

A little green man stood in the middle of the room.

"You are entering the Emerald City" the green man said.

"I am the Guardian⁵² of the Gate. Can I help you?"

"We have come to see the Great Oz," Dorothy replied.

The green man looked very surprised.

"No one has asked to see Oz for years," he said. "He is a very great Wizard, but he is terrible too. If you have come here to waste his time⁵³, he will be very angry. You may never leave the Emerald City again."

"We were told that Oz was a good Wizard," the Scarecrow said. "We've come a long way. We haven't come here to waste his time."

"Then I will take you to his Palace," the green man said.

The Emerald City of Oz was a wonderful place. All the buildings were made of green marble⁵⁴, with windows made of green glass. There were beautiful green emeralds everywhere.

All the people were green and they were wearing green clothes too. The green people looked at Dorothy and her friends as they walked by. But no one spoke to them.

At last, the friends came to a big building in the middle of the city. It was the Palace of Oz, the Great Wizard. A soldier, dressed in green, was standing in front of the door.

"These people are strangers," the Guardian of the Gate said to the soldier. "They want to see the Great Oz."

The soldier looked surprised.

"Come in," he said. "I will tell Oz that you are here."

Then the soldier went away for a long time.

"Did you see Oz?" Dorothy asked, when he came back.

"Oh, no. I have never seen him," the soldier replied. "He sits behind a screen⁵⁵. But I told him about you."

"And what did he say?" the Tin Man asked.

"Oz will see you, but not all together. He will speak to one of you every day." the soldier replied. "Now you can go to your rooms. You can rest there, until Oz sends for you."



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