



Dorothy and the Wizard in Oz

L. Frank Baum (1856 -1919)

Read by:	Phil Chenevert	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
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Genre:	Children's Fiction		

Dorothy and the Wizard in Oz is the fourth in the Oz series of books written by L. Frank Baum. Illustrated by John R. Neill and published in 1908 the story reunites Dorothy with the humbug Wizard from *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. The story opens with Dorothy visiting friends in San Francisco when an earthquake opens a crevice that hurtles the group deep into the earth, where they alight in the Land of Mangaboos, a race of vegetable people. They are about to be executed for causing the "Rain of Stones" when the balloon carrying the Wizard of Oz falls from the sky. The Wizard's bluster and cunning help them escape from the Mangaboos to the Valley of Voe, populated by invisible people. They meet a Braided Man at the Pyramid Mountain and proceed to the Land of the Gargoyles, where they are first imprisoned and then trapped in a cave. Dorothy calls upon Ozma, who rescues them

with her Magic Belt. They return to the Emerald City, where the Wizard decides to settle down. Ozma transports Dorothy and her entourage back home to Kansas and California.

L. (Lyman) Frank Baum (May 15, 1856 – May 6, 1919) is best known as the author of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. Born in Chittenango, New York, his early interest in writing was encouraged when his father bought him a printing press; he and his younger brother Harry wrote and published produced several journals. His father established a theatre in Richburg, NY, where he wrote, produced and appeared in numerous productions. In 1882 he married Maud Gage, daughter of suffragist Matilda Joslyn Gage. After the theatre was destroyed by fire, the couple moved to South Dakota and opened a dry goods store, which went bankrupt. He then worked for newspapers, moving to Chicago in 1891. In 1897 he wrote *Mother Goose in Prose*, with illustrations by Maxfield Parrish. He followed in 1899 with *Father Goose, his Book*, a collection of nonsense poetry with illustrations by W.W. Denslow, which became the best-selling children's book of the year. Baum and Denslow followed with *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* in 1900, which was an immediate hit.

With the success of Oz Baum moved to Hollywood and produced thirteen additional Oz novels with John R. Neill as illustrator. He wrote numerous other works – 55 novels, 83 short stories, over 200 poems, and an unknown number of scripts. His plans for an Oz amusement park never came to pass. In 1914 he founded the Oz Film Manufacturing Company, but failed to achieve success with films made for a largely non-existent children's audience. Baum was deeply influenced by the fairy tales of Hans Christian Andersen and the Brothers Grimm, and hoped to develop a uniquely American mythology. The Oz books show his imagination and vision, anticipating such things as television, computers, wireless telephones, and augmented reality. His business instincts for theatre, film, and theme park were equally visionary.