

Gale-Force #1 - "The Adventure Begins"

Written by Steven Bland

Two astronauts landed on the moon where they found a crystal case containing a dark-haired woman with alabaster skin.

"Well, I'll be," one of the astronauts said. "It's a woman in crystal."

"She looks so beautiful," the other astronaut said.

"She's stirring," the first astronaut said, before turning his attention to his fellow astronaut.

"C'mon. Help me get her out of this" the first astronaut added. The two astronauts opened the crystal case, freeing the dark-haired, alabaster-skinned woman.

"AT LAST! AFTER 5,000 YEARS, I'M FREE," she exclaimed with evil joy. "FREE TO BEGIN MY CONQUEST OF THE WORLD!"

She teleported from the moon in a puff of fiery brimstone.

Meanwhile, Glinda, a beautiful witch with blond hair had sensed the release of the dark-haired woman with the alabaster skin.

Wilhelmina is free, she thought. I must cast a seeking spell to find a worthy agent who can fight her. An agent who is smart, kind, and brave.

Glinda cast her seeking spell. The spell found a fifteen-year old girl named Dorothy Donaldson, from Kansas City, Missouri.

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Gale-Force #1 - "The Adventure Begins"

Late afternoon, Dorothy was at a public library with her closest friend, Emma. Dorothy had bobbed light brown hair, and was wearing a light blue shirt, navy blue trousers, and white shoes. Dorothy was reading, "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz", one of L. Frank Baum's Oz books.

"You're reading that book *again*?" Emma asked. "You've read it like *fifty gajillion times*."

"What can I say?" Dorothy asked. "I'm a huge fan of L. Frank Baum's series of Oz books, since I was little. As a little girl, my mother was a huge fan of the 1939 'Wizard of Oz' movie which starred Judy Garland as Dorothy, a character my mother named me after. My mom had me watch it with her when I was five, and I actually enjoyed it. In fact, I enjoyed the movie so much, that my mother and I made it a ritual to always watch the movie together when it would air on TV. It was basically appointment television."

"The more I watched that movie, the more I loved it," Dorothy answered. "When, I learned it was based on L. Frank Baum's book, I wanted to read it. So I did. When I found out that there were more books on the Oz characters, I wanted to read them as well. And I did. I loved every single one of those books and I never get tired of them."

"I wish someday, that I, like my namesake, I could go to some place over the rainbow," she added.

Suddenly, a bubble appeared and headed toward Dorothy. Engulfing Dorothy, the bubble flew off with her.

Steven

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Gale-Force #1 - "The Adventure Begins"

The bubble transported Dorothy to Glinda's realm which was in a place somewhere over the rainbow.

"I have a feeling I'm not in Kansas City, anymore," Dorothy said quietly to herself.

"Dorothy Donaldson," Glinda said to Dorothy. "I am Glinda."

"You're Glinda?" Dorothy asked. "As in Glinda, the Good Witch?"

"Yes," Glinda said as she walked toward Dorothy.

"And I have chosen you to be a champion against evil," Glinda said as she kissed Dorothy on the forehead. The kiss was only a peck. "Will you be that champion?"

"Sure, Glinda," an enthusiastic Dorothy answered. "You can count on me. But, what was the kiss on my forehead for?"

"The kiss is to protect you from evil forces that would seek to do you harm," Glinda explained. "Like Wilhelmina?"

"Who's Wilhelmina?" Dorothy asked.

"She is an evil witch I sealed away in a crystal case, which I sent to the moon in your dimension," Glinda answered

"What do you want me to do?" Dorothy asked.

Glinda caused a pair of silver boots to magically appear.

"I want you to put these on," Glinda told Dorothy. "These are the magic silver boots."

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Gale-Force #1 - "The Adventure Begins"

Dorothy put on the silver boots.

"WHOOSH!" A magic cyclone rose up around her and transformed her into a taller, slightly older version of herself who looked like she was twenty years old. She found herself clad in blue pants, a white shirt with a gold Oz insignia on the front, and a blue bomber jacket with yellow brick trim, along with the magic silver boots.

The transformed Dorothy looked at herself in awe and amazement.

"I-I'm tall," she said. "And I'm a bit older, like I'm twenty years old."

The transformed Dorothy then found herself glowing and being charged by magical energies by Glinda.

"And I bestow upon you the wisdom and intelligence of the Scarecrow, the tin mimicry and ax proficiency of the Tin Woodsman, the enhanced strength, speed, agility, senses, and roar of the Lion, and the teleport dash of Locasta Tattypoo," Glinda told her.

"These powers will aid you and serve you well in your crusade against evil," Glinda said.

"Now, I must inform you of the enchantments of the magic silver boots on your feet," Glinda continued.

"If you wish to become your normal self again, think that desire, focus upon it, and click your heels once," Glinda instructed.

Wishing to return to her normal form, the transformed Dorothy clicked her heels once.

Steven

Bland

Gale-Force #1 - "The Adventure Begins"

"WHOOSH!" Another magic cyclone rose up around her and, in an instant, she was transformed back to her normal self. The magic silver boots were no longer on her feet and were replaced by the white shoes she originally had on, which Dorothy noticed.

"Where did the silver boots go?" Dorothy asked.

"You are still wearing them," Glinda answered. "When you transformed back to your normal identity, the silver boots took the appearance of the shoes you were wearing when I brought you here. They will transform back when you assume your superhuman form again. To do that, you must focus on your benefactors, the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodsman, the Lion, and Locasta Tattypoo and click your heels once more."

Focusing on the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodsman, the Lion, and Locasta Tattypoo, Dorothy Donaldson clicked her heels one more time.

"WHOOSH!" Once again, a magic cyclone rose up around her. An instant later, her shoes transformed back into the magic silver boots and she was once again transformed back into her superhuman form.

"There are two other powers of the magic silver boots," Glinda told her new agent. "Click your heels twice."

The transformed Dorothy clicked her heels twice.

"WHOOSH!" A powerful twister suddenly appeared.

Steven

Bland

Gale-Force #1 - "The Adventure Begins"

"You have just summoned a twister, which you alone can control and manipulate," Glinda told her agent. "Now click your heels twice again."

The transformed Dorothy clicked her heels another two times and the twister disappeared just as suddenly as it appeared.

"You just made the twister you summoned go away," Glinda said. "Now, you must learn the third, and final, enchantment of the magic silver boots."

"I'd really, *really* like to learn more," the transformed Dorothy said. "But I've got to get home now."

"Then, concentrate on your chosen destination, click your heels three times, and you will be there in an instant," Glinda told the transformed Dorothy. "*That* is the third, and final, enchantment of the magic silver boots."

"But, before you go, you can't use your own name in your crusade against evil," Glinda warned. "What would you like to call yourself?"

"Between the powers given to me by the Scarecrow, Tin Woodsman, Lion, and Locasta Tattypoo, my ability to use the magic silver boots to summon and control cyclones, and my fandom for 'The Wizard of Oz' and my namesake, how about - -," the transformed Dorothy said. "- - *GALE-FORCE?!'*"

"Very well," Glinda said with a smile. "Goodbye, Gale-Force, and good luck."

Steven

Bland

Gale-Force #1 - "The Adventure Begins"

Visualizing and concentrating on the inside of her bedroom at her home in Kansas City, Gale-Force clicked her heels three times. In an instant, she was inside her bedroom.

It worked, Gale-Force thought. I'm in my own room.

"Dorothy?" A woman's voice asked from outside the bedroom door. "It's time for dinner."

It's Mom, Gale-Force thought, before glancing in her mirror and finding that she was still in her superhuman form.

Thinking only of her desire to change back to her civilian alter ego, Gale-Force clicked her heels once.

"WHOOSH!" A magic cyclone rose up around her and, in an instant, she was once again transformed back into Dorothy Donaldson.

"Coming," Dorothy said as she left her room.

The next day, Gale-Force was at the site of a building that was to be condemned.

This looks like a good place where I can test at least some of the powers I got from my benefactors, the new superheroine thought. If I'm going to fight Wilhelmina, I want to see what I'm capable of.

I can't test the Scarecrow's wisdom or intelligence, she thought. But I can test the Lion's strength, speed, and agility as well as the Tin Woodsman's tin mimicry and ax proficiency.

Steven

Bland

Gale-Force #1 - "The Adventure Begins"

I'll test the Lion's physical powers first, Gale-Force thought as she turned her attention to and walked toward a parked car in a nearby parking lot.

Once she approached the parked car, she picked it up and easily lifted it.

Wow, she thought. The Lion's strength is *incredible!*

I'm incredibly fast and agile, she thought as she performed incredible feats of speed and acrobatic feats.

Now, I'll test the powers I got from the Tin Woodsman, she thought.

With a mere thought, Gale-Force transformed into organic tin.

My power of tin mimicry, which I received from the Tin Woodsman worked, she thought as she looked at herself. But, how can I practice his ax proficiency if I don't have an ax?

Suddenly, an ax materialized in her hands, much to her surprise.

Amazing, she thought. This ax appeared out of nowhere.

She turned her attention to the condemned building and walked toward it. She stopped only a few feet away from it.

Let's see what this ax can do, she thought.

Gale-Force struck the side of the building with her ax and easily chopped through it.

Incredible, she thought. But now, I want to try something.

Gale-Force #1 - "The Adventure Begins"

She moved back a few feet. Then, she swung her ax as hard as she could, and a cutting wind sliced clean through the entire building.

Wow, the amazed Gale-Force thought. That swing was incredibly powerful. But I've got to be more careful in the future.

With a thought, Gale-Force resumed her form and the ax disappeared.

"HELP! SOMEBODY HELP ME," a man's voice cried out from a few feet away. Gale Force's ears, thanks to the Lion's senses, picked up the cry for help.

That poor man is in trouble, she thought as she used the Lion's strength and agility to hurry to the man's aid.

Gale-Force saw the man being attacked by a mugger.

"GIMME YOUR WALLET," the mugger shouted. "NOW!"

"RRRAAAHHRRRR!!" Gale-Force roared at the mugger, scaring him.

"Ohmanomanomanomanomanoman," the panic-stricken mugger muttered.

"Y-you c-can k-keep y-your w-wallet, the mugger told his victim. "I GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE!"

The scared mugger took off like a bat out of hell while Gale-Force tended to the victim.

"It's okay now," she assured him. "He won't trouble you anymore."

Steven

Bland

Gale-Force #1 - "The Adventure Begins"

With the Lion's senses, Gale-Force picked up a new sound.

"ARF! ARF!"

Then she heard a boy's voice calling out.

"SPARKY, COME BACK!"

Gale-Force turned and saw a dog run into the middle of the road and suddenly dart in front of a speeding 18-wheeler. The driver was unable to stop.

Using Locasta Tattypoo's Teleport Dash, Gale-Force quickly and easily got the dog out of harm's way without the 18-wheeler getting into an accident.

"Here you go," Gale-Force said as she handed the dog she saved back to its young owner.

"Thank you," the boy said. "But, who are you?"

"My name is Gale-Force," the new superheroine answered.

Unknown to Gale-Force, she was watched by Wilhelmina, through her telescopic eye.

So *that's* Glinda's champion, eh? Wilhelmina thought. The one who stands in my way of conquering this dimension? Well, *I'll* take care of *her*!

Suddenly, Gale-Force was under attack by forty great wolves.

Gale-Force #1 - "The Adventure Begins"

If I remember correctly from reading 'The Wonderful Wizard of Oz', the Lion was incapacitated in the poppy field so the Tin Woodsman took care of them, she thought. However, since I have the Lion's powers, I think I'll use them.

Gale-Force used the Lion's strength, speed, and agility to take on and easily subdue the wolves.

Then, she was attacked by a flock of forty crows and soon a plan of attack formed in her mind.

She quickly pinched a pressure point at the base of every crow's neck. Soon, every single crow was rendered unconscious and defeated.

Then, she was attacked by a swarm of black bees.

Black bees, she thought. They'll sting me.

Unless I use the Tin Woodsman's power, she thought as she assumed her organic tin form. With the bees defeated and in a pile, Gale-Force resumed her normal form.

Meanwhile, Wilhelmina had another trick up her sleeve.

"Flores apparuerunt et pluat super hostium urit ("Flowers of poppies appear and rain down on my enemy.)," she chanted.

Soon, flower petals from poppies magically appeared and rained down on Gale-Force. While, the flower petals were attractive to the eyes and soothing to smell, they were also deadly and they soon rendered the new superheroine unconscious.

Gale-Force #1 - "The Adventure Begins"

Later, Gale-Force awakened and found herself in Wilhelmina's lair.

"Coming around, I see?" Wilhelmina asked.

"Wh-Where am I?" The superheroine asked.

"You're in my lair on the moon," Wilhelmina. "I've got you now, my pretty!"

"You're more trouble to me than you're worth," the witch told her captive. "Once I've taken the magic silver boots from you, that will be remedied!"

Wilhelmina attempted to remove the magic silver boots from Gale-Force's feet, but the boots gave off sparks that prevented the witch from touching them.

"I can't remove them," Wilhelmina said. "But I have a *better* idea!"

"You shall be my *slave*, Gale-Force," the witch told her captive. "And you will serve me *forever!*"

"HAH HAH HAH HAHAHH," Wilhelmina cackled, before using hypnotic powers on the captive superheroine.

"You will use your powers to help me conquer Earth," the witch said as she hypnotized her captive. "Everyone on that planet will be powerless before our combined might!"

Gale-Force was using every ounce of her willpower to resist Wilhelmina and the two engaged in a battle of wills.

Gale-Force #1 - "The Adventure Begins"

"NEVER," Gale-Force exclaimed as she struggled.

Slowly but surely, the superheroine managed to overcome the witch's hypnotic power. Both experienced a bit of strain, but recovered.

"Well, then," Wilhelmina said as she formed a powerful fireball in her hands.

"How 'bout a little *fire* instead?" The witch asked as she hurled her fireball at Gale-Force, who used the Tin Woodsman's power of tin mimicry to protect herself.

"I DON'T *THINK* SO," the superheroine exclaimed before resuming her normal form.

"I'M TAKING YOU DOWN," she said as she delivered a roundhouse kick to Wilhelmina. The power from the magic silver boots combined with the force of the kick knocked the witch out.

"Blast you, Gale-Force! I never thought a young woman like you would ever be able to thwart my wicked deeds," Wilhelmina wailed. "What a world!"

Then, the witch lost consciousness.

Soon, a bubble arrived and Glinda appeared before Gale-Force and the fallen witch.

"Well done, Gale-Force," a pleased Glinda said. "You have defeated the witch Wilhelmina and stopped her from conquering your Earth."

"What's going to happen to Wilhelmina?" Gale-Force asked.

Gale-Force #1 - "The Adventure Begins"

"I shall strip her of her powers," Glinda said as she used her wand over Wilhelmina. The wand siphoned the evil witch's powers and transferred them to a crystal.

"Then, I shall place her, once more, in a crystal case and, *this time*, the case will be *much stronger*," Glinda said as she turned her words to actions. Wilhelmina was once again imprisoned.

"I will now place her where she can never be found again," Glinda said as she buried Wilhelmina deep within the moon.

"I guess that's it, then," Gale-Force said.

"For now," a smiling Glinda told the superheroine. "There will be other villains to fight, as well as more adventures in store for you."

Glinda formed a bubble around herself and Gale-Force. The bubble transported them back to Dorothy Donaldson's house in Kansas City.

"If you should ever need me, give me a mental summons, no matter where you are or how far, and I will always be there for you," Glinda told the new superheroine.

"Thank you," a smiling Gale-Force said as she and Glinda shook hands.

"Farewell, Gale-Force," Glinda said as she formed a bubble around herself.

"And good luck," she added as she took off.

Gale-Force #1 - "The Adventure Begins"

"Farewell, Glinda," Gale-Force said as she waved at her.

Wishing to return to her normal alter ego, Gale-Force clicked her heels once.

"WHOOSH!" A magic cyclone rose up around her and transformed her back into Dorothy Donaldson.

Dorothy went inside her house, where she saw her mother in the living room watching television.

"Dorothy," Mrs. Donaldson said. "You're just in time. 'The Wizard of Oz' movie is starting."

Dorothy joined her mother on the sofa in front of the television.

I had quite an adventure today, a smiling Dorothy thought. But there is really no place like home.

THE END

- 15 -

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