

The Throne of Oz

by

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Based on "The Marvelous Land of Oz" by L. Frank Baum

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The Throne of Oz

CHARACTERS

TIP, 13, a normal boy

JACK PUMPKINHEAD, a man made of wood with a pumpkin for a head

MOMBI, no one knows how old she is, she wants to be a witch

GENERAL JINJUR, 20's, anger and elegance in a well-dressed package

THE SCARECROW, a man stuffed with straw, now the king

THE TIN WOODMAN, a tin man with a heart of gold

H.M. WOGGLE-BUG, T.E., a bug with an education

JELLIA JAMB, teens, spunky and ready for adventure

GLINDA THE GOOD, a witch and a queen with the elegance and grace
needed to travel by bubble

THE SAWHORSE, a chunk of wood that looks like a horse

THE GUMP, a creature built from a couch and palm branches with the
head of a Gump

PRINCESS OZMA, 13, powerful, smart, yet awkward

GREEN MUSTACHED GUARD, 60s, the main guard of the Emerald City

DOROTHY, a young girl from Kansas

THE WIZARD OF OZ, an older man from Omaha

THE COWARDLY LION, a real scaredy-cat

WICKED WITCH OF THE EAST, green and angry

WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST, green and angrier

SMILING WINKIE SOLDIER

LOUD SOLDIER OF THE REVOLT

ANNOYED SOLDIER OF THE REVOLT

FORCEFUL SOLDIER OF GLINDA'S ARMY

FRIENDLY SOLDIER OF GLINDA'S ARMY

OTHER SOLDIERS OF THE REVOLT, all women

OTHER SOLDIERS OF GLINDA'S ARMY, all women

SETTING

The Land of Oz, various locations.

Mombi's Home
The Throne Room of the Emerald City
The Throne Room of the Tin Woodman's Castle
The Jackdaw's Nest
Glinda's Castle

DOUBLING POSSIBILITIES

Dorothy/ Annoyed Soldier of the Revolt/
Friendly Soldier of Glinda's Army

Ozma/ Loud Soldier of the Revolt/ Forceful Soldier of Glinda's Army/
Wicked Witch of the West

Green-Mustached Guard/ Smiling Winkie Soldier/ the Gump/
the Wizard of Oz

Woggle-Bug/ Wicked Witch of the East

The Sawhorse/ The Cowardly Lion

NOTES

Magic and danger are real in this world, but silliness reigns supreme.
Witches are deadly, but can be melted with some water.

1.

A bubble floats and floats, soft and light.

It stops. It expands. And expands.

From the bubble steps Glinda, dressed in a gown of pink and red perfection. Even though she's dressed to the nines, she's ready for anything that comes her way.

As she steps forward, the "Shadows of the Past" swirl and come into focus as she speaks. Images arrive from the ether around her.

GLINDA

There once was a girl from Kansas named Dorothy. She caused quite a storm when she arrived in the Land of Oz.

Dorothy appears, wearing a blue gingham dress and shining silver shoes. She carries a miniature house over her head as she whirls and twirls.

GLINDA

She rode her house on a whirlwind and destroyed the Wicked Witch of the East.

The house falls on a witch.

GLINDA

She met three friends--

The Scarecrow appears next to Dorothy; they link arms, followed by the Tin Woodman, and the Lion who all link arms.

GLINDA

--a scarecrow in need of a brain, a tin woodman in need of a heart, and a lion in need of courage.

The Witch enters, threatening the friends with a broom. A bucket is passed from the Lion to the Tin Woodman to the Scarecrow, and then to Dorothy, who splashes the Witch with water from the bucket.

GLINDA

Together they destroyed the Wicked Witch of the West and were to be rewarded by the Great and Powerful Wizard of Oz.

A giant, mechanical head appears.

GLINDA

The Wizard of Oz wasn't all he appeared to be.

The head falls to the ground, and we see a small, older man: the Wizard of Oz!

GLINDA

But he still gave the Scarecrow brains. He gave the Tin Woodman a heart. And he gave the lion courage. But before he could reward Dorothy by returning her home to Kansas, he fled in a balloon.

The Wizard runs away. We see him carrying a miniature hot air balloon behind the friends.

GLINDA

Then a kind, good witch helped Dorothy return to Kansas with the click of her heels.

Glinda points at Dorothy's silver shoes. Dorothy clicks her heels three times and vanishes, waving to her friends.

GLINDA

Dorothy was gone. And now, the Throne of Oz was empty. The people of the Emerald City chose their new king, one whose ideas were as fresh as his new brains.

The Scarecrow is crowned king.

GLINDA

And everyone seemed content.

MOMBI

(Off-stage)

Tippetarius!

GLINDA

Well, almost everyone.

Glinda exits.

Mombi, an aspiring witch, older, like a Professor McGonagall gone bad, enters, dragging along a young boy, Tip. Tip is dressed comfortably all in purple, even his cap.

TIP
Let me go, Mombi!

MOMBI
You lazy, good for nothing, layabout! You were sleeping in the field again!

TIP
I had a long day's work.

MOMBI
Long day's work? It's nine in the morning! When you were left on my doorstep as a baby, I hoped one day you would prove useful to me. Instead, I'm stuck with a lazy, good for nothing--

TIP
Layabout. Yeah. I know.

MOMBI
Get back to work, or you'll have no pumpkin stew tonight.

TIP
That's not a punishment.

MOMBI
You don't like pumpkins?

TIP
That's all we eat! Pumpkins. Pumpkin tarts. Pumpkin pastries. Pumpkin pancakes. Baked pumpkin. Pumpkin stew!

MOMBI
You're making me hungry. Go pick a nice, big pumpkin for my dinner.

Tip doesn't move.

MOMBI
Go!

Tip walks toward the pumpkin patch; Mombi starts to leave.

MOMBI

And you better have my dinner ready by the time I return.

TIP

Where are you going?

MOMBI

That's none of your concern.

TIP

Going to see Doctor Nikidik again?

MOMBI

Doctor Who?

TIP

After Dorothy destroyed the wicked witches, Glinda the Good said that only she and the good witch of the North are allowed to practice magic. If Glinda finds out you're meeting that old wizard in the woods to practice magic, she'll--

MOMBI

First of all, Tippetarius, Glinda won't find out. And second, I'm not practicing magic. I'm perfecting it! Glinda. Feh. That bubble-brain.

TIP

Glinda isn't a bubble-brain. She's smarter and more powerful than you.

MOMBI

Just wait. I'll soon be more powerful than her. I'll be more powerful than the Wizard of Oz himself!

TIP

Humbug.

MOMBI

What?

TIP

The Wizard of Oz was a Humbug. He didn't know real magic. Only tricks. Illusions.

MOMBI

Illusions? That's nonsense! His powers made a lion cower and quake in fear when he looked upon the awesome visage of Oz!

TIP
Visage?

MOMBI
It's a fancy word for face.

TIP
The Wizard's face? I heard it was just a mechanical head.

MOMBI
Who told you those lies?

TIP
It was a machine! There was no magic! I say again, the Wizard of Oz was a humbug!

MOMBI
The Wizard of Oz was great and powerful, and I won't hear another lie from you! Get your lazy bones to work. If I find you slacking again, I'll... I'll... Turn you into a garden decoration!

TIP
You don't scare me!

Mombi lifts her hands as if to cast a spell, and Tip cowers. She laughs and exits.

TIP
She thinks she's so scary. I'll show her scary.

Tip runs off and finds a large pumpkin. He uses his knife to cut it from the vine. He starts to carve a face into the pumpkin.

He turns the pumpkin and we see a Jack O Lantern with happy eyes and a massive smile.

TIP
I don't think this will scare Mombi at all. Wait. I know.

Time passes.

Tip has now constructed a body out of wood and has placed the pumpkin on top.

He has dressed the pumpkin-headed man in a polka-dotted shirt, pants that are too short, and a nice, purple vest.

TIP

Now, I'll place him where Mombi will see him.
She'll die of fright!

He tries to stand the pumpkin-headed man, but has lots of trouble. He finally finds some way to stabilize the man in a pose that's less scary and more casual. He's not satisfied, but he hears Mombi coming and hides.

Mombi enters.

TIP

(To himself)

This is going to be good!

MOMBI

(To herself)

That Doctor Nikidik better not have cheated me. I actually paid him this time. Wishing pills. Powder of Life. We shall see if they work. We shall see indeed.

She walks past the pumpkin-headed man and screams in fright, falling back, tripping over herself. Then, she looks closer and notices it's only a pumpkin.

MOMBI

Tippetarius. That boy's behind this. I'll teach him a lesson... Wait a moment.

She has a thought. She pulls a small tin from her bag.

MOMBI

(Reading the label)

"Doctor Nikidik's Powder of Life."

(Beat)

Doctor Nikidik told me this powder will give life to any object. Shall we test it on you, my pumpkin-headed friend?

She opens the tin and sprinkles the powder on different parts of the pumpkin-headed man's body and head.

PUMPKINHEAD

Where are we going?

MOMBI

To the kitchen. It's time for dinner.

PUMPKINHEAD

What's for dinner?

MOMBI

Why, you are! You'll make a delicious stew, and by the looks of it, I'll have enough of you left over to make a scrumptious pie!

PUMPKINHEAD

I don't know what a pie is, but I'm certain I don't want to become one.

Tip jumps out to block Mombi's path.

TIP

Leave him alone!

Tip stands in front of the pumpkin-headed man.

MOMBI

Out of my way, Tippetarius!

Mombi tries to get past him, but he trips her. She goes almost upside down.

TIP

(Pretending)

Oh, I'm sorry, Mombi. Let me help you up.

Tip "tries" to help her up, but keeps dropping her and tripping her. While helping her up the final time, he manages to snatch her bag away from her.

MOMBI

That's it, Tippetarius. I've given you more chances than you deserve. I'm turning you into a garden decoration!

TIP

No!

MOMBI

Yes!

(MORE)

MOMBI (CONT'D)

Just you wait, I'll gather all the ingredients, chop the ingredients, bring the water to a boil, boil the ingredients for two hours, and then take the pot off the fire and let the potion cool overnight, and then, in the morning, I'll make you drink the potion! Then, you'll be transformed into a nice, marble statue perfect for my garden! And don't even think about running away in the night while I'm making my potion and am far too busy to keep an eye on you!

She goes off to make her potion. Tip opens the bag he stole from Mombi to examine the Powder of Life and Wishing Pills. He stows them into his pocket and tosses the bag to the ground. He starts to run off, but pumpkin-headed man stands in front of him.

PUMPKINHEAD

You saved me from that scary woman. Thank you.

TIP

You're welcome.

Tip tries to walk around him, but the Pumpkin-headed man keeps getting in the way.

PUPKINHEAD

What did you steal from her?

TIP

This is the Powder of Life. It's what brought you to life.

PUMKINHEAD

Oh. And the other?

Tip pulls out the bottle of Wishing Pills. There's a label.

TIP

(Reading the label)

"Doctor Nikidik's Famous Wishing Pills. Any wish is guaranteed to come true."

PUMPKINHEAD

Wow! Any wish is guaranteed to come true! That's amazing!

(MORE)

PUMPKINHEAD (CONT'D)

(Beat)

What is a wish?

TIP

A wish is something you want very, very much.

PUMPKINHEAD

I don't understand.

TIP

For example, I wish I was far, far away from here. Far from Mombi. I wish I could have adventures.

PUMPKINHEAD

Will you use those wishing pills?

TIP

That's a good idea.

Tip pulls out a piece of paper.

TIP

(Reading)

"Instructions for use. Swallow pill. Count to 13 by twos. Make your wish." Count to 13 by twos? That's impossible. I should've known they'd be humbug.

Mombi pokes her head out of the house.

MOMBI

I've collected the ingredients! Now, to chop them!

TIP

I gotta run away.

PUMPKINHEAD

Where will you go?

TIP

If I go South, I can get to the Emerald City and meet the Scarecrow king. That would be something to see.

PUMPKINHEAD

What's an Emerald City?

TIP

It's a city of shining green at the center of the Land of Oz.