

**From Oz**

BETH, 17, a girl who's landed in Oz, much to her chagrin  
LION, any age, male or female

*Beth has recently learned that she is stuck in Oz, without a yellow brick road to guide her. At the beginning of this scene, she has just hurled Toto, a stuffed dog, at the wall.*

AH! LION

Whoah! BETH

LION  
Did you see that? A flying dog almost killed me! I barely survived!

BETH  
You're the cowardly lion.

LION  
How do you know my name? What have they told you about me? Who told you?  
*(he begins to look around.)*  
You've been following me, haven't you?

BETH  
No I haven't. I just... I've heard of you, that's all.

LION  
FBI? After me? Oh my god I'm having a panic attack. First the dog and now this.  
*(the LION has a panic attack.)*

BETH  
Relax, all right?

LION  
Don't come any closer! Aaaaaaaaah! I'm very fierce!  
*(he tries a karate kid crane kick, then runs and hides.)*  
Leave me alone. I don't have a wallet because I'm a lion but if you let me live I'll tell you where I hide my gold!

BETH  
I don't want your gold!

LION

You'll never take me alive!

*(he runs to another part of the stage.)*

BETH

Hey shut up and listen!

*(the LION stops, freaked out.)*

My name is Beth. I'm trapped here.

LION

And you're hungry. You're going to eat me.

BETH

I'm not going to eat you!

LION

Please don't yell! I can't stand it when you yell!

BETH

I don't want to be in this movie so I'm trying to find the Wizard. But some little munchkin loser told me that they sold the yellow brick road, so I guess there won't be any singing and dancing.

LION

I get very nervous when I sing or dance.

BETH

I'm sure you do. But do you happen to know how to find the Wizard? I have a feeling I'm not going to get out of this until I find him.

LION

He's a terrifying man. He'd as soon kill you as look at you. Why I've heard stories that he breathes fire and -

BETH

He doesn't, all right? He's just a guy with a balloon.

LION

A terrifying balloon.

BETH

Do you know how to find him?

LION

Well... without the yellow brick road, we'll have to go through that field of deadly flowers over there. And from there, into the deadly forest, and from the deadly forest, over the deadly gentle hill. We'll never make it. I'm gonna stay right here.

BETH

You know, if you see the Wizard, he might be able to give you some courage.

LION

You'd like that, wouldn't you? So you can kill me!

BETH

I'm not trying to kill you!

LION

That's exactly what someone who was trying to kill me would say! AHHH! I'm freaking out!

*(he starts hyperventilating again.)*

What's that blue thing over my head?!

BETH

The sky?

LION

It's trying to kill me too!

*(he dives under something.)*

What's this!? Oh no!

*(BETH grabs him.)*

BETH

Chill. Out.

LION

Okay. But I'm not going to like it.

BETH

You can't be afraid of everything. Hey. Hey. eyes up here. Most of the time, there's nothing to be scared of.

LION

Most of the time?

BETH

Yeah. Most of the time.

LION

What about the rest of the time?

BETH

There are times you do actually need to be afraid.

LION

Oh my God!

BETH

Stop it. You can stay here if you want, Of course, you will be staying all alone.

LION

All alone?

BETH

I'm sure it won't be a problem for you. It's not like the trees are going to come to life and eat you or anything.

LION

Now that you mention it, these trees do look a little sinister.

BETH

And it's not like the grass can kill you. I mean, I've only seen it do that to two or three lions before.

LION

The grass can kill me?

BETH

If you tick it off. The grass can grow teeth and saw off your feet.

LION

How do I tick it off?

BETH

I don't know. But I wouldn't worry about it. Bye.

*(she retrieves Toto.)*

Don't want to forget my dog.

LION

Wait wait wait! How about I go with you to see the wizard?

BETH

Okay.

LION

Come on.

*(she starts to follow)*

Don't follow me! It freaks me out!

BETH

What am I supposed to do then?

LION

Walk in front of me so I know where you're going.

BETH

But then I don't know where I'm going.

LION

We're even then. Go forward and for god's sake, watch out for those flowers!