



Universidad Latina de Panamá  
Facultad de Ciencias de la Educación y Desarrollo Humano  
**Traducción del libro “La Búsqueda de Oz. Edición del Autor”  
de Florentino Hidalgo págs. 59-109**

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Universidad Latina de Panamá  
Faculty of Education Sciences and Human Development  
Book translation **“La Búsqueda de Oz. Edición del Autor”**  
**by Florentino Hidalgo pg. 59-109**

Final Graduation Project submitted as a requirement to obtain  
the bachelor's degree in English with an Emphasis in Translation

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## **Dedication**

I fully dedicate this project to all the people who have supported me during my journey to complete this degree.

I want to dedicate it to:

Ana Serrano, Allison Obando, Franklin Ríos, and Franklin Ríos Jr.

Their constant support and trust in me helped make this achievement possible.

## Introduction

Translation has a long and rich history, evolving from a practical necessity to a sophisticated academic discipline. Ancient civilizations such as the Mesopotamians, Greeks, and Romans relied on translation to share religious texts, philosophical ideas, and scientific knowledge across cultures. Over the centuries, translation has been instrumental in shaping world literature and intercultural understanding. From religious translations like the *Septuagint* to the multilingual scholarship of the Islamic Golden Age, translation has continually served as a powerful tool for global communication and knowledge exchange.

In modern academia, translation is recognized as a subdiscipline of Applied Linguistics. It draws upon key linguistic concepts—such as syntax, semantics, pragmatics, and discourse analysis—to analyze and produce effective cross-language communication. Within this framework, translation is not viewed merely as word substitution, but as a complex linguistic process that requires an understanding of both the source and target languages, their grammatical systems, and the cultural contexts they operate in. This perspective allows translation studies to contribute to broader linguistic theories and applications in education, communication, and technology.

A central component of effective translation is the use of translation techniques. These techniques—to mention some like modulation, transposition, equivalence, and adaptation—help translators manage the differences between languages and ensure clarity, accuracy, and cultural appropriateness. Rather than translating word-for-word, skilled translators apply these techniques to preserve meaning, tone, and intention. As language continues to evolve, and as global audiences grow more diverse, the ability to apply the right technique in the right context becomes a defining feature of professional translation.

In today's world, where Artificial Intelligence and machine translation tools are becoming more prevalent, translation techniques are more critical than ever. While AI can generate quick drafts, it often fails to capture nuance, cultural references, idioms, or emotional tone. Human translators must therefore rely on their knowledge of translation techniques to

revise and improve machine-generated output, ensuring it meets high standards of quality and appropriateness. In this digital age, the translator's role is evolving from a direct translator to a linguistic mediator and editor who must be equipped with strong theoretical knowledge and practical expertise.

## Table of Contents

First Chapter .....	8
1.1 Antecedents .....	9
1.2 Justification .....	11
1.3 Objectives .....	12
<b>1.3.1</b> General Objective.....	12
1.3.2 Specific Objectives.....	12
1.4 Methodology .....	13
Second Chapter .....	20
2.1 Translated Text.....	21
Third Chapter .....	78
3.1 Challenges and Solutions .....	79
3.2 Conclusions .....	81
3.3 Recommendations .....	83
3.4 Glossary .....	86
Bibliography .....	88
Annex.....	89

# First Chapter

## 1.1 Antecedents

Translation is a two-way bridge. It not only brings foreign stories into a local language but also allows local stories to reach international audiences. The translation of this book, besides being part of my final academic project, is a way to enrich the bilingual reading of children or young people, fortunately in different classrooms of the country. Translating books of children is not just a linguistic task, it is a way of nurturing young minds, ensuring that knowledge and imagination have no borders.

Florentino Hidalgo is a teacher at the prestigious San Agustín High School in the city of David. He was born on May 22, 1983, in David, Chiriquí, Republic of Panama. From an early age he developed artistic skills such as drawing and writing, which as he grew up improved notably. In 2001 and due to the death of his best friend, his first cousin, a young man of only 16 years of age, Florentino decided to write a diary to unburden himself.

Hidalgo is a teacher who transmits part of his history, experiences and knowledge through his writing. For him, being a writer is a source of pride and a great opportunity to express part of his essence. He is the creator of the novel that won the Tristán Solarte award for best crime novel in 2020. *La Búsqueda de Oz*, is the first literature for kids. He has participated in two different international anthologies, and in an international project about the covid-19 pandemic together with several Latin American authors.

*La búsqueda de Oz*: edición del Autor. 124 pages. It is Independently published in Panama in 2021.

*The Search for Oz* is a modern-day, stand-alone spin-off of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, focusing on a young girl named Cecilia Ann Ozborn. After moving into an old family home in Kansas, Ceci finds a mysterious book that tells of a treasure hidden by Dorothy's former friends. Her curiosity leads her to discover three symbolic objects related to intelligence, sensitivity and courage. Activating a secret mechanism, Ceci falls into a well where she discovers a magical portal to the world of Oz. Here they find a world devastated by new

evil witches who seek to revive their fallen sisters. Ceci is guided by a talking raven named Corax and meets Jack Pumpkinhead, a wooden being with a pumpkin head. She discovers that her great-grandmother Dorothy was indeed the same Dorothy Gale from the story and that her family has a magical legacy. Corax dies on a dangerous mission, leaving Ceci devastated but determined to continue.

Together with Jack, Ceci finds a dragon named Bolgar, who turns out to be her grandfather, turned out by a curse. They free Ceci's grandmother, also a prisoner of the dragon, and head to Crystal Castle to warn Glinda. The witches launch a massive attack on the city, and the tin man, manipulated, attacks his former friends. The lion bravely defends the city, and the tin man is finally freed from his spell. Bolgar appears to help but is fatally wounded by one of the witches. Corax miraculously reappears and helps destroy one of the witches, avenging his brother. The story culminates with Ceci's new understanding of her legacy and purpose in Oz. Despite the tragedy, Ceci finds strength in herself, her friends, and her connection to her family to continue the fight to save Oz.

The purpose of *The Search for Oz*, written by Florentino Hidalgo, is to revive the magical world of Oz for a new generation, combining classic elements with new characters and modern conflicts. Through a fantasy story full of adventure, the author seeks to transmit values such as friendship, courage and the importance of believing in oneself, all in a familiar and nostalgic context inspired by the original work of L. Frank Baum.

## 1.2 Justification

La Búsqueda de Oz seems to be important for Florentino Hidalgo because it represents an emotional connection to his childhood and his love for The Wonderful Wizard of Oz. He considers Baum's original work a fundamental source of inspiration in his life. He was also motivated by his daughter's love for Oz, to whom he dedicates the book as a way of sharing his passion. He takes advantage of his ability as a writer to reinvent Baums' play with new characters and plots. Through this story, he conveys values such as courage, sensitivity and hope. In addition, he uses the protagonist Ceci as a vehicle to explore personal themes such as loss and the search for identity. This play is fuel for the author to keep being a writer, because he used to write just about black novels, so to be able to write this kid's story inspired him to continue this route.

Translating La Búsqueda de Oz represents a great educational opportunity for a translation student like me. It presents challenges that demand creativity and linguistic sensitivity. Its variety of the narrative allows us to practice the appropriate use of techniques in different contexts. As it is aimed at a young audience, it requires clarity, rhythm and accessible language. The story addresses universal values such as courage, personal growth and hope, that means I am translating emotions. The affective component of the book, dedicated to the author's daughter, adds an emotional meaning to the translation process. This project allows the application of technical, cultural and literary knowledge in a single text. Also, translating this work provides me with complete experience that is professionally useful.

The translation of La Búsqueda de Oz is relevant because it promotes dialogue between cultures, connecting the Spanish literacy with an English vision. It allows readers of other languages to get to know a version of Oz with a Latin identity. It will encourage children and young adult literature by offering a story full of values adapted to the present. The work reinterprets a classic with a new protagonist and deeper emotional plots. Encourages literary inclusion through strong female characters and current human conflicts. This work can inspire new writers and readers in other languages. Also, it motivates translation students to confront texts with emotional meaning. Overall, its translation strengthens a more diverse and universal youth literature.

## 1.3 Objectives

### 1.3.1 General Objective

To translate from Spanish into English the pages 59 to 110 from the book “La Búsqueda de Oz: Edición del Autor” written by Florentino Hidalgo.

### 1.3.2 Specific Objectives.

2. To implement 7 translation techniques from the source language of the book “La Búsqueda de Oz: Edición del Autor” written by Florentino Hidalgo into the target language, in this case is English, providing two examples per technique.
3. To demonstrate effective use of the mechanics of writing in the target language “La Búsqueda de Oz: Edición del Autor”: punctuation, capitalization, coherence, and unity.
4. To analyze the structure of the target language, the syntax, semantics, and pragmatics of both languages are identified and translated.
5. To interpret the cultural and sociological aspects of the source language that may determine a fluid translation that also reflects an awareness of the culture of the target language.

## 1.4 Methodology

Translation is a vital tool for connecting cultures, ideas, and knowledge across languages. It not only makes literature, research, and media accessible to new audiences, but also preserves the intent and style of the original text. For this reason, translation goes beyond replacing words; it requires understanding the cultural and linguistic context to faithfully transmit meaning while keeping the text natural in the target language.

Translation techniques are essential because they provide strategies to handle the differences between languages. By applying techniques such as transposition, modulation, or equivalence, the translator can solve structural or cultural challenges and produce a text that is both accurate and fluent. In a university project, highlighting these techniques demonstrates not only the translator's linguistic ability but also their critical awareness of the decisions behind every choice.

### 1.4.1 Translations Techniques Implemented

#### 1. Translation Technique: Transposition

Definition: "The method called transposition involves replacing one word class with another without changing the meaning of the message. Besides being a special translation procedure, transposition can also be applied within a language." (Vinay et al, 1995, p.88)

Example #1: (p. 2)

SL: Entre ellos se encontraba el hombre de hojalata, blandiendo su poderosa hacha,

TL: Wielding his mighty axe, was the tin man among them,

**Analysis:** In this example the Spanish order “*Entre ellos se encontraba el hombre de hojalata, blandiendo su poderosa hacha*” is restructured in English. The translation shifts the syntax to “*Wielding his mighty axe, was the tin man among them*”, moving the participle clause to the front. This grammatical change maintains meaning while adapting the sentence to a more linguistic English style. Also, the shift from a syntactic structure of a preposition (de hojalata) to a compact compound (tinman) reflects a case of transposition, since the meaning is preserved but the grammatical form changes.

Example #2: (p. 13)

SL: “Esperando siempre la **salida** de la **luna**”

TL: “Always waiting for the **moon** to **rise**”

The diagram consists of two blue brackets under the Spanish words 'salida' and 'luna'. Two blue arrows originate from the center of the 'salida' bracket and point to the words 'moon' and 'rise' in the English translation. Another two blue arrows originate from the center of the 'luna' bracket and point to the words 'moon' and 'rise' in the English translation. This illustrates how the Spanish noun 'salida' is restructured into the English verb phrase 'to rise'.

**Analysis:** It is applied in the example #2, when the noun “salida” (exit/rising) becomes the verb phrase “to rise” to improve fluency and fits English syntactic norms.

## 2. Translation Technique: Adaptation

Definition: “This technique can simply prevent us from misunderstanding each other. It is adapting a confused expression with localization, for example, translating when the target audience speaks a different variant of the same language, such as in the case of Latin America. When adapting a message, we are not translating it literally.” (Rudi Hartono, 2020, p. 34)

Example #1: (p.31)

SL: – ¿En dónde estamos? – preguntó Ceci, mientras la inquietud se hacía con ella cada vez más –. **Este sitio me da mala espina.**

TL: - Where are we? - Ceci asked, as the anxiety took over her more and more-. **This place gives me the willies.**

**Analysis:** In this case, the use of literal translation will sound awkward in the target language, in the example #1: “Este sitio me da mala espina” is translated as “This place gives me the willies”. Instead of a literal version like “a bad feeling”, it selects an idiomatic expression that sounds natural in English.

Example #2: (p. 18)

SL: “– No es tu culpa que cosas malas pasen, Ceci – dijo su abuela **acariciándole** la cabeza

TL: - It's not your fault that bad things happen, Ceci- said her grandmother, **stroking** her head

**Analysis:** In this example the word, “acariciar” is softer, than “stroking” in English, especially when referring to a person. Instead that literally as “caressing” could feel overly romantic in this context (a grandmother with her granddaughter). It is better to adapt it to “stroking her head,” a culturally neutral and warm gesture in English that avoids unintended implications.

### 3. Translation Technique: Modulation

Definition: “Modulation involves using a different phrase from that used in the source content to preserve the same meaning in the target language. With this technique, you change your perspective to convey the idea in a way that aligns with the natural patterns of the target language. Thus, a reader in the target language won't be confused by an unexpected phrase.” (Mustafin, 2020, pr.9)

Example #1: (p. 5)

SL: Las huestes malignas ya casi se habían hecho con todo el lugar cuando se **escuchó** en el cielo un poderoso gruñido...

TL: The evil hosts had almost taken over the whole place when a mighty growl was **thundered** in the sky...

**Analysis:** In terms of technique, modulation is the one that helps to give more clarity in the translation of this phrase. Because the Spanish impersonal phrasing “se escuchó en el cielo” is restructured into the more dynamic “was thundered in the sky.” changes the point of view, emphasizing the force of the growl rather than the act of hearing it. This demonstrates how modulation allows to adjust perspective for greater impact while keeping the original meaning intact.

Example #2: (P. 2)

SL: Pero las puertas **cedían**

TL: But the gates began **to give way**

**Analysis:** In the second example, the Spanish verb “ceder” is directly “yield,” but it is modulated into an English expression “began to give way,” which keeps the imagery while adapting to an English colloquial term.

#### 4. Translation Technique: Addition

Definition: “According to Vinay and Darbelnet (1995), the translation technique of addition consists of introducing elements into the target text that are not explicitly stated in the source text but are required for grammatical, stylistic, or cultural reasons.” (Vinay, J. P., & Darbelnet, J., 1995, p. 343)

Example #1: (p. 15)

SL: quien logró mantenerme con vida, pero mi corazón había sufrido un daño fatal,

TL: who managed to keep me alive, but my heart had suffered **a truly** fatal damage

**Analysis:** In this example, the translation in English adds “truly” to intensify the fatality, which is not in the Spanish text. This increases emphasis and dramatization, aligning with the tone of epic fantasy storytelling.

Example #2: (p. 5)

SL: Se escuchó un aleteo en la noche y de pronto entre las nubes,

TL: A **sudden** fluttering could be heard in the night and suddenly among the clouds,

**Analysis:** This technique is used to provide cultural or contextual information that ensures the target audience fully understands the source text. In the example, this type of addition may respond to an attractive intention (to increase tension or atmosphere).

## 5. Translation Technique: Equivalence

Definition: “According to Vinay & Darbelnet, equivalence is a procedure which “replicates the same situation as in the original, whilst using completely different wording” (1958/1995:342). It is thus used for instance to translate fixed expressions such as idioms, proverbs or clichés where SL and TL units which bear little or no external resemblance are used to translate each other; thus for example English like a bull in a china shop would probably be translated into French as *comme un chien dans un jeu de quilles*.” (Mark Shuttleworth & Moira Cowie 1997, 2014, p. 51)

Example #1: (p. 25)

SL: “¡Déjenlos que vengan! – añadió el león –. **Me encargaré** de ellos...”

TL: “Let them come! - added the lion. **I’ll take care** of them...”

**Analysis:** The use of this technique helps the target audience to a better understanding of the meaning of the book in their language. In the first example, contextually appropriate rendering that preserves the grammatical person and temporal reference. Although, the

translation must remain aware of context to avoid unintended affective overtones in “take care of” in English.

Example #2: (p. 28)

SL: “No piensen que se van a divertir sin nosotros.”

TL: “Don’t think you’re going to have fun without us.”

**Analysis:** The translation in Spanish, in this example conveys a playful warning or caution, and the English version with this technique maintains exactly that sense, although it reorganizes the structure to sound natural in English.

## 6. Translation Technique: Calque

Definition: “Richards (1992) claimed that calque is to the type of loan translation or borrowing because this translation technique translates the morpheme or word of a language into equivalent morphemes or words into other languages (p. 44). See examples. The English word ‘almighty’ is calqued from the Latin ‘omnipotens’: omni (= all) and ‘potens’ (= mighty), so the ‘omnipotens’ was formed into ‘almighty’.” (Rudi Hartono, 2020, p. 14)

Example #1: (p. 32):

“Laberinto del Ser” → “Maze of Being”

Example #2 (p. 13):

en la frontera con el **Desierto de la Muerte**. → on the border with the **Desert of Death**.

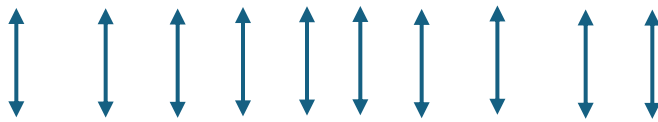
**Analysis:** These examples highlight the calque technique, since they directly transfer the Spanish structure into the English. This method preserves both the semantic meaning and metaphorical resonance of the originals while producing natural expressions in English.

## 7. Translation Technique: Literal Translation

Definition: “Newmark (1988) said that literal translation or called straight translation or linear translation is between word-for-word translation and free translation (p. 46). In the process of translation, translators look for grammatical constructions of the source language that are matching to, equivalent with or close to the target language.” (Rudi Hartono, 2020, p. 57)

Example #1: (p. 28)

SL: “Lloraba como un perro con su cola entre las patas”

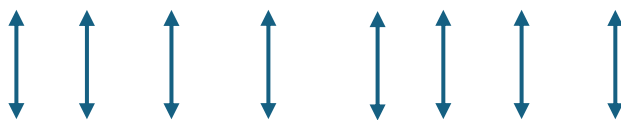


TL: “Crying like a dog with his tail between his legs”

**Analysis:** In this example it is a palpable illustration of the literal translation technique, where the source text is rendered word-for-word into the target language. This approach preserves the lexical choices and syntactic order of the original, ensuring a high degree of fidelity.

Example #2: (p. 26)

SL: “Su aliento era pestilente y su gruñido tenebroso”



TL: “Its breath was pestilential and its growl tenebrous”

**Analysis:** This case show how literal translation can achieve accuracy and transparency, but also that instead of using a different technique, literal technique helps in the context of a children’s book.

# Second Chapter

## 2.1 Translated Text

### P. 1

#### CAPÍTULO 4: VALOR Y SENSIBILIDAD

Mientras tanto, en el Castillo de Cristal, el enorme ejército de las brujas había llegado a las puertas de la ciudad. Estas bajaron de sus escobas y, con un hechizo potente para magnificar su voz, dijeron a la vez:

– ¡Glinda, ríndete ahora y te ahorrarás la destrucción de tu querido pueblo!

– ¡Jamás! – exclamó el hada -. ¡No permitiré que sigan esclavizando a Oz! ¡Ni mucho menos que lleven a cabo ese plan de revivir a sus hermanas!

– Tú lo has querido así, Glinda – respondió la malvada bruja del sur -. Te dimos la oportunidad de vivir, pero tomaremos esa varita mágica cueste lo que cueste. Es el momento de ver quién ha de reinar sobre todo Oz... ¡Ataquen!

A su orden, todas las huestes maléficas que las seguían iniciaron la batalla. Los monos voladores lanzaban rocas a modo de proyectiles sobre los soldados de la ciudadela, los *winkies* intentaban trepar las murallas usando sus enormes

#### CHAPTER 4: COURAGE AND SENSIBILITY

Meanwhile, in the Crystal Castle, the enormous army of the witches had arrived at the gates of the city. These descended from their brooms and, with a powerful spell to magnify their voices, said at once:

- Glinda, surrender now and you will be spared for the destruction of your beloved people!

- Never! - exclaimed the fairy-. I will not allow you to continue to enslave Oz, nor will I allow you to carry out this plan to revive your sisters!

- You wanted it this way, Glinda - replied to the wicked witch of the south-. We gave you a chance to live, but we'll take that magic wand no matter what it takes. It is time to see who shall reign over all Oz... Attack!

At her command, all the evil hosts that followed them began the battle. The flying monkeys threw rocks as projectiles at the soldiers of the citadel, the *winkies* tried to climb the walls using their enormous

## P. 2

lanzas y los trasgos se agolpaban en la entrada intentando derribarla. Entre ellos se encontraba el hombre de hojalata, blandiendo su poderosa hacha, golpeando cada vez más fuerte las puertas de madera, haciendo estremecer los cimientos mismos del castillo.

– ¡Debemos hacer algo! – exclamó Glinda –. Si esto continúa así, se harán con el control de la ciudad.

– Su majestad, le prometo que no entrarán. ¡Déjemelo a mí! –. dijo el león e inmediatamente saltó hacia las puertas para evitar el ataque.

Pero las puertas cedían, no había fuerzas suficientes para resistir. Si caían, no solo permitirían la entrada de los terribles ejércitos de las brujas, sino también los aplastarían completamente. El león consciente de esto subió las escaleras de la torre. Desde lo alto, observó la multitud de trasgos y winkies que luchaban por penetrar en el castillo y, mirando a su antiguo compañero, dejó escapar un rugido ensordecedor que sembró el temor entre los ejércitos del mal.

spears and goblins crowded the entrance, trying to break it down. Wielding his mighty axe, was the tin man among them, hitting the wooden doors harder, shaking the very foundations of the castle.

- We must do something! - Glinda exclaimed-. If this continues, they will take control of the city.

- Your majesty, I promise you they won't get in. Leave it to me! -said the lion and immediately jumped towards the gates to avoid the attack.

But the gates began to give way, there was not enough strength to resist. If they fell, they would not only allow the terrible armies of the witches to enter but would also crush them completely. The lion, aware of this, climbed the stairs of the tower. From the top, he observed the multitude of goblins and winkies struggling to penetrate the castle and, looking at his former companion, he let out a deafening roar that spread fear among the armies of evil.

Saltó de la muralla cayendo sobre muchos de sus enemigos, batiéndose con todos aquellos que se agolpaban en la puerta. Los arañaba con las garras y empujaba con sus fuertes patas, clavándoles sus filosos colmillos, peleando fiera y valientemente, haciendo uso de todo su coraje y poder.

He jumped over the wall and fell upon many of his enemies, fighting with all those who crowded the gate. He scratched them with his claws and pushed them with his strong paws, digging his sharp fangs into them, fighting fiercely and bravely, making use of all his courage and power.

### P. 3

Mientras él combatía, los soldados reparaban la puerta lo más rápido posible y el hombre de hojalata empuñaba su hacha para enfrentar a aquel que, tiempo atrás, fuera uno de sus más fieles compañeros de aventura.

While he was fighting, the soldiers were repairing the door as quickly as possible and the tin man was wielding his axe to face the man who, some time ago, had been one of his most faithful companions in adventure.

El león esperaba a su antiguo amigo, quien avanzaba hacia él con el hacha sobre su cabeza intentando asestarle un golpe mortal.

The lion was waiting for his old friend, who was advancing towards him with the axe over his head, trying to hit him with a mortal strike.

– Amigo, ¿por qué lo haces? – preguntó el león –. ¿Qué te ha pasado?

- Friend, why are you doing this? - asked the lion-. What happened to you?

Pero de aquel hombre de hojalata que había logrado encontrar un corazón no salió respuesta alguna, solo un gesto de maldad y de furia, mientras acercaba su poderoso cuerpo metálico preparado para el ataque.

But from that tin man who had been able to find a heart, no answer came out, only a gesture of malice and fury, as he brought his powerful metallic body closer, ready for the attack.

Sus pisadas resonaban entre el fragor de la batalla, la afilada hoja pegó en el suelo, el león la había esquivado. Nuevamente intentó golpearle y el león pudo evitarlo. Entonces, cuando el hombre de hojalata blandió por tercera vez su mortífera arma, el león fue herido. Pero aun así logró sostener el hacha con su poderosa mandíbula y arrebatándosela a su contrincante, la arrojó hacia el profundo foso del castillo donde se perdió para siempre.

Dándose la vuelta, el león puso toda su fuerza en sus patas traseras, y pateó a su antiguo compañero, haciéndolo perder el equilibrio y caer, golpeando su cabeza con una de las rocas que había en el lugar.

His footsteps echoed in the battle din, the sharp blade hit the ground, the lion dodged it. Again, it tried to strike him, and the lion was able to avoid it. Then, when the tin man swung his deadly weapon a third time, the lion was wounded. But he still managed to hold the axe in his powerful jaw and snatched it from his opponent and threw it into the deep moat of the castle where it was lost forever.

Turning around, the lion put all his strength into his hind legs, and kicked his former companion, making him lose his balance and fall, hitting his head on one of the rocks in the place.

#### **P. 4**

Herido, el león pudo entrar por un agujero en la puerta que fue sellado rápidamente. Y nuevamente los winkies y los trasgos continuaron en sus intentos de derribarla con todas sus fuerzas.

Las brujas volaban por los cielos oscuros, riéndose estridentemente... atacando una con escarcha y otra con relámpagos que rompían las paredes de piedra lentamente. Glinda las combatía repeliendo sus ataques,

Wounded, the lion was able to enter through a hole in the door that was quickly sealed. And again, the winkies and goblins continued in their attempts to bring it down with all their might.

The witches flew through the dark skies, laughing loudly... attacking one with frost and the other with lightning that broke the stone walls slowly. Glinda fought them off by repelling their

pero poco a poco se debilitaba, puesto que lógicamente dos brujas son más fuertes que solo un hada. Fue así que, en un momento de debilidad, la malvada bruja del sur se acercó a Glinda, arrebatándole la preciada varita mágica de las manos y volviendo al cielo desde su escoba gritó a sus ejércitos:

– ¡Acabadlos a todos, tenemos la varita!  
¡Destruyan la ciudad!

La puerta cayó inmediatamente como si la misma orden la hubiese derrumbado y los ejércitos malignos invadieron el pueblo arrasando todo y cuanto hubiera a su paso. El hombre de hojalata se levantó y, como si un velo de oscuridad hubiera sido arrancado de sus ojos, se adentró en la ciudadela empujando y deshaciéndose de todo trasgo, mono o winkie que encontrara en el camino. Logró llegar hasta el león, a quien habían llevado a un cuarto custodiado donde atendían sus heridas. Luego de convencer a los soldados de que ya no era su enemigo se le permitió entrar a verle.

attacks, but little by little she weakened, since logically two witches are stronger than just one fairy. So it was that, in a moment of weakness, the Wicked Witch of the South approached Glinda, snatching the precious magic wand from her hands and returning to the sky from her broom she shouted to her armies:

- Finish them all, we have the wand!  
Destroy the city!

The door fell immediately as if the same order had collapsed and the evil armies invaded the town devastating everything and anything in its path. The tin man got up and, as if a veil of darkness had been torn from his eyes, he entered the citadel, pushing and shoving every goblin, monkey or winkie he could find on his way. He made his way to the lion, who had been taken to a guarded room where his wounds were being tended to. After convincing the soldiers that he was no longer their enemy, he was allowed to go in and see him.

## P. 5

Allí, viendo a su amigo herido, el hombre de hojalata dejó escapar dos lágrimas de aceite al darse cuenta del terrible daño que había ocasionado.

– Sabía lo que hacía, amigo león – dijo con tristeza –, pero no podía detenerme...

El león le miró y sonrió, la herida era profunda y había perdido mucha sangre.

– Eres tú – le dijo –. Sabía que volverías a nosotros, pero no hay tiempo de dar explicaciones, debemos defender la ciudad, hazlo por mí...

Asintió y el hombre de hojalata se dirigió con valentía a defender lo indefendible, entregando todas sus facultades, todo su corazón... a tan noble tarea.

Las huestes malignas ya casi se habían hecho con todo el lugar cuando se escuchó en el cielo un poderoso gruñido y una potente llamarada cruzó los campos haciendo que los ejércitos de las brujas huyeran despavoridos.

Se escuchó un aleteo en la noche y de pronto entre las nubes, la figura del enorme dragón Bolgar pudo verse imponente.

– ¡Vamos, Bolgar! – exclamó Ceci –. ¡Debemos ayudarles!

There, looking at his wounded friend, the tin man let two tears of oil drop as he realized the terrible damage he had caused.

- I knew what I was doing, my lion friend - he said sadly -, but I couldn't stop myself...

The lion looked at him and smiled, the wound was deep, and he had lost a lot of blood.

- It's you– he said-. I knew you would come back to us, but there is no time to give explanations, we must defend the city, do it for me...

He nodded and the tin man went bravely to defend the undefendable, giving all his abilities, all his heart... to such a noble task.

The evil hosts had almost taken over the whole place when a mighty growl was thundered in the sky and a powerful flame crossed the fields causing the witches' armies to flee in terror.

A sudden fluttering could be heard in the night and suddenly among the

Y el dragón voló bajo, lanzando llamaradas de fuego hacia

clouds, the figure of the enormous dragon Bolgar could be seen imposing.

- Come on, Bolgar! - exclaimed Ceci. We must help them!

And the dragon flew low, shooting flames of fire towards

## P. 6

sus enemigos que corrían llenos de temor. Aterrizó dentro del castillo y permitió que Ceci, su abuela y Jack bajaran de su espalda y pudieran refugiarse en el interior de la ciudadela. Bolgar, mirando como los ejércitos se retiraban y las brujas volaban escapando cada vez más lejos decidió seguirlas.

his enemies who were running full of fear. He landed inside the castle and allowed Ceci, his grandmother and Jack to climb down from his back and could take refuge inside the citadel. Bolgar, watching as the armies retreated and the witches flew further away, decided to follow them.

La bruja del norte se detuvo en su escoba. Miró a su hermana y le dijo que se hiciera con la varita y escapara junto a el ejército, ella se quedaría para darle una lección a aquel dragón. Un dragón que ambas conocían muy bien y a quien debieron haber destruido hacía ya muchísimo tiempo.

The witch of the north stopped on her broom. She looked at her sister and told her to take her wand and escape with the army, she would stay to teach that dragon a lesson. A dragon they both knew very well and who should have been destroyed a long time ago.

Bolgar se acercó a la bruja, movió su poderosa cola intentando derribarla, pero esta la esquivó. Usando su poder maléfico, la oscura hechicera convocó una nevada y

Bolgar approached the witch, swung his powerful tail trying to knock her down, but she dodged it. Using her evil power, the dark sorceress summoned a snowfall and

de su mano surgió un gélido frío que congeló la garganta del dragón, paralizando sus alas y su cuerpo, haciéndole cada vez más difícil mantenerse en el aire. El dragón lanzó una llamarada que chocó contra el helado hechizo de la bruja, el cual lentamente sobrepasaba su agonizante aliento.

En ese momento, justo cuando Bolgar iba a ser congelado para siempre algo sucedió. Una criatura inesperada, una sombra entre las nubes, apareció de pronto.

– ¡Has sido tú! – graznó furioso –. ¡Tú fuiste quien asesinó

from her hand came an icy cold that froze the dragon's throat, paralyzing its wings and body, making it extremely difficult for it to stay in the air. The dragon launched a flare that slammed into the witch's icy spell, which slowly overtook her dying breath.

At that moment, just when Bolgar was about to freeze forever something happened. An unexpected creature, a shadow among the clouds, suddenly appeared.

- It was you! - it yells angrily-. It was you who murdered

## P.7

a mi hermano!

¡Corax estaba con vida! De alguna manera había escapado de los kalidahs y ahora se aproximaba a la bruja a toda velocidad. El cuervo esquivó con agilidad algunos ataques de la sorprendida vieja y en un momento de descuido se acercó a su rostro, arrancándole los ojos a picotazos.

La bruja aulló de dolor perdiendo el control de su magia, el cuervo se elevó cada vez

my brother!

Corax was alive! Somehow, he had escaped from the Kalidahs and was now approaching the witch at full speed. The raven agilely dodged a few attacks from the surprised old woman and in a moment of carelessness came close to her face, pecked out her eyes.

The witch howled in pain losing control of her magic, the raven rose higher and

más y la última llama del dragón llegó así al cuerpo de Odessa, la malvada bruja del norte, haciéndola precipitarse de su escoba envuelta en una ardiente bola de fuego.

Corax descendió rápidamente para advertir a Glinda de lo que había ocurrido y cuando el dragón cayó a tierra víctima de la terrible maldición congelante de la bruja, la dulce hada buena le permitió hacerlo lentamente y sin lastimarse.

Estaba muy herido, el frío de la bruja del norte era mortal y Glinda sin contar con su varita no podía hacer nada para ayudarlo. La abuela de Ceci se acercó a él, se arrodilló frente al enorme dragón que le tuviera cautiva y le abrazó mientras lloraba amargamente.

– ¿Por qué lloras? – preguntó Ceci contrariada –. ¿Acaso no fue él quien te mantuvo prisionera todo este tiempo?

– Él... él era tu abuelo – sollozó ella –. Las brujas le convirtieron en esto poco antes de que yo regresara, me

higher, and the last flame of the dragon reached the body of Odessa, the wicked witch of the north, making her fall from her broom wrapped in a burning ball of fire.

Corax quickly descended to warn Glinda of what had happened and when the dragon fell to the ground victim of the witch's terrible freezing curse, the sweet, good fairy allowed him to do so slowly and without hurting himself.

He was badly hurt; the northern witch's cold was deadly and Glinda without her wand could do nothing to help him. Ceci's grandmother came to him, knelt in front of the huge dragon that held him captive and hugged him while crying bitterly.

- Why are you crying? - Ceci asked upset-. Wasn't he the one who kept you prisoner all this time?

- He... he was your grandfather - she sobbed -. The witches turned him into this shortly before I came back, they

## P. 8

odiaban por ser hija de Dorothy la cazabrujas y quisieron destruir nuestro amor. No murió en la guerra como se dijo, su avión no desapareció, fue víctima de la maldad de Odessa y Eriniss... Él pensó que nunca lo supe, pero por ello decidí quedarme como su prisionera. Solamente quería estar a su lado... de la forma que fuera.

La revelación tomó por sorpresa a Ceci, quien inmediatamente cayó al suelo de rodillas, lágrimas salieron de sus ojos y por un buen rato permaneció allí, mirando cómo lentamente aquel dragón, su abuelo... caía víctima de la congelación de la bruja y como los ejércitos del mal se marchaban, llevándose consigo la tan preciada varita mágica de Glinda. El único objeto capaz de quitar cualquier maldición...

El dragón se debatía entre la vida y la muerte sufriendo las terribles heridas causadas por el hielo congelante. La Ciudad de Cristal se encontraba devastada por la terrible guerra que había acontecido, el paraje era sombrío como toda posibilidad para nuestros héroes.

hated me for being Dorothy the witch hunter's daughter and wanted to destroy our love. He didn't die in the war as it was said, his plane didn't disappear, he was a victim of Odessa and Eriniss' evil... He thought I never knew, but that's why I decided to stay as his prisoner. I just wanted to be by his side... in whatever way I could.

The revelation took Ceci by surprise, who immediately fell to the ground on her knees, tears came out of her eyes and for a long time she remained there, watching how slowly that dragon, her grandfather... fell victim of the witch's freezing and how the armies of evil left, taking with them Glinda's so precious magic wand. The only object capable of removing any curse...

The dragon was fighting between life and death, suffering from the terrible wounds caused by the freezing ice. The City of Crystal was devastated by the terrible war that had happened, the landscape was bleak as any possibility for our heroes.

Ceci lloraba amargamente junto a su abuela frente al cuerpo del dragón que lentamente comenzaba a tornarse de un color grisáceo y cuya respiración bajaba cada vez más su ritmo... ¿Moriría? ¿Habría algo que se pudiera hacer?

Ceci was crying bitterly with her grandmother in front of the dragon's body that was slowly turning grayish and whose breathing was slowing down... Would it die? Was there anything that could be done?

## P. 9

rayos que lo iluminaban y el fuerte viento que soplaba les recordaba la macabra risa de la bruja del sur. Al parecer, todo... estaba perdido.

lightning that illuminated it and the strong wind that blew reminded them of the macabre laughter of the witch of the south. Apparently, all... was lost.

## P. 10

### IMAGEN

-Amigo, ¿porque lo haces? - preguntó el león- ¿qué te ha pasado?

Pero de aquel hombre de hojalata que había logrado encontrar un corazón no salio respuesta alguna, solo un gesto de maldad y de furia, mientras acercaba su poderoso cuerpo metálico preparado para el ataque.

### IMAGE

-Friend, why are you doing this? - asked the lion-what happened to you?

But from that tin man who had managed to find a heart, no answer came out, only a gesture of malice and fury, as he brought his powerful metallic body closer, ready to attack.

**P. 11**

**CAPÍTULO 5: LA HISTORIA DE NICK CHOPPER, EL HOMBRE DE HOJALATA**      **CHAPTER 5: THE STORY OF NICK CHOPPER, THE TIN MAN**

No podemos quedarnos aquí sin hacer nada – dijo el hombre de hojalata, cuyo corazón sufría al ver a Ceci y a los demás en tan difícil situación –. Quiero creer que aún existe una posibilidad... aferrarme a esa esperanza que siempre me ha hecho seguir. Este no puede ser el fin... ¡no lo permitiré!

We can't stay here and do nothing, - said the tin man, whose heart suffered at look to Ceci and the others in such a difficult situation. - I want to believe that there is still a chance... I want to hold on to that hope which has always kept me going. This cannot be the end... I will not allow it!

¿Qué ocurre? – preguntó Jack de pronto –. ¿Por qué lloras? – Al igual que Bolgar, yo también fui humano alguna vez – respondió –. Hace mucho tiempo, cuando ni siquiera el gran mago de Oz había llegado a estas tierras.

What's the matter? - Jack suddenly asked-. Why are you crying? - Like Bolgar, I was human once, too - he replied-. A long time ago, when not even the great wizard of Oz had come to this land.

Mi historia, es una historia muy triste... no fue hasta que recuperé mi corazón que pude recordarla y así caí nuevamente bajo aquella terrible maldición

My story, it is a very sad story... it was not until I regained my heart that I could remember it and so I fell again under that terrible curse.

La voz del hombre de hojalata se escuchaba entrecortada. Su mirada se notaba triste, como perdida en sus memorias

The tin man's voice sounded broken. His gaze was sad, as if lost in his memories

## P. 12

y en el tiempo, recordando tal vez, and in time, remembering, perhaps, momentos en los que fue feliz. Secó sus moments when he was happy. He wiped lágrimas de aceite, se sentó sobre uno his tears of oil, sat down on one of the de los escalones de la entrada y steps of the doorway and took the oil can tomando la aceitera la colocó en su and placed it in his mouth, lubricating his boca, lubricando su mandíbula para jaw and then continued: entonces continuar:

Hace mucho tiempo, cuando nadie en Oz temía a las brujas y el mal era desconocido, vivía yo en la Pradera Munchkin. Se encontraba ahí asentado un pequeño pueblo, de personas alegres, trabajadoras y llenas de vida. Mi gente... el pasar de los años borró de mi memoria el cómo se nos conocía En ese entonces era un hombre fuerte, un leñador. Me levantaba cada mañana al salir el sol, camino del Bosque del Olvido a realizar el duro trabajo que me llenaba de satisfacción. Las personas me conocían como Nick, Nick Chopper.

Fue la época más feliz de mi vida, había conocido a la mujer más dulce, hermosa y encantadora que pudieran haber visto mis ojos, una doncella munchkin cuyo nombre era Nimmie Amee.

Long ago, when no one in Oz feared witches and evil was unknown, I lived on the Munchkin Prairie. A small village was set up there, of cheerful, hard-working people, full of life. My people... passing of the years wiped from my memory how we were known. Back then I was a strong man, a lumberman. I got up every morning at sunrise, on my way to the Forest of Oblivion to do the hard work that filled me with satisfaction. People knew me as Nick, Nick Chopper.

It was the happiest time of my life, I had met the sweetest, most beautiful and charming woman my eyes could have ever seen, a munchkin maiden whose name was Nimmie Amee.

Nos amábamos, pero su familia se oponía con todas sus fuerzas a nuestra relación, en especial su madre, quien decía que su hija jamás se casaría con un simple leñador, que debía ser la esposa de algún lord o comerciante de Oz, capaz de brindarle toda la riqueza que esta merecía.

### P. 13

A pesar de ello nos veíamos en secreto, esperando siempre la salida de la luna, dándonos todo el amor que podíamos, rodeados por las sombras de la noche, hasta despuntar el alba.

Yo le había prometido construirle un palacio con mis propias manos... quería brindarle todo lo que merecía, hacerla una reina y que nada en el mundo le faltase. Pero una noche, su madre acudió a las Ciénagas Oscuras, más allá del País de los Winkies, en la frontera con el Desierto de la Muerte.

Se rumoreaba que un ser sombrío habitaba aquel lugar, una mujer misteriosa que había sido anteriormente un hada buena, pero que sucumbió a las tinieblas por un desamor, dejándose arrastrar por

las artes oscuras y los malos sentimientos... convirtiéndose así en una bruja, la malvada bruja del este.

La madre de Nimmie le suplicó que impidiera nuestro matrimonio haciendo uso de su magia negra, y la bruja después de ser recompensada por una bolsa de monedas, así lo hizo. Lanzó un encantamiento sobre mi hacha, mi confiable herramienta de trabajo. Cada vez que la tomara, cada vez que me aprestara a dar un golpe con ella para derribar un árbol... su filosa hoja se tornarían en mi contra.

Poco a poco, el hacha fue destruyendo mi cuerpo. Primero los brazos... luego las piernas. Cada vez que esto ocurría yo

crafts and dark feelings... becoming a witch, the east evil witch.

Nimmie's mother begged her to stop our marriage, by using her dark craft with us, and she did it after getting rewarded with a bag of coins, she did it. She threw a craft to my axe, my trustful tool. Every time I will use it, every time I try to hit a tree with it... the sharp axe blade would turn against me.

Gradually, the axe was destroying my body. Firstly, the arms... then the legs. Each time that this happens, I

## P. 14

pensaba en mi amada y la idea de terminar su castillo no abandonaba mi mente.

Como el único médico cercano se encontraba en Ciudad Esmeralda, nadie había en la cercanía que pudiera ayudarme. Fue así como terminé en las manos de un buen hombre llamado Ku

thought in my love, and I could not stop thinking of the idea of finishing her castle.

As the nearest doctor was in Emerald City, nobody was close to help me. That's how I ended up with a man called Ku Klip, a big blacksmith and inventor, very popular in that town.

Klip, gran herrero e inventor, muy conocido en el lugar.

Al ver mi estado deplorable y mi resolución para continuar con mi labor se apiadó de mí. Hizo uso de toda su experiencia, conocimientos obtenidos durante años dominando el arte de la metalurgia, habiendo logrado creaciones maravillosas que regalaba a las hadas.

Me construyó brazos metálicos para que solamente con un golpe pudiese derribar un árbol por completo... Me dio piernas igual de poderosas, capaces de soportar horas y horas de pie, sin cansarme, para poder así continuar sin desmayar.

Seguía obsesionado con terminar el castillo de mi amada y a pesar de sus súplicas para que dejara de hacerlo, de que escapáramos y huyéramos de Oz, no la escuché. Llegado el momento, ocurrió lo inevitable... y entonces, el hacha golpeó mi cabeza.

Perdí todo recuerdo, todo conocimiento de mi vida, mis amigos, mis padres y mi pueblo. Era un ser sin memoria, sin nada más que una razón para continuar; construir aquel

When he looked how awful a I was and that I would not stop, he helps me. He uses all his experience and knowledge that he had through the years in the metalwork art, creating wonderful things that he gave to the fairies.

He built me metallic arms so that with just one hit I could cut a tree completely... He gave me similarly powerful legs, capable of withstanding hours on my feet, without fatigue, that I could continue without fainting.

I was still obsessed with finishing my beloved castle and despite her begging for me to stop, for us to escape and flee of Oz, I didn't listen. When the time came, the inevitable happened...and then, the axe hit my head.

I lost all memories, all knowledge of my life, my friends, my parents, and my people. I was a man with no memory, with nothing but a reason to continue; to build that

**P. 15**

castillo, derribar aquellos árboles para obtener todo el material, lo hacía únicamente... por amor.

Pero... al levantar el hacha para asestar el golpe final, el filo me golpeó en el pecho. Caí y durante un tiempo estuve tendido, sintiéndome morir. Mis extremidades de metal me ayudaron a llegar donde el herrero, quien logró mantenerme con vida, pero mi corazón había sufrido un daño fatal, y mi pecho desde entonces, quedó vacío. No sentía nada... no recordaba nada... Era más una máquina que un ser humano, me convertí en lo que ven ahora, un hombre de metal... un hombre de hojalata.

Un día me encontraba derribando árboles y Nimmie se me acercó implorando que me fuera con ella, pero ya no la amaba porque no tenía corazón y no la recordaba porque no tenía memoria. Sin querer, al asestar otro golpe para continuar cortando, la lastimé haciéndole caer.

Llorando de impotencia al observar mi impasible reacción, se alejó corriendo,

castle, to cut down those trees to obtain all the wood, I was only doing it... for love.

But... as I raised the axe to make the final blow, the blade hit me in the chest. I fell and for a while I lay there, feeling like I was dying. My metal limbs helped me to reach the tinsmith, who managed to keep me alive, but my heart had suffered a truly fatal damage, and my chest had been empty ever since. I felt nothing... I could remember nothing... I was more of a machine than a human being, I became what you see now, a man of metal... a man of tin.

One day I was cutting down trees and Nimmie came to me imploring me to go with her, but I no longer loved her because I had no heart, and I did not remember her because I had no memory. Unintentionally, as I threw another hit to continue cutting, I hurt her, causing her to fall.

Crying with impotence as she watched my impassive reaction, she ran away,

mientras yo continuaba golpeando una y otra vez, sin nada en qué pensar, sin nada que sufrir, sin nadie a quien amar.

while I continued to hit her again and again, with nothing to think about, nothing to suffer, no one to love.

Continué, sin saber por qué... noche y día, bajo el incandescente sol, bajo la nieve y bajo la lluvia. Derribaba árbol tras árbol con aquella hacha maldita... ya no podía hacerme daño, pero lentamente consumía mi alma, lo poco que me quedaba...

I continued, without knowing why... night and day, in the blazing sun, in the snow and in the rain. I chopped down tree after tree with that cursed axe... I could no longer hurt myself, but it was slowly consuming my soul, the little that I had left...

## P. 16

Con el paso del tiempo mi metálico cuerpo se oxidó y permanecí así durante muchos años, viendo cambiar de otoño a invierno y de primavera a verano... solo e inmóvil, como una estatua de metal.

As time went by, my metallic body rusted and I remained like that for many years, watching it changes from autumn to winter and from spring to summer... alone and immobile, like a statue of metal.

Hasta que un día, los vi pasar por aquel camino de ladrillos amarillos, eran Dorothy y espantapájaros, quienes no solo me devolvieron la fe en la amistad, sino también mi corazón y mi esperanza de volver algún día a ser como antes...

Until one day, I saw them passing that yellow brick road, they were Dorothy and Scarecrow, who not only gave me back my faith in friendship, but also my heart and my hope of one day returning to the way it used to be...

Luego de la toma de Oz, fui a buscar a mis amigos, a intentar liberarlos de las garras de aquellas malvadas hechiceras. Luché

After the taking of Oz, I went to find my friends, to try to free them from the

con todas mis fuerzas, Tik Tok y Bungle combatieron junto a mí, pero fuimos derrotados. Ellas percibieron la maldad que aún había en el hacha, la esencia misma de su hermana fallecida, y haciendo un conjuro aprovechándose de esa energía maligna lograron controlarme, volviéndome contra todos ustedes, a quienes más quiero en el mundo.

– Lo siento mucho – dijo Ceci, poniéndose de pie y abrazando al hombre de hojalata –. Tienes razón, no debemos perder la esperanza, te prometo que haremos que vuelvas a ser como antes. Tenemos que ir al castillo de la bruja, liberar al mago y al espantapájaros y recuperar la varita de Glinda... es nuestra única oportunidad.

– Ceci – dijo Corax –, hay algo que debo decirte...

## P. 17

– ¡Corax! – dijo Ceci contenta –. ¿Cómo...? Yo pensé que tú... ¡Me alegro tanto de verte!

– Pasó algo con lo que no contaba, los kalidahs, tienen deidades y la principal de ellas es un cuervo enorme – continuó

clutches of those evil sorceresses. I fought with all my strength, Tik Tok and Bungle fought side by side with me, but we were defeated. They sensed the evil that was still in the axe, the very essence of their deceased sister, and by casting a spell, taking advantage of that evil energy, they managed to control me, turning me against all of you, whom I love most in the world.

- I'm so sorry - said Ceci, standing up and hugging the tin man -. You're right, we mustn't lose hope, I promise we'll get you back to the way you were before. We must go to the witch's castle, free the wizard and the scarecrow and recover Glinda's wand... it's our only chance.

- Ceci - said Corax -, there's something I have to tell you...

- Corax! - said Ceci happily -. How...? I thought you... I'm so glad to see you!

- Something happened that I didn't count on, the Kalidahs, they have

Corax –. Ya imaginarás lo que pensaron aquellos brutos al herirme con esa flecha. Me recogieron y sanaron mi herida, esperé a estar completamente bien y siguiendo sus pasos pude alcanzarlos aquí.

– Me alegro mucho de tenerte de vuelta, amigo mío – dijo Jack –. ¿Pero qué ibas a decirle a mamá?

– Es verdad, lo olvidaba – dijo Corax –. Ceci, mientras estuve con los kalidahs les escuché decir que la bruja del sur tiene en su poder no solo al mago y al espantapájaros, sino también al hada buena del norte...

– ¡Locasta! – exclamó Glinda con asombro –. Mi hermana... Por eso no respondía a mis llamados, con razón no sabía nada de ella.

– Eso quiere decir que la bruja del sur tiene en su poder las dos varitas – dijo el hombre de hojalata –. Si hemos de intentar un rescate ha de ser ahora mismo, hay que adentrarse en la boca del lobo...

– Es necesario – dijo Ceci, cerrando los ojos, como si buscara fuerzas y valor desde el interior de su alma –. Abuelo,

deities and the main one of them is a huge crow - continued Corax -. You can imagine what those doofuses thought when they wounded me with that arrow. They picked me up and healed my wound, I waited until I was completely well, I waited until I was completely well and following in their footsteps, I was able to reach them here.

- It's so good to have your back, my friend, - said Jack. -But what were you going to tell mom?

- That's right, I forgot that - said Corax -. Ceci, while I was with the Kalidahs and I heard them say that the witch of the south has in her power not only the wizard and the scarecrow, but also the good fairy of the north...

- Locasta! - exclaimed Glinda in amazement. - My sister... That's why she didn't answer my calls; no wonder I didn't know anything about her.

- That means that the witch of the south has both wands in her possession-said the tin man-. If we are to attempt a rescue, it must be right now, we must go into the lion's den...

resiste un poco más... no te dejaré morir, - It is necessary - said Ceci, closing her  
te lo eyes, as if looking for strength and  
courage from inside her soul.  
Grandfather, hold on a little longer... I  
won't let you die; I

## P. 18

prometo...

promise you...

Jack se quitó el casco que tenía como  
cabeza y en su lugar colocó una hermosa  
calabaza de cristal que había encontrado en  
el huerto del castillo, avanzó hacia los otros  
y dijo en tono decidido:

Jack removed the helmet he had for a  
head and in its place put a beautiful  
crystal pumpkin he had found in the  
castle orchard, advanced towards the  
others, and said in a determined tone:

– Yo iré contigo mamá, no me quedaré aquí  
con los brazos cruzados sabiendo que están  
en peligro.

- I'll go with you mom; I won't stand  
here with my arms crossed knowing  
that they are in danger.

– Yo también iré – dijo el hombre de hojalata  
–, tengo asuntos que atender con esa  
bruja...

- I'll go too - said the tin man -, I have  
business to attend to with that witch...

– ¡Y yo! – exclamó Corax –. Mi hermano,  
como Bolgar, cayó también por el frío de la  
bruja. Aunque exista la mínima posibilidad  
de salvarle, tengo que  
intentarlo.

- So do I! - exclaimed Corax. - My  
brother, like Bolgar, also fell because  
of the witch's cold. Even if there is the  
slightest chance of saving him, I must  
try.

– Cuenten también conmigo – dijo el león,  
quien se acercaba bajando las escaleras

cojeando por la enorme herida que tenía en su costado.

– Pero... tú no puedes león – contestó Ceci, acercándose tiernamente hacia él –. Estás herido, no quisiera que murieras, no quisiera que nadie más sufriera por mi culpa...

– No es tu culpa que cosas malas pasen, Ceci – dijo su abuela acariciándole la cabeza –. En la vida ocurren cosas sobre las que no tenemos control alguno y muchas veces nos mantienen sumidos en la tristeza, el rencor y el dolor. Pero debes recordar una cosa importante, no estamos

- Count on me too- said the lion, who was limping down the stairs because of the huge wound on his side.

- But... you can't, lion - answered Ceci, approaching him tenderly -. You are wounded, I wouldn't want you to die, I wouldn't want anyone else to suffer because of me...

- It's not your fault that bad things happen, Ceci- said her grandmother, stroking her head-. Things happen in life that we have no control over and often keep us immersed in sadness, resentment, and pain. But you must remember one important thing, we are

## P. 19

solos... hay mucho que se puede hacer si crees en ti misma y en tus amigos.

– Permítanme hacer uso de la poca magia que me queda – anunció Glinda –, curaré las heridas del león y utilizaré todo el poder que tengo para intentar retrasar la congelación de Bolgar y Koráki... ¡Debéis daros prisa! No sé hasta cuándo podré resistir.

Antes de partir, Glinda llamó a Jack y colocó sus manos sobre la calabaza de cristal. Por

not alone... there is a lot you can do if you believe in yourself and your friends.

- Let me use the limited magic I have left, - announced Glinda-, I will heal the lion's wounds and use all the power I have to try to delay the freezing of Bolgar and Koráki... You must hurry! I don't know how long I can hold out.

Before leaving, Glinda called Jack and placed her hands on the crystal gourd.

medio de su magia se dibujaron unos ojos, una nariz y una boca, apareciendo así el rostro del tímido hombre de madera.

By using her magic, eyes, a nose, and a mouth were drawn, and the face of the shy wooden man appeared.

– Esto es para que puedas ver y oír, dulce Jack – dijo ella –. Así podré seguir sus pasos y estaré con ustedes si me necesitan, como a través de un espejo.

- This is for you to see and hear, sweet Jack- she said-. So, I can follow in your footsteps and be with you if you need me, like through a mirror.

Después de la despedida, Ceci, Jack, Corax, el hombre de hojalata y el león, partieron de la Ciudad de Cristal hacia los Bosques Tenebrosos, en pos del castillo de la bruja del sur en Ciudad Esmeralda, con la esperanza de rescatar a sus amigos cautivos y devolver la paz al mundo de Oz, de una vez y para siempre.

After the farewell, Ceci, Jack, Corax, the Tin Man and the Lion set out from Crystal City for the Dark Woods, in pursuit of the Southern Witch's castle in Emerald City, hoping to rescue their captive friends and restore peace to the world of Oz, once and for ever.

## P. 20

### MAGEN

### IMAGE

Poco a poco, el hacha fue destruyendo mi cuerpo.

Little by little, the axe was destroying my body.

Primero los brazos... luego las piernas

First my arms... then my legs

## P. 21

***Algún día, pediré un deseo a una estrella...***

***One day, I'll wish upon a star...***

**CAPÍTULO 6**

**ENTRE LAS SOMBRAS**

A medida que salían por las enormes murallas Ceci recordaba todas las cosas que habían ocurrido en su aventura, los peligros, los nuevos amigos, pero no podía dejar de pensar en su madre. ¿Estaría sufriendo? ¿Estaría buscándola? Lo cierto era que jamás había estado tan lejos de casa ni mucho menos durante tanto tiempo. Deseaba por lo menos ver como estaba, pero en su interior sabía que no podía dudar en esos momentos, algo más grande que ella misma estaba en marcha y ya no había vuelta atrás.

Los gritos de alegría eran ensordecedores, muchos de los habitantes de la Ciudad de Cristal les daban las gracias por el único y maravilloso hecho de arriesgar sus vidas para devolverles la libertad. Ceci se sentía nerviosa, pero sabía que estando junto a sus amigos, estaba segura, protegida y fuera lo que fuera que les aguardase en el castillo de Eriniss, no había nada que temer.

**CHAPTER 6**

**AMONG THE SHADOWS**

As they walked out through the massive walls Ceci remembered all the things that had happened in her adventure, the dangers, the new friends, but he couldn't stop thinking about his mother. Was she suffering? Was she looking for her? The truth was that she had never been so far from home, nor for such a long time. She wished at least to see how she was, but inside she knew she could not hesitate at such moments, something bigger than herself was afoot and there was no turning back now.

The shouts of joy were deafening, many of the people of Crystal City were thanking them for the unique and wonderful act of risking their lives to give them back their freedom. Ceci felt nervous, but she knew that being with her friends, she was safe, protected and whatever awaited them in the castle of Eriniss, there was nothing to fear.

Llegaron entonces al camino de ladrillos amarillos que cruzaba Oz de lado a lado. Había muchas partes destruidas debido a la batalla que tuvo lugar y gran cantidad de ladrillos dorados yacían esparcidos por doquier. Mirando

They then arrived at the yellow brick road that crossed Oz from side to side. There were many parts destroyed due to the battle that had taken place, and many golden bricks lay scattered everywhere. Looking

### P. 23

hacia la distancia, Ceci pudo entender que su aventura muy pronto acabaría puesto que, una terrible oscuridad podía apreciarse esperándola en el horizonte. ¿Qué había sido de la hermosa luz esmeralda que irradiaba la ciudad? ¿Qué había hecho aquella bruja para extinguir el verde esperanza que llenaba los corazones de la gente de Oz?

into the distance, Ceci could understand that her adventure would soon be over as a terrible darkness could be seen waiting for her on the horizon. What had become of the beautiful bright emerald light that radiated from the city? What had that witch done to extinguish the green hope that filled the hearts of the people of Oz?

El miedo, el más terrible de los sentimientos era el que la bruja utilizaba para dominar las almas de la gente. Aquella oscuridad que se cernía sobre una región antaño de pura luz, era simplemente la prueba más palpable.

Fear, the most terrible of feelings, was what the witch used to dominate the souls of the people. That oscuridad que se cernía sobre una región antaño de pura luz, era simplemente la prueba más palpable.

– Bueno, ya estamos aquí – dijo Jack con resignación –. Un paso más y entraremos en el territorio del mal.

– Bueno, ya estamos aquí – dijo Jack con resignación –. Un paso más y entraremos en el territorio del mal.

– Así es – respondió Ceci pensativa –. Ciudad Esmeralda, cuántas veces imaginé ese mágico lugar... sus hermosas construcciones, sus puertas de color verde y sus caballos multicolores. Pero lo que nos espera allá es todo menos hermoso, ¿no es así?

– Lastimosamente la bruja se hizo con el control de la ciudad – intervino Corax –. Desde entonces nadie se acerca, solamente el mal y las tinieblas rondan por ahí.

– Sea como sea – añadió el hombre de hojalata–. No debemos dudar, avancemos... la vida de Bolgar y la de nuestros amigos están en peligro, tenemos que terminar con esto cuanto antes.

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## **P. 24**

El león avanzó de primero, poniéndose frente al grupo para detectar cualquier peligro con su olfato felino. Pisándole los talones iba el hombre de hojalata empuñando un poderoso mazo de cristal. Corax volaba sobre ellos haciendo círculos y usando su privilegiada vista para intentar ver más allá de la oscura nube en la

The lion advanced first, putting himself in front of the group to detect any danger with his feline sense of smell. Hot on his heels was the tin man wielding a powerful crystal mallet. Corax flew above them circling and using his privileged eyesight to try to see beyond the dark cloud in the

distancia, atrás, Ceci y Jack les seguían muy de cerca.

distance, behind, Ceci and Jack followed close behind.

Durante varias horas recorrieron el camino, siempre hacia el sur. Notando como poco a poco el paisaje cambiaba y se adentraban más y más en los Bosques Tenebrosos, donde los árboles estaban muertos y ya no daban frutos. Sus cortezas oscuras y marchitas semejabán el suelo grisáceo y pútrido en el que ni la más mínima pizca de verde podía apreciarse.

For several hours they traveled the route, always towards south. Noticing how little by little the landscape changed, and they went deeper into the Tenebrous Woods, where the trees were dead and no longer bore fruit. Their dark and withered bark resembled the grayish and putrid soil in which not even the slightest hint of green could be seen.

De pronto, una espesa neblina empezó a rodearles. Se escuchó el aullido de los amaroks, que no eran más que fieros lobos de un tamaño descomunal, con enormes mandíbulas llenas de dientes filosos y mortales. A diferencia de los kalidahs, los amaroks eran bestias y no podían razonar, si se topaban con ellos, lo mejor sería escapar para evitar un terrible desenlace.

Suddenly, a thick fog began to surround them. The howling of the amaroks was heard, which were nothing more than fierce wolves of enormous size, with huge jaws full of sharp, deadly teeth. Unlike the kalidahs, the amaroks were beasts and could not reason; if they encountered them, it would be best to escape to avoid a terrible outcome.

– Amigos, eso sonó a aullido de amarok, ¿no creen? – dijo Jack asustado –. ¿Qué hacemos? No podemos ver nada...

- Folks, that sounded like an amarok howl, didn't it? - said Jack scared -. What do we do? We can't see anything...

– Cállate – respondió Ceci –, o nos escucharán...

- Shut up - answered Ceci -, or they'll hear us...

– ¡Déjenlos que vengan! – añadió el león – . Me encargaré

- Let them come! - added the lion. I'll take care

## P. 25

de ellos, incluso con una mano amarrada a la espalda, no le tengo miedo a esos cobardes.

of them, even with one hand tied behind my back, I'm not afraid of those cowards.

– No podemos hacer eso león – dijo el hombre de hojalata –, pondríamos en peligro a Ceci... Tenemos que escapar, es lo único que podemos hacer ahora.

- We can't do that lion - said the tin man -, we would endanger Ceci... We must escape; it's the only thing we can do now.

– ¡Esperen! – exclamó Jack de pronto –. Escucho algo en mi cabeza... es la voz de Glinda.

- Wait! - Jack suddenly exclaimed-. I hear something in my head... it's Glinda's voice.

– ¿Qué dice Jack? – preguntó Ceci –. ¿Puede ayudarnos a salir de aquí?

- What does Jack say? - Ceci asked- Can you help us get out of here?

En ese momento la cabeza de cristal se iluminó como si fuese un faro. Despedía una luz blanca, tan brillante como el mismo sol traspasando aquella niebla, permitiéndoles apreciar el camino a seguir.

At that moment the crystal head lit up as if it were a lighthouse. It radiated a white light, as bright as the sun itself through the fog, allowing them to see the way ahead.

– “Esta luz mágica les ayudará a escapar” – anunció –. “No se preocupen, los amarok no pueden verla porque carecen de ojos, sin embargo, deben huir cuanto antes... su olfato es lo más peligroso de estas bestias...” Es lo que me acaba de decir Glinda.

- “That magic light will help you escape”- it said-. “Don't worry, the amarok can't see it because they don't have eyes, however you must run as soon as possible... their sense of smell is the most dangerous thing of these beasts...” That's what Glinda just said.

– ¿Pues qué estamos esperando? – dijo Corax –. ¡Corran!

-What are we waiting for, then? - Corax said- Let's go!

Al grito, todos nuestros héroes comenzaron a correr, sorteando los fantasmagóricos árboles de aquel lugar infernal. Corrían lo más rápido posible siguiendo a Jack, quien torpemente los guiaba en el camino. Llegaron

At the shout, all our heroes began to run, dodging the ghostly trees of that infernal place. They ran as fast as possible, following Jack, who clumsily led the way. They,

## P. 26

entonces a un paraje sombrío en donde árboles con aspecto humano se extendían a cada lado del sendero; doblados, cansados... condenados.

then, reached a gloomy spot where human-looking trees stretched out on either side of the path; bent, tired... doomed.

Pero algo extraño pasaba ahora con ellos, se escuchaba el crujir de sus cortezas, podía oírse un gruñido escapar de su interior, un angustioso quejido, una súplica ahogada entre las sombras.

But something strange was happening to them now, the creaking of their bark could be heard, a growl could be heard escaping from their innermost being, an anguished whimper, a plea drowned out in the shadows.

Al avanzar, pudieron observar cómo las ramas consumidas se movían al sentir la brillante luz. Intentaban alcanzarla, hacerse con un poco del aquel fulgor de vida, como demonios hambrientos en busca de alimento.

As they moved forward, they could see how the consumed branches moved as they felt the bright light. They tried to reach it, to catch a glimpse of that glow of life, like hungry demons in search of food.

En su huida, Ceci tropezó con una de las raíces de tan espantosos árboles y cayó al suelo. Las ramas huesudas atraparon su cuerpo y lentamente la arrastraron hacia la enorme boca que se abría en el

In her flee, Ceci stumbled on one of the roots of such dreadful trees and fell to the ground. The bony branches caught her body and slowly dragged her

tronco de uno de ellos, sobre la cual pudo ver unos terribles ojos tan rojos como el fuego.

Sus gritos se escuchaban en la oscuridad, sus amigos se habían marchado. ¿Habría alguien ahí para ayudarle? Ceci continuaba implorando socorro mientras se acercaba a la horrible boca del monstruoso árbol y este la ensanchaba cada vez más para darle un bocado. Su aliento era pestilente y su gruñido tenebroso.

Cerrando los ojos para evitar verlo, escuchó entonces al hombre de hojalata, quien llegaba a su rescate. Su mazo de

towards the huge mouth that opened in the trunk of one of them, over which she could see terrible eyes as red as fire.

Her screams could be heard in the darkness; her friends were gone. Would anyone be there to help her? Ceci continued to plead for help as she approached the hideous mouth of the monstrous tree, and it widened wider to take a bite out of her. Its breath was pestilential and its growl tenebrous.

Closing her eyes to avoid seeing him, she then heard the tin man, who came to her rescue. His mallet of

## P. 27

cristal golpeó al horrible árbol derribándolo completamente.

– ¡Gracias! – exclamó la niña con alivio –. Estuve a punto de...

– ¡Sigamos! – interrumpió el hombre de hojalata –. Me agradecerás luego, ahora tenemos que salir de aquí.

Y continuaron corriendo mientras los aullidos se escuchaban cada vez más cerca. Así, al llegar a un claro ya sin árboles, un enorme amarok apareció ante

glass struck the horrible tree, knocking it down completely.

- Thank you! - exclaimed the girl with relief. I was about to...

- Let's go on! - interrupted the tin man. You'll thank me later, now we must get out of here.

And they ran on while the howls could be heard closer. So, when they reached a clear place without trees, a huge amarok appeared in front of

ellos. Luego otro, y otro más. Los rodearon gruñendo, con el pelaje de la espalda erizado, enseñando sus afilados colmillos y sus hocicos babeantes.

– Me temo, querida Ceci – dijo el hombre de hojalata –. Que ya no tenemos escapatoria... ¡Quédate detrás de mí!

Uno de los amaroks saltó hacia él, el hombre de hojalata lo golpeó con el mazo y la bestia cayó al suelo, pero se levantó rápidamente luego de sacudir su cabeza. Los otros amaroks esperaban, mientras observaban atentamente a Ceci y cada movimiento de su protector.

La criatura arremetió nuevamente contra el hombre de hojalata y este le introdujo el mazo en la boca para evitar que le mordiera. Forcejeaban y podía sentir el horrible aliento salir de aquellas fauces mortales. Los otros amaroks estaban listos para lanzarse contra ellos cuando en ese

## P. 28

preciso instante se escuchó un poderoso rugido y una brillante luz pudo verse llegar desde los bosques.

Y aparecieron entonces el león, Jack y Corax, quienes habían corrido lo más

que podían al escuchar a sus amigos en peligro. when they heard their friends were in danger.

– No piensen que se van a divertir sin nosotros – gruñó el león, y sin pensarlo se lanzó sobre una de las enormes bestias. - Don't think you're going to have fun without us- growled the lion, and without thinking he launched himself at one of the huge beasts.

– ¡Quédate con Ceci! – gritó Corax a Jack, mientras volaba para combatir a otro amarok –. ¡Tienes que protegerla! -Stay with Ceci! - shouted Corax to Jack, as he flew off to fight another amarok-. You must protect her!

Y así comenzó la batalla, con un potente golpe el hombre de hojalata logró derrotar a uno de los lobos. El golpe fue terrible, tanto que casi se rompe el mazo de cristal. El león por su parte, mordió tan fuerte a otro que tuvo que salir huyendo mientras lloraba como un perro con la cola entre las patas, y el último amarok al verse picoteado por Corax y encontrarse solo ante tan poderosos adversarios decidió hacer lo mismo. And that's how the battle began, with a powerful blow the tin man could defeat one of the wolves. The blow was terrible, so much so that it almost broke the glass mallet. The lion bit another one so hard that he had to flee while crying like a dog with his tail between his legs, and the last amarok, when he was pecked by Corax and found himself alone in front of such powerful adversaries, decided to do the same.

– Gracias a todos – dijo Ceci –. No sé qué habría sido de mí sin ustedes. - Thank you all - said Ceci. - I don't know what would have happened to me without you.

– Para eso estamos los amigos Ceci – respondió el león lamiéndose las garras –. Vamos, ya falta muy poco para llegar a Ciudad Esmeralda. Debemos salir de este bosque de inmediato. - That's what friends are for Ceci - answered the lion licking his paws -. Come on, we are very close to Emerald City. We must leave this forest immediately.

**P. 29**

**IMAGEN**

De pronto, una espesa neblina empezó a rodearlos. Se escuchó el aullido de los amaroks, que no eran más que fieros lobos de un tamaño descomunal, con enormes mandíbulas llenas de dientes filosos y mortales. A diferencia de los kalidash, los amaroks eran bestias y no podían razonar, si se topaban con ellos, lo mejor sería escapar para evitar un terrible desenlace.

**IMAGE**

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**P. 30**

***CAPÍTULO 7***

***EL LABERINTO DEL SER***

Continuaron avanzando, la oscuridad les envolvía. Soplaban un viento frío que calaba hasta los huesos, entre las sombras unos ojos rojos se abrían y cerraban con curiosidad. Seres misteriosos les observaban... les vigilaban.

Se toparon con una nueva sección del bosque que parecía bifurcarse en dos caminos distintos, uno seco que se perdía en una entrada de roca sólida, bloqueada por una inexplicable tormenta de arena, y el

**CHAPTER 7**

**THE MAZE OF BEING**

They continued to move forward, the darkness enveloped them. A cold wind was blowing that pierced to the bones, between the shadows, red eyes opened and closed with curiosity. Mysterious creatures were watching them... they were being watched.

They came upon a new section of the forest that seemed to split into two distinct paths, one dry that got lost in a solid rock entrance, blocked by an

otro penetraba en el profundo follaje de la jungla. Un bosque más allá de un bosque, el centro mismo de la oscuridad.

Como el hombre de hojalata podría descomponerse debido al polvo, Jack era alérgico a las tormentas, el león propenso a sufrir de calor y Corax hubiese pasado un mal rato al ser azotado por aquella intensa ventisca, decidieron adentrarse en el misterioso bosque que se extendía frente ellos.

Era definitivamente distinto, de alguna forma más sombrío. Las plantas no se movían ni con el soplo del gélido viento

unexplained sandstorm, and the other penetrating deep into the jungle foliage. A forest beyond a forest, the very center of darkness.

Since the tin man might break down due to the dust, Jack was allergic to storms, the lion was susceptible to heat, and Corax would have had a hard time being whipped by that intense blizzard, they decided to go into the mysterious forest that stretched out in front of them.

It was different, somehow gloomier. The plants did not move even with the breath of the icy wind

### P. 31

que les llegaba desde la distancia, parecía no haber color alguno alrededor, se trataba de un bosque sin la más mínima chispa de vida. Un lugar completamente muerto.

– ¿En dónde estamos? – preguntó Ceci, mientras la inquietud se hacía con ella cada vez más –. Este sitio me da mala espina.

coming from a distance, there seemed to be no color around, it was a forest without the slightest spark of life. A completely dead place.

- Where are we? - Ceci asked, as the anxiety took over her more-. This place gives me the willies.

– No conocía algo semejante en la tierra de Oz – comentó el león –. Sin duda ha de tratarse de algún hechizo de las brujas que pretenden retenernos en este lugar.

– Sea como sea, no debemos separarnos – añadió Corax –. Estoy seguro de que faltaba poco para llegar a Ciudad Esmeralda, no debemos permitir que los trucos sucios de estas brujas nos detengan ahora.

Se escuchaba un misterioso traqueteo mientras caminaban cuidadosamente entre las plantas, sorteando las enormes raíces oscurecidas y muertas de árboles petrificados que miraban con sus rostros agónicos el paso inalterable del grupo de valientes.

Otra vez aquel ruido... Se miraron los unos a los otros, descubriendo entonces que no eran más que las rodillas de Jack chocándose entre sí mientras temblaba de miedo.

– Lo siento – dijo él sujetando torpemente las temblorosas rodillas de palo. Y así, continuaron su camino.

- I've never seen anything like it in the land of Oz- said the lion-. Surely it must be some spell of the witches who are trying to keep us here.

- As it may, we must not get separated - added Corax -. I'm sure it was only a short distance to Emerald City, we must not let the dirty tricks of these witches stop us now.

A mysterious rattling could be heard as they walked carefully among the plants, avoiding the huge darkened and dead roots of petrified trees that watched with their agonized faces the constant step of the brave group.

Again, that noise... They look at each other, realizing then that it was nothing more than Jack's knees bumping against each other as he trembled with fear.

- Sorry- he said, clumsily holding the trembling stick knees. And so, they continued their way.

## P. 32

Se encontraron entonces frente a una pared vegetal, varios árboles secos y plantas marchitas les impedían el paso.

They found themselves in front of a wall of vegetables, several dry trees and withered plants were blocking their way. Corax flew

Corax voló hasta la parte más alta y pudo ver del otro lado lo que parecía tratarse de una entrada, pero no una entrada cualquiera... era la puerta de acceso a un enorme laberinto, nada fuera de lo común a simple vista, pero en definitiva obra de las malvadas brujas enemigas.

– ¡Avancemos! – graznó –. Es el único camino a seguir, no hay nada más allá de los límites de la entrada, solo se encuentra un vacío consumido por la oscuridad.

– Ya casi llegamos – anunció el hombre de hojalata –. Mis tornillos se sienten cada vez más apretados al acercarnos. Podré no tener un corazón, pero esa fuerza maligna es perceptible hasta por mi coraza de metal.

– ¡Continuemos! – añadió Ceci con determinación. Quería ponerle fin a todo aquello, extrañaba mucho a sus padres, su casa... su mundo.

El hombre de hojalata empuñó entonces su mazo y eliminó todo obstáculo que les cortaba el paso. Al cabo de un rato, llegaron a la puerta que les había descrito Corax sobre la cual se encontraba un letrero que leía:

to the highest part and could see on the other side what seemed to be an entrance, but not just any entrance... it was the access door to a huge maze, nothing out of the ordinary at first sight, but definitely the work of the evil enemy witches.

- Let's move on! - he squawked-. It is the only way to go, there is nothing beyond the limits of the entrance, there is only a void consumed by darkness.

-We're almost there- the tin man said-. I feel my bolt tighter when we are closer. I maybe not have a heart, but this weird vibe is palpable, even in my iron heart.

- Let's get on with it! - Ceci added with determination. She wanted to put an end to it all, she missed her parents, her home... her world.

The tin man then wielded his mallet and removed every obstacle in their way. After a while, they arrived at the door that Corax had described to them, above which there was a sign that read:

## LABERINTO DEL SER

DONDE INCLUSO EL MÁS VALIENTE

PUEDE PERDERSE A SÍ MISMO

## THE MAZE OF BEING

WHERE EVEN THE BRAVEST

CAN LOSE HIMSELF

### P. 33

Todos juntos empujaron la pesada puerta, esta se resistió al principio, pero poco a poco lograron hacerla ceder con un agudo rechinido. Una vez adentro, fueron recibidos por un intenso olor a humedad, el sonido del agua corriendo era ensordecedor, casi hipnótico. Peces de hermosos y brillantes colores flotaban en el aire, como si se encontrasen nadando bajo el mar, refulgían en la oscuridad con diversos colores... era un espectáculo asombroso.

Ceci miró hacia su grupo de amigos, intensamente emocionada y animada por tal visión, pero al intentar conversar con ellos descubrió para su sorpresa que se había quedado completamente sola. Los peces desaparecieron y en su soledad fue rodeada por una intensa, fría e inclemente oscuridad.

– ¡Chicos! – gritó la niña con todas sus fuerzas –. ¡Amigos! ¿En dónde están?

All together pushed on the heavy door, it resisted at first, but gradually they managed to make a way with a sharp squeak. Once inside, they were greeted by an intense smell of moisture, the sound of water running was overwhelming, almost hypnotic. Beautiful, brightly colored fish floated in the air, as if they were swimming under the sea, shimmering in the darkness with different colors... it was an amazing sight.

Ceci looked up at her group of friends, intensely excited and cheered by such a sight, but as she attempted to talk to them, she discovered surprisingly that she had been left completely alone. The fish disappeared and, in her solitude, she was surrounded by intense, cold, and inclement darkness.

- Boys! - shouted the girl with all her might -Friends, where are you?

Nadie respondió, era como si literalmente se hubiesen desvanecido, pero aún permanecieran en el mismo lugar que ella. Y justamente así era... cada uno de los miembros del grupo de Ceci se encontraba allí, pero al parecer en dimensiones distintas, un plano diferente para cada uno de los héroes... en el que probarían que serían dignos de llevar a cabo su misión.

No one answered, it was as if they were literally had vanished but still stayed in the same place as she was. And that was just how it was... each one of the members of Ceci's group was there, but apparently in different dimensions, a different place for each one of the heroes... where they would prove that they would be worthy of carrying out their mission.

Corax fue el primero en enfrentar la prueba. Se encontró a su hermano quien lo miraba con ojos acusadores,

Corax was the first to face the test. He met his brother who looked at him with accusing eyes,

#### **P. 34**

recriminándole no haber hecho más por salvarle la vida.

reproaching him for not having done more to save his life.

El león por su parte se veía a sí mismo como en el reflejo de un espejo. Podía ver cómo era en otros tiempos, un león miedoso y cobarde. Su reflejo se burlaba de él y le repetía que siempre sería un cobarde, que pretender ser valiente no era más que un engaño. Se reía y nuevamente se comportaba de manera torpe y temerosa.

The lion, for his part, saw himself as in the reflection of a mirror. He could see how he once was, a fearful and cowardly lion. His reflection mocked him and repeated that he would always be a coward, that pretending to be brave was nothing more than a deception. He laughed and again behaved awkwardly and fearfully.

Jack, observaba a la bruja Mombi, aquella que le había infundido vida. El rostro de la

Jack watched the witch Mombi, the one who had breathed life into him. The

mujer cambiaba una y otra vez, un rostro perteneciente a todas y cada una de las cabezas que había robado. Se burlaba y le decía que no era más que un inútil, un ser despreciable que solamente poseía vida gracias a ella, alguien que por ser tan bajo y vil jamás podría tener una familia, ni mucho menos una mamá.

Y el hombre de hojalata tenía frente a sí, al amor de su vida. La joven que una vez le amó en su forma humana, ahora le rechazaba por haberse convertido en un monstruo de metal.

Todos se encontraban muy afectados por la situación a la que se enfrentaban, eran muy duras las imágenes que veían y las voces que les hablaban. Se trataba de sus más profundos temores, los cuales tomaban forma y les atacaban, sacando lo peor que habitaba en su interior, aprovechándose de sus debilidades, maximizándolas y

woman's face changed repeatedly, a face belonging to each and every one of them heads he had stolen. She mocked him and told him that he was nothing but useless, a worthless being who only had life thanks to her, someone who, because he was so low and vile, could never have a family, much less a mother.

And the tin man had in front of him, the love of his life. The young woman who once loved him in her human form, now rejected him for having become a metal monster.

They were all very affected by the situation they were facing, it was really hard what they saw and the voices they heard spoke to them. It was about their deepest fears, which took shape and attacked them, bringing out the worst that lived inside them, taking advantage of their weaknesses, maximizing them, and

## **P. 35**

trayéndolas a la realidad. Una prueba que solamente cada uno de ellos tendría que superar.

bringing them to reality. A test that only one of them would have to overcome.

¿Qué vio Ceci? Pues las cosas más terribles para aquella mente inocente. Pudo ver a sus padres, discutir cada vez más, le gritaban y le decían que todos sus problemas no eran más que culpa suya, por sus quejas constantes, por tener que esforzarse cada día para ella... que estaban hartos de no recibir un gesto de gratitud de su parte, que si por ellos fuera podría quedarse allí para siempre.

La desesperada niña cayó de rodillas llorando amargamente, les amaba, les echaba de menos. Fue entonces cuando apareció ante ella una imagen que alejó toda tristeza y dolor de su corazón, se trataba de una niña de más o menos su edad... envuelta en una luz tan intensa que alejó las sombras que se hacían con su fuerza y su voluntad.

– Lucha, Ceci – dijo aquella niña –. A pesar de que la oscuridad existe dentro de nosotros, la bondad y el amor nos hace mucho más fuertes. Tú puedes hacer frente al poder de las brujas, tienes los zapatos que alguna vez me ayudaron.

En ese instante escuchó un ladrido y pudo ver que la niña llevaba un cachorro en una pequeña cesta de mimbre. Les reconoció de inmediato, era ella... su

What did Ceci see? Well, the most terrible things for that innocent mind. She could see her parents, arguing more and more, yelling at her and telling her that all her problems were nothing but her fault, for her constant complaining, for having to make an effort every day for her... that they were fed up with not receiving a gesture of gratitude from her, that if it were up to them she could stay there forever.

The desperate little girl fell to her knees crying bitterly, she loved them, she missed them. It was then when an image appeared before her that drove away all sadness and pain from her heart, it was a little girl about her age... wrapped in a light so intense that it drove away the shadows that were taking over her strength and her will.

- Fight, Ceci - said that little girl -. Even though darkness exists within us, kindness and love make us stronger. You can face the power of the witches; you have the same shoes that once helped me.

At that instant she heard a bark and could see that the girl was carrying a puppy in a small wicker basket. She

bisabuela Dorothy, quien le daba ánimos para seguir. La visión desapareció

recognized them immediately, it was her... his great-grandmother Dorothy, who was encouraging her to continue. The vision disappeared

### P. 36

entre las sombras que se convirtieron en manos que intentaban atraparla, se extendían y se alargaban para hacerse con ella, para aprisionarla y mantenerla sumida en las tinieblas.

into the shadows that turned into hands that they tried to trap her, they stretched and stretched to get her, to capture her and keep her submerged in darkness.

Ceci permaneció muy quieta en el centro mismo de aquel lugar, sintiéndose sola, pero de inmediato pensó en sus amigos, en todo lo que habían vivido, en sus padres, su hogar y en su bisabuela, Dorothy Gale. En ese momento sintió cómo su corazón se llenaba de fuerza, amor y esperanza... Se armó de valor, chocó sus zapatillas de plata tres veces y repitió:

Ceci stood very calm in the very center of that place, feeling alone, but immediately she thought of her friends, of all they had lived through, of her parents, her home and her great-grandmother, Dorothy Gale. At that moment she felt her heart fill with strength, love and hope... She gathered up her courage, clinked her silver slippers three times and repeated:

Quiero ver más allá de la ilusión, llévame a mí y a mis amigos fuera de aquí... al camino hacia Ciudad Esmeralda.

- I want to see beyond the illusion, take me and my friends out of here... on the road to Emerald City.

Entonces un intenso huracán la envolvió, atrayendo todo a su alrededor... Ceci se elevó por los aires y escuchó los gritos de sus amigos al ser arrastrados junto con ella. Sintió cómo

Then an intense hurricane enveloped her, pulling everything around him... Ceci soared through the air and heard the screams of her friends as they were pulled along with her. She felt like she was floating for a few moments and then

flotaba unos instantes y luego caer sobre el camino de ladrillos amarillos del otro extremo del bosque.

En la distancia estaba su destino y a su lado todos y cada uno de sus amigos, quienes, gracias a su cariño, habían sido arrancados de las garras de la oscuridad.

fell onto the yellow brick road at the other end of the forest.

In the distance was her destination and at her side every one of her friends, who, thanks to her love, had been snatched from the clutches of darkness.

### P. 37

***Jack, observaba a la bruja de Mombi, aquella que le había infundido vida. El rostro de la mujer cambiaba una y otra vez, un rostro perteneciente a todas una de las cabezas que había robado.***

***Jack watched the witch Mombi, the one who had brought him to life. The woman's face changed repeatedly, a face belonging to each of the heads she had stolen.***

### P. 38

## CAPÍTULO 8

### MÁS ALLÁ DE LA DESESPERANZA

Luego de un rato de camino, pudieron ver ante ellos el hermoso Campo de Amapolas Dormilonas, el único lugar que aún parecía conservar algo de color en esta parte de Oz. Se decía que las flores habían sido plantadas con la magia de las cuatro hadas buenas y que por ello ni siquiera las brujas podrían destruirlas.

## CHAPTER 8

### BEYOND DESPAIR

After a while of walking, they could see before them the beautiful Field of Sleeping Poppies, the only place that still seemed to retain some color in this part of Oz. People said that the flowers had been planted with the magic of the four good fairies and so not even witches could destroy them.

Las amapolas poseían un polen que dormía a cualquiera que intentase cruzar sin permiso, era la última resistencia antes de llegar a la ciudad. Conociendo esto, el hombre de hojalata dijo a Ceci que cubriera su nariz, mientras el león la cargaba en su lomo hacia el otro lado. Corax no corría peligro desde el aire y Jack, que se había arrancado la cabeza, la sostenía con ambas manos lejos del alcance de las flores.

Así llegaron entonces a su destino. La enorme muralla de Ciudad Esmeralda se extendía frente a ellos y un pozo por donde corría una turbulenta agua que desembocaba en una cascada, les impedía el paso. El puente estaba recogido, no sería nada fácil lograr entrar.

The poppies possessed pollen that put to sleep anyone who tried to cross without permission, it was the last resistance before reaching the city. Knowing this, the tin man told Ceci to cover her nose, while the lion carried her on his back to the other side. Corax was in no danger from the air and Jack, who had torn his head off, was holding it with both hands away from the reach of the flowers.

Thus, they reached their destination. The huge wall of Emerald City stretched out in front of them and a well through which turbulent water flowed into a waterfall blocked their way. The bridge was tucked away, it would not be easy to get in.

### P. 39

Afortunadamente, la bruja desconocía los planes de nuestros héroes, por lo que no hubo enemigos dispuestos a emboscarlos.

– Conozco un pasaje secreto – dijo el hombre de hojalata –. Lo sé porque estuve encargado de vigilar la seguridad de la ciudad cuando Dorothy nos dejó. Sé cómo podemos entrar en el castillo. ¡Sígueme!

Fortunately, the witch was unaware of our heroes' plans, so there were no enemies ready to ambush them.

- I know a secret passage - said the tin man -. I know it because I was in charge of guarding the security of the city when Dorothy left us. I know

Avanzaron bordeando la muralla con mucho cuidado, guardias winkies patrullaban sobre las torres, vigilando con enormes antorchas todo alrededor.

Aprovechando la oscuridad y guiados por el hombre de hojalata, pudieron pasar a salvo y llegar hasta una enorme salida de agua, una de las tuberías de las alcantarillas de la ciudad.

– Esta alcantarilla nos llevará directamente a los aposentos de la bruja – dijo el hombre de hojalata –. Se encuentra en el antiguo cuarto del trono, donde vimos al mago por primera vez. Sígueme y no hagan ruido, será mejor pasar desapercibidos.

El hombre de hojalata utilizó su mazo para desprender una reja de metal que les impedía el paso. Uno a uno nuestros héroes entraron por el apestoso túnel, empapándose y adentrándose cada vez más en lo desconocido...

– ¡Aquí huele fatal! – exclamó Ceci tapándose la nariz.

how we can get into the castle.  
Follow me!

They advanced along the wall very carefully, winkies guards patrolled above the towers, keeping watch with huge torches all around.

Taking advantage of the darkness and guided by the tin man, they were able to pass safely through and reach a huge water outlet, one of the city's sewer pipes.

- This sewer will lead us directly to the witch's chambers- said the tin man-. It is in the old throne room, where we saw the wizard for the first time. Follow me and don't make any noise, it will be better to remain unnoticed.

The tin man used his mallet to break away a metal grate that was blocking their way. One by one our heroes entered through the stinking tunnel, getting soaked and going deeper into the unknown....

- It smells awful here! - Ceci exclaimed, holding her nose.

**P. 40**

– No te preocupes – respondió el hombre de hojalata –. Ya falta muy poco para llegar.

Más adelante se encontraba una escalera de hierro que subía a la superficie, estaba oxidada, tal vez por los largos años que habían pasado desde la construcción de la ciudad. Era la salida, habían logrado al fin llegar a la torre de la bruja Eriniss. Este era el momento de la verdad.

El hombre de hojalata subió primero, utilizó sus poderosos brazos para levantar la pesada cubierta metálica y un rayo de luz entró desde la abertura. Miró cuidadosamente para todos lados y no percibiendo peligro alguno les dijo a los demás que podían subir.

En efecto, estaban dentro de la torre, pero inexplicablemente nadie vigilaba. Todo estaba oscuro alrededor, la única luz que iluminaba tenuemente provenía de unas antorchas colocadas en cada uno de los pilares del salón. Lentamente y con mucho cuidado, nuestros héroes avanzaron por todo el lugar intentando no hacer el más mínimo ruido.

– Esto me da muy mala espina – apuntó Corax –. ¿En dónde están todos?

- Don't worry- replied the tin man-. It won't be long now.

Up ahead was a staircase of iron that climbed to the surface, it was rusty, perhaps because of the long years that had passed since the construction of the city. It was the exit; they had finally reached the tower of the witch Eriniss. This was the moment of truth.

The tin man climbed up first, used his powerful arms to lift the heavy metal cover and a beam of light entered from the opening. He looked carefully all around and, sensing no danger, he told the others that they could go up.

Indeed, they were indeed inside the tower, but inexplicably no one was watching. Everything was dark all around, the only faint light coming from a few torches placed on each of the pillars of the room. Slowly and carefully, our heroes advanced through the whole place trying not to make the slightest noise.

- This gives me a very bad feeling - said Corax -. Where is everyone?

– Es cierto – añadió el hombre de hojalata –. No es nada normal que la bruja deje sin defensas el castillo, algo muy extraño está ocurriendo aquí.

- That's right - added the tin man -. It's not normal for the witch to leave the castle without defenses, something very strange is happening here.

#### P. 41

– ¿Qué hacemos ahora? – preguntó Ceci confundida –. No me parece que enfrentemos a la bruja en estos momentos, debemos rescatar a los prisioneros.

- What do we do now? - Ceci asked confused-. I don't think we should face the witch right now, we must rescue the prisoners.

– Tienes razón – dijo el león –. Opino que será mejor intentar rescatarles primero. De nada nos serviría atacar directamente a la bruja si no contamos con la inteligencia del espantapájaros y el poder de Locasta. Junto a ellos tendríamos al menos una oportunidad.

- You are right - said the lion. - I think it would be better to try to rescue them first. It would be useless to attack the witch directly if we do not have the intelligence of the scarecrow and the power of Locasta. Together with them we would have at least one opportunity.

– Pe... pero ¿rondar por las mazmorras? – tartamudeó Jack – ¿No es muy arriesgado?

- B...but hanging around the dungeons? - stammered Jack - Isn't it too risky?

– Lo es, amigo Jack – dijo el hombre de hojalata –, pero no tenemos alternativa...

- It is, my friend Jack, -said the tin man, - but we have no choice....

Todos juntos bajaron por unas escaleras de caracol que se abrían a la derecha. Podía sentirse cierta expectación en el ambiente, algo pasaba o estaba a punto de pasar.

Together they all went down a spiral staircase that opened on the right. There was a certain sense of anticipation in the air, something was happening or about to happen.

De pronto escucharon murmullos y quejidos que provenían de dos voces muy distintas.

El león, Jack y el hombre de hojalata, las reconocieron enseguida.

Se acercaron rápidamente hacia el origen de las voces y allí entre la oscuridad, pudieron apreciar dos rostros conocidos. Uno de ellos era Tik Tok, antiguo comandante de los ejércitos de Oz, se encontraba muy deteriorado, le faltaba un brazo y las dos piernas. Aquel metal reluciente que le cubría, no brillaba más. Su cabeza giraba y giraba mientras

Suddenly they heard murmurs and moans coming from two very distinct voices. The lion, Jack and the tin man recognized them at once.

They quickly approached the source of the voices and there in the darkness, they were able to see two familiar faces. One of them was Tik Tok, former commander of the armies of Oz, he was very deteriorated, missing an arm and both legs. The gleaming metal that covered him no longer shone. His head spinning as he

#### P. 42

decía:

– ¡Oz está perdido! Aceptemos nuestro destino, no hay nadie que enfrente a las brujas. ¡Este es nuestro fin!

El otro no era más que Bungle, el gato de cristal de Oz, encadenado del cuello con su cola rota en la punta. Aun así, el cristal del que estaba hecho su cuerpo todavía conservaba su belleza.

– Amigos, creímos que las brujas los habían destruido – dijo Jack con emoción –. Me alegra mucho verlos nuevamente.

said:

- Oz is lost! Let's accept our fate, there is no one to face the witches. This is the end of us!

The other was none other than Bungle, Oz's crystal cat, chained by the neck with his tail broken off at the tip. Yet the crystal of which his body was made still retained its beauty.

- Friends, we thought the witches had destroyed them-, said Jack excitedly. I'm glad I am very happy to see you again.

– Las brujas nos dejaron aquí como advertencia – respondió Tik Tok –. Para que todo aquel que osara desafiarlas pudiera ver las consecuencias.

- The witches left us here as a warning - answered Tik Tok -. So that anyone who dared to defy them could see the consequences.

– ¿Y qué más da? – añadió Bungle –. Supongo que estamos mejor aquí que allá afuera. A estas alturas Oz debe de ser un completo desastre, con suerte, esas malvadas ya se habrán olvidado de nosotros.

- What's the difference? - added Bungle. I guess we're better off here than out there. By now Oz must be a complete mess, hopefully those evil women have forgotten about us by now.

– Estamos aquí para ayudarles – los tranquilizó el hombre de hojalata –. Nos acompaña Ceci, la descendiente de Dorothy Gale, ella también es una cazabrujas.

- We're here to help you- the tin man reassured them-. We are accompanied by Ceci, Dorothy Gale's descendant, she is also a witch hunter.

– Vamos en busca del espantapájaros y de Locasta – añadió el león –. Ya derrotamos a una de las brujas, tan solo queda Eriniss. ¡Todos juntos podremos enfrentarla!

- We are going in search of the scarecrow and Locasta - added the lion -. We have already defeated one of the witches, only Eriniss is left, we can all face her together!

## P. 43

Tik Tok y Bungle cruzaron las miradas, casi no podían creer que después de tanto sufrimiento, nuevamente se colara la luz de la esperanza.

Tik Tok and Bungle exchanged glances They hardly believed that after so much suffering, the light of hope had once again appeared.

– A ver, a ver... – dijo Bungle –. ¿Quién es esta Ceci de quien nos hablan? Acércate niña, déjanos verte con más claridad.

- Let's see, let's see... - said Bungle -. Who is this Ceci they are talking about?

Ceci caminó hacia ellos, se le veía determinada y valiente, cualidades que incluso superaban a las que alguna vez tuvo su bisabuela.

Tik Tok expresó su alegría, aún con el cuerpo maltrecho, pareció saltar de gusto al presenciar a la nueva cazabrujas de Kansas. Por su parte, Bungle, un tanto incrédulo, exclamó:

– ¡Muy bien! Aún no me convences del todo, Ceci de Kansas, por ello los guiaré al espantapájaros, quiero ver con mis propios ojos si lo que dicen de ti es verdad.

– No creo ser una heroína legendaria – contestó la niña –, pero he visto lo que sufren las gentes de Oz, así que haré todo lo que esté en mi poder por ayudarles. Puedes contar con ello.

El gato asintió, a pesar de su actitud altiva y seria, como quería aparentar, no pudo ocultar los latidos de su corazón colmado de júbilo, visto a través de su transparente cuerpo de cristal.

Come closer child, let us see you more clearly.

Ceci walked towards them, she looked determined and brave, qualities that surpassed even those once possessed by her great-grandmother.

Tik Tok expressed his joy, even with a battered body, he seemed to jump for joy at witnessing the new Kansas witch hunter. For his part, Bungle, a bit incredulous, exclaimed:

- All right! You still don't quite convince me, Ceci from Kansas, so I will lead them to the scarecrow, I want to see with my own eyes if what they say about you is true.

- I don't think I'm a legendary heroine, - replied the girl-, but I've seen what the people of Oz suffer, so I'll do everything in my power to help them. You can count on it.

The cat nodded, despite his haughty and serious attitude, as he wanted to appear, he could not hide the beating of his heart filled with joy, seen through his transparent crystal body.

**P. 44**

**IMAGEN**

A ver, a ver ... - dijo Bungle-. ¿ Quien es esta Ceci de quien nos hablan? Acercate niña, dejarnos verte con mas claridad.

**IMAGE**

Let's see, let's see... said Bungle. Who is this Ceci you're talking about? Come closer, girl, let us see you more clearly.

**P. 45**

***CAPÍTULO 9***

***UN RAYO DE LUZ***

Bungle les condujo hacia el interior de las mazmorras, mientras avanzaba pensaba en su compañero de encierro Tik Tok quien se había quedado allí.

– Sería solamente un estorbo para ustedes – había dicho –. En mi estado actual no podría hacer absolutamente nada para ayudarles.

El león le prometió volver, y así continuaron con su camino. Llegados entonces a un largo pasillo en el que las sombras se mezclaban con la luz, unas misteriosas manos surgieron de entre la oscuridad y se llevaron a Jack.

Todo fue tan rápido y en tal silencio que ninguno de los otros miembros del grupo pudo percibir lo que había acontecido. La

***CHAPTER 9***

***A RAY OF LIGHT***

Bungle led them into the dungeon, and as he advanced, he thought of his partner in prison, Tik Tok, who had stayed there.

- I would only be a disturbance to you- he had said-. In my present state I could do absolutely nothing to help you.

The lion promised to return, and so they continued their way. When they reached a long hallway where the shadows mixed with the light, mysterious hands emerged from the darkness and took Jack away.

Everything happened so quickly and in such silence that none of the other members of the group could perceive

siguiente no fue otra más que Ceci, luego el hombre de hojalata y por último el león. Al llegar a la salida, Bungle se dirigió hacia los demás pensando que le seguían muy de cerca:

– Hemos llegado, es posible que haya guardias aquí... no

what had happened. Next was none other than Ceci, then the tin man and finally the lion. When they reached the exit, Bungle headed towards the others thinking that he would follow very closely:

- We have arrived; it is possible that there are guards here...

#### P. 46

debemos hacer ruido y atacarlos por sorpresa.

we must not make noise and attack them by surprise.

Corax quien tampoco había notado la súbita desaparición de sus amigos, se detuvo sobre el cristalino cuerpo del gato y miró hacia atrás. Sorprendido por lo que vio, respondió al único que se encontraba a su lado:

Corax, who had also not noticed the sudden disappearance of his friends, stopped over the cat's crystalline body and looked back. Surprised by what he saw, he replied to the only one standing next to him:

– Creo que no habrá ningún guardia allá abajo, amigo de cristal.

- I guess there won't be any guards down there, crystal friend.

– ¿Qué? ¿Cómo lo sabes? – preguntó el gato sorprendido.

- What? How do you know? - asked the cat in surprise.

– Pues, porque... se encuentran detrás de nosotros...

- Well, because... they are right behind us...

Al darse la vuelta, vieron a un gran número de winkies apuntándoles con filosas lanzas que casi les rozaban el

As they turned around, they saw many winkies pointing sharp spears at them that almost grazed their necks. Poor

cuello. El pobre Bungle fue apresado nuevamente, chillaba y pataleaba por lo poco que duró su libertad. En el caos, Corax escapó volando y se ocultó entre la oscuridad de los tejados.

Bungle was once again imprisoned, screeching, and kicking for the short duration of his freedom. In the chaos, Corax flew away and hid in the darkness of the rooftops.

Desde las alturas pudo ver como todos sus compañeros eran llevados al gran recibidor donde alguna vez estuvo el trono del gran mago de Oz. Allí, en el preciso lugar donde una enorme imagen holográfica del mago fuera proyectada frente a Dorothy, se encontraba ahora un gigantesco caldero oscuro.

From the heights he could see how all his friends were taken to the great entrance hall where the throne of the great wizard of Oz once stood. There, in the very spot where a huge holographic image of the wizard was projected in front of Dorothy, now stood a gigantic dark pot.

Este caldero era calentado por una gran hoguera, cuyas llamas danzaban a su alrededor con bastante fuerza,

This pot was heated by a large fire, whose flames danced around it quite vigorously,

## **P. 47**

haciendo hervir en su interior una especie de líquido verdoso. El humo oscuro subía hasta una especie de agujero en la cúpula donde era absorbido por las nubes. Esto a su vez parecía ser el causante de la oscuridad y la tormenta que comenzaba a caer sobre Ciudad Esmeralda.

boiling a kind of greenish liquid inside. The dark smoke rose up to a kind of hole in the dome where it was absorbed by the clouds. This seemed to be the cause of the darkness and the storm that was beginning to fall over Emerald City.

Los relámpagos iluminaban el cielo, los truenos se escuchaban potentes y las

Lightning lit up the sky, thunder sounded powerful and heavy

pesadas gotas de lluvia golpeaban el techo como si millones de alfileres cayeran desde lo alto. Frente al caldero estaba ella, Eriniss la bruja del sur.

Vestía un atuendo oscuro y largo, y aquel mismo sombrero puntiagudo muy similar al de su hermana, la bruja del oeste. Su piel brillaba con el reflejo de las llamas y sus ojos poseían un fulgor aterrador. Atados alrededor de la hoguera se encontraban los amigos de Corax.

Ceci, Jack, el león y el hombre de hojalata estaban allí... así como también, el espantapájaros, el hada Locasta y Oz el magnífico. Bungle se encontraba junto a él, luchando desesperadamente por liberarse, pero las cuerdas estaban demasiado apretadas. Todos se encontraban a merced de la terrible bruja y de su séquito de winkies que rodeaban el salón.

– ¡Al fin! – exclamó la bruja elevando las manos al cielo –. Invoco a todos y cada uno de los poderes de las tinieblas... Tengo ante mí los testigos y los culpables, concédanme mi

raindrops hit the roof as if millions of pins were falling from above. In front of the pot was her, Eriniss the witch from the south.

She wore a long, dark outfit, and that same pointed hat very similar to that of her sister, the witch of the west. Her skin glowed with the reflection of the flames, and her eyes possessed a terrifying radiance. Tied around the bonfire were Corax's friends.

Ceci, Jack, the lion and the tin man were there... as well as the scarecrow, the fairy Locasta and Oz the magnificent. Bungle stood beside him, struggling desperately to be free, but the ropes were too tight. They were all at the mercy of the terrible witch and her retinue of winkies surrounding the hall.

- Finally! - exclaimed the witch, raising her hands to the sky. I invoke each one of the powers of darkness... I have before me the witnesses and the guilty ones, grant me my

**P. 48**

deseo, traigan a mis hermanas desde el más allá y que sus almas se manifiesten...

De pronto, del caldero se pudo escuchar unas risas, risas macabras y llenas de complacencia, tres misteriosas luces de diferentes colores emergieron entonces y se colocaron frente a los prisioneros. La luz verde frente a Ceci, la luz azul frente a Locasta y la luz roja frente al mago de Oz. Eran los espíritus de las brujas que habían vuelto de la tumba, era su renacimiento... su resurrección.

– ¡No puede ser! – exclamó Corax –. Está ocurriendo, ¡van a revivir!

– Muy pronto, esas almas entrarán en sus cuerpos y se mezclarán con su carne – amenazó la bruja –. ¿Creían que yo, la más poderosa de las brujas de Oz, desconocía su patético plan de rescate? Yo les permití llegar hasta aquí y vi todos sus movimientos gracias a la esfera mágica de mi hermana Nessarose. Fallaron, ya solamente les queda esperar y morir, pues su muerte asegurará la vida de mis hermanas, y me permitirá al fin el dominio sobre todo el mundo de Oz...

bring my sisters from the beyond and let their souls manifest themselves...

Suddenly, from the pot, laughter could be heard, macabre laughter full of complacency, three mysterious lights of different colors then emerged and placed themselves in front of the prisoners. The green light in front of Ceci, the blue light in front of Locasta and the red light in front of the wizard of Oz. They were the spirits of the witches who had returned from the grave, it was their rebirth... his resurrection.

- It can't be! - exclaimed Corax-. It's happening, they're going to come back to life!

- Very soon, those souls will enter their bodies and mix with their flesh-threatened the witch-. Did you think that I, the most powerful witch in Oz, was unaware of your pathetic rescue plan? I allowed you to get here and I saw you every move thanks to my sister Nessarose's magic sphere. You failed, now all that remains is to wait and die, for their death will ensure the lives of my sisters, and allow me at last dominion over the entire world of Oz....

La bruja se dirigió entonces al balcón, se disponía a hablar a todos sus súbditos y ejércitos que se encontraban en el castillo para anunciarles la buena nueva. La lluvia caía ahora torrencialmente y los relámpagos iluminaban con tal fulgor que parecía tratarse de la misma luz del sol.

The witch then went to the balcony, she was about to speak to all her servants and armies that were in the castle to announce the good news. The rain was now falling heavily, and the lightning was illuminating with such brilliance that it seemed to be the light of the sun itself.

#### **P. 49**

Aprovechando esto, Corax pudo apresurarse a volar donde sus amigos. Se colocó detrás del poste donde se encontraba Jack y comenzó a picotear la soga. Poco a poco la soga cedió, hasta liberarlo por completo, aun así, Jack fingió seguir amarrado mientras Corax continuaba liberando a los demás. Sin embargo, cuando se dirigía a liberar a Ceci, la misteriosa luz que se apoderaba de la niña le impidió acercarse.

Taking advantage of this, Corax was able to hurry to fly to his friends. He got behind the stick where Jack was and began to peck the rope. Gradually the rope gave way, until he was completely free, even so, Jack pretended to remain tied up while Corax continued to free the others. However, when he was on his way to free Ceci, the mysterious light that hold of the girl prevented him from approaching.

Eriniss escuchó entonces el aleteo del cuervo y regresó al salón. Jack se levantó, pero resbaló y su cabeza de cristal cayó al suelo.

Eriniss then heard the fluttering of the raven and returned to the living room. Jack stood up but slipped and his glass head fell to the floor.

– ¡Cúbranse los ojos! – gritó con todas sus fuerzas, mientras una brillante luz salía de la calabaza al romperse, era una luz

- Cover your eyes! - he shouted at the top of his lungs, when a bright light burst forth from the pumpkin as it broke, a

blanca tan potente que eliminó toda la oscuridad que había en la habitación.

white light so powerful that it eliminated all the darkness in the room.

La bruja del sur gritó al ser herida por aquel resplandor y las almas que intentaban apoderarse de Ceci, el mago y de Locasta fueron desintegradas completamente.

The southern witch screamed as she was wounded by that glow and the souls that were trying to take over Ceci, the wizard and Locasta were completely disintegrated.

– ¡Malditos! – chilló la bruja cubriéndose los ojos –. Maldita seas, Glinda... ¡Conozco este poder! No piensen que escaparán, nadie me arrebatará la victoria.

- Rats! - shrieked the witch, covering her eyes. Damn you, Glinda... I know this power! Do not think that you will escape, no one will snatch victory from me.

Entonces sacó las varitas mágicas del norte y del sur y conjuró con ambas una ventisca que detuvo a nuestros héroes, lanzándolos contra la pared.

Then she took out the magic wands of the north and south and conjured with both blizzards that stopped our heroes, throwing them against the wall.

## P. 50

– Ceci, solo tú puedes detenerla – dijo Locasta –. Tú eres la portadora de los zapatos de plata... ellos llevan consigo más poder que cualquiera de los seres mágicos de Oz...

- Ceci, only you can stop her-said Locasta-. You are the holder of the silver shoes... they carry with them more power than any of the magical beings of Oz...

– Pero... – respondió Ceci –. No sé qué hacer...

- But... - answered Ceci -. I don't know what to do...

– Debes creer, Ceci... – dijo el espantapájaros –. Debes creer en ti

- You must believe, Ceci... - said the scarecrow -. You must believe in

misma, eres la única que puede derrotarla. yourself; you are the only one who can defeat it.

Ceci se agarró fuertemente de la pared y pensó en poder resistir el viento. Así los zapatos de plata se hicieron tan pesados que pudo caminar en contra de la poderosa ventisca. Avanzaba paso a paso, cubriendo su cara de los escombros que volaban por los aires. Cuando estuvo cerca, la bruja bajó las varitas y el viento cesó, entonces miró a la niña con un gesto despectivo y apretando los dientes exclamó furiosa:

– ¡Mocosa! Has de saber que no soy como mi hermana. ¡Nadie en este mundo puede destruirme! Ni siquiera la famosa Dorothy pudo conseguirlo... Vas a fallar como Todos los que lo intentaron antes que tú... arrojarás tu vida a la basura... ¿Por qué?

– Porque todos ellos – respondió Ceci –, todos mis amigos, creen en mí y no les pienso fallar.

– Ya veo... ya veo – se rio la bruja –. Ya sé cómo derrotarte, haré que nadie más crea en ti. Vas a ver de lo que soy capaz.

Ceci held on tightly to the wall and thought about being able to resist the wind. Thus, the silver shoes became so heavy that he was able to walk against the powerful wind blizzard. She advanced step by step, covering her face from the debris flying through the air. When he was nearby, the witch lowered her wands and the wind ceased, then she looked at the girl with a disapproving gesture and gritted her teeth and exclaimed angrily:

- Brat! You must know that I am not like my sister, no one in this world can destroy me! Not even the famous Dorothy could do it... You will fail like all those who tried before you... You will throw your life away... Why?

- Because all of them - answered Ceci -, all my friends, believe in me and I will not fail them.

- I see... I see - laughed the witch -. I already know how to defeat you, I will make no one else believe in you. You will see what I am capable of.

# Third Chapter

### 3.1 Challenges and Solutions

As students of 2-2025 Final Project, as a community of learning, we came up with the following challenges and solutions that we have faced during this Final Project:

Challenges	Descriptions	Solutions
Limited Literature Review	Difficulty finding comprehensive studies on specific topics	Extensive database searches, including journals, theses, and conference papers; consult experts in the field
Defining Clear Research Questions	Ambiguity or broad scope making research unfocused	Narrow down topics; formulate specific, manageable research questions
Data Collection Constraints	Accessing appropriate translation texts or corpus	Use online databases, open-access sources, or create your own corpus
Methodological Complexity	Choosing suitable translation analysis techniques	Review existing methodologies; consult methodology guides or experts
Language Barriers	Challenges in analyzing texts in multiple languages	Collaborate with bilingual scholars; use translation tools judiciously

<b>Challenges</b>	<b>Descriptions</b>	<b>Solutions</b>
Formatting and Citation Issues	Inconsistent citation styles or formatting errors	Use reference management software; follow institutional guidelines
Time Management	Procrastination or workload overload	Develop a detailed timetable; set regular milestones
Critical Analysis Development	Difficulty in providing in-depth critique of translations	Practice comparative analysis; seek feedback from advisors
Ethical Considerations	Handling copyrighted texts or sensitive data	Obtain necessary permissions; anonymize data where required

## 3.2 Conclusions

As 2-2025 students of the Final Project of the Bachelor's Degree program in English with an emphasis in translation, we cooperatively came up with the following shared and common conclusions after a long process of deliberating on them in many instances as a community of learning about learning that have grown together as family with a common goal:

The process of translation is an intricate and dynamic endeavor that extends beyond simple linguistic substitution. It requires careful analysis of the source text's structure, style, and context, as well as a comprehensive understanding of cultural, historical, and literary aspects. Effective translation involves multiple stages, including comprehension, interpretation, and re-expression, ensuring that the original message, tone, and stylistic nuances are preserved. This multifaceted process demands both linguistic proficiency and cultural sensitivity to produce a final product that resonates authentically with the target audience while maintaining fidelity to the source material's intent.

Achieving the essence of a book in the target language goes far beyond literal word-for-word translation. It involves a nuanced grasp of the underlying themes, mood, and emotional subtleties embedded within the original text. A translator must interpret the author's intent and reflect the original voice, allowing the target readers to experience a similar emotional and intellectual response as the original audience. This requires a deep engagement with the source material, creative adaptability, and the ability to re-create cultural references, idiomatic expressions, and stylistic choices in a way that preserves the heart of the book without diluting or distorting its core message.

An essential aspect of faithful translation is the respect for and understanding of both the source and target cultures. This entails recognizing cultural specificities and making

informed decisions about how to adapt or retain cultural elements to avoid misinterpretation or cultural insensitivity. A translator must act as a cultural mediator, balancing faithfulness to the original context with relevance and accessibility for the target readership. This cultural sensitivity not only enhances comprehension but also fosters intercultural dialogue, celebrating diversity and promoting mutual understanding through the translated work.

The application of various translation techniques plays a vital role in ensuring quality and readability. Strategies such as semantic equivalence, dynamic equivalence, adaptation, and localization are employed to address linguistic differences, idiomatic expressions, and cultural references. Thoughtful use of these techniques enables the translator to overcome obstacles posed by language gaps, ensuring that the translated text remains coherent, engaging, and faithful to the stylistic and thematic elements of the original. Effectively applying these methods enhances the overall naturalness and authenticity of the translation, making it more appealing and meaningful for the target audience.

Ultimately, being faithful to the author's original purpose and intent is paramount in the translation process. This involves understanding the author's objectives, the intended audience, and the contextual framework within which the work was created. A translator must make deliberate choices that reflect the author's voice and message, ensuring that the translated version remains true to the original's core values and aims. By doing so, the translation not only respects the integrity of the source work but also provides a coherent and impactful experience for readers in the target language, fostering genuine appreciation and understanding of the author's creative vision.

### 3.3 Recommendations

As 2-2025 Final Project students of the School of English, we came up with the following recommendations:

To optimize the translation process for maintaining cultural fidelity, translators should prioritize thorough cultural research before beginning their work. This includes understanding the socio-cultural context, idiomatic expressions, and cultural sensitivities inherent in both source and target languages. Implementing a systematic pre-translation phase that focuses on cultural nuances can significantly reduce misinterpretations and enhance the overall quality of the translated text. Furthermore, adopting a collaborative approach involving cultural experts or native speakers can provide valuable insights and ensure authenticity. Emphasizing iterative review and feedback throughout the process helps refine translations, making them more aligned with cultural expectations. Ultimately, a culturally conscious approach to translation fosters clearer communication and builds mutual respect among diverse audiences.

Regarding the implementation of translation techniques, practitioners should adopt a flexible, context-sensitive approach rather than relying solely on rigid, formulaic methods. Techniques such as localization, paraphrasing, and adaptive translation enable translators to better capture the intended tone and cultural relevance. The integration of modern translation technologies like computer-assisted translation (CAT) tools and machine learning algorithms can streamline workflows and improve consistency, especially in large-scale projects. However, technological tools should complement, not replace, human judgment, which remains crucial for ensuring cultural appropriateness. Continuous training in new translation techniques and technology literacy can bridge the gap between traditional skills and emerging tools. Encouraging ongoing professional development ensures that translators stay updated with best practices, ultimately improving the effectiveness and cultural sensitivity of their work.

Given that translation is a vital means of communication among cultures within a globalized world, it is essential to foster cultural literacy among translators. This involves integrating intercultural competence training into translator education programs, emphasizing the importance of understanding cultural similarities and differences. By cultivating awareness of cultural taboos, values, and social norms, translators can produce texts that resonate more meaningfully with target audiences. Moreover, translators should view themselves as cultural mediators, facilitating dialogue rather than merely transferring words from one language to another. Developing cross-cultural empathy enhances the translator's ability to adapt content appropriately and reduces misunderstandings. Emphasizing the intercultural function of translation underscores its importance as a bridge for global understanding and cooperation.

To effectively implement translation techniques in a rapidly evolving technological landscape, professionals must embrace innovation without sacrificing quality. Incorporating artificial intelligence and machine translation can significantly accelerate project timelines and handle large volumes of content efficiently. Yet, these tools should be used judiciously, with human oversight to ensure cultural and contextual accuracy. Training programs should include instruction on working with advanced translation technologies, alongside traditional methods, to foster adaptability. Moreover, developing customized glossaries and translation memories can enhance consistency across projects and languages. Continuous evaluation of new tools and techniques is necessary to stay ahead of technological developments and to maintain high standards of accuracy, branding, and cultural appropriateness in global communications.

Finally, translation should be recognized not only as a linguistic activity but also as a means of fostering intercultural understanding and diplomacy. Translators play a pivotal role in promoting dialogue, peace, and mutual respect among diverse communities. To maximize this potential, educational and institutional frameworks should encourage translators to adopt strategies that highlight shared values and cultural commonalities. Promoting awareness of translation's social impact can inspire more ethically conscious

practice and increase public trust in translated content. Additionally, cultural exchange programs and international collaborations should be supported to enhance cross-cultural communication skills. Ultimately, embracing translation as a tool for cultural diplomacy enriches global interactions and contributes to a more interconnected and empathetic world.

### 3.4 Glossary

1. Hojalata (Tinplate): “A metal material made of iron or steel coated with a thin layer of tin”. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/>
2. Leñador (Lumberjack): “A person whose job is cutting down trees or cutting or transporting wood”. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/>
3. Encantamiento (Enchantment): “The state of being under a magic spell”. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/>
4. Herrero (Blacksmith): “A person whose job is to make and repair things made of iron, especially horseshoes”. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/>
5. Sacudir (Shake): “To move or make someone/something move with short, quick movements from side to side or up and down”. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/>
6. Desmayar (Fainting): “To lose consciousness, typically because not enough blood is reaching the brain”. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/>
7. Herida (Wound): “An injury to the body, often involving a hole in the skin caused by a weapon”. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/>
8. Filosos (Sharp): “Intense or sudden”. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/>
9. Olfato (Smell): “The quality of something sensed by the nose”. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/>
10. Privilegiada (Privileged): “Having special rights or advantages”. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/>
11. Apreciar (Appreciate): “To be grateful for something someone has done; to welcome it”. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/>
12. Socorro (Aid): “Help given, especially by money, food, or services, often to countries or disaster areas”. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/>
13. Gruñendo (Grunting): “To make a short, low sound in the throat, often to show effort, annoyance, or pain”. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/>

14. **Adornar** (Decorate): “to make something/somebody look more attractive by decorating it or them with something”.  
<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/>
15. **Pintoresco** (Picturesque): “(of a place, building, scene, etc.) pretty, especially in a way that looks old-fashioned”. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/>
16. **Casualidad** (Coincidence): “the fact of two things happening at the same time by chance, in a surprising way”. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/>
17. **Estragos** (Havoc Devastation): “a situation in which things are seriously damaged, destroyed or very confused”. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/>
18. **Circundante** (Surrounding): “everything that is around or near somebody/something”. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/>
19. **Tedioso** (Tedious): “lasting or taking too long and not interesting”.  
<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/>
20. **Fastidiosa** (Annoying) “making somebody feel slightly angry”.  
<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/>
21. **Desván** (Attic) “a room or space just below the roof of a house, often used for storing things”. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/>
22. **Silueta** (Silhouette): “the image of a person, animal, object or scene represented as a solid shape of a single colour, usually black, with its edges matching the outline of the subject”. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/>
23. **Maniquí** (Mannequin) “a doll used in art and clothing display”.  
<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/>
24. **Grillete** (Shackle): “metal assembly which functions as a removable connecting link”. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/>
25. **Aniquilación** (Annihilation): “the process that occurs when a subatomic particle collides with its respective antiparticle”.  
<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/>

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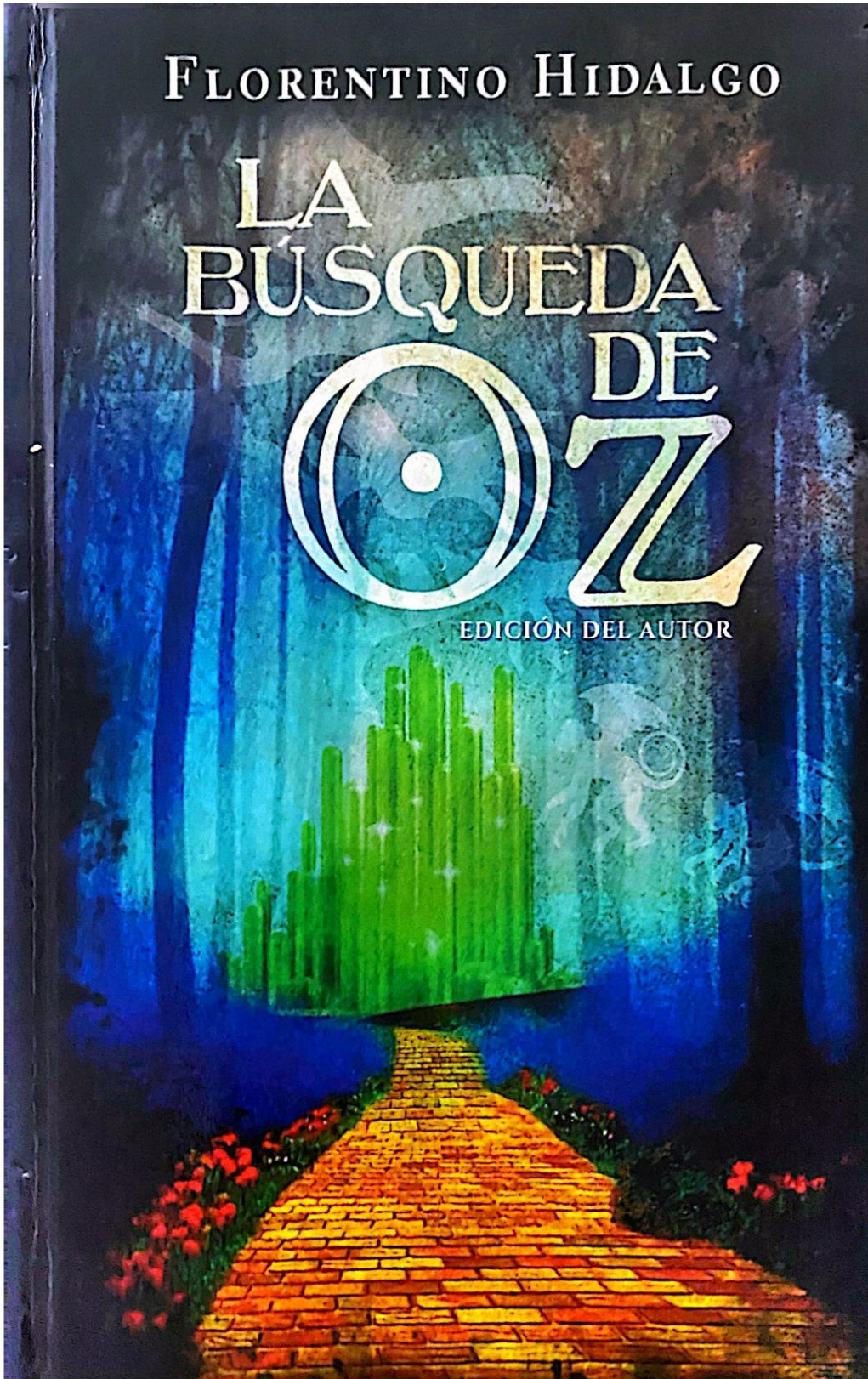
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# **Annex**

FLORENTINO HIDALGO

LA  
BÚSQUEDA  
DE  
OZ

EDICIÓN DEL AUTOR





FLORENTINO HIDALGO  
(NOVELISTA PANAMEÑO)

GANADOR DEL PREMIO LITERARIO TRISTÁN SOLARTE  
A MEJOR NOVELA NEGRA 2019

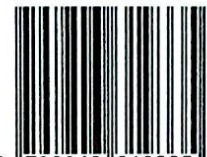
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UN CUENTO QUE ENCANTARÁ A LOS MÁS  
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Universidad  
**LATINA** de Panamá  
SUMMUM DESIDERIUM SAPIENTIA

David, 18 de julio de 2025

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Autor de  
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E. S. M.

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Atentamente,

  
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