

Summary after p. 104, before scene 26

NARRATOR: As had happened time and again before, the world was becoming disenchanted. This time, there was a Humbug flying around, beating on his humdrum.

The disenchantment had spread almost everywhere but a basement classroom in Winthrop, Massachusetts. And the only one in all the world who could get him to change his tune was the Lizard of Oz, who lived in Ome, the nicest part of Oz.

At least that's what Mr. Shermin said. Mr. Shermin knew lots of things. He used to be a teacher before he became a fish. And not many people, even teachers know how to change themselves into fish. So the class believed him, and they all set out on a quest to Oz and to Ome to save the world from disenchantment.

There were lots of them, all crowded into one little green VW -- Eugene and Mark and Linda S. and Linda C. and Gaynell and Kathy and Timmy and Kevin and Cindy and Donny and Peter and Miss Morgan and Miss Prysby.

They fell down through a pothole, passed through Potheadland and Eggheadland, and suddenly found themselves lost in the Underworld. There they met Mr. Carroll, the writer. He seemed to know a lot about these lands they'd been through, and he offered to take them down to the next underworld, where they could stand

under and understand both the world and the Underworld. There are many levels of understanding, he explained. Maybe somewhere down there they could find someone to help them get back to Home or go on to Ome.

Soon they arrived in Camelot, where they heard that the Lizard of Oz was actually a huge and dangerous dragon. St. George gave them a few pointers on how to fight dragons, with upper cuts and back strokes and breast strokes and the stroke of luck and the stroke of genius.

Led by Mr. Carroll, the class visited the Mothers of Fact, Miss Hap, Miss Take, and Miss Fortune. Then they arrived at the home of the muses on Mount Parnassus. But instead of telling them how to get to Home or Ome, the muse just made funny shadow pictures on the wall of the cave and made the kids laugh. Maybe they knew what the pictures meant, or maybe it was just the shadowy shapes that made them laugh. But whichever it was, Miss Morgan didn't find the show at all funny. She felt very empty and very helpless, until Mr. Plato motioned her off to the side and explained in words the story of the shadows.

He told her about the world and the unworld, about the unworldly place called Ome where a great dragon radiated a strange light that draws people to it like a magnet draws steel. He let her know that her mission really was important, that she must bring back some of the dragon's strange fire to the world, to enchant

it once again. But it would be very dangerous, for she and her class might well be trapped there by the power of the source of light itself.

Mr. Plato led them up to the top of the mountain where they could play at the amusement park inside Cloud Nine. Miss Morgan was very tempted to stay there forever with Mr. Carroll and the class. But she decided that their quest was far more important. So she slipped away in the night, leaving Mr. Carroll behind, and following the path toward Ome that Mr. Plato had shown her.

They soon arrived back in the Library in Eggheadland, where they had visited earlier. This time Mr. Marx volunteered to lead them to Redland. From there they could proceed to the Moors and then on to the Mouth of the Nile and to Ome itself.

In Redland, they enlisted the help of several Indians -- Chief Crazy Horse, and a gigantic woman named Sue. All together they set off toward the vast wasteland known as the moors, home of the backtiersmen -- people who were trying hard to keep the wilderness wilderness.

Scene 26: a deserted highway in the moors

FX: car running along a deserted highway in the wilderness

MISS PRYSBY: Now class, this is a good time for a geography less. First, let's take the word "moor." A moor is a treeless wasteland. But the word is used primarily in England. I saw a few myself when I was over there, in the southwestern part of the country. There was the Exmoor and the Dartmoor and...

KATHY: What about the Nevermore?

MISS PRYSBY: (laughs)
Oh, that's something else altogether.

KATHY: But I read about it last time we were in the Library. There's this really scary, lonely place called the Nevermore. And a little girl named Lenore lives there. She has raven-black hair, and she's really beautiful.

GAYNELL: (from the bottom of the pile) What's she look like? I can't see her from down here.

DONNY: Don't be silly. Nobody can see anything. The weeds are too thick and tall.

MISS PRYSBY: (leaning her head out the window)
My, we really are in the boonedocks.

CRAZY HORSE: (from outside, up ahead) White-woman has keen eye. Boonesville very near.



DONNY: Gosh!

GAYNELL: (from bottom of pile) What is it?

KATHY: Just more whacky sings. "Boonesville. Daniel Boone sole inhabitant. Private proerty. Keep out. Untouched wilderness. Do not touch."

FX: car running slowly along deserted road

DANIEL BOONE: (shouting from up ahead) Who goes there?

CRAZY HORSE: (also shouting, up ahead) Big Chief Crazy Horse and Paul Newman and Sue and Eugene and Mark and Linda S. and Linda C. and Cindy and Donny and Joey and Timmy and Miss Morgan and Kevin and Peter and Miss Prysby and Gaynell and Kathy.

DANIEL BOONE: (closer, because the car has come closer) Too much! (sinks to the ground, sobbing) It's too much. I just wanted to get away from it all; to lead a quiet smple life, close to natue. But no, now I have to spend all my time chasing people away. Every day there are more of them. I don't know what's going on up there, but something's driving them this way. I've done my best to close this bit of wilderness, but the people just keep coming and coming. And now this: a whole tribe at once. It's just too much to take. Too much. (sobs some more)

FX: rifle thrown on the ground

FX: man dropping to the ground and sobbing

FX: car stops

FX: engine shut off



MISS MORGAN: (getting out of the car and coming over to him) I'm sorry, Mr. Boone. We didn't mean to disturb you. We were just passing through on our way to the mouth of the Nile and to Ome. But we did hope that you might help us change the world...

FX: car door opens
FX: kids pile out
FX: car door closes

DANNIEL BOONE: Change the world? (suddenly cheerful, stands up) You're going to change the world? You're going to make it so people won't want to leave it?

MISS MORGAN: Yes, that's what we hope to do.

DANIEL BOONE: Then welcome. Welcome. I'll do anything I can for you. First I'll cook you supper.

... You can spend the night and rest up. You have a long journey ahead of you. Best of luck to you.

MISS PRYSBY: Marvelous!
We're saved!

MISS MORGAN: Then you'll join us?

DANIEL BOONE: No, of course, not. I have to stay behind and guard the fort.

MISS MORGAN: Oh. (very soft and disappointed)

Scene 27: dreams inside
Daniel Boone's cabin

NARRATOR: All these things had worked strangely on Miss Morgan's mind. That night she fell asleep weary and restless. She dreamed that she was home in Winthrop and everything was as it had been before, and she thought that the trip to Ome was just a dream. But then she woke and found herself in the middle of a wasteland, laying on the floor of Daniel Boone's cabin. And she slept again and dreamt that she was home in Windsor, no, in Camelot; and she knew her name was Miss Morgan La Faye.

It was the day of a great tournament, and thousands of people had gathered in the grandstands at King Arthur's court to watch the finals. Miss Morgan paid Attention at the gate, then found a seat in the back of the bleachers.

It was White vs. Tennyson. Tennyson kept rushing the net, with hard smashes and fancy spins, while White played a leisurely game from the back line, tapping the ball so it just dribbled over the net, or lobbing it high over Tennyson's head. It was a close match with long volleys, as they struck and struck again.

Then, suddenly, the match lit, and the whole place was on fire, with people running and screaming. And there

Note: scene changes to
crowded sports arena

FX: cheering crowd at a
sports event

FX: sounds of a tennis
match with long volleys

FX: fire spreading,
roaring, through a large
building

LIZARD OF OZ/radio - 109 - Seltzer

stood Miss Morgan La Faye, all alone, weeping, amid the charred ruins.

Note: scene changes to charred ruins of a building

MISS MORGAN: (sobbing)

MERLIN: There was a flaw.

NARRATOR: Without anyone telling her, she knew it was Merlin speaking.

MERLIN: It seems there's always a flaw. Maybe they need more practice.

Oh, well, nothing to do, I guess, but just keep trying.

NARRATOR: It rained heavily, and a thick fog moved in. Miss Morgan was standing in a cloud, and the cloud was Cloud Nine.

FX: heavy rain

Gaynell went riding by on a unicorn, and Kathy was reading Merlin's book of charms. Nearby lay Mr. Carroll, sound asleep.

Note: scene changes to Cloud Nine; sounds echo, like last time there

FX: soft classical music from inside Cloud Nine

She stepped up to him very softly, knelt, and kissed him. He woke suddenly, but he didn't see her. She didn't see herself. She screamed, but made no sound.

FX: passing pony

MR. CARROLL: Judy? Where are you, Judy?

NARRATOR: He looked so alone and helpless. She reached out but couldn't touch him: she was somewhere else, somewhere on the road to Ome and Home. There was really nothing she could do.

The clouds went away, but the sun didn't come out. And Miss Morgan



screamed again, this time loud and clear. But there was nobody around to hear her, nobody but Merlin.

MERLIN: I'd like to help, but I'm much too old and tired. Arthur and his knights would help, but they're caught on that merry-go-round table, that carousel of time.

MISS MORGAN: Will they ever get off?

MERLIN: Arthur will return. His day will come. But don't hold your breath. For one brief shining moment they had it, they really had it. And the world was ablaze with the fire that doesn't burn. Then it was gone. And there was the emptiness, and chasing after false fires to fill the emptiness. But they had it for that moment, and it was splendid. Ah, those were the days.

But no need to wait for him. Why the world could be enchanted and disenchanting dozens of times before Arthur returns. And chances are he won't be back for long. It seems there's always a flaw. But here. Take this stick, and have a go at it.

MISS MORGAN: But...

NARRATOR: It was the same stick that Plato had given her. Merlin was gone, and she had a book in her hands. She

Note: scene changes to an open field

MISS MORGAN: Help! Help!

FX: soft, soothing, classical music



knew it was about Arthur, but was shocked by the cover, contemporary, with a non-Arthurian title: **They've done it; can do it.** She opened it again. It was about Arthur. She looked again at the cover, and under the title was an epigraph in elaborate Victorian type.

MISS MORGAN: (reading)
"They've done it. You can do it. Whither you've known the shadow of its secret glow."

NARRATOR: Or was it "sacred glow" or "secret vow" or "sacred vow." She woke up, trying desperately to remember the words. And the more she tried to remember, the more muddled and uncertain the dream became, till all she knew was that they could do it. Why or how she didn't know. But they could and would bring back the fire.

Note: scene changes back to Daniel Boone's cabin

FX: cabin noises, e.g. creaking bunk, crackling fire in fireplace



Scene 28: the moors

NARRATOR: So the next morning, Miss Morgan made sure everyone got up at dawn; and after a hurried breakfast, she packed them all into the VW.

About noon, Donny spotted the redcoat sergeant. He was on the porch of a little cabin, smoking a pipe, rocking in a rockingchair beside his wife.

SERGEANT: 'ome is where the 'eart is.

NARRATOR: He waved to them, but Miss Morgan, curious as she was, had not tme to find out what the place he was at had to do with the place she was going. She just had to get to Ome, and nothing was going to slow her down or stop her.

MISS PRYSBY: You don't think we're lost do you? I'd hate to be lost in a wilderness.

MISS MORGAN: There's nothing to worry about, Miss Prysby. Crazy Horse is a good guide. He knows the way.

MISS PRYSBY: But surely we'll have to stop somewhere to eat.

MR. NEWMAN: (outside, up ahead, shouting) Man alive!

DONNY: Gosh! It's raining bread.

FX: kids pile into VW
FX: engine starts
FX: car starts moving along deserted highway slowly, with Sue on roof, Crazy Horse and Paul Newman running on ahead

Note: scene changes to deserted highway

FX: rhythmic squeak of a rockingchair on a wooden porch

FX: slices of bread falling to the ground
FX: kids grabbing and eating and squirming and squabbling



