

# WICKED OUTLINE -- 9/98

## ACT ONE

### I. OPENING -- "No One Loves the Wicked"

Narrated by a figure who appears to be a man, though we can't see his face. The man's face is concealed, a la those revealing info about organized crime figures on news broadcasts -- he explains there would be political and personal ramifications for him if his identity were known, because he knows details of the "inside story" of the Wicked Witch of the West.

Today is a joyous day for all Oz because they are celebrating the death of the Witch -- the little girl Dorothy has killed her, with the help of her friends the Scarecrow, the Tin Man and the Cowardly Lion, and is bringing back to the glorious Wizard of Oz the witches' broomstick.

Narrator tells us he knows how the Witch came to reach the heights (or depths) of wickedness that have made her death a cause for celebration for the entire land. Some say it began because her father never showed love to her, because he was never sure she was his ...

### II. BIRTH OF ELPHABA

We flash back to eighteen-some-odd years ago. As the action is narrated in song, we see the beautiful Melena bidding goodbye for the day to her husband, Frex, the Governor of Munchkinland; we see a Travelling Salesman, whose face we never quite see, come by and seduce a fairly willing Melena with the aid of a bottle of intoxicating green elixir; we see Melena turn, and she is visibly pregnant; we see the birth, her husband standing anxiously by; and finally, the horrified reaction -- the baby has something wrong with her -- she's green!

### III. ELPHABA LEAVES FOR SCHOOL

We meet Elphaba, now a green teenager preparing to leave for college, bidding farewell to her father, Frex, and sister, Nessarose. Her mother, we learn, died giving birth to Nessarose. It is clear that her father prefers the beautiful Nessarose, who looks very like her mother. Both Elphaba and Frex are very protective of Nessarose, because she is unable to walk. Elphaba tells her sister she will see her next year when she joins her at school; in the meantime, Elphaba is determined to fit in and make good. Perhaps if she works really hard, someday she will find a way to earn the affection of not only her Father, but of all of Oz. ("Good Intentions")

### IV. ON THE TRAIN

Elphaba meets Doctor Dillamond, the talking Goat who will be her biology professor. He is kind to her when the other passengers avoid her because of her green skin, and he tells her of his experiments to prove that talking Animals have the same consciousness as Humans.

We also learn something of the political situation in Oz -- how the Wonderful Wizard arrived in the capital city some eighteen years or so ago, how the people were so awed by his magical arrival from the air that they helped him overthrow Ozma, and how he has financed his public works projects -- making the Emerald City, building the Yellow Brick Road to unite the country-- by confiscating property owned by the talking Animals.

ON THE TRAIN (Continued)

Elphaba likes Doctor Dillamond, but believes the Wonderful Wizard must know what he's doing and has all Oz's best interests at heart.

V. ELPHABA ARRIVES AT SCHOOL

Elphaba and Galinda (beautiful, selfish, spoiled) are made to room together by the school's headmistress, Madame Morrible, despite Galinda's obvious displeasure at the prospect. Elphaba realizes that what she most wants is to be like Galinda.

VI. ORIENTATION DANCE

Galinda and the "popular" girls giggle over a plot: Galinda leaves Elphaba a peaked black hat with a note saying all the girls are wearing hats to the dance and this will go with the black dress Elphaba always wears.

Elphaba shows up at the dance wearing the hat; of course none of the other girls are wearing hats. Everyone laughs at Elphaba, then they pair off to dance. Galinda dances with a tall gangly boy named Boq who is clearly smitten with her. After a moment, Elphaba starts to dance determinedly by herself. Gradually, all stop to watch her. Then Galinda extricates herself from Boq and comes to tap Elphaba on the shoulder -- "May I cut in?" Elphaba and Galinda start to dance together, and soon they are whirling faster and faster, laughing with abandon. In some strange way, they have become friends.

VII. SORCERY CLASSES

Madame Morrible recruits Elphaba and Galinda for her private class for those with special talents for sorcery. Perhaps something Elphaba has done indicates this talent, perhaps one even beyond Madame Morrible's understanding. Madame Morrible explains that they will use their magic to help serve the Wonderful Wizard when they graduate. She teaches them out of a big book of spells, The Grimmerie, which is very hard even for her to understand. For some reason, Elphaba seems to be able to read it easily.

VIII. SUMMER BREAK

Galinda invites Elphaba to come home with her, to the North, but Elphaba stays over vacation to help Doctor Dillamond with his experiments, especially since Doctor Dillamond has been reduced from Professor to Lab Assistant by the Wizard's new laws. Galinda doesn't like Doctor Dillamond, who can't even pronounce her name right; he calls her "Glinda". But Elphaba has a personal motive as well -- perhaps helping with these experiments is the key to her doing something so good all Oz will love her.

IX. NESSAROSE COMES TO SCHOOL

Nessarose arrives for the second term; she joins the sorcery classes, but doesn't have Elphaba's talent (or even Galinda's). Nessarose is smitten with Boq, who in order to be close to Galinda, helps to carry her around. In secret, she begins working on spells from the Grimmerie to make Boq fall in love with her.

X. ANOTHER NEW ARRIVAL -- FIYERO

Fiyero, a handsome young man from the Winkie country, arrives at school. He and Elphaba bond when they save a frightened Lion cub from an experiment in the new biology class, taught by Doctor Dillamond's human replacement (or taught by Madame Morrible as a temporary replacement for Doctor Dillamond?)

We learn Fiyero is already married to a girl from the West (perhaps they even have a child together?) But Fiyero and Elphaba remain friends. He even helps her and Doctor Dillamond.

XI. DOCTOR DILLAMOND'S EXPERIMENT SUCCEEDS

Doctor Dillamond now has scientific evidence that talking Animals and Humans are identical in their Consciousness. Dillamond, Elphaba, and Fiyero celebrate, and as they do, it is clear there is a spark between Fiyero and Elphaba.

Madame Morrible interrupts their celebration, Nessarose in tow, with bad news: they must return home; Frex, their father, has been taken ill.

XII. ELHABA'S FATHER IS DYING

On his deathbed, Frex has gifts for his daughters -- when Nessarose opens hers, she discovers a magic pair of shoes that Frex has spent all their inheritance having made for her. They have such power that when she puts them on her feet, she is able to walk! She runs out to try her new-found mobility, leaving Elphaba and her father alone.

Elphaba opens her gift -- it is the empty green bottle of elixir the Travelling Salesman left behind. Upset, Elphaba asks Frex why he is so much kinder to her sister. But he denies it, saying only, "You were always the strong one, you never needed my help." He dies making her promise to "watch out for your sister, always" ...

XIII. ELPHABA RETURNS TO SCHOOL

Nessarose decides to stay behind and assume the rulership of Munchkinland, since Elphaba doesn't want it. But she returns to school to find a catastrophe in progress: there is a fire in Doctor Dillamond's laboratory. He has been killed and his work destroyed.

XIV. ELPHABA AND GALINDA

Galinda announces she is changing her name to "Glinda" to honor Doctor Dillamond. But Elphaba is not interested in sentimental gestures -- she has a secret extra copy of Doctor Dillamond's formula that she made because she didn't trust Madame Morrible. She tells Galinda to come with her -- they are leaving for the Emerald City to present their evidence to the Wonderful Wizard himself.

XV. THE WIZARD'S PALACE

Elphaba and Glinda are brought into the Wizard's presence, a little surprised that it has been so easy to get an audience with him. But he says he has been waiting for them; he has heard much of their progress from his able assistant, Madame Morrible.

THE WIZARD'S PALACE (Continued)

Elphaba rashly accuses Madame Morrible of somehow causing Doctor Dillamond's death, and tells the Wizard that once he sees the results of Doctor Dillamond's experiments, she knows he will reconsider his cruel deprivation of the rights of the talking Animals. The Wizard takes the formula -- then calmly rips it in two. He explains that where he comes from, this is how all animals are treated and that to do otherwise puts too severe a financial strain on the other citizens of Oz; what he is doing is for the greater good, etc. Perhaps a song for the Wizard: "Sentimental" -- how he has never had a family or children of his own, and so he cares for the "true citizens of Oz" as if they were his children.

When Elphaba responds angrily, and Glinda futilely tries to calm her, the Wizard calls in ... Madame Morrible.

She tells Elphaba and Glinda that now they are ready to join their powers of sorcery with hers to begin assisting the Wonderful Wizard for the glory of Oz. She says their first task will be giving monkeys, on whom they have been grafting wings, the power of flight; that way the Wizard will be able to have monitors from the air who can report to him about goings-on all over Oz. She has one of the winged monkeys with her. Elphaba furiously refuses.

Using the Grimmerie, Madame Morrible begins to put a spell on Elphaba, so that she will be "good" and help the Wizard. Elphaba appears to succumb ... but when Madame Morrible gets close, Elphaba leaps up, snatches away the Grimmerie, and runs out. The Wizard calls his guards to pursue.

XVI. ELPHABA TRAPPED IN THE PALACE

Elphaba barricades herself in a small room, with nothing in it but an old broom leaning against the wall. With the Wizard's guards trying to break down the door and others climbing up a ladder to the window from below, Elphaba desperately riffles through the Grimmerie, looking for a spell to help her escape. She begins to chant ... and lo and behold, the old broom comes to life, clumsily at first. Elphaba leaps onto it, and just as the Wizard and his men break down the door, she flies out of the window on the broom, the book under her arm, her trademark peaked black hat on her head, laughing wildly as she flies off into the sky.

ACT TWO

## I. ELPHABA GOES TO NESSAROSE

Elphaba has brought her sister, who is now ruler of Munchkinland, the Grimmerie for safe-keeping: "You're the only one I can trust". Elphaba says she is leaving to fight the Wizard. Nessarose: "Everybody in Oz will curse your name." Elphaba: "I don't care anymore." When Elphaba leaves, Nessarose calls in Glinda and Boq, who have been hiding there. "You were right to call me," says Glinda. "I'll figure out a way to help her." Glinda tells Boq to stay with Nessarose while she is gone.

## II. ELPHABA LAUNCHES A REBEL ATTACK AGAINST THE PALACE

Elphaba, with the help of a few malcontent Talking Animals, launches a raid on the Wizard's palace and frees the Winged Monkeys. In the ensuing melee, Elphaba is captured by a soldier. But the soldier turns out to be Fiyero: "I always did have a knack for disguises." Glinda had confided her fears to him about Elphaba's plans, and he has come to save her. He tells the monkeys to make their way the West, to his castle at Kiamo Ko.

## III. ELPHABA AND FIYERO

They hide out in Fiyero's rooms. A love scene -- she says she doesn't care that he is married. Perhaps a song: "As Long as You're Mine." After the song, the Wizard's men break in. Fiyero fights them off long enough for Elphaba to escape, but for all she knows, Fiyero is captured or perhaps even killed.

## IV. ELPHABA RETURNS TO NESSAROSE, SEEKING HELP

When Elphaba reaches Munchkinland, she learns that Nessarose has been using the Grimmerie in her absence and has become so disliked by the Munchkinlanders they are calling her the Wicked Witch of the East. Elphaba discovers what has happened between Nessarose and Boq -- unable to make Boq love her rather than Glinda, Nessarose, in a fury, uses the Grimmerie to take his heart out "as he has stolen hers". Elphaba comes upon the scene, and to save Boq, she turns him into a Tin Man who won't need a heart to live. Elphaba and Nessarose have a confrontation and Elphaba takes the Grimmerie and leaves.

## V. MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE WIZARD'S PALACE

The Wizard and Madame Morrible; Elphaba's natural abilities are too strong for them to attack her directly, and Madame Morrible's powers have been greatly reduced without the Grimmerie. But she has an idea -- she still has some control over the weather; if she summons all her powers ...

## VI. ELPHABA WITH THE GRIMMERIE

Desperately, she is saying spells to try to save Fiyero, but since she doesn't know what has happened to him, she doesn't know if anything is working. As she sinks into despair, a high wind starts to come up, and Elphaba sees it as a metaphor for what she has brought down upon them all: "Reap the Whirlwind". After the song, a winged monkey arrives with terrible news: the cyclone was carrying a house of some sort, and it has fallen on Nessarose and killed her.

## VII. THE WITCH IS DEAD

Not only has Nessarose been killed by a falling house, but the house has contained a little girl and a dog, who are now on their way to see the Wizard. And worst of all, Elphaba arrives to find that Glinda has given the little girl Nessarose's magic shoes.

Elphaba is furious with Glinda and they have a huge falling out -- at first Glinda says she gave the girl the shoes because the little girl wanted to get home again so badly and Glinda thought the magic shoes might help her; but finally, she admits that she is trying to get Elphaba to give up her sorcery before things get even worse. She says she is doing it out of concern for Elphaba and friendship, but Elphaba is implacable: "You are not my friend anymore. Maybe you never were."

Elphaba flies off.

## VIII. HEADING WEST

Elphaba on her broom, accompanied by the winged monkey: She is on her way to Fiyero's castle, Kiamo Ko. She hopes Fiyero's widow will forgive her and give her refuge ... but even if she can't stay there, she is in desperate need of forgiveness from somebody.

## IX. KIAMO KO

But when Elphaba arrives, Fiyero's widow is in the process of abandoning the castle, taking their child with her and returning to her own family. She has no time to talk of forgiveness; she is afraid of reprisals from the Wizard. She leaves the castle to Elphaba. And so Elphaba is alone in her castle, accompanied only by her winged monkeys; she has become the Wicked Witch of the West.

## X. NARRATOR RETURNS

The Narrator tells us that the next part of the story is a matter of public record: how the little girl, Dorothy, and her three new friends went to the Wizard and were given the assignment to kill the Wicked Witch of the West and bring back her broomstick as proof. The Wizard adds, as an afterthought: "Oh, and you might as well bring the big magic book she has, as well -- the Grimmerie, it's called, or something like that." And finally Dorothy and Toto and the intrepid trio found themselves trapped on a rampart of the witch's castle. And now we will see how the Witch added one last sin to her long list: murder.

## XI. RAMPART OF THE WITCH'S CASTLE

Elphaba confronts her cornered captives: "Before I kill you, I want to say a few words about ingratitude." She knows nothing of the Scarecrow, she says, but as for the Tin Man and Cowardly Lion, she reminds them how she has saved them both, for the Lion is in fact the cub she and Fiyero rescued long ago. But the two are unimpressed; the Tin Man blames all witches for his state and the Lion feels if he'd had to fight his own way out as a cub, he wouldn't have turned out so Cowardly. So even when Elphaba thought she was helping, she was wicked.

RAMPART OF THE WITCH'S CASTLE (Continued)

Dorothy, however, doesn't actually wish to kill the witch. She wants only "forgiveness" for killing Elphaba's sister. To Elphaba, this is the cruelest blow of all. She sets her broom alight and tries to burn the Scarecrow; not only does he catch fire, but her magic book, the Grimmerie, also gets set aflame. Elphaba leaps to save the book, right into the way of Dorothy, as she inevitably, famously, throws the bucket of water and melts the Wicked Witch of the West.

XII. "NO ONE MOURNS THE WICKED" Reprise

Once again, we see all Oz celebrating. But this time, we see a little more: we see Glinda, sitting by herself as the celebration goes on outside. She is weeping for her lost friend.

And we see Dorothy and friends returning to the Wizard; they couldn't bring the broom or the magic book, since both were burnt. So instead they have brought another token they found -- an empty green bottle of elixir. As the Wizard takes the bottle, all the blood drains from his face: "But surely ... this can't be ... when I was a young man and had first come to Oz, before I came to the Emerald City, I had one beautiful night ..." And the bottle falls from his hands as he realizes he has killed his own daughter.

XIII, NARRATOR WRAPS UP

And so, we are told, all the heart had gone out of the Wizard. Angrily, he throws Madame Morrible into prison for her part in the undoing of Elphaba. And then he departs Oz forever, leaving the Emerald City in the joint rule of Dorothy's three friends, assisted by Glinda. But the Scarecrow, we are told, declined the offer and set off on his own for ...

XIV. THE SOUTH

The badlands where nobody goes. We are on a scruffy little farm. And, the Narrator tells us, we have not been misled when we were told that Elphaba's last sin was murder; she murdered ... herself! And with this, the Narrator un.masks and we discover a green-skinned woman instead of the man we thought he was: Elphaba has faked her own death. She lives out here with the winged monkeys and the other Talking Animals who find their way here seeking safety. And today, she is expecting one more guest ... The Scarecrow arrives. And of course, he is Fiyero, and the spell with which Elphaba saved his life is what turned him into this. "I always did have a knack for disguises," he reminds us. He had gone to Elphaba the night before the confrontation at the castle, as the others slept, and revealed himself; and after their joyous reunion, they worked out the plan by which she could escape the Wizard's vengeance forever. Of course, it has all worked out far better than either of them expected. And as Fiyero slips his arm around Elphaba's waist and they walk off with the Animals, they sing a reprise of "As Long as You're Mine".