



## The Marvelous Land of Oz

L. Frank Baum (1856 -1919)

Read by:	Paul Harvey	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
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Genre:	Children's Fiction		

*The Marvelous Land of Oz* is the second of L. Frank Baum's Oz books and the sequel to *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. It has spawned numerous adaptations and spinoffs, the most notable being Disney's *Return to Oz* in 1987. The story takes place just after the events of the first book. The central character is a boy named Tip, who is under the care of a witch named Mombi, the main antagonist. The cast includes Jack Pumpkinhead, a wooden figure built by Tip and brought to life by Mombi's Powder of Life; an animated Sawhorse; the Scarecrow, now the ruler of the Emerald City; the Tin Woodman, ruler of the Winkie Kingdom; and General Jinjur's all-girl Army of Revolt. Tip runs away after Mombi threatens to turn him into a marble statue. He encounters all manner of characters, obstacles and adventures as they journey to the palace of Glinda the Good Witch. She relates that a girl named Ozma had been hidden

by the Wizard and is the rightful ruler of the Emerald City. They manage to confront the elusive Mombi, who confesses that she had been brought the infant by the Wizard and transformed her into the boy Tip. Tip is shocked, but is convinced of his destiny by his friends, whereupon Mombi performs her last spell. Tip, now Princess Ozma, makes a triumphant return to the Emerald City.

**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 the 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.