Oz

A comedic drama

By Don Zolidis

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Oz by Don Zolidis
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One-act drama
4W 4M 4 any, plus ensemble

Reeling from her sister's death, Beth suddenly finds herself journeying through a world suspiciously resembling the film The Wizard of Oz. But with the yellow brick road sold to foreign investors after a financial meltdown, the Scarecrow reveling in his ignorant bliss, the Cowardly Lion acting like a paranoid sociopath and the Tin Man embracing his emotional numbness, Beth wonders what role she plays in this classic story gone awry. A hilarious and heart-wrenching exploration of grief and perseverance on the road to acceptance.

Cast of Characters

BETH
MOTHER *(also plays GLINDA THE GOOD WITCH)*
AUNT CAROL *(also plays The Witch)*
UNCLE JASON *(also plays Oz)*
THE GUIDE *(also plays JILL)*
HAIR *(also plays QUIX)*
WARDROBE *(also plays QUAX)*
PROPS
MUNCHKIN MAYOR *(also plays the MUNCHKIN GUARD)*
GLINDA THE GOOD WITCH
QUIX
QUAX
LION
SCARECROW
TIN MAN
THE WITCH
OZ
MUNCHKIN GUARD
JILL

> *(if possible, all of the characters from Oz should be present in ordinary dress for the scenes in the real world. Most of the roles are gender flexible. I have no problem with a female lion or scarecrow.)*

Setting: Not quite Kansas. Later: definitely not Kansas.

CUTTING THE SHOW: If time is an issue, the scenes with Glinda the Good Witch and Quix and Quax may be cut entirely. The scene with Hair, Wardrobe and Props may be cut as well, with the Guide transforming her into Dorothy's costume during the tornado.

Oz was originally performed at Watauga Middle School in Watauga, Texas on April 17th, 2010. The original cast was as follows:

BETH: Britnee Schoville
AUNT CAROL/WITCH: Skylar Rendon
UNCLE JASON/OZ: Cameron White
THE GUIDE/JILL: Abby Panek
HAIR: Hailey Salva
WARDROBE: Destiny Jones
PROPS: Sarah Bradburn
MUNCHKIN MAYOR/GUARD: Nathaniel Hill
QUIX: Kacey Powers
QUAX: Lacey Powers
LION: Meghan Webb
SCARECROW: David Freyman
TIN MAN: Tyler Bowman

(music.)

(Present day. After the funeral. BETH, dressed in black, sits apart from the others. A small, closed coffin up center. BETH'S MOTHER, also dressed in black, stands near it, quietly receiving the consolations of relatives and friends. Some are drinking water and snacking. UNCLE JASON approaches Beth and puts a hand on her shoulder. She turns away from him.)

UNCLE JASON

You all right?

(she doesn't respond.)

Want something to drink?

(no response.)

All right.

(he stands there awkwardly.)

I'm gonna check on your mother.

(he walks off.)

(AUNT CAROL comes over.)

AUNT CAROL

I got you some popcorn.

(Beth doesn't respond.)

You should eat something. It'll make you feel better. It's not your fault, you know. Okay, well… sometimes it's better not to say anything.

(She doesn't say anything.)

You're not the only one who lost someone.

(Beth leaves)

What?

(the music intensifies as the room changes. The guests each pick up pieces of the furniture, and transform it into an attic. Beth darts up the stairs and hides in the corner near an old steamer trunk.)

(music continues. THE GUIDE pops out of the steamer.)

THE GUIDE

Troubles?

BETH

Ah!

THE GUIDE

You know what I do when the rain comes down?

(She steps out of the trunk.)

I said do you know what I do when the rain comes down?

BETH

What?

THE GUIDE

I try an umbrella.

(She takes out a brightly colored umbrella which matches her outfit.)

Plus, it's spiffy.

BETH

What are you doing in the attic?

THE GUIDE

This is where most of the forgotten things end up. Even sometimes… children.

(she points at her with her umbrella.)

BETH

I'm not a child.

THE GUIDE

Of course not. What was I thinking? You're an old lady.

BETH

Who are you?

THE GUIDE

I'm afraid I only answer important questions.

BETH

That is an important question.

THE GUIDE

To you, perhaps. But not to me. I know who I am. The question is, little Beth, do you know who you are?

BETH

Yeah.

THE GUIDE

Brilliant. My work here is done.

(she starts to get back into the steamer.)

BETH

Where are you going?

THE GUIDE

Home. There's no place like home, right?

BETH

Wait! Wait! Are you like a figment of my imagination? Have I gone crazy?

THE GUIDE

Just a little. Trust me, it's nothing to worry about. Most people are a little bit insane. It's what keeps things interesting.

BETH

But –

THE GUIDE

Look, are you going to ask me tedious questions all day or are we going to go on an adventure?

BETH

We're going on adventure?

THE GUIDE

Yes! My God you're slow! Why else would I be here?

BETH

I don't know! I don't even know who you are!

THE GUIDE

Exactly!

BETH

What?

THE GUIDE

Yes!

BETH *(utterly confused now)*

What I… huh?

THE GUIDE *(making fun of her)*

What I huh what what what? Okay I will go slowly and use small words so you're able to follow along. I knew I was dealing with a blonde here, but I had no idea you were this blonde.

(she takes a deep breath)

I am known as The Guide.

BETH

The guide?

THE GUIDE

Did I stutter? I am a representative of your unconscious.

BETH

My unconscious?

THE GUIDE

Do you just repeat everything I say? Is that your thing? That's going to get old. Yes, I am from the inner Beth, the secret Beth, the Beth who lurks inside the outer Beth and believes in things like alien abduction and fairies and who has a secret dream of playing in the WNBA. News flash: you're not going to make it.

BETH

What are you doing here?

THE GUIDE

You have had a life-altering traumatic experience: an unpleasant brush with mortality.

BETH

Jill.

THE GUIDE

Ah yes, dear sister Jill. A shame. Not your fault, you know.

BETH

It was my fault.

THE GUIDE

You see, that is the thinking that leads to psychotic breakdowns, which we're all here to avoid.

BETH

I was driving the car.

THE GUIDE

Well. Accidents happen. But your mind has slipped just a bit, cracked, if you will, and slipped a notch or two into the world I like to call: messed-up. And so, in that slippage, out pops…

BETH

You?

THE GUIDE

An umbrella.

(she hands it to her.)

For the rain.

BETH

Are we going somewhere?

THE GUIDE

We're always going somewhere. I'd hold on to something if I were you.

BETH

Why?

THE GUIDE

Because in five seconds a tornado is going to hit this house. Five. Four. Three. Two. One.

(The Tornado strikes. Whooshing noises. Swirling. BETH holds onto the umbrella. Lights down.)

(Lights up. Bright sunshine. Birds chirping. BETH stumbles around. She has lost the guide.)

BETH

Where am I?

(HAIR enters, bringing a chair.)

HAIR

No no no no no no no no no no SIT.

BETH

What?

HAIR

I SAID SIT!

(HAIR slams her into the chair and goes to work on her hair.)

Why do they keep sending people like you to me? I thought we were going to do this right, but I look at you and… your hair looks like an egg killed itself.

(HAIR begins violently putting her hair into pigtails.)

BETH

OW! My hair is fine!

(HAIR snickers.)

HAIR

I am crying inside for you. Darling, I love you, but… your hair is an apocalypse. I'm about to just tear it all out and start over.

BETH

No one told you to do anything to my hair! Let me go, just -

HAIR

This is for your own good! Stop squirming!

(BETH stomps on his foot.)

Ah!

(he pulls her down strongly.)

I am trying to get you ready, okay? If it were up to me, we'd both be sitting in a hot tub right now sipping little drinks with umbrellas, but I have to job to do, and I am going to do it.

BETH

My hair is just fine. I like it the way it is, and I –

HAIR

What is this you are wearing?

(screaming)

WARDROBE!

(WARDROBE enters.)

WARDROBE

I have ears you know, you don't need to scream.

(he spots Beth.)

Oh no. This is a tragedy.

HAIR

I know. We need a miracle.

BETH

What are you talking about?!

WARDROBE

I thought she was supposed to be a brunette.

HAIR

I am hair, you are wardrobe! Deal with your own problems.

WARDROBE

Okay fine. Stand up.

BETH

No, tell me what's going on.

WARDROBE

Stand up!

HAIR

No sit!

Skipping Forward

WARDROBE

Give me your feet.

BETH

My shoes are fine, I don't –

WARDROBE

You know something? Your have enormous feet like a donkey.

BETH

I don't have enormous feet!

WARDROBE

These are like two elephants on steroids. Where's the little dog?

BETH

What little dog?

WARDROBE

PROPS!!!

(PROPS, loaded down with all kinds of things, hustles on.)

PROPS

I'm working on it!

HAIR

Oh now he decides to show up.

PROPS

Do you know how many props I have to have?! Do you?! This job is maddening!

WARDROBE

Boo hoo. I have troubles too, okay? Shut your face.

PROPS

That's it. I'm not working here any more.

WARDROBE

Good. Go somewhere where people like you.

PROPS

No more props for you! None!

HAIR

Give us the little dog!

PROPS

Fine!

(Props reaches into his shirt and throws a stuffed dog at Beth.)

There!

(Props storms off. HAIR and WARDROBE examine her.)

HAIR

Well, that's the best I can do.

WARDROBE

You didn't have much to work with if I am being honest with you.

(HAIR takes out a mirror and shows BETH herself.)

BETH

Wait a minute, am I in…?

HAIR

You're not in Kansas any more.

BETH

Toto?

WARDROBE

Bark bark!

(they look at WARDROBE.)

What, it's a stuffed dog, do you think it's going to say anything? Fine. I'm shutting up.

(HAIR and WARDROBE leave.)

BETH

Hello? Hello? Can someone please tell me what's going on here? Toto?

(the stuffed dog does not respond.)

Say something.

(the GUIDE returns, with hot dog.)

THE GUIDE

Bark bark.

BETH

I'm not doing this, okay? I'm not.

THE GUIDE

Doing what?

BETH

The whole tornado-little-dog-wicked-witch thing. Okay? I'm not Dorothy –

THE GUIDE

I never said you were Dorothy. Dorothy was sweet and nice and very pretty, considerate of her parents, did well in school, the differences between you are astounding.

BETH

I'm not playing this part. Take the dog.

THE GUIDE

He's going to bite me.

BETH

Take the stupid dog and take me home.

THE GUIDE

I'm afraid I can't do that.

BETH

Just turn around this tornado and let's go back home. We'll just go backwards.

THE GUIDE

There's only way you can go in life: Forwards.

(she tosses her the dog again.)

Now, if you're through with this little tantrum, you have a journey to go on.

BETH

I'm not doing it.

THE GUIDE

That isn't a choice you can make. You're already on the journey, there's no avoiding that. Now, you're about to land in five… four… three… two… one—

(CRASH! Lights down! Then up. BETH is lying on the floor. THE GUIDE is gone.)

BETH

Aw man.

(the MUNCHKIN MAYOR runs out.)

MUNCHKIN MAYOR *(munchkin voice)*

You've done it!

BETH

No I didn't. I didn't really do anything.

MUNCHKIN MAYOR

You've killed the witch! This is the happiest day ever for all of Munchkinville.

BETH
Okay, oompa loompa guy. The house landed on the witch, right?

MUNCHKIN MAYOR
Right on her nasty head! It was glorious!

BETH
I didn't do that. The weather did that. I had nothing to do with it.

MUNCHKIN MAYOR
You are the most powerful wizard ever to grace our presence! I bow before you.

BETH
I'm not a wizard.

MUNCHKIN MAYOR
Only a wizard would claim not to be a wizard!

BETH
Are you an idiot?

MUNCHKIN MAYOR
Only a wizard would insult someone upon first meeting them!

BETH
Sorry. Um… there's been a mistake. I don't belong in this movie.

MUNCHKIN MAYOR
In payment for your great service to the Munchkin people, I present you with these ruby slippers which you may wear and – jeez you got some big feet.

BETH
They're not big! They're –

MUNCHKIN MAYOR
Hey everybody! Come look at this wizard's feet! They're huge!

BETH
Give me the dang slippers.
(BETH takes the ruby slippers. They're tiny.)
What size are these?

MUNCHKIN MAYOR *(calling off)*
You ever seen a pontoon boat?! They're like that, only bigger!

BETH

Hey come on – just –

MUNCHKIN MAYOR *(calling off)*

They're like snow shoes!

(BETH grabs him.)

Ah!

BETH

I want to go home, okay? That's all I'm trying to do here. I don't want you to go through the whole song and dance, just point me in the way of the wizard and I'll be on my way.

MUNCHKIN MAYOR

You are the wizard.

BETH

No I mean the Wizard of Oz.

MUNCHKIN MAYOR

Oh. Him.

BETH

Yeah. Him.

MUNCHKIN MAYOR

He only talks to brunettes.

BETH

I've got a wig. Just point me in the direction of the yellow brick road.

MUNCHKIN MAYOR

Oh. That. We've had some trouble with that.

BETH

With the yellow brick road?

MUNCHKIN MAYOR

Can you sit down for a sec? This will take some explaining.

(the MUNCHKIN MAYOR begins a power point presentation. (or he could simply take out large pieces of poster board.))

BETH

What happened to the yellow brick road?

MUNCHKIN MAYOR

Well… turns out the Lollipop guild was overinflating their real estate prices,

(a slide showing arrows leading up and happy dancing munchkins)

so we've had something we refer to as an "explosive financial meltdown"

(a slide of an explosion. The MUNCHKIN MAYOR make the sound of a bomb falling and exploding.)

– so… we don't really have the yellow brick road any more.

BETH

Where is it?

MUNCHKIN MAYOR

We sold it to foreign investors.

(a slide saying, "CHINA.")

But we have some wonderful pictures of it. I have a few in my wallet.

BETH

How am I supposed to find the Wizard?

MUNCHKIN MAYOR

That's a good question.

(he thinks)

I've got an idea. While you wait you might like to purchase some real estate here in Munchkinville.

(a slide, "Opportunities for you.")

There are some great deals to be had. I happen to be our real estate agent as well as Mayor –

BETH

I'm not buying real estate. I'm a girl.

MUNCHKIN MAYOR

Girls can buy real estate! I've seen it happen a lot.

BETH

I don't have a job or anything.

MUNCHKIN MAYOR

It doesn't matter! We have this thing called a bank. And a bank just hands out free money to everyone.

(a slide: Bank handing out free money dependent on 18% interest, compounded weekly. Please read the fine print. More unreadable fine print below.)

It's a party! I find that the best thing to do in a crisis is to stay right where you are and keep doing exactly what you've been doing. Routine, routine, routine. I fear change. Hope that helps.

BETH

That doesn't help at all.

MUNCHKIN MAYOR

Well… if you don't want to stay here forever, you can go that way. But be afraid. Be very, very afraid. The woods are dark at night and without a path to guide you you'll most certainly be attacked by lions, tigers, and bears and eaten. Lollipop?

BETH

Thanks.

MUNCHKIN MAYOR

Good luck! I hope your death is quick and painless! Oh wait wait.

BETH

Can I just go?

MUNCHKIN MAYOR

Since you are technically responsible for the death of the Wicked Witch of the East –

BETH

I didn't do that.

MUNCHKIN MAYOR

Right, but since that's what we're going to tell people, you're going to be blamed for it, you will need to watch out for her sister, the Wicked Witch of the West. She's a hoot. Don't worry, with your amazing magical powers you will be able to defeat her in a wizardly battle that will be both spectacular and fun.

(the MUNCHKIN MAYOR begins acting out the spectacular magical battle.)

BETH

I don't have any magical powers.

MUNCHKIN MAYOR

Oh. That's not good for you then. I'm actually going to leave now and not talk to you any more. Good luck with the dying.

(he slinks away.)

BETH

That was helpful. Come on Toto.

(she looks at the dog.)

What? Now I'm talking to you. I must really be going crazy.

(BETH exits as bright bubbly music plays. She returns momentarily to find GLINDA THE GOOD WITCH, waving her wand.)

GLINDA

Hello little flowers, how are you today? Oh hello Mr. Toadstool, you are looking very nice today. Oh it's such a joyous –

Skipping Forward

It's wonderful. If there's anything in your path that impedes your attainment of your ultimate goals, you have just one thing to do: annihilate it.

BETH

Are you sure you're a good witch?

GLINDA

Good. Bad. It's just about packaging. I'm blonde. See?

BETH

I gotta go.

GLINDA

And remember: it's not wrong it kill if it gets you what you want.

(BETH escapes.)

And don't step on any flowers! They'll hate you too. That was nice.

(lights change. QUIX and QUAX enter on the opposite side of the stage as she exits. BETH returns momentarily.)

QUIX and QUAX

Greetings!

BETH

Hey.

QUIX

We may seem strange to you. But we are the guides of Oz.

QUAX

Don't believe him. He lies.

QUIX

On the contrary. My name is Quix and I always tell the truth.

QUAX

No he doesn't – he's a liar.

QUIX

And my brother Quax always lies.

QUAX

My name is Quix and I always tell the truth and his name is Quax and he always lies.

QUIX

That was a lie.

QUAX

Oh no – I just spoke the truth.

BETH

I don't remember you guys from the movie.

QUIX

We were left on the cutting room floor.

QUAX

Oh we were not. We're a completely original plot device.

BETH

So what's the deal here?

QUIX

You have only your wits to determine which of us is the liar and which of us tells the truth.

QUAX

Why do you have to lie to her?

QUIX

I don't lie. I tell the truth.

QUAX

Always always lies!

BETH

Okay – I can ask you questions, right?

QUIX

If you must.

BETH

Which one of you is the liar?

QUIX and QUAX

He is.

BETH

Which one of you tells the truth?

QUIX and QUAX

I do.

BETH

Which way is the wizard?

QUIX and QUAX *(pointing different directions)*

That way.

BETH

Do I look good in this dress?

QUIX

Yes.

QUAX

No.

BETH *(to QUAX)*

Did he just lie?

QUIX

He has impossibly high standards.

QUAX

He has no standards whatsoever.

QUIX

I think she looks lovely.

QUAX

She's disgusting. I am vomiting inside my mouth.

BETH

What?!

QUAX

You're hideous. You look like a toad and a polar bear had babies.
(BETH slaps him.)

QUIX

You just slapped him!

QUAX

You did not just slap me!

QUIX

He totally deserved that!

QUAX

I totally didn't deserve that!

BETH

Okay then. I guess you must be Quix.

QUAX

I'm Quix.

BETH

Oh shut up.

QUAX

I enjoy your company. You seem like a nice person. I don't hate you at all.

BETH

Are you really the guides of Oz?

QUIX

I am. He isn't.

QUAX

I think you're smart.

BETH

So how am I supposed to find the wizard if there's no yellow brick road?

QUIX

Most of the time in life, there aren't any roads.

BETH

What does that mean?

QUAX

I don't have an itch.
(he starts scratching)

QUIX

I mean, it isn't quite so simple as you've been led to believe. You may find the wizard and still not find what you're looking for.

BETH

I want to go home.

QUIX

Do you?

QUAX

I'm not bored at all. I find this very interesting.

QUIX

Please shut up.

QUAX

Mother liked you best.

QUIX

Hey!

BETH

So what am I supposed to do then, if I do find the wizard?

QUIX

Ask him a question.

BETH

What question?

QUIX

That's for you to discover.

QUAX

I have faith that you'll find the right question.

QUIX

We have to be going.

QUAX

I'd like to stay.

QUIX

Follow me, Quax.

QUAX

Okay.

(QUIX exits, and QUAX goes the opposite direction. QUAX stops before exiting.)

QUAX

Just so you know, the world revolves around you and your little personal tragedies are of the utmost importance to everyone else. You look good with the dog.

BETH

Shut up!

(she hurls TOTO at him as he leaves. The LION leaps out.)

LION

AH!

BETH

Whoah!

LION

Did you see that? A flying dog almost killed me! I barely survived!

BETH

You're the cowardly lion.

LION

How do you know my name? What have they told you about me? Who told you?

(he begins to look around.)

You've been following me, haven't you?

BETH

No I haven't. I just… I've heard of you, that's all.

LION

FBI? After me? Oh my god I'm having a panic attack. First the dog and now this.

(the LION has a panic attack.)

BETH

Relax, all right?

LION

Don't come any closer! Aaaaaaaaaah! I'm very fierce!

(he tries a karate kid crane kick, then runs and hides.)

Leave me alone. I don't have a wallet because I'm a lion but if you let me live I'll tell you where I hide my gold!

BETH

I don't want your gold!

LION

You'll never take me alive!

(he runs to another part of the stage.)

BETH

Hey shut up and listen!

(the LION stops, freaked out.)

My name is Beth. I'm trapped here.

LION

And you're hungry. You're going to eat me.

BETH

I'm not going to eat you!

LION

Please don't yell! I can't stand it when you yell!

BETH

I don't want to be in this movie so I'm trying to find the Wizard. But some little munchkin loser told me that they sold the yellow brick road, so I guess there won't be any singing and dancing.

LION

I get very nervous when I sing or dance.

BETH

I'm sure you do. But do you happen to know how to find the Wizard? I have a feeling I'm not going to get out of this until I find him.

LION

He's a terrifying man. He'd as soon kill you as look at you. Why I've heard stories that he breathes fire and -

BETH

He doesn't, all right? He's just a guy with a balloon.

LION

A terrifying balloon.

BETH

Do you know how to find him?

LION

Well… without the yellow brick road, we'll have to go through that field of deadly flowers over there. And from there, into the deadly forest, and from the deadly forest, over the deadly gentle hill. We'll never make it. I'm gonna stay right here.

BETH

You know, if you see the Wizard, he might be able to give you some courage.

LION

You'd like that, wouldn't you? So you can kill me!

BETH

I'm not trying to kill you!

LION

That's exactly what someone who was trying to kill me would say! AHHH! I'm freaking out!

(he starts hyperventilating again.)

What's that blue thing over my head?!

BETH

The sky?

LION

It's trying to kill me too!

(he dives under something.)

What's this!? Oh no!

(BETH grabs him.)

BETH

Chill. Out.

LION

Okay. But I'm not going to like it.

BETH

You can't be afraid of everything. Hey. Hey. eyes up here. Most of the time, there's nothing to be scared of.

LION

Most of the time?

BETH

Yeah. Most of the time.

LION

What about the rest of the time?

BETH

There are times you do actually need to be afraid.

LION

Oh my God!

BETH

Stop it. You can stay here if you want, Of course, you will be staying all alone.

LION

All alone?

BETH

I'm sure it won't be a problem for you. It's not like the trees are going to come to life and eat you or anything.

LION

Now that you mention it, these trees do look a little sinister.

BETH

And it's not like the grass can kill you. I mean, I've only seen it do that to two or three lions before.

LION

The grass can kill me?

BETH

If you tick it off. The grass can grow teeth and saw off your feet.

LION

How do I tick it off?

BETH

I don't know. But I wouldn't worry about it. Bye.
(she retrieves Toto.)
Don't want to forget my dog.

LION

Wait wait wait! How about I go with you to see the wizard?

BETH

Okay.

LION

Come on.
(she starts to follow)
Don't follow me! It freaks me out!

BETH

What am I supposed to do then?

LION

Skipping Forward

SCARECROW *(proud)*
I don't know anything. And I'm keeping it that way. You know how most people know stuff? I know nothing.

BETH
You can't know nothing.

SCARECROW
Try me. There is nothing I don't know that I don't know. Or the opposite.

BETH
Two plus two?

SCARECROW
No idea.

BETH
What color is the sky?

SCARECROW
Haven't a clue.

BETH
What's your name?

SCARECROW
Couldn't know less. See? Totally and completely ignorant. Life is beautiful.

BETH
How do you figure that? You don't know anything.

SCARECROW
Which is exactly why life is so good for me. I could be having a terrible life, but I wouldn't know. If I was aware of things, I might think: why am I standing out in a field getting rained on and having birds pee on me?

BETH
Do birds pee?

SCARECROW
I don't know! And I'm not about to find out! See how that works? See how happy I am? Ignorance is bliss and I am knee-deep in it. Is the world going to end tomorrow? Beats me. Did my parents yell at me as a child? No clue. Will I die alone? Who cares? You should try it.

BETH

No thanks.

SCARECROW

If you don't believe in your troubles, then your troubles can't get you. Deny, deny, deny.

BETH

What are your troubles?

SCARECROW

No idea! And look at how happy I am!
(the LION begins to emerge again.)
There's that crow again!

BETH

He's not a crow!

SCARECROW

I don't know the difference!

BETH

Crows have wings and fly!

SCARECROW

News to me! Boo!

BETH

Hey hey hey! stop!

LION

He's a bad man.

BETH

He's not a bad man. He's just stupid. Now leave the lion alone.

SCARECROW

What's a lion?

BETH

You can't stay here and be stupid your entire life.

SCARECROW

Most people manage it. In fact, we stupid people outnumber you by quite a ways. You're lucky we don't rise up and destroy you. If only we could figure out how to organize ourselves.

BETH

Maybe if you help me get to the Wizard you can find out.

SCARECROW

Oh no don't try to educate me! I'm perfectly happy the way that I am. Now if you'll excuse me I'm going to zone out for a while and listen to music.

LION

Let's get out of here. Quick before that sky thing comes back.

BETH

I can't just let him sit here and wallow in his own ignorance.

LION

That sounds like a great idea!

BETH

Scarecrow. Did you hear the news?

SCARECROW

Nope.

BETH

Oh that's too bad for you.

SCARECROW

Why?

BETH

You'll find out.

LION *(worried)*

What news?

SCARECROW

I don't want to know.

BETH

It's probably better that way. It won't hurt as much when they catch you.

LION

Someone's being caught?!

SCARECROW

When who catches me?

BETH

You don't want to know. I'm sure it will be over quick though.

LION

What'll be over quick? I'm freaking out.

BETH

The Board of Education. They hunt down the stupid, tie them up, and inject knowledge straight into their brain.

LION

What?!

BETH

Oh yeah, when the Board of Education is through with you, you're going to be a genius.

SCARECROW

I'll be a genius!?

BETH

You'll probably be pretty miserable.

SCARECROW

That's insane! Why would they do that?

BETH

They just hate people. That's why they want to educate them. To make them just as miserable as they used to be.

SCARECROW

What can I do?

BETH

The only way to avoid being educated is to appeal to the government. If you talk to them for just a little while, you will know less than when you began.

SCARECROW

We have to find the government! Where are they?

BETH

I don't know!

SCARECROW

I don't know either!

LION

We're all gonna die!

(they look at him.)
Or be educated. Whichever is worse. Follow me. Actually… wait… walk in front of me and I'll tell you where to go.

BETH

I'm not going to hurt you.

LION

I can't take any chances. You too scarecrow. AH! Turn right now!
(they exit. Light shift.)

(The SCARECROW enters first, followed by BETH and the LION.)

SCARECROW

I don't recognize this place.

BETH

You don't recognize anything.

SCARECROW

But at least there are places I know I don't know. I had no idea that I didn't know where this place is.

BETH

What?

LION

Don't listen to him. He's an idiot. It might be contagious. I'll be over here.
(the TIN MAN is lying face down on the ground, not moving. The LION trips over him.)
Ah!!

SCARECROW

What is it?

BETH

Look at this!
(she stops and looks down.)
It's the Tin Man.

SCARECROW

Who?

BETH

Tin Man. Hey Tin Man! What are you doing down there?

LION

He's rusted shut.

(BETH props him up.)

BETH

Are you okay?

(He falls over.)

SCARECROW

What's wrong with him?

LION

I just said he's rusted shut.

BETH

Is there oil or anything nearby?

(she props him up again. He falls over again.)

SCARECROW

How would I know?

BETH

Look!

SCARECROW

You're getting all bossy just because you know stuff. Well you listen to me: stupid people have just as much of a right to their opinions as smart people. And our opinions are better because they can't be changed. So there. What am I looking for again?

BETH

Oil. There should be some around here somewhere.

SCARECROW

How do you know that?

LION

She's a witch! I knew it! Run!

BETH

I'm not a witch! All right? I just – look for a can of oil.

SCARECROW

What does it look like?

LION

Oh mighty witch, please do not turn me into a newt.

BETH

You guys are useless, you know that?

SCARECROW

No.

(BETH finds an oil can.)

BETH

See this?

SCARECROW

What's that?

BETH

This is an oil can.

SCARECROW

How was I supposed to know that?

LION

It's a bomb!

BETH

It's not a bomb!

LION

It's not a bomb!

BETH

Watch.

(she oils his mouth.)

TIN MAN

Hellllllooooo.

LION

It's alive!

SCARECROW

What's going on?

BETH

Can you hear me?

TIN MAN

Thank you. You have no idea how much that sucked.
(he tries to get up, then falls over.)
Do you mind oiling the rest of me?

BETH

Do you know the way to the Emerald City?

TIN MAN

It's that way.

BETH

Which way?

TIN MAN

Oil my arm dang it and I can show you.
(she oils his left arm. The Tin Man flings his arm to the left.)
That way. Now do you mind?

BETH

You're not very nice.

TIN MAN

Shut up and oil the rest of me.

BETH

There's not much oil in here. I don't know how much I can do.

TIN MAN

Just my luck. I am having the worst day! Man!

BETH

I can do your leg.
(she oils his left leg.)
There.

TIN MAN *(sarcastic)*

Oh thanks. Now I can move half my body. That's so much better than not being able to move at all. You're awesome.

BETH

You don't have to be a jerk about it.

TIN MAN

Hey fur ball. Help me up. Do it or I'm gonna make a rug out of you.

LION

Skipping Forward

TIN MAN

Probably not.

BETH

Can't hurt to try, can it?

TIN MAN

It hurts a lot more to try and fail than never to try at all.

BETH

But it's more interesting this way. Besides, he might have oil.

TIN MAN

I could use that.

(he starts to move and nearly falls over.)

Can I get a little help, losers?

BETH

I thought you were gonna be nice.

TIN MAN

Oh right. Can I get a little help… weird people?

SCARECROW

Jump on my back.

TIN MAN

I'm made out of tin. You're made out of straw.

SCARECROW

I can carry you.

(the TIN MAN gets on top of the SCARECROW, who immediately collapses.)

Ah!

LION

We're under attack!

BETH

Quit fooling around. There's a tiny bit of oil left.

(she squirts some into his other leg.)

TIN MAN

Much better. This way.

(he awkwardly wobbles off, with the others trailing.)

(they enter momentarily.)

BETH

If I remember the movie correctly, this is about the time that –

(a wicked cackling from off-stage.)

LION

What was that?!

SCARECROW

Why are you asking me I don't know anything!

BETH

That was –

(the WITCH enters, with broomstick. The Lion hyperventilates.)

THE WITCH

Hello.

(she points with her broomstick. A Thunderclap. She points again. Another thunderclap. She waits a moment, then points for a third time. A third thunderclap.)

I am the Wicked Witch of the West.

LION

Aw jeez aw jeez aw jeez –

THE WITCH

And I have come to –

LION

We're all gonna die we're all gonna die –

THE WITCH

Shut that kitty up!

(thunderclap.)

LION

Ah!

(the LION leaps for cover.)

SCARECROW

Is it going to rain or something?

BETH

That's her magic.

THE WITCH

Silence! Are you the girl from Kansas?

BETH

No, actually I'm not.

THE WITCH

You're not?

BETH

Nope.

THE WITCH

Do you happen to know where she is?

BETH

Not off hand. I think she said she was going the other way. Back that way.

THE WITCH

Oh. Sorry for the confusion.
(she starts to leave)

BETH

No worries.

SCARECROW

Hey how come you're green?

THE WITCH

Excuse me?

SCARECROW

Have you tried like skin cream or anything? It might clear that up.

BETH

Shut up.

THE WITCH

You dare insult me?

TIN MAN

Hey, he can insult you all he wants, I don't care.

BETH

Guys. Guys. They don't mean it.

THE WTICH

I have had an extremely bad day, do you know that?

SCARECROW

No.

THE WITCH

My sister just died, all right? I've had a very trying time –

TIN MAN

So what?

BETH

Your sister just died?

THE WITCH

Yes, the Wicked Witch of the East – we're related –

TIN MAN

Boo hoo. So what. Everybody's got problems.

SCARECROW

Wait, who died? I'm so confused.

THE WITCH

My sister. My little sister is dead.

BETH

A house fell on her.

THE WITCH

Right.

BETH

I'm sorry.

THE WITCH

Excuse me?

BETH

I'm sorry for your loss.

End of Excerpt
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