



## Ozma of Oz

**L. Frank Baum (1856 -1919)**

Read by:	Phil Chenevert	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
Length:	4 hours and 12 minutes	Catalog:	DB-1105
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Genre:	Children's Fiction		

*Ozma of Oz* (1907) was the third in the Oz series of books by L. Frank Baum and the first that is set largely outside the Land of Oz. Dorothy and her Uncle Henry are en route to Australia when a violent storm washes Dorothy overboard in a crate with Billina, a yellow hen. When they wash ashore, she senses they are in some sort of “fairy country”, because Billina can talk and they pick their lunch from a “lunch pail tree”. They meet the raucous “Wheelers”, creatures with wheels in place of hands and feet, and run off to find a key beside a door carved into the side of a rocky mountain. Venturing inside, they meet Tik-Tok, a mechanical man with three clockwork motors for thought, motion, and speech. They activate him with the key and learn they are in the Land of Ev, controlled by the Nome King, who has captured the royal family and turned them into ornaments displayed throughout his palace. Tik-Tok

escorts them to the home of Princess Langwidere. Ozma appears on a magic carpet, courtesy of Glinda, with her chums the Tin Woodsman, the Scarecrow, and the Cowardly Lion, and they set off to the underground kingdom of the Nomes. They undergo a challenge from the Nome King and are on the brink of disaster when Billina saves the day, rescuing her companions and the royal family. They return to a victory celebration in 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 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.