

The Wonderful Stories of Oz

By L. Frank Baum

The Vegetable Kingdom



The Wizard Cut the Sorcerer Exactly in Two

Gwig waved a thorny hand and at once the tinkling of bells was heard, playing sweet music. Yet, look where she would, Dorothy could discover no bells at all in the great glass hall.

The Mangaboo people listened, but showed no great interest. It was one of the things Gwig usually did to prove he was a sorcerer. Now was the Wizard's turn, so he smiled upon the assemblage and asked:

"Will somebody kindly loan me a hat?"

"No," one did, because the Mangaboos did not wear hats, and Zeb had lost his, somehow, in his flight through the air.

"Ahem!" said the Wizard, "will somebody please loan me a handkerchief?"

But they had no handkerchiefs, either.

"Very good," remarked the Wizard. "I'll use my own hat, if you please. Now, good people, observe me carefully. You see there is nothing up my sleeve and nothing concealed about my person. Also, my hat is quite empty. He took off his hat and held it upside down, shaking it briskly.

"Let me see it," said the Sorcerer.

He took the hat and examined it carefully, returning it afterward to the Wizard.

"Now," said the little man, "I will create something out of nothing."

He placed the hat upon the glass floor, made a pass with his hand, and then removed the hat, displaying a little white piglet no bigger than a mouse, which began to run around here and there and to grunt and squeal in a tiny, shrill voice.

The people watched it intently, for they had never seen a pig before, big or little. The Wizard reached out, caught the wee creature in his hand, and holding its head between one thumb and finger and its tail between the other, he pulled it apart, each of the two parts becoming a whole and separate piglet in an instant.

He placed one upon the floor, so that it could run around, and pulled apart the other, making three piglets in all, and then one of these was pulled apart, making four piglets. The Wizard continued this surprising performance until nine tiny piglets were running about at his feet, all squealing and grunting in a very comical way.

"Now," said the Wizard of Oz, "having created something from nothing, I will make something nothing again."

With this he caught up two of the piglets and pushed them together, so that the two were one. Then he caught up another piglet and pushed it into the first, where it disappeared. And so, one by one, the nine tiny piglets were pushed together until but a single one of the creatures remained. This the Wizard placed underneath his hat and made a mystic sign above it. When he removed his hat the last piglet had disappeared entirely.

The little man gave a bow to the silent throng that had watched him, and then the Prince said, in his cold, calm voice:

"You are, indeed, a wonderful wizard, and your powers are greater than those of my Sorcerer."

"He will not be a wonderful Wizard long," remarked Gwig.

"Why not?" inquired the Wizard.

"Because I am going to stop your breath," was the reply. "I perceive that you are curiously constructed, and that if you cannot breathe you cannot keep alive."

The little man looked troubled.

"How long will it take you to stop my breath?" he asked.

"About five minutes. I'm going to begin now. Watch me carefully."

He began making queer signs

and passes toward the Wizard, but the little man did not watch him long. Instead, he drew a leathern case from his pocket and took from it several sharp knives, which he joined together, one after another, until they made a long sword. By the time he had attached a handle to this sword he was having much trouble to breathe, as the charm of the Sorcerer was beginning to take effect.

So the Wizard lost no more time, but, leaping forward, he raised the sharp sword, whirled it once or twice around his head and then gave a mighty stroke that cut the body of the Sorcerer exactly in two.

Dorothy screamed and expected to see a terrible sight, but as the two halves of the Sorcerer fell apart on the floor she saw that he had no bones or blood inside of him at all, and that the place where he was cut looked much like a sliced turnip or potato.

"Why, he's a vegetable!" cried the Wizard, astonished.

"Of course," said the Prince. "We are all vegetable, in this country. Are you not vegetable, also?"

"No," answered the Wizard. "People on top of the earth are all meat. Will your Sorcerer die?"

"Certainly, sir. He is really dead now, and will wither very quickly. So we must plant him at once, that other Sorcerers may grow upon his bush," continued the Prince.

"What do you mean by that?" asked the little Wizard, greatly puzzled.

"If you will accompany me to our public gardens," replied the Prince, "I will explain to you much better than I can here the mysteries of our Vegetable Kingdom."

After the Wizard had wiped the dampness from his sword and taken it apart and put the pieces into their leathern case again, the man with the star ordered some of his people to carry the two halves of the Sorcerer to the public gardens. Jim pricked up his ears when he

heard they were going to the gardens, and wanted to join the party, thinking he might find something to eat. So Zeb put down the top of the buggy and invited the Wizard to ride with them. The seat was amply wide enough for the little man and the two children, and when Jim started to leave the hall the kitten jumped upon his back and sat there quite contentedly.

So the procession moved through the streets, the bearers of the Sorcerer first, the Prince next, then Jim drawing the buggy with the strangers inside of it, and last the crowd of vegetable people who had no heart and could neither smile nor frown.

The glass city had several fine streets, for a good many people lived there, but when the procession had passed through these it came upon a broad plain covered with gardens and watered by many pretty brooks that flowed through it. There were paths through the gardens, and over some of the brooks were ornamental glass bridges.

Dorothy and Zeb now got out of the buggy and walked beside the Prince, so that they might see and examine the flowers and plants better.

"Who built these lovely bridges?" asked the little girl.

"No one built them," answered the man with the star. "They grow."

"That's queer," said she. "Did the glass houses in your city grow, too?"

"Of course," he replied. "But it took a good many years for them to grow as large and fine as they are now. That is why we are so angry when a fair of Stones comes to break our towers and crack our roofs."

"Can't you mend them?" she inquired.

"No, but they will grow together again, in time, and we must wait until they do."

They first passed through many

beautiful gardens of flowers, which grew nearest the city; but Dorothy could hardly tell what kind of flowers they were, because the colors were constantly changing under the shifting lights of the six suns. A flower would be pink one second, white the next, then blue or yellow, and it was the same way when they came to the plants, which had broad leaves and grew close to the ground.

When they passed over a field of grass Jim immediately stretched down his head and began to nibble.

"A nice country this is, he grumbled, "where a respectable horse has to eat pink grass!"

"It's violet," said the Wizard, who was in the buggy.

"Now its blue," complained the horse. "As a matter of fact, I'm eating rainbow grass."

"How does it taste?" asked the Wizard.

"Not bad at all," said Jim. "If they give me plenty of it I'll not complain about its color."

By this time the party had reached a freshly plowed field, and the Wizard, who was in the buggy, said: "This is our playground."

Several Mangaboos came forward with glass spades and dug a hole in the ground. Then they put the two halves of the Sorcerer into it and covered it up. After that other people brought water from a brook and sprinkled the earth.

"He will sprout very soon," said the Prince, "and grow into a large bush from which we shall in time be able to pick several very good Sorcerers."

"Do all your people grow on bushes?" asked the boy.

"Certainly," was the reply. "Do not all people grow upon bushes where you came from, on the outside of the earth?"

"Not that I ever heard of."

"How strange! But if you will come with me to one of our folk gardens I will show you the way we grow in the Land of the Mangaboos."

It appeared that these odd people, while they were able to walk through the air with ease, usually moved upon the ground in the ordinary way. There were no stairs in their houses, because they did not need them, but on a level surface they generally walked just as we do.

The little party of strangers now followed the Prince across a new row of the glass bridges and along several paths until they came to a garden enclosed by a high hedge. Jim had refused to leave the field of grass, where he was engaged in busy eating; so the Wizard got out of the buggy and joined Zeb and Dorothy, and the kitten followed demurely at their heels.

Inside the hedge they came upon rows of plants of large and handsome plants with broad leaves gracefully curving until their points nearly reached the ground. In the center of each plant grew a daintily dressed Mangaboo, for the clothing of all the creatures grew upon them and was attached to their bodies.

The growing Mangaboos were of all sizes, from the blossom that had just turned into a wee baby to the full-grown and almost ripe man or woman. On some of the bushes might be seen a bud, a blossom, a baby, a half-grown person and a ripe one, but even those ready to pluck were motionless and silent, as if devoid of life. This sight explained to Dorothy why she had seen no children among the Mangaboos, a thing she had until now been unable to account for.

"Our people do not acquire real life until they leave their bushes," said the Prince. "You will notice they are all attached to the plants by the soles of their feet, and when they are quite ripe they are easily separated from the stems and at once attain the powers of motion and speech. So, while they grow, they cannot be said to really live, and they must be plucked before they can become good citizens."

"How long do you live, after you are plucked?" asked Dorothy.

"That depends upon the care we take of ourselves," he replied. "If we keep cool and moist, and meet with no accidents, we often live for five years. I've been plucked over six years, but our family is known to be especially long lived."

"Do you eat?" asked the boy.

"Eat! No, indeed. We are quite solid inside our bodies, and have no need to eat, any more than does a potato."

"But the potatoes sometimes sprout," said Zeb.

"And sometimes we do," answered the Prince, "but that is considered a great misfortune, for then we must be planted at once."

"Where did you grow?" asked the Wizard.

"I will show you," was the reply. "Step this way, please."

He led them within another but smaller circle of hedge, where grew one large and fine Mangaboo.

"This," said he, "is the Royal Bush of the Mangaboos. All of our Princes and Rulers have grown upon this one bush from time immemorial."

Editor's Note—Don't fail to read the next chapter, "Dorothy Picks the Princess," in which the hard-hearted Prince threatens to kill our friends, but Dorothy makes this impossible. It is exciting.

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keeping with a pact the two had made to be buried together.

Returned from Yreka, Calif., with her son, Walter Tabor, that she might testify, a good woman throughout the day denied the testimony of Dr. A. S. Warthin, University pathologist, that her daughter had died of hemorrhages incident to induced child birth. She maintained that Maud had died in her arms apparently from an overdose of chloroform taken to relieve asthma; that there had been no operation and that she had not known Maud had been about to become a mother.

Mrs. Tabor's story absolved from blame Walter Tabor, brother of the dead woman, and Joseph C. Virgo, Maud's husband.

NEWS OF THE THEATERS

ORPHEUM
 To-day, matinee and evening—Manhattan Grand Opera Company, at matinee presenting "Rigoletto" (in Italian) and at night singing "Carmen" in French.
 Christmas day, Friday and Saturday, matinee and evening—The Black Secret, with a new repertoire of mystifying tricks.

MAJESTIC
 High grade vaudeville—Eddie Badger in fun for fun's sake; Inness and Ryan, comedy singing and talking; "An Heir for a Night" with Dave Seel; Canton Trio, three Japs in a live offering; also third episode of "The Black Secret," featuring Pearl White.

COLONIAL
 To-day—Positively last showings of "Fair and Warmer," with May Allison. All next week, starting Monday, Rex Beach's greatest picture, "The Girl from Outside," from the Broadway novel, "The Wag Lady."

VICTORIA
 To-day—Last showings of Mary Pickford in "Heart o' the Hills."
 Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week—The Girl from Outside.

REGENT
 To-day only—Double attraction: William S. Hart in "Branding Broadway" and "Fatty" Arbuckle in "The Hayseed."
 Tuesday—Lila Lee in "Rustling a Bride."

THURSTON, FAMOUS MAGICIAN
 New York theatergoers have discovered what the people of this city have always known, namely, that Thurston, the famous magician, gives one of the most unique as well as thrilling entertainments now offered in this country.
 Thurston returns to this city following his phenomenally successful season of eight weeks at the Dillingham's Globe Theater on Broadway, New York. Originally booked for six weeks, Mr. Dillingham, after witnessing the magician's performance, appealed to him to extend his engagement to more weeks.
 At the close of the engagement New Yorkers were flocking to the Globe in such numbers that Thurston might have been justified in continuing on Broadway throughout this season. His engagement was terminated just when it had reached its height, both financially and artistically.
 The keynote to Thurston's performance this year is said to be "thrill" and the majority of his creations smack of the real world, although there is an abundance of humor introduced. Thurston himself is a thoroughly artistic habitué of exaggerated mannerisms, is a personage of distinct magnetism and his cleverness in lodger-dens and digital trickery has been a marvel to all who have witnessed his performance.
 Thurston has devoted his life, one that has been occupied by very few really illustrious artists. With his dexterous fingers, his ready wit, and his charming personality, he is not only a wizard, but a wonder, he is a companion to enjoy.

"HEART O' THE HILLS"
 Mary Pickford ends here one-week engagement at the Victoria to-day in "Heart o' the Hills," her greatest photoplay of all time, which has placed her in the ranks of the great stars here. The photoplay is adapted from the novel of the same name by John Fox, Jr., combined with this attraction a laugh relieving comedy is being shown.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week Florence Reed will be offered "Her Game," her latest moving picture triumph.

To-day is Harrisburg's last opportunity to see "Fair and Warmer," the musical comedy success which set theatergoers in a state of jubilation for several seasons with its birth in photoplay at the Colonial Theater. This production is being equally as well received on the screen. An all star cast featuring May Allison is being started.

Colds Cure Headaches and Pains
 Feverish Headaches and Body Pains caused from a cold are soon relieved by taking LAXATIVE BROMO GUININE Tablets. There is only one "Bromo" Cures, E. W. GROVES' signature on the box. 25c—Advs.

MANHATTAN OPERA COMPANY AT ORPHEUM THEATER TODAY
 Harrisburg is to have a real touch of grand opera this afternoon and evening when the Manhattan Opera Company, said to be the most complete opera company on tour this season, plays at the Orpheum Theater. This company has played to many of the largest houses in this country and has won the applause and hearty support of the newspapers. The company is composed of 125 talented artists including a thirty-two piece augmented orchestra.

At to-day's matinee they will render Verdi's greatest composition, "Rigoletto" in Italian and at night "Carmen" in French. According to present indications a large number of local music lovers will take advantage of the opportunity of hearing such a complete grand opera company.

VIVIAN MARTIN COMES TO REGENT ON MONDAY
 There is a new twist in "Louisiana" the new Paramount picture starring Vivian Martin which will be shown at the Regent Theater on Monday. The country boy, the one who is generally regarded as the villain while the "city feller" is the hero. That is not the only twist which makes it one of the unusually interesting pictures.

To-day, William S. Hart can be seen at the Regent in a return engagement in "Branding Broadway" and "Fatty" Arbuckle appears in "The Hayseed."

DAVE SEED ECENTRIC COMEDIAN
 Dave Seed, the eccentric comedian in "An Heir for a Night" has been scoring heavily with the vast audience at the Majestic Theater this week with his unusual imitations of a monkey and a dog. Dave is one of the cleverest comedians that has played at the Majestic Theater for some time and his work is being well received. Four other Keith acts and the third episode of "The Black Secret" complete the bill which plays here for the last time today. All next week special Christmas week attractions have been booked for the last time today. The first half Rex's Comedy Circuit was booked especially for the benefit of the kiddies.

MAJESTIC
 COME AND SEE
DAVE SEED
 Comedian in
AN HEIR FOR A NIGHT
 and you will be convinced all the vaudeville comedians are not alike
 4—Other Keith Acts—4
 SPECIAL XMAS WEEK ATTRACTIONS
 Rex Comedy Circus
 for the kiddies and grown-ups as well

Sensational Child Pianist of France
MAGDELEINE BRARD
 Special Representative of French Government, who created furor here as soloist with New York Symphony Orchestra.
 Assisted by
FREDERICK GUNSTER
 AMERICAN TENOR
TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL
 Friday, Dec. 26, at 8.15 O'clock
 Tickets now on sale, C. M. Siggler, Inc., 20 North Second Street, Harrisburg, Pa.
 Direction—Salome Sanders.
GREAT CHRISTMAS MUSICAL ATTRACTION

VICTORIA THEATER
 TODAY LAST OPPORTUNITY TO SEE
MARY PICKFORD
 in the third production from her own studio.
"HEART O' THE HILLS"
 She was a bride of one night, then came a rap on the door and her husband left. She knew not where but he had gone forever.
 This is one of the highly interesting points in
'HER GAME'
 The United Pictures' Latest Triumph, Featuring
FLORENCE REED
 HERE MONDAY, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY

ORPHEUM 3—GLAD DAYS—3
 COM. XMAS DAY DEC. 25
 MATINEE
 Seats On Sale Monday
 Matinees Christmas Day and Saturday
THE WONDER SHOW OF THE UNIVERSE
 SOMETHING NEW UNDER THE SUN
ALL THE WORLD LOVES MYSTERY
THURSTON
 THE GREAT MAGICIAN.
 TWO MONTHS ON BROADWAY
 Direct From the Globe Theater, New York
 New Thrills of Intense Interest. Filled With Amusement, Laughter and Bewilderment Attracting Thousands Who Rarely Attend the Theater.
 More Than 15,000,000 People Have Witnessed His Performance. Unless you have felt the thrills of amusement, have been spellbound by the Hindu magic and weird supernatural demonstrations of Thurston, you have missed an experience of the rarest mental sensations.
 ADMISSION TO NIGHTS: 25c, 50c, 75c, \$1.00, \$1.50
 WONDERLAND: Sat. Mat., 25c, 50c, 75c, \$1.00

COLONIAL
 TODAY LAST SHOWINGS OF
FAIR AND WARMER
 Featuring Dainty
MAY ALLISON
 This play is adapted from the celebrated stage success of the same name which ran for years throughout the United States.

ORPHEUM
 TODAY—MATINEE AND NIGHT
MANHATTAN
GRAND OPERA CO.
 125-Talented Artists-125
 including a thirty-two piece augmented orchestra at matinee
RIGOLETTO
 (In Italian) and at night
CARMEN
 (In French)
 Prices \$1.00 to \$3.00

REGENT
 TODAY ONLY
 Double Attraction
WM. S. HART in
 "Branding Broadway"
 A Return Engagement of
"FATTY" ARBUCKLE
 In "THE HAYSEED"

MONDAY ONLY
VIVIAN MARTIN
 In Her New Paramount Picture,
"LOUISIANA"

Tuesday
LILA LEE in
"RUSTLING A BRIDE"
Wednesday
THE WOMAN WHO GAVE ME
 return engagements
Christmas Day—Friday—Saturday
WALLACE REID
 In the Screen's Greatest Laugh Hit,
"THE MAN WHO WAS SQUARED"
 ADMISSION 10 and 20c

FIVE CROOKS AND A CHINK COOK
 These were the only friends June found when she arrived in the ice-bound northland—She had expected many friends and lots of good times—but that was before her father died a few short weeks before and she was left destitute.
Then--BUT BETTER STILL--See REX BEACH'S
 greatest drama of all
"THE GIRL FROM OUTSIDE"
 Adapted from his celebrated novel "The Wag Lady," to be shown all next week at the
COLONIAL THEATER--Starting Monday

Try This In Your Furnace

White Ash Egg White Ash Pea A Good Furnace Coal

The large Egg and small Pea mixed together in equal proportion makes a dandy fuel for the Hot Air Furnaces.

Can be used with good results for Steam Heat or Hot Water plants.

Many consumers are saving \$1.05 per 2,000 lbs. on every 2,000 pounds of furnace coal by using 50 per cent. Egg and 50 per cent. Pea, instead of the higher-priced White Ash coal.

The Pea coal fills the chinks between the pieces of Egg, thereby making the fire more easily regulated. Fire "comes up" quicker in the mornings. Rooms heated quicker. White Ash coal is hard coal.

United Ice & Coal Co.
 Forster & Cowden Sts.
 7th & Woodbine Sts. 6th & Hamilton Sts.
 7th & Reily Sts. 15th & Chestnut Sts.

Operation Was the Cause of Death

Lawton, Mich., Dec. 20.—Specifically blaming no one, the coroner's jury investigating the death of Maudie Tabor, brilliant student of languages, whose body was found in a trunk in her home here a month ago, late last night returned a verdict that death resulted from an illegal operation.

The verdict came as the climax of a day fraught with sensation during which the 80-year-old mother of the dead woman, Mrs. Sara J. Tabor, dramatically told in detail a story of her daughter's death and her own act in packing the body in salt and placing it in the trunk which was Maudie's "home chest." This, she said, she slid down the cellar stairs by means of a rope snubbed about the door knob and hid it there in