

ACT TWO**Scene 2**

(MUNCHKINLAND – THE GOVERNOR’S MANSION)

NESSAROSE, holding a teacup, and dressed more grandly than when we last saw her, is pushed in, [in her fancy new wheelchair] by BOQ, dressed in servant’s livery. SHE hands him her empty teacup, smiling up at him hopefully. With extreme formality, he takes the cup.)

BOQ

Will there be anything else, Madame?

NESSAROSE

I’ve asked you to call me Nessarose, remember?

BOQ

Yes, Madame.

(HE takes a step back, gives a curt, formal bow, and exits.)

NESSAROSE

Boq...

(Then SHE picks up a hand mirror. As SHE examines her reflection, WE HEAR –)

ELPHABA’S VOICE

Well ... it seems the beautiful get more beautiful –

#18d – There’s Elphaba!

(NESSA GASPS, seeing ELPHABA, revealed within an armoire mirror!)

– while the green just get greener.

(NESSAROSE rolls back in shock as ELPHABA emerges from the armoire...)

I’m sorry, did I scare you? I seem to have that effect on people.

(taking her in, heartfelt)

It’s good to see you.

NESSAROSE

What are you doing here?

ELPHABA

Well, there’s no place like home.

(gathers her nerve)

I never thought I’d hear myself say this, but – I need Father’s help. I need him to stand with me.

NESSAROSE

That's impossible.

ELPHABA

No, it isn't, not if you ask him. He'll do it for you, Nessa—you know he will.

NESSAROSE

Father's dead.

ELPHABA

(blind-sided)

What?

NESSAROSE

He's dead, I'm the Governor now.

(off HER stunned reaction)

#18e – *Wicked Witch Of The East – Intro*

Well, what did you expect? After he learned what you'd done, how you disgraced us— he died. Of shame. Embarrassed to death.

(ELPHABA turns away, in pain, struggling to absorb this. Then, SHE turns back to NESSAROSE.)

ELPHABA

Good. I'm glad. It's better.

NESSAROSE

That's a wicked thing to say.

ELPHABA

No. It's just true. Because now it's just us! You can help me, and *together*—

NESSAROSE

Oh, Elphaba, shut up! First of all, I can't harbor a fugitive. I'm an unelected official. And why should I help you? You fly around Oz, trying to rescue Animals you've never even met— and not once have you ever thought to use your powers to rescue *me!*

#19 – *The Wicked Witch Of The East*

(sings)

ALL OF MY LIFE, I DEPENDED ON YOU
HOW DO YOU THINK THAT FEELS?
ALL OF MY LIFE, I'VE DEPENDED ON YOU

(NESSAROSE)

AND THIS HIDEOUS CHAIR WITH WHEELS
SCROUNGING FOR SCRAPS OF PITY TO PICK UP
AND LONGING TO KICK UP
MY HEELS ...

ELPHABA

Nessa, there isn't a spell for *everything*! The power is mysterious, it's not like cobbling up a pair of—

(ELPHABA stares at her shoes. Perhaps a light even comes up on them.)

Wait—

(SHE swiftly pulls the Book from her satchel, pages through it, finds a spell. SHE starts to CHANT)

NESSAROSE

What are you doing—what does that mean?

(gasps)

Oh! Oh—my shoes!

(And NESSA'S shoes begin to glow.)

It feels like they're on fire!

(looks up at ELPHABA)

What have you done to my shoes?!

(Suddenly NESSAROSE'S RIGHT FOOT JERKS INTO THE AIR. Then HER OTHER FOOT! Then, before she can recover from the shock, the FIRST FOOT shoots out again, and she is jerked into a standing position. She tries to take a step, and all at once, FALLS CLUMSILY. Elphaba moves to help her up, but—)

No! Don't help me!

(Through sheer force of will, NESSAROSE hauls herself to her feet and takes another awkward, ungainly step. Then slowly, with great determination, step-by-step SHE begins to walk. ELPHABA holds out her arms...)

ELPHABA

OH, NESSA, AT LAST!
I'VE DONE WHAT LONG AGO I SHOULD
AND FIN'LLY FROM THESE POWERS —
SOMETHING GOOD!
FIN'LLY SOMETHING GOOD ...

(NESSA turns... ELPHABA takes a step towards her sister to embrace her; it looks at first as though NESSA is going to rush into her sister's arms, but SHE moves past ELPHABA...)

NESSAROSE

(calls out; perhaps rings a bell to summon him)

Boq! Boq, come quickly!

ELPHABA

Boq!?

(NESSAROSE gets back into her wheelchair.)

NESSAROSE

Boq! Come here at once!

ELPHABA

Nessa, wait—no one can know I'm here—

(But suddenly BOQ is there.)

BOQ

Yes, what is it, Madame Governor —?

(HE stops, seeing Elphaba. He is instantly shocked and terrified.)

You!

ELPHABA

(backing away)

Boq—

(HE grabs a nearby letter opener or similar weapon to protect himself, brandishes it—)

BOQ

Stay back!

ELPHABA

Boq, it's just me. I'm not going to hurt you.

BOQ

You're lying. That's all you ever do— you and your sister! She's as wicked as you are!

NESSAROSE

Boq.

ELPHABA

What are you talking about?

BOQ

(explodes with long-suppressed rage)

I'm talking about my *life*—! The little that's left of it! I'm not free to leave Munchkinland, none of us are! Ever since she took power, she's been stripping the

(BOQ)

Munchkins of our rights! And we didn't have that many to begin with! And do you know *why*?

NESSAROSE

To keep you here, with me. But none of that matters anymore — *look!*

(And SHE gets out of her chair. Walks for him. HE drops the letter opener, completely stunned —)

BOQ

(taking in Elphaba)

You — did this? For her?

NESSAROSE

(moves closer to HIM)

For both of us.

BOQ

Nessa — this changes everything!

NESSAROSE

I know!

BOQ

(sings:)

NESSA ...

NESSAROSE

(thinking he's going to tell her he loves her)

Yes?

BOQ

UH — NESSA

SURELY NOW I'LL MATTER LESS TO YOU

AND YOU WON'T MIND MY LEAVING HERE TONIGHT ...

NESSAROSE

Leaving?

BOQ

Yes —

(sings)

THAT BALL THAT'S BEING STAGED

ANNOUNCING GLINDA IS ENGAGED TO FIYERO...

NESSAROSE

(curdled with hate)

Glinda.

BOQ

YES, NESSA – THAT’S RIGHT--
AND I’VE GOT TO GO APPEAL TO HER
EXPRESS THE WAY I FEEL TO HER -

(trying to be gentle)

Oh, Nessa – I lost my heart to Glinda the moment I first saw her, you know that.

NESSAROSE

LOST YOUR HEART? WELL – WE’LL SEE ABOUT THAT!

ELPHABA

Nessa – let him go –

NESSAROSE

DID YOU THINK I’D LET YOU LEAVE ME HERE FLAT!?

BOQ

(to ELPHABA)

Don’t come any closer!

NESSAROSE

YOU’RE GOING TO LOSE YOUR HEART TO ME, I TELL YOU
IF I HAVE TO – I HAVE TO –
MAGIC SPELL YOU!

*(NESSAROSE grabs up the book of spells, pages through it – STARTS TO CHANT
HALTINGLY, WITH DIFFICULTY)*

Ah toom ... Tah – take...?

ELPHABA

Nessa, stop! It’s dangerous!

NESSAROSE

Ah toom *Core* tum!

BOQ

What, what’s she doing?

ELPHABA

(Urgently)

You’re pronouncing the words all wrong!

BOQ

(backing out of the room)

I'm warning you—don't try to stop me, or—

(Suddenly BOQ breaks off, clutches his chest in pain. He lurches back towards the two women, in pain.)

ELPHABA

Oh no...Nessa...

(NESSAROSE STOPS CHANTING—)

NESSAROSE

Boq, what is it?

BOQ

(clutches HIS chest again)

My heart! It feels—It feels like it's— *shrinking...*

(HE suddenly breaks off, drops into the wheelchair in a faint. NESSA rushes over —)

NESSAROSE

Elphaba—! Do something!

ELPHABA

I can't! You can't reverse a spell, once it's been cast!

NESSAROSE

Then what will we do?

(ELPHABA grabs the Book from her, pushes BOQ in the chair behind the armoire.)

This is all your fault! If you hadn't shown me that horrendible book...

ELPHABA

Hush, will you?! I've got to find another spell, it's the only thing that might work...

(SHE pushes the wheelchair out again and begins to CHANT over it.)

NESSAROSE

SAVE HIM—PLEASE, JUST SAVE HIM
MY POOR BOQ, MY SWEET, MY BRAVE HIM
DON'T LEAVE ME
TILL MY SORRY LIFE HAS CEASED ...

ALONE AND LOVELESS HERE
WITH JUST THE GIRL IN THE MIRROR
JUST HER AND ME—
THE WICKED WITCH OF THE EAST!
WE DESERVE EACH OTHER ...

(ELPHABA breaks off chanting. The wheelchair remains with its back to us – BOQ hidden from our view by its high back, as ELPHABA comes down to NESSAROSE.)

ELPHABA

He's asleep.

NESSAROSE

What about his heart?

ELPHABA

It's all right... he won't need one now.

(ELPHABA slowly picks up her spell book, her broom –)

ELPHABA

I have to go to the Emerald City. What happened to those Monkeys is my fault. I've got to set them free.

(SHE starts for the balcony...)

NESSAROSE

You're not going back there to save some Monkeys.

(ELPHABA stops, turns, caught off guard.)

You're going to find Fiyero. But it's too late.

(ELPHABA stares at her sister. Then she starts again for the window. NESSA rushes after her)

(in panicked desperation)

Elphaba, please – don't leave me!

(ELPHABA stops, turns...)

ELPHABA

Nessa... I've done everything I could for you. And it hasn't been enough. And nothing ever will be.

(ELPHABA exits)

NESSAROSE

Elphaba, wait – Elphaba –!

(But SHE'S gone. From the wheelchair, WE HEAR BOQ, as he begins to re-awaken –)

BOQ'S VOICE

Where am I –? What happened –?

NESSAROSE

(pulls herself together, then sweetly)

Nothing, you just – fell asleep, and –

(BOQ turns the chair around as NESSAROSE GASPS IN HORROR. BOQ has been transformed. Into a man made entirely of tin.)

BOQ

What is it, what's wrong—?

NESSAROSE

It wasn't me, it was her! I tried to stop her—

(BOQ looks down at himself— starts to SCREAM. Panicked, he stands, shaking himself desperately as if to somehow shake off his metallic exterior. NESSA starts towards him)

Boq, please, I still—

(But BOQ jerks himself away from her and runs clumsily out of STILL SCREAMING... NESSA calls after him—)

It was Elphaba! Boq! It was Elphabaaaaaa!

(And SHE stands, lost in her own misery, her cry echoing into the emptiness ...)