

Toto Wants A Voice

By Elora Jones

As they started on their journey to Oz, Toto walked behind Dorothy, and he saw a bug on the ground. He caught it and looked at Dorothy for approval, but she was looking the other direction and did not see him. Toto decided to bite at her ankles to get her attention. Before Toto bit her ankle he noticed some writing on her shoes. He barked, which got her attention, and she saw he had caught a bug. Dorothy patted him on the head acknowledging his fine hunting skills. Toto barked again this time pointing his nose at the silver shoes to draw her attention to the writing he saw at the bottom. Once again, his attempt to communicate with the girl failed. He wished he'd had a voice like hers, he longed to speak like Aunt Em, Uncle Henry, and Dorothy.

As the girl kept walking, Toto tried to read the words on the shoes. After what seemed like miles of walking, Toto managed to read the words. They were instructions on how to use the shoes to travel great distances in three short steps. Toto knew this was the way to get them both home to Kansas. Excited, Toto tried to get Dorothy to read the instructions so they could get back to Aunt Em and Uncle Henry. After a few more failed attempts at biting her heels, Dorothy picked up Toto and placed him in her basket thinking he was tired.

"No, no, you foolish girl!" Toto thought, "I'm not tired, not at all. I saved us, I found the way to bring us home to Aunt Em, Uncle Henry, and Kansas! Would you take the Silver Shoes in your hand and read their instructions!" Sighing, Toto decided to sleep and try again after he woke up and got set down.

A strange man's voice woke up Toto. Toto lifted his ear to listen. The girl told the man that she could take him to a Wizard to get him a brain. When Toto heard this, he realized that he could get a voice if he just asked the Great Wizard that Dorothy was talking about.

Later, when another man was told his empty chest made of metal could be filled, by the Wizard, with a heart Toto was convinced that this was the way!

Finally, there was no doubt in Toto's little body, once Dorothy and the two men all assured a Lion that this magical Wizard, so powerful and good, would fill him with courage. Instantly, Toto knew that in a world where a scarecrow could walk and talk like a man. A Woodman could be made of tin and a Lion could use his voice. How could he think that a wizard couldn't grant him his dream of having a voice to communicate.

When they got to the Wizard, he could not understand Toto either! For they soon realized, The Wonderful Wizard of Oz was nothing but a humbug! Toto knew that it was more important than ever for Dorothy to see the inscription on the silver shoes.

To be continued....NEXT YEAR!