

HIT THE BRICKS
INTERMISSION: I'M STILL HERE

Written by
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Based on the works of L. Frank Baum

Address
Phone Number

ESTER ELLIS: Esteemed members of tonight's audience,

Thank you for listening to act 1 of Hit the Bricks. We will now be taking a brief intermission of indeterminable time. Feel free to get up, use the restroom, check out the concessions in your own kitchen, etc etc.

To those of you still in the audience, we have a special entr'acte presentation. A side-story, of sorts, that takes place many, many years ago. We open in Omaha in the late 1800s...

EXT. The Bailum and Barney's Circus. SOUND: A SMALL CIRCUS CALLIOPE IS CHURNING OUT A PLEASANT AND HAUNTING TUNE. PEOPLE ARE CHATTING, CHILDREN ARE GIGGLING. BARNEY, ONE OF THE OWNERS, BELTS OUT IN AN IRISH ACCENT:

BARNEY

My friends, my friends, I mean, my FRIENDS! Tonight has been the very best, most memorable performance we've ever had here at Bailum and Barney's Semi-Flying Circus, voted Fourth Greatest Show Above Earth! Tonight's grand finale features a hazardous, and technically unexplainable, high-flying magic act by balloon exhibitionist supreme Oz: The Great and Terrible, and this is the first night we've given Oz the big finish!

SOUND: CROWD CHEERS

BARNEY

As I said, it will be unforgettable...but in case you forget, be sure to pick up programs and souvenirs so your friends can hear all the details! Verba volant, scripta manent! The Show will continue in just ten minutes!!!!

SOUND: ROUND OF APPLAUSE. IT SLOWLY BECOMES MUFFLED AND FADED.

OSCAR DIGGS, MID-30S, A CHARISMATIC BUT SOMETIMES BUMBLING
MAGICIAN IS PACING

OSCAR

Alright Oscar, you can do this.
(Dip breath) Drop the rope and wrap
it around ankle. Point toe. Throw
flash paper..

SOUND: THERE'S A RUFFLE AS OSCAR IS PRACTICING.

OSCAR

Barney, I still have five minutes
and then, tonight, the sky's the
limit! Excelsior!

SOUND: A PAIR OF FOOTSTEPS COME INTO THE CLEARING, THEY
JINGLE WITH SPURRS. THE SHERIFF, A GRUFF OLDER GENTLEMAN, IS
STARING OSCAR DOWN.

SHERIFF DIGGS

Well, you seem to be raising your
ambitions, at least.

OSCAR

...Sheriff. How did you find me?

SHERIFF DIGGS

I've been the Sheriff of Omaha for
over a decade and

you've been flying around my sky, in a conspicuous
balloon...with your initials painted on it...

OSCAR

I've been going by "OZ" ever since
I hit the road... You knew I'd join
a circus... Why are you here?

SHERIFF DIGGS

Why do you think? After everything
that's happened, I'd say it's far
past due.

OSCAR

...Oh. I see. November's right
around the corner and you're up for
re-election. Aren't you?

SHERIFF DIGGS

Well. I won't say dragging you back
wouldn't look good in a newspaper.
But, I'm a patient man.

(MORE)

SHERIFF DIGGS (CONT'D)

The boys are all around the tent ready to escort you back after your little flying magic act. I'll give Mr. Barney the reward money, and everything will wrap up quite lovely.

OSCAR

You're a monster.

SHERIFF DIGGS

It's time to face your responsibilities, Oscar. Oh, and I've got enough hot air in my life, so if you're coming home and want to take a balloon with you I suggest grabbing one of the small ones out front on your way out.

SOUND: HE LEAVES.

OSCAR

...I can't...I can't let him catch me.

BARNEY

Oscar, are you ready? This is what you've been begging us for...

OSCAR

Oh! Mr. Barney... I-I won't let you down. Just need a minute.

BARNEY

Alright boy, get up there!

SOUND: THE CROWD MURMURS

BARNEY

Alright everyone, I ask for your absolute silence as Oz performs this daring feat! Can we get a drumroll, conductor!?

SOUND: THE DRUM ROLL BEGINS

BARNEY

OZ....Oz?

SOUND: THE JET ON THE BALLOON RUNS HEAVILY.

OSCAR

Time to cut the chord...

SOUND: THERE'S A SLICING NOISE

OSCAR
LOOKOUT BELOW! The rope snapped!!!

SOUND: SHING, SHING, SNAP

BARNEY
The anchor rope! OSCAR! BRING THAT
BALLOON DOWN RIGHT NOW!

OSCAR
Right... Wait, Um (louder)...I-I
CAN'T! I DON'T REMEMBER HOW IT
WORKS!

BARNEY
OZ! GET BACK HERE!!!

SOUND: THE BALLOON SOARS OUT

OSCAR
Forgive me, Barney. I'll see you
again once the coast is clear. Now,
where to next? (The wind blows) Oh
dear...I don't like the look of
that cloud.

SOUND: THE WIND IS BLOWING, HEAVY, AND SUDDENLY THUNDER
CRASHES.

OSCAR
NO!

MUSIC: MAN OUTSIDE MY WINDOW, A
CAPELLA, A.P. HARBOR

CHORUS
(Singing)

*WE HAVE COME TOO FAR. THE SIGNS ARE IN THE STARS.
TOLD MYSELF TO CALM MY MIND, BUT
HE'S BEEN HERE ALL THIS TIME.
I WONDER WHERE WE ARE? THE SKY IS LACED IN TAR.
I COUNT MY DAYS SO PLEASE, PLEASE FORGIVE ME, FATHER.
I AM FALLING APART. THE WORLD IS BRIGHT TONIGHT,
BUT I STILL HIDE MY EYES...*

SOUND: THUNDER CLAPS AGAIN AND THE WIND IS THE ONLY THING
LEFT BLOWING. A MOMENT PASSES AND THEN...

SOUND: RING RING EXT. SCENE 2 The Clouds

OSCAR
Mmm...what a dream.

SOUND: THE BALLOON CREEKS

OSCAR
Holy Crowned Heads of Europe!! The
storm I dreamt was real...but
I'm...I'm alive? Unless I'm
dead...but this doesn't look like
the place I'd go if I was dead-
SOUND: RING, RING

OSCAR
What was that!

(SMITH, A YOUNG MAN WITH A TOTALLY ANACHRONISTIC MANNER, IS
HOVERING NEARBY.)

SMITH
Over here! Yes, hello, can you hear
me?

OSCAR
Um, hello? That's a... nice flying
bicycle you got there...

SMITH
Aw, thanks man. I like your big bag
of hot air. That's how you're
staying afloat right?

OSCAR
Oh. Yes, it's a hot-air balloon.
You see, the hot air gathers in the-

SMITH
I like my name better. Anyway, I
don't mean to bug you, bag-of-hot-
air man, but have you seen a
particularly jumpy cow up here?

OSCAR
No-no. I think I'd remember that.
Maybe if you wait a minute I'll
dream him up.

SMITH
Huh? OH! I see, you think this is
a dream. You must be from the
mortal world. That's INCREDIBLY
fascinating... people usually
aren't able to pass between the
outside world and here.

OSCAR

"Here"?

SMITH

Okay, I'm in a bit of a time crunch, so spare me the disbelief for a moment while I get to the point without puncturing your air bag.

You're in a fairy land. Magic is everywhere, animals can talk, there are powerful wizards and witches. That sort of thing.

OSCAR

I see... The flying bicycle should have tipped me off.

SMITH

Nah, this is pretty weird even for fairy-standards. You can call me Smith. My partner and I dream up all sorts of inventions and technical magical devices down below.

This bike is capable of balancing on clouds, but I have to keep moving since they're prone to burning up in the atmosphere. What's a mortal from human-land doing here?

OSCAR

I could ask you the same thing! A storm blew me off track, what's your excuse?

SMITH

W-eeeeeeell, I take a special interest in studying other realms and traveling across them. Space is one of the final frontiers, and the cow I acquired is particularly talented at jumping.

So, I had attempted to get to the moon but the whole thing is utterly ridiculous. She over shoots every time and this last one she finally started to land and she kicked me off mid-apex and I was sent spiraling down to the earth.

OSCAR

Goodness! How did you survive!

SMITH

With the bike, duh. I had it in my back pocket. It was a rough landing, but I'll manage...

I've been riding around for the past three days looking for my cow but no luck so far. I can only get a clear shot when the moon is near, so, I don't have a lot of time to look. I'd also settle for a floating island where I can make port, at this point.

OSCAR

Oh. Well, I guess that makes some sort of sense.

SMITH

I gotta say, you're taking this remarkably well for a mundane human.

OSCAR

Creo quia absurdum est! Anything this absurd must be true. Mr. Smith, are there actually any floating islands nearby?

SMITH

There should be! I've heard tell of one obscured by clouds, but it's so small that it's easy to miss-

SOUND: THERE'S A LOUD SCRAPING NOISE AS OSCAR'S BALLOON RUNS AGROUND.

OSCAR

Ahh! My basket!

SMITH

Ah! Welp. There you go. The floating cloud island of Teenty-Went. Feel free to step out of the basket, you're not going to fall now, Mister...

OSCAR

Diggs. My name is Oscar Diggs but I go my first and middle initials, "OZ."

SMITH

First and middle? How many names do you have?

OSCAR

A few. Oscar Zoroaster Phadrig Isaac Norman Henkle Emmannuel Ambroise Diggs. My father wanted my birth announcement to take up all the space in the newspapers.

SMITH

Ew. That's why I just go by Smith now. Easy to say. Short and sweet. Most common name in the world.

OSCAR

Why should that matter?

SMITH

Never mind, let's see if we can find ourselves a cow...unless you'd be willing to let me join you in your descent?

OSCAR

I would...my balloon is trapped in these dense clouds... I don't think I can get below them now.

SMITH

Welp. The more the merrier, my cow will help us both.

OSCAR

How's that?

SMITH

Are you as dense as this cumulous? Haven't you ever heard of "ground beef?"

The cloud peaks are softer on the edge of the island where your balloon is, all we have to do is tie my cow to the basket and have her come close enough to break through and BAM we'll be smooth sailing all the way down.

(MORE)

SMITH (CONT'D)

And if it's not smooth, at least we
can enjoy a nice milkshake.

SOUND: A SQUEAL ECHOES THROUGH THE ISLAND

OSCAR

Good gracious, what's that?!

(SQUEALINA SWYNE, A YOUNG NEWLYWED WITH A NERVOUS BUT WARM
DISPOSITION IS CALLING TO THEM)

SQUEALINA SWYNE

Get away from our garden if you
know what's good for you,
beast!*snort*

OSCAR

I beg your pardon! I'm not a beast
madame and neither is my...friend?

SMITH

A bit soon for that, but okay.

OSCAR

We don't even see a garden, just
nothing but clouds!

SQUEALINA SWYNE

snort snort I'm inside the
house...the clouds and mist have me
hidden.

OSCAR

Madame, with all due respect, it's
very unnerving to be speaking to
someone we can't see. Please make
yourself known to us.

SQUEALINA SWYNE

Very well. *snort* I will come
outside with a lantern and stand on
the porch for your benefit. SOUND:
THE DOOR SWINGS OPEN AND HOOVES
CLOP ONTO THE PORCH

OSCAR

You're a-a p-

SMITH

(Cutting him off) A perfectly
amiable host, Miss...?

SQUEALINA SWYNE

Swyne. *Snort* Mrs. Squealina Swyne. I would invite you in the house but my husband is inside finishing his writing for the day and the place is sure to be a styer by now. *snort, snort*

OSCAR

That's quite alright. I'm Oz and this is Mr. Smith. We're trapped up here and are looking for a way down-

-

SQUEALINA SWYNE

Ah, well, I know this feeling. *snort* Grunter, that is my husband, and I were here on our honeymoon and we ended up taking a wrong turn and before we knew it we ended up here.

snort We liked it so much that we haven't had the need to leave, though. We pigs are not known for our lofty-ness, so, we've been enjoying the travel.

OSCAR

Oh, are you a pig? I hadn't noticed, madame.

SQUEALINA SWYNE

snooooort You needn't worry about offending me. I am what I am and it should be celebrated. Besides, we're already in the sky, there's no need to put on airs.

SMITH

I want to walk back the conversation for a minute, though, because I seem to recall you saying something about a beast?

SQUEALINA SWYNE

Well... to be honest, I've seen nothing, but my husband has! *snort* I may as well let him tell you more about it! GRUNTER?! We have company. *snort, snort*

SOUND: THE DOOR SWINGS AND AFTER A FEW SECONDS PROFESSOR SWYNE JOINS THEM. PROFESSOR SWYNE IS A PIG WITH A GERMAN ACCENT

PROFESSOR SWYNE

My goodness, you encyclopedia salesmen are ruthless. *snort, snort*

OSCAR

Mr. Swyne-

PROFESSOR SWYNE

snort! Professor Swyne.

OSCAR

Pardon. Professor Swyne, my name is Oz and this is Smith and we-

SMITH

Oh for goodness sake. Professor, what's all this about a beast?

PROFESSOR

The BEAST?! *squeal* For the past TWO nights I've caught a giant beast destroying my garden! *snort* I'm a professor of botany, you know, and I pride myself-

SMITH

Yes, yes. What did the thing look like? You saw it right?

PROFESSOR

It was GIANT. *snort snort snot* It lept around on all fours under the moon light and moaned low moans...it was purple and had giant horns!

SMITH

Periwinkle! That's my cow!

OSCAR

Your cow is *purple*?

SMITH

It's the only one I could find that could make grape- milk.

OSCAR

(Disgusted) Anyway, we could set a trap tonight when the moon is close enough for Periwinkle to leap back down

SQUEALINA SWYNE

Oh, gentlemen *snort* are you certain? It's so dangerous.

OSCAR

I'm pretty nifty with contraptions. Besides, Smith says catching her is the only way we can get out of the clouds.

PROFESSOR SWYNE

Well, well. *snort* And they say men can't fly! Mr. Oz, Mr. Smith; I'm sure we can think up a way to catch your beast and get you back on *terra firma*.

OSCAR

Oh! Sir, I should have known that a professor such as yourself could speak latin.

SQUEALINA SWYNE

To be fair, *snort*, most pigs are fluent in *atin-lay*, but my husband is quite educated.

PROFESSOR SWYNE

True. I was pen-pals with a doctor from Hamburg who taught me everything I need to know, though he was a bit of a boar.

snort, snort In any case, I have learned that the best way to combat ignorance is to broaden horizons and so my wife and I have decided to travel before we have a litter to ground us.

SQUEALINA SWYNE

We've seen so much of the world, but we'll soon be too old to travel.

snort I hate the idea of our future piglets never seeing the world.

OSCAR

Professor and Mrs. Swyne, I promise you that if you can get me out of this rut that I will personally see to it that all of your children see the world and that Oscar here is their own private tutor!

PROFESSOR SWYNE

Very well! *snort* We were going to help you anyway, as we hate keeping company, but with a promise like that we can't possibly resist now. *snort, snort*

SMITH

(whispering) That's a pretty big promise.

OSCAR

Will you relax? they're never going to remember...or see us again.

(louder) Thank you, both of you. We'll have to wait a bit until nightfall, I guess... Out of curiosity, do either of you happen to know the date?

PROFESSOR SWYNE

It's currently the *snort* 20th of August.

OSCAR

I've been flying for almost 24 hours..

SQUEALINA SWYNE

You must be exhausted. *snort* You should take a bit of a rest until nightfall. The clouds are more comfortable than any bed.

OSCAR

Thank you. If it's just the same to you, I'll rest in my balloon's basket for now

SMITH

Well, I won't say not to a blanket. It's freezing up here.

PROFESSOR SWYNE

To be sure, and for whatever reason
we pigs always seem to have a
plethora of blankets available.
snort, snort

SOUND: THE MUSIC DRIFTS ON. SCENE 3. EXT, THAT NIGHT IN THE
GARDEN

OSCAR

Alright, so this is an old trick
the bullfighters taught me. These
ropes are going to be disguised by
the fog, we'll have enough of them
here to hog-tie the cow...no
offense.

PROFESSOR SWYNE

None taken. *snort*

SQUEALINA SWYNE

If the beast really is just a cow
snort why don't you reason with
her?

SMIITH

Periwinkle has many gifts but
talking isn't one of

them. Too busy chewing cud to chew conversation.

OSCAR

All we have to do is wait for
Periwinkle to trip the wire and we
the ropes will pull and we can do
the rest.

Then we can get back to the basket
and we'll be able to use the crank
I had for my balloon's anchor rope
to pull her in and the balloon will
break through the clouds with all
of use safely inside...or tied to
the basket. Whatever.

SMITH

Well, little darlings, here comes
the moon. Time for us to cry "wee,
wee, wee." Stay low and quiet and
away from the carrots. She loves
those things and you'll lose a
finger.

(MORE)

SMITH (CONT'D)

Or hoof, and I'd hate for that to happen without my pickling gear.

SOUND: THERE'S A LOW MOO. THEN A JIGGLE. THE MOO GETS LOUDER AND THERE'S A BOING AS THE COW BOUNCES OVER THE CLOUDS...THEN, SUDDENLY, SNAP! THE WIRE IS SPRUNG AND PERIWINKLE IS CAUGHT!

SOUND: MOOOOOOO, SHE IS NOT HAPPY.

OSCAR

That's it! Pull-oh. Oh no, she is much larger than I was anticipating! Why didn't you tell me she was so big?

SMITH

I enlarged her so she can **JUMP** TO THE MOON, how else was that supposed to work! It should have worn off by now...

SOUND: SHE STARTS BUCKING AND THE RINGING OF HER COW BELL GOES NUTS!

OSCAR

We can't possibly hold her! Ah!

SOUND: MOO!!

SMITH

She's heading to the shoreline, but the rope's intact. She's still tied to your basket!

OSCAR

Quick! Get to the balloon before we lose it!

SOUND: THERE'S A SOFT CRACKING NOISE

SQUEALINA SWYNE

She's breaking through! Quick! On your floaty-bike, *snort!*

PROFESSOR SWYNE

Go, humans! Go! *squeal*

SOUND: THE CLOUDS SHATTER AND THE COW MOOS OUT IN SHOCK

SMITH

Hold on to my back!

OSCAR

It's no use, There aren't enough
clouds to get us to the basket
safely!

SMITH

That's why you gotta jump! We can't
catch up any other way!

OSCAR

But--!

SMITH

Go, I'm behind you!

SOUND: OZ JUMPS AND LANDS IN THE BASKET

OSCAR

(With an effort) Ahh! GAh.... I-I
made it! Come on, Smith, I've got
you!

SOUND: THUNDER CRACKS AGAIN

SMITH

Ah, Oscar! I can't make the divide!

OSCAR

No, Smith!! Jump!!! NO!

SOUND: THE WIND PICKS UP, THE COW MOOS, SCREAMING

MUSIC: TEN-WATT MOON by AP Harbor

CHORUS

(singing) WE WOKE UP, IT WAS VERY,
VERY LATE. HE WAS GONE SO SOON, HE
WAS GONE TOO SOON.
HAD WE KNOWN THIS WOULD BE HIS FATE
WE WOULDN'T HATE SOLD OUR TUNE TO
THE TEN-WATT MOON.

OSCAR

I'm falling too fast! Look out!

SOUND: THE BALLOON CRASHES AND RIPS AS THERE'S A HEAVY CRACK.
OZ'S BALLOON HAS LANDED OVER A BUILDING AND OZ AND PERIWINKLE
GO TUMBLING Scene 4 INT. Emerald Palace of Pastoria, night

OSCAR

Oof! (Pause) Talk about a rough
landing... Are you alright?

SOUND: SHE MOOS.

OSCAR

Some singed fur but you'll be
alright. Wait. Where's Smith?
SMITH?...

Wh-where are we? A museum? A bank
or a palace? So much marble...I've
never seen anything like this.
Alright, my bovine friend, I'm
going to take a look at what's
outside beyond that emerald door.
Stay.

SOUND: HE DOES, THERE'S A ROAR OF FIRE. PEOPLE ARE SCREAMING,
AN ELEPHANT IS ROARING IN THE DISTANCE.

OSCAR

I am not in Nebraska...

SOUND: THERE'S A HISSING NOISE AS GIANT SPIDERS SEE OZ

OSCAR

AAH, get back! Back, giant
spiders!!!

SOUND: HISS!!!

OSCAR

I said get BACK!

SOUND: THERE'S A POP AND A FLAME AND THE SPIDERS GO RUNNING.

OSCAR

Yes, run away, you atrocious
arachnids!

TOWNSPERSON 1

(Crying out) It's a miracle He
defeated the giant spiders with his
magic fireballs!

OSCAR

Wh-what? Oh, it's just flash paper!

TOWNSPERSON 2

Look! His flying-contraption is
just inside that door! See what it
says!?! O.Z....it says OZ?!

OSCAR

Y-yes? That's my name... I'm sorry
to startle you, it's

just--

TOWNSPERSON 3

LOOK! His giant beast-cow has
landed on Mombi, the Wicked Witch
of the North!

OSCAR

Wh-what! No, I, I didn't mean-

TOWNSPERSON 2

He will protect us!

OSCAR

Wait, wait-

TOWNSPERSON 4

PLEASE, please! You have to deliver
us!

OSCAR

Listen, folks, I don't know what
you're talking about-

SOUND: BOOM. ANOTHER EXPLOSION. PEOPLE SCREAM

TOWNSPERSON 3

It's the other Wicked Witches! Run!

TOWNSPERSON 2

SAVE US, GREAT OZ!

SOUND: SCREAMING AND CHAOS

OSCAR

Back in the palace! (He runs) I've
got to get out of here... Hope
these doors lock behind me.

SOUND: THE HEAVY PALACE DOORS SWING OPEN AND SHUT. HE RUNS
DOWN THE HALL, HIS FOOTSTEPS ON THE MARBLE ARE HEAVY.

OSCAR

Take cover Periwinkle! Or just lay
there, whatever.

Oh...oh my. You really did land on
a witch... Miss? Uh- miss? Oh good
lord, we've made a roast beef
sandwich.

(He rushes off and his footsteps
echo) So much marble...

(MORE)

OSCAR (CONT'D)
and emeralds... It would be lovely
if it wasn't blowing up.

SOUND: THUNDER ROARS FROM OUTSIDE

OSCAR
Gotta hide.

SOUND: HE SNEAKS OFF INTO A SMALLER ROOM AND CLOSES THE DOOR
QUICKLY.

OSCAR

Here!(Catching breath) Seems safe enough...

SCENE 5, INT. PASTORIA'S ROOM

PASTORIA
(Frail) H-hello? Who's there?

SOUND: PASTORIA, THE KING OF OZ, IS ON HIS DEATH BED. HE
SOUNDS WEAK AND FRAIL

OSCAR
Forgive me! I just wanted shelter
from the storm... and the rest of
the chaos. I didn't know anyone was
here.

PASTORIA
You...you didn't? Come closer to
me.

SOUND: HE STEPS CLOSER

PASTORIA
What do they call you?

OSCAR
Well. My name is Oscar...but
everyone calls me Oz.

PASTORIA
I see. You're not from here, are
you?

OSCAR
It must be really obvious. I guess
you could say I am very lost.

PASTORIA
I am Pastoria, the King of this
land.

(MORE)

PASTORIA (CONT'D)

The land, like you, is called Oz.
Quite the coincidence...perhaps it
was fate.

OSCAR

Sir, pardon me for saying so, but
you don't look at all well.

PASTORIA

I'm poisoned. My adviser, Glinda,
has done what she can to slow it,
but before the dawn breaks it will
reach my heart and kill me.

Before that happens, I want you to
tell me your story. How did you
happen to come here?

OSCAR

Well...I'm from a place called
Omaha. I'm not a king but my father
is a politician, a sheriff.

My family also had a series of
businesses that were set as
franchises all along the-

SOUND: THE KING COUGHS

OSCAR

Well. Let's just say my family had
a lot of power, and I wanted
nothing to do with it. My mother
died when I was born and I think my
father resented me for it. Locked
me up in the house...

Told me I was too sickly to travel
the world...but, it turns out I
wasn't so weak after all. I ran
away from home at a young age.

Joined a circus, became a magician,
but just before I was set to be the
great star...my father found me.
Instead of making a choice and
facing my past..I got scared.

I panicked and fell into a floating
machine, and instead of turning
around I ran...and got caught in a
storm.

(MORE)

OSCAR (CONT'D)

I ran from my father, abandoned my circus family, and I may have falsely promised to adopt a litter of piglets...

PASTORIA

I see...I think I can understand something of that myself. (Cough)

My older brother was set to be heir to the throne. He was wise and strong and charming. He was perfect for it...and I was weak and frail and bookish.

I was happy to play second fiddle and hide away in my own circus, of sorts... The wicked witches attacked and killed my family while they were out on a hunting trip. They forgot all about me because I had elected to stay home...and I was made king... but I'm wrong for it. All wrong--

OSCAR

If it's any consolation...I think hunting is kind of gross.

PASTORIA

Absolutely. Ha!

SOUND: HE LAUGHS BUT STARTS COUGHING HARD. SOUND: THE DOOR OPENS

THE GUARDIAN OF THE GATES

Sir, Glinda is-- (noticing Oscar) who are you?! Stay back from the king!

PASTORIA

Guardian, this is OZ. A powerful magician who is my friend. Treat him well...and prepare for daybreak, as I won't last long.

SOUND: THERE'S ANOTHER CLAP OF THUNDER

THE GUARDIAN OF THE GATES

Glinda is fighting the Wicked Witch of the South, sir... The other witches are unaccounted for.

PASTORIA

Have whatever's left of the guard
ready to attack just in case.

THE GUARDIAN OF THE GATES

Yes, your majesty.

PASTORIA

When this is over...look to OZ here
for guidance.

OSCAR

W-what?

PASTORIA

Tell everyone to obey him as you
would me. Now, go!

THE GUARDIAN OF THE GATES

Yes, sir. I will be right back.

SOUND: HE SCURRIES OFF.

OSCAR

Why did you do that?!

PASTORIA

For the first time, let me act like
a king. (He coughs) I am the last
of my line. I never thought I'd be
near the throne, let alone die
heirless on it..alone.

OSCAR

I can...I can stay with you. Until
it's over, Pastoria.

PASTORIA

Thank you, OZ. you're a very good
man. (He holds back a sob and his
voice breaks)

I only wish...

OSCAR

Oh, oh no! Don't cry-- I don't have
a handkerchief or anything!

SOUND: A TEAR HITS THE GROUND WITH A PING

THE GUARDIAN OF THE GATES

Sir, the forces have- Good
gracious!

SOUND: A SQUELCHING AND RINGING OCCURS,

PASTORIA

Wh-what's happening? My eyes are failing-

OSCAR

Well...A-a giant flower is growing from a crack in the floor. I've never seen anything like it!

PASTORIA

I...

OSCAR

Stay back! It's going to open!

SOUND: IMPOSSIBLY, A BABY STARTS CRYING

THE GUARDIAN OF THE GATES

It's a miracle.

OSCAR

She...she looks just like you, Pastoria.

PASTORIA

Give her to me. (The baby stops crying and coos) My sweet princess...my little Ozma. (Thunder claps, his voice quivers)

I wish I could stay with you, but knowing that you're in the world...my heart is so full of peace...

Oscar, are you still here?

OSCAR

Yes, your highness.

PASTORIA

There must always be an Oz or an Ozma on the throne. Until my daughter comes of age, keep her safe and rule as regent.

OSCAR

Sir...I'm not-

PASTORIA

Please. It has to be you. Keep her safe. Promise me.

OSCAR
...I promise.

PASTORIA
Long live OZ.

OSCAR
Sir...? Your highness? Pastoria!?

THE GUARDIAN OF THE GATES
So it was a lie...all of it.

SOUND: THE GUARDIAN'S VOICE MELTS AWAY LEAVING MOMBI

MOMBI
I picked the wrong side.

OSCAR
What...who are you?! Where is the
Guardian!?

MOMBI
I shape-shifted into him after he
left you earlier. It's one of the
many abilities I have.

OSCAR
Wait...I know you! You're that
Wicked Witch we landed on...Mombi!?
Get away from Ozma!

MOMBI
Listen to me! I was wrong. The
Witch of the South told me a
falsehood... I was convinced that
she was chosen by the Fairy Queen.

But I witnessed a miracle just
now...and you...should rule the
kingdom. The baby...she--

SOUND: THUNDER CRASHES AGAIN, THIS TIME WITH GLASS NEARBY.

OSCAR
The other Witches...will they be as
sympathetic?

MOMBI
No. They won't care. Least of all
South.

OSCAR
Ozma must be concealed from
them...can you hide her?

MOMBI

Me!? What am I to do? I can't feed a baby!

OSCAR

What about Periwinkle?! The purple cow! Assuming you didn't kill her, she'd be able to give her milk.

MOMBI

No! I just transformed her...into a tiny cow. Anyway, I will take them both to the Gillikin farm lands up north. Do you swear to come back for her?

OSCAR

I promise. I just need to make sure the other witches aren't looking for her... But if I find out that you hurt one hair on that baby's head, I'll-

MOMBI

Worry not. I know just how to handle this. But in the meantime, tell no one she exists or all of Oz will look for her...

SOUND: THERE'S A WARPING SOUND AND SHE'S GONE.

OSCAR

Very well-- Mombi? She's gone... Now would be the time to run if I'm going to... But. I can't.

THE GUARDIAN OF THE GATES

Sir, sir-- the Wicked witches have fled! ...your majesty...?

OSCAR

King Pastoria's gone...

THE GUARDIAN OF THE GATES

No king...no heir... What on earth will we do?

OSCAR

Well, if you'd let me, I think I have a few ideas.

SOUND: THE MUSIC PICKS UP, TIME HAS GONE ON.

Scene 6. INT. The Throne Room.

THE GUARDIAN OF THE GATES
 And after that, the yellow-brick
 layers have assured me construction
 will be finished and then all gates
 of the city will be set with
 emerald and ready for their
 traversal.

OSCAR
 Thank you, guardian. What about the
 witches?

THE GUARDIAN OF THE GATEST
 East is still keeping at bay. No
 one has seen the Wicked Witch of
 the West at all and spies indicate
 she's not in her castle.

OSCAR
 Thank you. That's all we can hope
 for, I suppose. You know, Guardian,
 you don't have to stand outside the
 door. You can come in.

THE GUARDIAN OF THE GATES
 No, sir. Without protective layers
 I cannot look into your eyes, I'll
 surely expire!

You've proven to be the most
 powerful wizard we've ever had...
 Now, if you'll excuse me, I have to
 go guard another set of doors!

SOUND: HIS FOOTSTEPS TRAIL OFF.

OSCAR
 sigh.

SMITH
 Well, all that time I was searching
 the countryside for you and you
 were safe and sound in the lap of
 luxury!

OSCAR
 Smith! I-I had the guards look
 everywhere for you! I was afraid
 you'd been dashed to pieces! I
 never stopped worrying about you, I
 swear! You're limping...your leg--

SMITH

Oh yeah, broke it pretty good because I had no cow to break my fall.

Oh, would you lighten up. I knew where you were the whole time. Got a little preoccupied... Though not as much as you, Mr. "Wonderful Wizard."

OSCAR

They saw me land in the balloon and one thing led to another and... They just kind of ran with their assumptions. The balloon is destroyed and no one knows anything about Omaha... I'm stuck here.

SMITH

Hm, sounds like you're looking a gift sawhorse in the mouth. Would you even go back if you could? You're the King now--

OSCAR

No, no, NO. I am not the King! I'm just filling in and where I come from we don't even have a king! That's why everyone's been calling me a Wizard...which may have blown up in my face.

The Wicked Witches are out there biding their time. West is probably hiding underground, building an army.

If she or East discover that I'm not magical...I'm as good as fried. I have been terrified to leave the palace...

SMITH

I wouldn't sweat it too much. You'll figure out a way to sweep them under the rug. Besides, I heard that there's a beautiful capital city being built, the people are inspired again...seems like you were just the person to Boss the Job.

OSCAR

I guess...but that poor kid.

SMITH

Who?

OSCAR

Pastoria's daughter, Ozma. I sent her off with some witch and I never followed up...

I don't know if she's safe and I can't have the guard check for her or else the witches would be tipped off...

SMITH

Yikes. Sounds like you've been worried about this for a while.

OSCAR

It's all I think about. It's making me sick. She has your cow, by the way.

SMITH

The baby has my cow!? Well, that settles it. I'll paint myself a disguise, as you, and go check up on this witch.

Shouldn't be too hard to find, what A purple cow in the barn. I'll check in a few times, make sure she's safe...but that doesn't solve the whole problem.

OSCAR

Well it's a start. No one else knows about her and I...I can't let this go but I don't know how else to fix it!

SMITH

Very well. When I leave, drink this. It'll make you forget all about Ozma.

OSCAR

What?! But...why would-

SMITH

Shhh. If the Wicked Witches find you, they'll be able to fish out the truth regarding the little princess in a variety of ways.

For example: there's a little spring due south of here with the power to make you tell nothing but the truth...that is, if your memories aren't wiped clean. Best leave finding her to me. When the time comes, I'll make sure she's back on the throne.

OSCAT

Well...it does sound like the only way. But...I've never held a job for more than a month, let alone-

SMITH

Listen. If the strains of Wizardship prove too much, I have been installing a failsafe for the past week into the heart of the palace. Like I said, I knew you were here.

OSCAR

A failsafe?

SMITH

Yes my friend, just for you. It's a one-time-trick. If you find yourself in need of a quick escape, and I do mean quick, tap the third emerald clockwise from the top of the throne until it clicks into a switch, then hold on. I know how you feel about holding positions of power.

OSCAR

But...but *Ego hic adhuc sum!*

SMITH

Is that some sort of spell, or...?

OSCAR

It means "I'm still here!" I can't leave. I actually want to make this work. I want to be The Wonderful Wizard.

SMITH

Oh, OZ. You're a very bad Wizard...but, I have no doubt that eventually you'll prove yourself to be a very good man.

SOUND: JACOBY IS MUTTERING IN HIS SLEEP, THE SCENE RIPPLES OFF

SCENE 7: EXT, CAMPFIRE IN THE FOREST

JACOBY

Good man. Very bad--father, I...father-

JESSI

Jacoby?

JACOBY

Bad...bad, good...man...

LURLINE

WAKE UP.

JACOBY

Gah!...what happened? Where am I? How did I...what did I--

WALLACE

It's alright, Jacoby! Everything's alright!

JACOBY

I don't understand...I wasn't here, I saw things...but I can't remember the details...

Papa Smith was there but I was my dad, and there was a cow...and I think the Wizard was there! How can that be?

JESSI

It was just a dream, Jacoby. We've all had some weird ones... Some weirder than others.

JACOBY

THAT was a dream? Every time I've slept in the past it's just been mundane dreams of the moon...

WALLACE

Well gosh... I guess it's only natural when you've lived a sheltered life.

JACOBY

I'm sorry I worried you all...the sun's not even up yet.

LURLINE

Well look at that, it's sure not.
sigh

But don't worry...the ground is hard and uncomfortable anyway. I wasn't getting much sleep.

WALLACE

Let's just...try to catch some Z's?

JESSI

You're right. We've still got a while before we gotta get up and restart our journey. We're just now getting into the mainland Western territories. Big day ahead of us.

JACOBY

Right. Wanna wake up refreshed so we can get on with the show!
Heh...Goodnight everyone.

SOUND: CRICKETS CHIRP

JACOBY

(Quietly) Don't worry Papa, I'm gonna find the Wizard. There's still a part of you that's with me and I'm still here.

END.

ESTER ELLIS:

Thank you for listening to our intermission special.

Tonight's cast consisted of

Christopher Dole,

Karim Kronfli

Josh Rubino,

Marnie Warner,
Benjamin Buckley,
Emma Sherr-Ziarko,
Michael Hammer,
Ester Ellis,
David Russell,
Regular Pat,
Aeba,
Peyton Stephens,
Jordan Higgs,
PJ Scott-Blankenship,
Keilidh Hamilton-Maureira
and Michelle Agresti

Intro music and "When the Circus Comes to Town" were arranged
by David Russell, featuring songs by A.P. Harbor

Artwork by Chandler Candela

Dialogue clean up and editing done by Travis Reeves

Sound design by Ester Ellis

Written and directed by PJ Scott-Blankenship, based on the
works of L. Frank Baum.

This episode appeared early and ad-free on Nebula. Find out
more at nebula.tv/hitthebricks.

Thanks so much for listening! See you in Oz.