

6
MISS GULTCH
UNCLE HENRY
AUNT EM
DOROTHY

ACT ONE
Scene 3

KANSAS

MISS GULTCH astride HER trusty bicycle clatters on-stage. SHE circles the stage peering out into the audience intently. SHE is looking for culprits. SHE suddenly spots UNCLE HENRY off-stage and screeches to a halt.

MISS GULTCH

Henry, Gale. Is that you skulking by the barn?

(UNCLE HENRY enters)

UNCLE HENRY

I never skulked in my life Miss Gultch. And I ain't about to start now.

(MISS GULTCH dismounts and leans HER bicycle against the picket fence. UNCLE HENRY holds open the gate for HER. SHE passes through)

MISS GULTCH

I want to see you and your wife right away about Dorothy.

UNCLE HENRY

Dorothy? Why, what has Dorothy done?

MISS GULTCH

What's she done? I'm all but lame from the bite on my leg!

UNCLE HENRY

You mean she bit you?

MISS GULTCH

No, her dog!

UNCLE HENRY

Oh, she bit her dog, eh?

AUNT EM (Entering)

Afternoon Miss Gultch. I just made a fresh batch of cookies if you've a mind to sit awhile.

MISS GULTCH

I'm afraid I have no appetite Mrs. Gale. Indeed I'm so shaken by the ferocious attack of your niece's vicious dog, I may never eat again.

UNCLE HENRY

If you don't eat, you'll waste away. And I'd hate to see you dwindle.

(MISS GULTCH gives HIM a beady look
while AUNT EM calls off)

AUNT EM

Dorothy could you bring Toto out here a minute?

(SHE turns back to MISS GULTCH)

I'm sure if Dorothy's upset you in any way she'll be only too glad to apologize as best she can.

MISS GULTCH

It's gone beyond apologies, Mrs. Gale. I have laid an official complaint with the County Sheriff.

UNCLE HENRY

Was he sober?

(MISS GULTCH gives UNCLE HENRY
another look as DOROTHY enters
carrying TOTO)

AUNT EM

Dorothy, Miss Gultch here seems very upset.

MISS GULTCH

That dog's a menace to the community.

DOROTHY

That's not true.

MISS GULTCH

As an act of public service, young woman, I'm taking that dog to the Sheriff and make sure he's destroyed.

DOROTHY

Destroyed? Toto? Oh, you can't! You mustn't! Uncle Henry! Auntie Em! You won't let her will you?

UNCLE HENRY

Of course, we won't. Will be Em?

(AUNT EM says nothing)