

Scene Eight
The Witch's Castle

(A great studded door leads to the main corridor of the castle. In the back wall is a large open window showing bleak crags and the night beyond. A huge crystal ball, some four feet in diameter, is on a throne. A table contains the WITCH's magic equipment including a large hour glass with blood red sand and the basket we have seen MISS GULCH with back in Kansas. Under this table sits a wooden bucket full of water. The door slams open and the WICKED WITCH drags DOROTHY into the room by her wrist. NIKKO follows holding Toto. Music fades out under dialogue.)

WEST WITCH. This way my dear. (*Flings DOROTHY down by the side of the throne.*) I trust you had a pleasant flight. It's so kind of you to visit me in my loneliness. (*Turning to NIKKO.*) Gimme the dog.

(NIKKO shuffles over with Toto. The WITCH grabs him.)

DOROTHY. What are you going to do with Toto?

WITCH. (*Holding Toto aloft.*) Tonight we feast on deviled dog.

DOROTHY. NO!

WITCH. (*Giggling.*) It's alright, my dear. Just my little joke. (*Looks into Toto's eyes.*) He'll look even more revolting with an apple in his mouth. (*Hands Toto to NIKKO.*) Here, put him in the basket.

(NIKKO takes Toto over and places him in the basket on the table.)

(Then NIKKO lifts the basket and hooks it over one arm.)

DOROTHY. Where are you taking him? Why can't he stay with me?

WITCH. Because the raging, roaring river is some way off. Is he a water breed?

DOROTHY. I don't think so.

WITCH. He soon will be 'cause that's where we're going to drop him if you don't hand over the slippers.

DOROTHY. But the Good Witch of the North told me not to.

WEST WITCH. Very well. (*To NIKKO.*) Throw that basket in the deepest point of the river and drown him.

DOROTHY. No! No-no, please! You can have the slippers yourself! I don't want them - just give me back Toto!

WEST WITCH. That's a good little girl, I knew you'd see reason!

[MUSIC NO. 39 "INCIDENTAL - TOTO'S ESCAPE"]

(*The WITCH reaches for the slippers. They give off violent sparks.*)

(*The WITCH draws back with a scream, sucking her fingers.*)

Ohhh! Ohhh!

(*DOROTHY darts forward and snatches the basket from NIKKO.*)

DOROTHY. Run Toto... (*Lifts the basket lid and shoos Toto offstage.*) ...as far away as you can.

WEST WITCH. (*To NIKKO.*) Catch him, you fool!

(*NIKKO pursues Toto offstage.*)

DOROTHY. Run, Toto - run!

(*NIKKO appears in the doorway jumping up and down with frustration.*)

(*DOROTHY turns back triumphantly.*)

He got away! He got away from you!

WEST WITCH. Which is more than you will ever do.