*

UNCLE HENRY

What must have fallen off?

DOROTHY

My silver shoes.

UNCLE HENRY

Your silver—? *(suddenly recognizes her)* Dorothy. Dorothy!! *(runs to her and hugs her tightly through tears)* Oh you little prairie dog we thought you blew away with the cyclone I'm so glad to see you! *(hugs her again, then yells)* Em! Em!! Come quick!

*Aunt Em comes out, drying a dish.*

AUNT EM

Land's sake, Henry. What is all this— *(recognizes Dorothy, drops dish)* Dorothy!! *(runs to them and hugs Dorothy hard)* You're alive! I knew it! I knew it, I did. I prayed and prayed and

somehow I just knew you were still drawing breath somewhere. *(to Henry)* Didn't I tell you? Didn't I?

UNCLE HENRY  
*(sighing, laughing)* You told me.

AUNT EM  
Oh thank Heaven and God above! *(looks at Dorothy's dress)* Where did you come from? Where did you go?

DOROTHY  
I was in the Land of Oz.

UNCLE HENRY  
Is that near Wichita?

DOROTHY  
The house landed quite safely there. Well, safely for me and Toto, not for—Oh dear! Uncle Henry I'm afraid the house is still in Oz!

AUNT EM  
Bless your dear heart. We're just glad you're back home with us.

UNCLE HENRY  
Besides, won't be long till we've finished the new house.

AUNT EM  
I want to hear all about this Oz-land. Will you tell us of it, and how you got home safely?

DOROTHY  
I will. I will! *(hugs Aunt Em)* Oh, Aunt Em, I'm so glad to be home again!

UNCLE HENRY  
Well, there's no place like home.

*The three of them start toward the house as the lights fade.*

*End of Show.*