

The Wizard of Oz

By L. Frank Baum

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SYNOPSIS.

Dorothy lived in Kansas with Aunt Em and Uncle Henry. A cyclone lifted their home into the air, Dorothy falling asleep amidst the excitement. A crash awakened her. The house had landed in a country of marvelous beauty. Groups of queer little people greeted her to the Land of Munchkins. The house had killed their enemy, the wicked witch of East. Dorothy took the witch's silver shoes. She started for the Emerald City to find the Wizard of Oz, who, she was promised, might find a way to send her back to Kansas.

CHAPTER III.—Continued.

While Dorothy was looking earnestly into the queer painted face of the Scarecrow, she was surprised to see one of the eyes slowly wink at her. She thought she must have been mistaken, at first, for none of the scarecrows in Kansas ever wink; but presently the figure nodded its head to her in a friendly way. Then she climbed down from the fence and walked up to it, while Toto ran around the pole and barked.

"Good day," said the Scarecrow, in a rather husky voice.

"Did you speak?" asked the girl, in wonder.

"Certainly," answered the Scarecrow; "how do you do?"

"I'm pretty well, thank you," replied Dorothy, politely; "how do you do?"

"I'm not feeling well," said the Scarecrow, with a smile, "for it is very tedious being perched up here night and day to scare away crows."

"Can't you get down?" asked Dorothy.

"No, for this pole is stuck up my back. If you will please take away the pole I shall be greatly obliged to you."

Dorothy reached up both arms and lifted the figure off the pole; for, being stuffed with straw, it was quite light. "Thank you very much," said the Scarecrow, when he had been set down on the ground. "I feel like a new man."

Dorothy was puzzled at this, for it sounded queer to hear a stuffed man speak, and to see him bow and walk along beside her.

"Who are you?" asked the Scarecrow, when he had stretched himself and yawned, "and where are you going?"

"My name is Dorothy," said the girl, "and I am going to the Emerald City."

"The Emerald City?" asked Dorothy.

"Where is the Emerald City?" he inquired; "and who is Oz?"

"Why, don't you know?" she returned, in surprise.

"No, indeed; I don't know anything. You see, I am stuffed, so I have no brains at all," he answered, sadly.

"Oh," said Dorothy; "I'm awfully sorry for you."

"Do you think," he asked, "if I go to the Emerald City with you, that the great Oz would give me some brains?"

"I cannot tell," she returned; "but you may come with me, if you like. If Oz will not give you any brains you will be no worse off than you are now."

"That is true," said the Scarecrow. "You see," he continued, confidentially, "I don't mind my legs and arms and body being stuffed, because I cannot get hurt. If any one treads on my toes or sticks a pin into me, it doesn't

matter, for I can't feel it. But I do not want people to call me a fool, and if my head stays stuffed with straw instead of with brains, as yours is, how am I ever to know anything?"

"I understand how you feel," said the little girl, who was truly sorry for him. "If you will come with me I'll ask Oz to do all he can for you."

"Thank you," he answered, gratefully.

They walked back to the road, Dorothy helped him over the fence, and they started along the path of yellow brick for the Emerald City.

Toto did not like this addition to the party, at first. He smelled around the stuffed man as if he suspected there might be a nest of rats in the straw, and he often growled in an unfriendly way at the Scarecrow.

"Don't mind Toto," said Dorothy to her new friend; "he never bites."

"Oh, I'm not afraid," replied the Scarecrow, "he can't hurt the straw. Do let me carry that basket for you. I shall not mind it, for I can't get tired. I'll tell you a secret," he continued, as he walked along; "there is only one thing in the world I am afraid of."

"What is that?" asked Dorothy; "the Munchkin farmer who made you?"

"No," answered the Scarecrow; "it's a lighted match."

"I wonder if that farmer thought to fool me in this clumsy manner. Any crow of sense could see that you are only stuffed with straw. Then he hopped down at my feet and ate all the corn he wanted. The other birds, seeing he was not harmed by me, came to eat the corn, too, so in a short time there was a great flock of them about me."

"I felt sad at this, for it showed I was not such a good Scarecrow after all; but the old crow comforted me, saying: 'If you only had brains in your head you would be as good a man as any of them, and a better man than some of them. Brains are the only things worth having in this world, no matter whether one is a crow or a man.'

"After the crows had gone I thought this over, and decided I would try hard to get some brains. By good luck, you came along and pulled me off the stake, and from what you say I am sure the great Oz will give me brains as soon as we get to the Emerald City."

"I hope so," said Dorothy, earnestly, "since you seem anxious to have them."

"Oh, yes; I am anxious," returned the Scarecrow. "It is such an uncomfortable feeling to know one is a fool."

"Well," said the girl, "let us go." And she handed the basket to the Scarecrow.

There were no fences at all by the roadside now, and the land was rough and untilled. Towards evening they came to a great forest, where the trees grew so big and close together that their branches met over the road of yellow brick. It was almost dark under the trees, for the branches shut out the daylight; but the travelers did not stop, and went on into the forest.

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felt very proud, for I thought I was just as good a man as anyone.

"This fellow will scare the crows fast enough," said the farmer; "he looks just like a man."

"Why, he is a man," said the other, and I quite agreed with him. The farmer carried me under his arm to the cornfield, and set me up on a tall stick, where you found me. He and his friend soon after walked away and left me alone.

"I did not like to be deserted this way; so I tried to walk after them, but my feet would not touch the ground, and I was forced to stay on that pole. It was a lonely life to lead, for I had nothing to think of, having been made such a little while before. Many crows and other birds flew into the cornfield, but as soon as they saw me they flew away again, thinking I was a Munchkin; and this pleased me and made me feel that I was quite an important person. By and by an old crow flew near me, and after looking at me carefully he perched upon my shoulder and said:

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HUNTING LIONS IN AFRICA



THE DEAD LION



PLAYFUL PASSENGERS

I had been out all the morning looking for tracks of lion, with no result, and on arrival at camp I was greeted with the news that a lioness had killed a big goat before sunset the previous day while the goats were out grazing. I had lunch, and was doubtful whether to go or not, as it seemed a very poor chance so late in the day. Elme, my Somali, had been taken ill, so I had no shikari. However, B., who had very kindly foregone the opportunity of going for her himself, lent me Hald, and off we went about two miles, where we found the horns of one or two small pieces of goat. Hald quickly got on to the track, which he followed at the rate of four miles an hour, until we got into a valley next beyond one in which B. had got a big lion a few days before, which we believe was the father of the cubs. Getting on to stony ground made things more difficult, but he still followed the tracks at a good pace, and we went some way along a small nullah until Hald began to think we might be near. So he and I went forward while the others went up the nullah. However, the track kept to the side of the nullah, and we presently got to a part where the nullah divided and thick bushes grew all round. Here we walked about searching for the track. Presently we heard a whistle, so Hald and I rushed round to where Syce was standing with rather a scared face, pointing to the bushes close beside him. Just then I saw the lioness slinking between the bushes about 80 yards off, and, as she was disappearing, I had a snap shot. There was a growl, and the beast jumped into the air and immediately disappeared. We ran, Hald telling me to make a detour so as to come on the beast from an unexpected quarter; but it had gone on, and we soon got on to a pronounced blood track, which took us some way, then turned back at an acute angle more than once. It was now dusk, and the tracks had taken us back to the spot where I had first shot. So Hald, vowing that the beast must be severely wounded or it would have gone further, said we must give it up and return the next day, when we should certainly find the dead beast. So confident was he that the men sang their triumphal lion song all the way back, which, of course, had the effect of bringing out the entire camp, which was a case of counting chickens before they were hatched.

Next day we were off again in good time, and on getting near the place came right on to fresh tracks. At first I thought it was a different lion and that we should find the other dead; but this soon proved not to be the case, as we found blood. The tracks were only visible here and there and appeared to lead uphill towards the valley where B. had shot a lion. However, we searched about the bushes with rifles at the ready for some time, until we heard a honey-bird chattering lustily in the nullah. These honey-birds come and call to guide a man to where there is a bees' nest. In the hopes that the man will get at the honey which they themselves cannot get at. But they also have a way of calling men if they see a lion or a snake. Hald took it as a good indication; so we left the bushes and followed the bird up the hill to the top, where it appeared to have nothing more to show. Finding no tracks Hald decided on a search down below where we had previously been; but to cut a long story short, after two hours' search we found that the bird had been quite correct, and we took up the track again at a point just beyond where we had left it. Another three hours was spent looking for the tracks over in the next valley, the men being divided into three parties. Ultimately Hald pointed me out a smudge in the gravel soil which he said was the lioness. Although I had done a good deal of tracking, I could see no shape at all; but on inspection we found, some twenty yards further

back, an undoubted track on some softer ground. This led us into a flat place with clumps of dense bush intersected by bare ground; any of these clumps might have held an army of lions. This was the most critical part. The lioness was wounded, and we did not know how badly. She might have sprung on us from any of these dense bushes and, in fact, the tracks in one place led around into a bush we had already passed. Luckily, she had gone on. A long wait ensued while the men were gathered in and given instructions. Hald and I then crept noiselessly round to a fairly open space at right angles to the direction of the track, while another man was sent forward to a large ant-heap to mark. Presently Hald whispered: "There she is; shoot!" and I could see a dark-colored beast threading its way slowly through the bushes, heading straight toward us and about thirty-five yards off. As I put up my rifle it saw us and turned back. I shot and hit it behind the shoulder, the bullet lodging in front of the chest.

We were at once in hot pursuit, though I was delayed and actually prevented from having a second shot by a cartridge jamming. The lioness was soon found in a dense bush dead. She was hauled out and photographed. On cutting her open we found she was full of milk, so we decided to go the next day and see if there were any cubs about. Three of them were found in a crevasse near the spot where the lioness had been killed the previous day. They were the size of half-grown cats and looked half asleep, and not at all resentful. They were rather dull, sleepy little beasts for the first week or two, but woke up when feeding time came. We kept three goats for them, who showed little objection, except when the latter dug their claws in. They commenced teething a week after we