



THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ

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PROLOGUE

VOICE OVER

(These words are projected onto gauze as per Star Wars) Quite a long time ago in a place, not too far away there lived a girl called Chelsea, but, for some reason, everyone called her Dorothy. No idea why!

Anyway, she longed for fun. For freedom from the rather dull life she lead with her Aunt and Uncle in a tiny little village called Langford Budville, just outside a funny little town called Wellington in Somersetshire.

Dorothy had dreams. Like we all do. But dreams don't always come true.

Dorothy dreamed about Brad Pitt, holidays in Fuerteventura and a Saturday job in Waitrose.

But these just didn't come true, however she never stopped thinking of adventure. And do you know what? Nor should you! Because you never ever know what might happen when you wish really hard!

SCENE ONE

A SCHOOL HALL

The hall is empty. MR LEON enters with a large hand bell. He rings the bell vigorously as the music begins,

SONG – FUN, FUN, FUN

School students come pouring through the auditorium and onto the stage. Joined by a few adults (teachers)

**Well she got her daddy's car
And she's cruised to the hamburger stand now
Seems she forgot all about the library
Like she told her old man now
And with the radio blasting
Goes cruising just as fast as she can now**

And she'll have fun, fun, fun
Till her daddy takes the t-bird away
(Fun, fun, fun till her daddy takes the t-bird away)

Well the girls can't stand her
'Cause she walks, looks, and drives like an ace now
(You walk like an ace now, you walk like an ace)
She makes the Indy 500 look like a Roman chariot race now
(You look like an ace now, you look like an ace)
A lotta guys try to catch her
But she leads them on a wild goose chase now
(You drive like an ace now, you drive like an ace)

And she'll have fun, fun, fun
Till her daddy takes the t-bird away
(Fun, fun, fun till her daddy takes the t-bird away)

INSTRUMENTAL

Well you knew all along
That your dad was gettin' wise to you now
(You shouldn't have lied now, you shouldn't have lied)
And since he took your set of keys
You've been thinking that your fun is all through now
(You shouldn't have lied now, you shouldn't have lied)

But you can come along with me
'Cause we gotta a lot of things to do now
(You shouldn't have lied now, you shouldn't have lied)

And we'll have fun, fun, fun now that daddy took the t-bird away
(Fun, fun, fun now that daddy took the t-bird away)
And we'll have fun, fun, fun now that daddy took the t-bird away

LEON

Splendid. Well done. Well done. That really has got the end of term assembly off to a flying start. Now to celebrate the end of term we have a splendid surprise courtesy of own school cook Dame Betty. But has anyone seen her?

Bertie Birdseed have you seen your mother?

BERTIE

Is she behind you?

LEON Now this isn't a pantomime Bertie

BERTIE Yes it is, isn't it boys and girls?

AUDIENCE YES!

BERTIE Thanks all of you – my name is Bertie Birdseed. I don't much like school. I try to make people laugh by telling jokes. I always make people laugh. I tell you what, when I come on and say 'Hi boys and girls would you like a joke?' then you say, 'Are you having a laugh?' Then I'll tell you the joke. Let's give it a try. **(he does)**

Cool, well here goes. The other day I got zero for a test and when I complained to my teacher he said 'Sorry, but I couldn't give you a lower mark.' **(he falls about)**

LEON Bertie, if you have finished talking with the audience

BERTIE Sorry Mr Leon

LEON So, where s your Mother?

BERTIE She's the school cook – maybe she is in the kitchen!

LEON Don't be facetious Bertie. Is that the best you can do?

BERTIE No I am sure I can do better.

LEON You really are brainless Bertie.

DOROTHY I think she was doing something interesting with whipped cream.

LEON I don't doubt that Dorothy, but thank you anyway! Well while we are waiting let's find out what you are all doing during the summer holiday. Portia Henderson-Wilkes what will you be doing?

PORTIA Well Mama and Papa are taking me to Hollywood for four weeks, so we can meet up with Benedict Cumberbatch – he is one of Daddy's clients. It should be terribly lovely.

LEON Very nice Portia, What about you Tristram Chortle-Minster?

TRISTRAM Well as you all know, I am 17 tomorrow and my Father has purchased me a rather smart Ferrari worth in excess £300,000. Not sure what Mother will buy me, but I gather she is looking at a 20 bedroom mansion!

LEON Excellent Tristram. You lucky boy. And what about you Charlie Canister?

CHARLIE Well, I hope to spend some time with the girl I love

(Laughter from the other kids)

BOY Who would love you?

GIRL Well it's certainly not me!

CHARLIE She doesn't know I love her.

(More laughter)

LEON Now, now. Give Charlie a fair hearing.

CHARLIE But I expect I'll just work at the recycling centre like I do every Saturday.

LEON Splendid. Bertie?

BERTIE I will be going on adventures to far off lands and fight animals and monsters and come back triumphant!

(Much laughter)

LEON Yes, well. In your dreams! Finally Dorothy Gale. What will you be up to?

DOROTHY I am afraid I don't have much to look forward to. I will spend the holidays with Aunt Em and Uncle Henry. They're mad you know!

LEON Yes, I had heard! Oh well, can't be helped.

DOROTHY At least I will have some loving company.

CHARLIE Really Dorothy, who from?

BERTIE Yes, who from Dorothy?

TRISTRAM Maybe me if you play your cards right.

DOROTHY Yeah, right! From Toto of course!

(Enter TOTO, a real dog)

DOROTHY Oh Toto. You followed me all the way to school.

LEON Now, now Dorothy, you really shouldn't have your doggie here. But he is terribly sweet. He won't bite me will he?

DOROTHY Oh course not! He is so friendly. Look Toto, look at all the girls and boys. Hello everyone out there. I am Dorothy – you may have guessed that already. And this is Toto. I suppose you may have guessed that too!

 Say hello to Toto girls and boys ***(they do)***

 Say hello to the lovely boys and girls Toto ***(she bends down to listen to him)*** He says he is a dog and he can't speak. Oh well!

LEON Now this day is getting out of hand. We have to clear up everything before the prom tonight. And where is Dame Betty. Bertie please try and find her for us.

(BERTIE is daydreaming looking at DOROTHY)

LEON Bertie!

BERTIE Sorry Mr Leon

(to AUDIENCE) Dorothy is so pretty. I really love her you know. However, better get my Mum. She is a terrible cook. We play cricket with her doughnuts and use her pancakes as Frisbees. Will you help me call her boys and girls? All you have to do is shout 'Dame Betty, come on down!' Shall we try? After three.

(They try this out and then once more for real)

Big Dame Music and DAME BETTY BIRDSEED enters pushing a large cake on wheels

DAME Oh goodness me, what a to-do and a riddle-me-re. Yes indeed. Well hello to you all you lovely people. Oh yes, you are lovely. Well, most of you! Now then, here we are. My name is Dame Betty Birdseed and I am this year's Wellington Pantomime Dame!! Yes, that's me. Well, are you having fun? Thought you were coming to see the Wizard of Oz didn't you? Bears precious little resemblance to it so far – more like the opening scenes from Wicked with all this school malarkey. But be patient. Now I hope that you will be gentle with me this evening. I can't bear a nasty audience – you will be nice won't you? Good. Cos if you're not, I'll lock you in a room with the band for a couple of hours. It won't be their music that'll drive you mad, just their appalling line in jokes!

You see its tough being a lone mother – with one son. Abandoned by my husband whilst on a naughty weekend at Hankridge Farm. I would say that Bertie is the light of my life – but I can't. I didn't really expect him – but he was a bit of a bonus after I gave birth to my first child. However, I lost her in Buy & Save – I was wandering around in there for days – I am sure you have all done it! Anyway, here's hoping the child has had a happy life. So I ended up with Bertie. Didn't I Bertie?

BERTIE Didn't you what Mum?

DAME I ended up with you.

BERTIE You did. Aren't you lucky!

DAME Lucky is winning the lottery! Lucky is getting to Greggs before they run out of Sausage and Baked Bean Melts. Lucky is finding a parking space in Mantle Street. Having you is not lucky.

(BERTIE looks sad and gets the sympathies of the audience)

DAME No, don't encourage him. It'll go to his head. Mind you, there's plenty of room – he's got nothing else up there!

LEON Dame Betty. What have you got for us?

DAME A big surprise. Time to cut the cake. Drum roll please.

(Big drum roll as everyone crowds around to see Dame Betty cut the cake with an enormous knife. She cuts the cake – reaches in and pulls out a plate of Mr Kipling cakes. Groans all round!)

DAME Sorry the recipe went a little wrong and this is all that had at One Stop.

LEON Oh what a disappointment. There's not even enough to go round. I'll take charge of these!

(Uproar ensues – suddenly MISS GULCH appears)

GULCH What is going on here?

(All the children boo – and they encourage the audience to join in)

GULCH Oh hello, how lovely of you all to greet me is such a generous way – boo all you like – but just watch out as I will be looking out for you around every corner!

Headmaster have you lost control of the school again?

LEON Oh no I haven't

GULCH Oh yes you have! YOU HAVE! What is that female doing here?

DAME I will have you know that I am no ordinary female!

GULCH Yes, well I think most of us worked that out some time ago!

DAME I meant that I am a rather special female!

GULCH Yes, that's true as well. But enough. Get all this junk out of here

LEON Have a cream horn Miss Gulch.

GULCH You know only too well that I am allergic to cream Headmaster

LEON I do apologise.

GULCH The slightest bit of cream and I come out in weeping sores.

LEON Indeed.

GULCH Violent convulsions are then followed my nausea and unbearable flatulence as I melt into a gibbering wreck of a puddle on the ground.

LEON Too much information!

GULCH Be that as it may, my nostrils are flaring as I detect a foreign body in the school! Come to me my pretty!

DOROTHY ***(to others)*** Oh please help me hide Toto

GULCH Come to me!

BERTIE Miss Gulch we all have to get ready for the school prom now.

CHARLIE Yes, we had better get this place cleared up!

GULCH Come to me!

(Everyone is backed up and Toto is hidden. GULCH pulls out a string of sausages – suddenly TOTO runs out into GULCH's arms)

GULCH Got you!

DOROTHY Oh no!

LEON Now then Miss Gulch!

GULCH Shut up! As deputy head of the school, discipline is my department, my bag, my hobby! Dogs are not allowed on school premises. This is a violation of rule 37b subsection D. It will be confiscated and you never know, it might make a very nice string of sausages!

DOROTHY Oh Miss Gulch!

DAME Don't worry dear. We'll get her back.

DOROTHY Him.

DAME Him who?

DOROTHY Toto

DAME Him Who Toto?

DOROTHY No. Toto is a him. A male dog!

GULCH Mr Leon, this infringement of school rules deserves punishment.

LEON Maybe next term.

GULCH Punish now, repent later.

ALL No Miss Gulch!

GULCH The school prom is cancelled. All singing and dancing is banned forthwith.

ALL NO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

LEON Miss Gulch really that's not fair

GULCH You are a coward Leon. It is done. Cancelled. Finished. Finito. Not happening. Nil Happeno!

(GULCH whisks up Toto and leaves)

LEON I really am so very sorry.

DAME That's an awful way to behave. You should have thrown the book at her.

LEON You think that would help?

DAME I do!

LEON ***(he picks up book and begins to leave)*** Right oh.

DAME Not that book you fool. Goodness me ladies and gentlemen boys and girls. I am surrounded by idiots.

BERTIE You are.

DOROTHY But what about my Toto.

BERTIE Oh, am I standing on it?

LEON Well, Miss Gulch is sort of right, and well, to be honest, I am rather scared of her!

DAME She was right. You are a coward.

BERTIE Don't worry Dorothy, we will help.

CHARLIE Yes, we will rescue Toto

TRISTRAM Oh my hero!! ***(laughter)***

(DOROTHY runs off in tears)

LEON Oh Dame Betty, please go and look after Dorothy

DAME ***(to audience)*** Don't go anywhere – it's just kicking off!.,

CHARLIE ***(to audience)*** I so wish I could be with Dorothy. She is all I ever think about but I don't know how to love her.

BERTIE ***(to audience)*** Dorothy is so like me. We instantly connect, but I do silly things all the time because I am so stupid. I wish I could marry her.

CHARLIE

Oh I wish I could grow up quicker

BERTIE

I wish I could grow up quicker

SONG – WHEN I GROW UP

(possibly swings may descend from the flies)

When I grow up

**I will be tall enough to reach the branches
that I need to reach to climb the trees
you get to climb when you're grown up.**

And when I grow up

**I will be smart enough to answer all
the questions that you need to know
the answers to before you're grown up.**

And when I grow up

**I will eat sweets every day
on the way to work and I
will go to bed late every night!**

And I will wake up

**when the sun comes up and I
will watch cartoons until my eyes go square
and I won't care 'cause I'll be all grown up!
When I grow up!**

When I grow up, when I grow up

(When I grow up)

**I will be strong enough to carry all
the heavy things you have to haul
around with you when you're a grown-up!**

And when I grow up, when I grow up

(When I grow up)

**I will be brave enough to fight the creatures
that you have to fight beneath the bed
each night to be a grown-up!**

And when I grow up

(When I grow up)

**I will have treats every day.
And I'll play with things that mum pretends
that mums don't think are fun.**

And I will wake up
(and I will wake up)
when the sun comes up and I
will spend all day just lying in the sun
and I won't burn 'cause I'll be all grown-up!
When I grow up!

SCENE TWO

On the way to Langford Budville and outside the ramshackle house of UNCLE HENRY and AUNT EM

As DOROTHY arrives at the house, AUNT EM appears at the door – EM and HENRY are very Bohemian and dress accordingly – country eccentric. They continually suddenly break into a dance, seemingly for no reason whatsoever.

EM Oh there you are Dorothy. What's the matter dear?

DOROTHY It's Toto!

HENRY What's that?

EM She says it's Toto!

HENRY Tango?

EM Don't mind if I do!

(They dance – 20 seconds)

DOROTHY No, it's my dog, Toto.

EM What's the matter with him?

DOROTHY It's that horrible Miss Gulch. She took him away because he followed me to school. I hope he is still alive.

HENRY What's that?

EM She says she hopes he is alive.

HENRY Jive?

EM Don't mind if I do!