

# THE LOVE OF NICK CHOPPER

Written by

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Based on,  
Frank Baum's "The Tin Woodman of Oz"

FADE IN:

EXT. LAKE EOLA AMPHITHEATRE (ORLANDO, FL) - SUNSET

Hundreds have gathered at the iconic landmark in the heart of downtown Orlando, to watch the 1939 film "THE WIZARD OF OZ" on the big screen at a "Movie in the Park" event.

We focus on a BLACK FAMILY of three: the CLARK'S. NATE (30's) quick-witted, gentle and attentive, has his arms around his two loves, NATALIA (30's) his sweet, wholesome but sarcastic wife, and their precocious, wise-beyond-her-years daughter WINOLA (10).

The film nears its conclusion. DOROTHY says her good-byes to TIN MAN, SCARECROW and the COWARDLY LION.

She clicks her heels three times and repeats: "THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME".

Dorothy wakes up back in her bed in Kansas surrounded by Auntie Em and the rest of her family. THE END

The audience gives the film a rousing OVATION.

SAME SCENE - MINUTES LATER

The Clark's exit the park and cross paths with a CAUCASIAN COUPLE. It's Nate's best friend, TIM (30's), excessively positive and optimistic, and MELANIE (30's) his normally bubbly, but exhausted nine-month pregnant wife.

Nate and Tim exchange bro hugs. Natalia and Melanie hug. Winola warmly hugs both Tim and Natalia. It's clear these families are extremely close, like family.

NATE

I didn't know you two... or should  
I say you three, were coming out  
tonight. You should've texted me.

TIM

Last minute decision. Hoping a long  
walk could help induce labor...

NATALIA

How's the mommy of our future God-  
son, Beau, holding up?

MELANIE

(exasperated)  
Feet hurt. Back hurts.  
(MORE)

MELANIE (CONT'D)

Always hungry and having to pee...  
Why didn't you tell me pregnancy  
would be like this? I would've been  
just fine spoiling our God-  
daughter.

Melanie wraps her arm around Winola. It's very warm.

TIM

(to Winola)

Was that your first time seeing  
"The Wizard of Oz"?

Winola nods.

TIM (CONT'D)

What'd you think? You like it?

WINOLA

Yeah! But, I have questions?

NATE

(concerned)

About what?

WINOLA

Was it all just a dream?

NATE

That's the magic of the story. It's  
left to your imagination.

WINOLA

(eagerly)

Okay, well what about the Cowardly  
Lion, Scarecrow and Tin Man?

NATALIA

They all went on to live happily  
ever after.

WINOLA

I mean, they got their courage,  
brain and heart, what did they do  
with them?

NATE

Sweet Pea, they all went on their  
own journey with their gifts from  
the Wizard. They each have their  
own story.

WINOLA  
 (excited)  
 They have movies too?

NATALIA  
 No. But, they have books.

She scoffs, no longer interested.

WINOLA  
 Books are like CD's, VCR's and  
 other old people stuff. I'll wait  
 until the movies come out. It's  
 only a matter of time. Hollywood  
 turns every book into a movie.

Nate, Natalia, Tim and Melanie acknowledge she's correct.

NATALIA  
 She's not wrong.

NATE  
 My baby girl doesn't like to read.  
 I wish you knew how many amazing  
 stories you're missing.

Winola let's that sink in. Nate can't hid his disappointment.  
 Tim pats him on the shoulder. Comforting.

INT. CLARK FAMILY HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Natalia and Nate lay in bed. She checks her social media and  
 e-mail on her iPad, while he watches sports highlights on TV.

NATE  
 (annoyed)  
 You and those screens. That's where  
 she gets it from.

NATALIA  
 (appalled)  
 Excuse me?!

NATE  
 The reason she's not into reading  
 is because like you, she's always  
 on some device watching a movie,  
 playing a game or on YouTube.

NATALIA  
 Whatever! I'm catching up on my  
 work e-mails too.

There's a lite KNOCK on the door.

NATALIA (CONT'D)  
Come in.

Winola cracks open the door and enters.

NATALIA (CONT'D)  
Why aren't you sleep, Sweet Pea?

WINOLA  
I can't stop thinking about the  
Land of Oz. I want to know more.  
Will you read me one of the books  
for a bedtime story?

NATE  
(very excited)  
You sure? Those books are over  
three hundred pages long. It could  
take us all night.

Winola thinks about it. Then in a blink excitedly nods "yes."

NATE (CONT'D)  
Can I have the iPad? So I can  
download the book.

Natalia hands him her iPad.

NATALIA  
Now who needs the screens!

Nate nods, touché'.

Winola crawls into bed and nestles in between her parents.

He opens the iTunes store app and downloads "THE TIN WOODMAN  
OF OZ" by L. Frank Baum. The book quickly downloads.

Nate turns to the first page... He clears his throat. AHEM!

NATE  
(reading)  
The story of the Tin Woodman....  
The sun beams down on a majestic,  
splendid castle made of tin.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. WINKIE COUNTRY - DAY

Sun-rays sparkle off a TIN CASTLE, the centerpiece of this colorful land surrounded by large snow-capped mountains.

Everything is made of tin. The gardens are filled with TIN FLOWERS and TIN FOUNTAINS.

TIN BIRDS perch on branches of tin trees. They sing songs. It's sounds like tin whistles.

The WINKIE SERVANTS all wear tin helmets and tin breastplates. They sparkle just like the tin on the castle.

NATE (V.O.)

Everything in Winkie Country was made of tin. The fountains, the flowers, the birds. Everything!

INT. TIN CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - DAY

Sitting on a tin throne in a large tin hall with walls lined with ornamental tin, is the TIN MAN. He's proud and happy.

Next to him in a woven straw chair, his best friend, the exuberant, but clumsy, SCARECROW OF OZ. Both are content.

Tin Man and Scarecrow look just like Nate and Tim.

NATE (V.O.)

The "Emperor of the Winkies", the Tin Woodman of Oz, joyously sits on his tin throne with his best friend the Scarecrow sitting next to him.

WINOLA (V.O.)

Really, Dad?! You and Uncle Timmy are the Tin Man and the Scarecrow?

NATE (V.O.)

This is my version. If I'm going to read it, I'm going to describe things the way I want.

NATALIA (V.O.)

Keep going, Nate.

NATE (V.O.)

The two don't say much, but when they do, they laugh and tell stories from their past journeys.

SCARECROW

Remember when Lion tried his best  
to scare us and chased little Toto,  
then Dorothy smacked him in the  
nose and he went to wailing like a  
newborn baby?

Tin Man puts his first up like he's going to fight.

TIN MAN

(mocking)

Put 'em up.... Put 'em up. Pull an  
axe on me eye... Get up and fight.

Scarecrow, wobbly, leaps up and puts up his fists up.

SCARECROW

(mocking)

I'm a mean ole lion. King of the  
jungle. ROAR!

Tin Man laughs, hysterically. Scarecrow does too.

TIN MAN

No matter how many times I think  
about it, it's just as funny as the  
moment it happened.

(then - sighs)

I wonder what he's up to.

SCARECROW

Dorothy too.

TIN MAN

Last I heard she and Toto are with  
Ozma at the palace in the Emerald  
City.

(longingly)

It really would be great to see  
them again.

Tin Man sighs. He wishes for the days he was with his friends  
all together at once.

INT./EXT. TIN CASTLE - ENTRANCE - DAY

There's a KNOCK at the door. A WINKIE SERVANT opens it.

Standing on the front steps of the castle is a little Ten-  
year old girl. This is WENDY, THE WANDERER. She resembles  
Winola in look and attitude.

CUT TO:

INT. CLARK FAMILY HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Natalia and Winola both give Nate strong side-eye. They're annoyed with his telling of the story.

WINOLA

Daddy!

NATALIA

C'mon, Nate. Tell the story right.

NATE

This is the art of story telling.  
This is how I engage the audience.

BACK TO SCENE

The Winkie Servant closely examines Wendy. Wendy looks him over as well. She's never seen anything like him.

WINKIE SERVANT

May I help you?

WENDY

Who lives here? It's amazing!

WINKIE SERVANT

The Emperor of the Winkies. The  
kind and honest Tin Woodman of OZ.

WENDY

(amazed)

A Tin Woodman? Can I meet him?

The Winkie Servant thinks on that a moment.

INT. TIN CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - DAY

The Winkie Servant enters with Wendy by his side. She is in awe of the splendor and the tin decor.

Tin Man and Scarecrow are elated at the sight of a visitor.

WINKIE SERVANT

Your majesty, you have a visitor.  
This is Wendy the Wanderer, from  
the Gillikin Country of OZ.

Wendy genuflects before the tin throne.



TIN MAN

That must've been a very dangerous and challenging journey for you. Especially since you are made of flesh and bone.

SCARECROW

Do you not have any friends who could've have joined you?

Wendy is startled that the Scarecrow can speak. So much so she is frozen in her tracks, mouth agape.

Tin Man and Scarecrow are confused by her demeanor.

TIN MAN

Are you okay, little one?

WENDY

Sorry, I didn't think someone made of straw could speak... Yes, I have friends back home, but they are not interested in seeing what else there is in the great Land of OZ. I was bored and thought it would be more fun if I went on a journey to see new sights and meet new people.

Tin Man and Scarecrow like the sound of that.

SCARECROW

After such a long journey, I can imagine you're rather hungry. Would you like something to eat?

WENDY

Yes, thank you... But, what does a Tin Man and a Straw Man eat?

TIN MAN

We don't need food to survive. But, the Winkie people do since they are made of flesh like you... I think you'll like our selection.

The Tin Man blows on a TIN WHISTLE that hangs around his neck to summon a servant.

INT. TIN CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - DUSK

Wendy sits in a tin chair at a tin table in front of the Tin Man's throne. On her tin tray is a wide selection of appealing food. She eats in silence.

Tin Man reaches for his oil-can and carefully oils his joints, his tin throat, his tin elbows, tin knees, etc.

Wendy is amazed at what she's witnessing.

She stops eating, a look of great curiosity fills her face.

WENDY

Sir, how are you made of tin and still alive?

Tin Man leans back and crosses his legs.

TIN MAN

(then)

That is a loooooong story. I haven't told it in forever since everyone here knows it already.

WENDY

Would you please tell me your story? Please? Please?

TIN MAN

Sure... You're a stranger and you seem like a sweet young lady.

Wendy's giddy. She stops eating and focuses on him.

TIN MAN (CONT'D)

I used to be all human, like you...

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASHBACK - EXT. MUNCHKIN COUNTRY OF OZ - FOREST - DAY

NICK CHOPPER, tall, handsome, hulking chest, with six pack abs and shoulders like boulders, chops trees in the forest for firewood. He too looks like Nate Clark.

NATALIA (V.O.)

(exasperated)

So now you have washboard abs like Dwayne "the Rock" Johnson and Thor?

NATE (V.O.)

(annoyed)

As the Tin Man was saying...

TIN MAN (V.O.)

I used to live in a little hut at the edge of the Munchkin forest where I worked as a woodchopper.

(MORE)

TIN MAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

One day while I was working, a beautiful Munchkin girl walked by.

NIMMIE AMEE, a sweet, shy, MUNCHKIN girl that resembles Natalia, walks along the path. She sees Nick chopping wood. She's infatuated. She blushes as she watches him work.

He sees her and is immediately infatuated with her too.

NATALIA (V.O.)

Now I'm a munchkin! This is getting out of hand, Nate!

NATE (V.O.)

If you two don't stop interrupting me, we'll never finish this story!

TIN MAN (V.O.)

She was the most beautiful thing I had ever seen in my life. Not the sunset over this tin castle, or the flowers of the field, or all the amazing sights of Oz. Nimmie Amee was the epitome of beautiful.

Out of nowhere comes the WICKED WITCH OF THE EAST, a middle-aged, malevolent, curmudgeon woman wearing SILVER SHOES. Yes, those shoes!

She SCREAMS at Nimmie Amee, scaring her.

TIN MAN (V.O.)

But, Nimmie Amee was a slave to the powerful Wicked Witch. She made her work from morning until night, scrubbing and sweeping her hut, cooking her food, as well as chopping her own firewood.

FLASHBACK - EXT. WICKED WITCH'S HUT - DAY

Nick Chopper brings firewood and gives it to Nimmie Amee. The two talk and laugh. A deeper connection is made.

Unbeknownst to them, the Wicked Witch, watches them from her window. She's enraged.

TIN MAN (V.O.)

So, I started to bring her firewood and we became very friendly and eventually fell in love. The Wicked Witch didn't like me coming around.