



**The Queen of the Mice**

**Audition Piece**

*(Our heroes have fallen under the spell of the poppy field. Their singing has woken the Queen Of The Mice, who comes out to see what's going on.)*

**Queen**           What's all this noise going on? Some of us are trying to sleep round here.

**Tin Man**        Were you? Oh I'm terribly sorry; it was him you see, *(points,)* he's got no brains, never thinks at all.

**Scarecrow**     ...and you've no heart, telling on me like that! *(They squabble.)*

**Queen**           Never mind whose fault it was, you can't go disturbing folk like that...

**Dorothy**        Is there any way we can say sorry?

**Queen**           That depends; do you have any cheese in that basket?

**Dorothy**        No.

**Queen**           Then no. But you could all move on; you're disturbing our peace here.

**Em**              Well we'd like to but you see our friend here...

**Queen**           What's the matter with him?

**Scarecrow**     He's asleep, we can't move him.

**Queen**           I'm surprised he can sleep with your racket. Hang on, is that Lion? Why he's my bestest friend.

**All**              He is?

**Queen**           Of course, he protects all the little critters of the forest because the big creatures are frightened of him and stay away. Silly thing is though; he's so scared he doesn't even know it.

**Tin Man**        That sounds like him...

**Queen**           So how can I help?

**Dorothy**        Help? Well we mean no disrespect but I don't know that you can.

**Scarecrow**     That's right, you're just one little mouse.

**Queen**           Little? *(Yoda style,)* Judge me by my size do you?

**Dorothy**        Well we only meant that...



- Queen** How dare you! I am not just one little mouse. Bow before me, for I am Queen of all Field Mice. And remember, there's never ever only one mouse. *(Shouts,)* Field Mice assemble! *(Mice enter.*
- Scarecrow** We're sorry your majesty; err your mouse-jesty!
- Queen** That's alright. And don't worry; any friend of the Lion is a friend of mine – and all field mice.
- Dorothy** Oh thank you, we're trying to get to the Emerald City you see.
- Queen** And we will help you; let's get him out. Let's look. *(Investigates.)* Ah it's these poppies you see, they're magic. Is this your sleeping potion again?
- Poppy 1** Sorry, we just can't help ourselves.
- Poppy 2** One whiff and every living creature passes out.
- Em** A bit like your feet then Dorothy.
- Dorothy** Auntie!
- Queen** He's too heavy to be dragged away. Well I didn't want to do it but you leave me no choice. Send for... the Tickle Mice.
- Poppies** The Tickle Mice?
- (SFX: Tickle Mice Music. Tthe Tickle Mice enter SR. Queen continues over music as the mice start tickling.)*
- Queen** Yes the Tickle Mice. For no one can sleep through the tickles of a Tickle Mouse and once awake, they will never be affected by poppy magic again.
- Em** That sounds good, can I have a tickle as well please?
- Dorothy** And me - Toto too!
- Queen** Of course, the magic's all the stronger if the boys and girls join in too. Tickle your fingers in the air like this everybody!