

## Bear Center

Then from behind a tree there stepped a brown, fuzzy bear whose head came about as high as Cayke's waist--and Cayke was a small woman. The bear was chubby as well as fuzzy; his body was even puffy, while his legs and arms seemed jointed at the knees and elbows and fastened to his body by pins or rivets. His ears were round in shape and stuck out in a comical way, while his round, black eyes were bright and sparkling as beads. Over his shoulder the little brown bear bore a gun with a tin barrel. The barrel had a cork in the end of it, and a string was attached to the cork and to the handle of the gun.

-- The Lost Princess of Oz

Bear Center is not a city in the usual sense. It can best be described as a puppet stage or the set of a children's television show intended to look like a forest. The ground in this circular area is very neatly carpeted with soft green moss. All of the trees that form the perimeter of the clearing are hollow, with circular holes some height up the trunk.

Anyone who decides to search Bear Center for a human puppeteer will be disappointed. The plush bears of Bear Center are very much alive. Their most feared punishment is to be sent to America, where they would not be alive and little children would drag them around by their ears. For this reason, the bears are remarkably well behaved.

The King of Bear Center is a large Lavender Bear. He is equipped with a noisemaker that is activated by any pressure on his chest. Since this tends to interfere with his otherwise kingly bearing, it is considered polite to ignore the funny noise when it occurs. Lavender Bear also has the ability to create illusions of any object or person as they are at that moment. It is similar in effect to Ozma's Magic Picture, except that the image can potentially be mistaken for the original article.

Another interesting bit of magic can be found in the Little Pink Bear. It does not seem to be alive like the other bears of Bear Center, and only speaks when the crank in its' side is wound up. Once it is wound up, it will answer any question put to it and that answer is always correct.

### Playing a Bear

Since the bears of Bear Center are all toys, they should have the Crafted trait, even if they do not use the Crafted Folk Template. The Wanderer, Small Animal, Large Animal and Child in Oz templates may also be used, depending on the character concept. Although there are many toy bear soldiers, their weapons are toys as well. This makes the Soldier template and the Deadly Weapon trait inappropriate choices for these characters.

Although there are no Bear Sorcerers, they are no strangers to magic. The Lavender Bear and Little Pink Bear both have a magical ability enchanted into their stuffing. Perhaps other bears can have other magical abilities.

### Adventure Hooks

The Little Pink Bear has been stolen! Who could have taken him?

The Little Pink Bear's answers make no sense! Is something wrong with him, or could it be that his impossible answers are actually true?

[Box-Out]

The Little Pink Bear

The Little Pink Bear is the only bear in Bear Center who is not alive. When the crank in its side is wound up, it can answer nearly any question posed to it. It cannot answer questions about the future, as no one can know the future, but the past and present are easily accessible.

Effect: Knowledge (1)  
Scope: World (5)  
Ritual: Simple (-1)  
Item: Limited Use (-2)  
Total Power: 3

The ritual required to use the Little Pink Bear is to ask him a question. The limited use modifier means that the Bear must be wound up before he will answer the question. The Narrator determines how long a particular winding lasts, but it is reasonable to allow multiple questions per use.  
[End Box-Out]

## **Oogaboo**

"I'm Queen of Oogaboo," said Ann, proudly. "But," she added with a sigh, "my kingdom is the smallest and the poorest in all the Land of Oz."

-- Tik-Tok of Oz

The kingdom of Oogaboo lies in the far north of the Winkie Country. It's original king, Jol Jemkiph Soforth left Oogaboo several years ago to escape his nagging wife. She left to find him a few years later, leaving their daughter Ann to rule the kingdom.

All of the men of Oogaboo are named Jo and take their last names from the products of their farms. Jo Cone has an orchard of trees that produce ice cream cones of many varieties. Jo Candy grows all sorts of candy on his farm, from lemon drops to bonbons.

Queen Ann Soforth resented being left behind while her parents explored the land of Oz. But she knew that beyond the mountains that surrounded Oogaboo, she would simply be a girl, not a Queen. So Ann gathered together the men of her small kingdom and created an army to conquer the land of Oz.

In order to induce the men to join her army, she promised them all high ranks. This resulted in an army full of officers, but only one private. Jo Files, who had a book tree and read many adventure stories, was eager to be a private soldier and fight for the glory of his kingdom.

Glinda the Good, the Good Witch of the South, read about this plan in her magic Book of Records and decided to act. She knew that Oz could not be conquered, but she feared that an army would disrupt the general peace and happiness of Oz. So she cast a great spell which transported the advancing army out of Oz.

They arrived in a very desolate area, which Queen Ann quickly claimed for Oogaboo. Private Files proved his heroism by defeating a horrible creature known as a Rak, injuring it so that the army could escape. The first people they encountered were Shaggy Man and his party: Betsy Bobbin, Polychrome the Rainbow's Daughter, Princess Ozga of the Rose Kingdom, Tik-Tok the Clockwork Man, and Hank the Mule.

Ann ordered her army to conquer the group, but Private Files refused on the grounds that imprisoning and enslaving women was not heroic in the slightest. Private Files resigned his post and Queen Ann replaced him with Tik-Tok.

After several other adventures, including a trip through the center of the earth and the removal of King Ruggedo from the throne of the Nome Kingdom, Queen Ann and her army decided that the world was too big and dangerous for one person to conquer. Princess Ozma, viewing this scene in her Magic Picture, ordered the Wizard of Oz to cast a spell returning them home.

During their adventures, Princess Ozga developed a liking for Private Files and chose to go with him when he was returned to Oogaboo.

[Box-Out]

Everything grows on trees!

Oogaboo is not the only place where interesting things grow on trees. In the land of Ev, Dorothy discovers trees that bear lunch boxes and dinner pails. In the land of Mo, everything a person could want or need grows on trees.

What does this mean for you as Narrator? It's just one more opportunity to make the land of Oz interesting. If your game involves people coming to Oz from America, a tree that bears caramel apples can be just another way to tell them that they're not in Kansas anymore. It can also serve as another source of stories. For example, two small communities might start a war over who will harvest this year's spaghetti crop.

[End Box-Out]

#### Playing an Oogaboo

Most of the people of Oogaboo are farmers, but the men adapted to the Soldier template very readily. Without Queen Ann to forge them into a mighty army, an adventurer from Oogaboo will likely take on the Wanderer template. A young person eager to escape the tedium of farming might explore Oz at large using the Child in Oz template.

#### Adventure Hooks

Queen Ann Soforth has gathered her army again. Who does she plan to conquer this time?

Ozga, former Princess of the Rose Kingdom and distant cousin to Ozma herself, has consented to marry Jo Files, former Private of the Army of Oogaboo. A royal wedding in the Emerald City is underway! As long as the happy couple can make it safely to the Emerald City, that is.