

NAXOS
AudioBooks

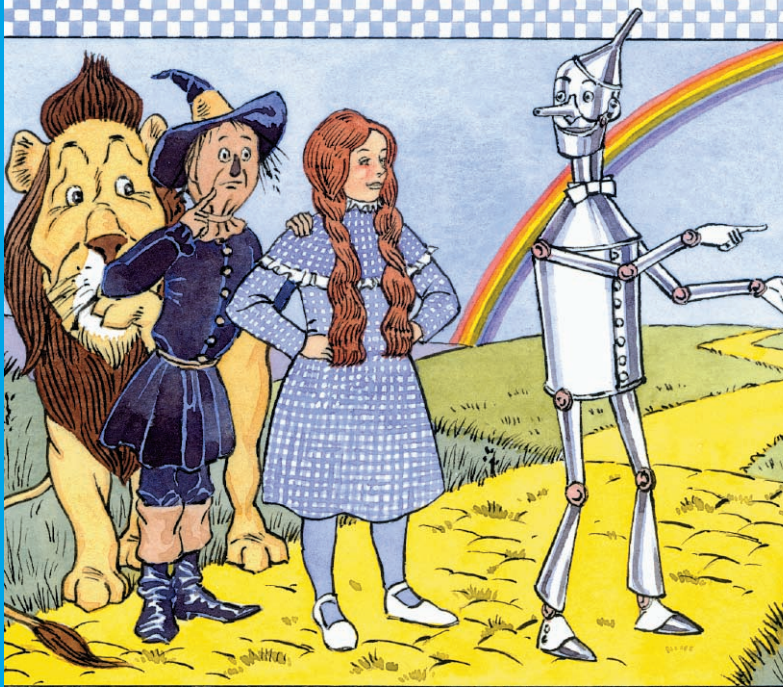
Frank L. Baum

THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ

Read by **Liza Ross**

JUNIOR
CLASSICS

CHILDREN'S
FAVOURITES



NA221412D

1	The Cyclone	5:27
2	The Council with the Munchkins	5:10
3	The silver shoes – and the road of yellow brick	3:46
4	How Dorothy saved the Scarecrow	3:51
5	'Good Day,' said the Scarecrow	2:38
6	The Road through the Forest	5:59
7	The Rescue of the Tin Woodman	6:53
8	The Cowardly Lion	5:42
9	The Journey to the Great Oz	6:11
10	The Deadly Poppy Field	6:35
11	The Queen of the Field Mice	5:08
12	The Guardian of the Gate	7:11
13	The Wonderful City of Oz	4:22
14	Dorothy enters the throne room – alone	3:41
15	The Scarecrow enters the throne room	1:44
16	The Tin Woodman enters the throne room	1:48
17	The Cowardly Lion enters the throne room	2:38

18	The search for the Wicked Witch	5:40
19	The Wicked Witch puts on the Golden Cap	7:48
20	The Rescue	3:45
21	The Winged Monkeys	7:00
22	The Discovery of Oz, the Terrible	3:49
23	'I am Oz, the Great and Terrible...'	7:35
24	The Magic Art of the Great Humbug	7:20
25	Away to the South	3:59
26	Attacked by the Fighting Trees	3:11
27	The Dainty China Country	6:01
28	The Lion Becomes the King of Beasts	3:05
29	The Country of the Quadlings	3:34
30	Glinda The Good Witch Grants Dorothy's Wish	5:12
31	Home Again	1:55

Total time: 2:28:56

Frank L. Baum

THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ

One afternoon, Frank L. Baum was with a group of children at his home in Michigan. He liked telling stories, and the children of the town loved to come and hear him. He had already become quite famous in America with **Father Goose – His Book** and, instead of being a shopkeeper, or a salesman, or a journalist, which he had been, he was able to spend most of his time dreaming up children's stories.

On this day, he was telling the children about a girl called Dorothy, and her friend the Scarecrow. He was about halfway through the story, when he stopped. All the children begged him to continue, but he looked up for a bit and thought. He told them that he just knew he had to go and write this story down before he forgot it.

'I will finish telling it to you later,' he said.

In his heart, he must have known that he had dreamed up something very special, a story which would become one of the most loved and enjoyed tales of good witches and bad witches and magic and hopes and fears that have ever been written. He went to his desk, picked up his pen and started writing. The characters seemed to come alive as his

pen raced across the page, the Scarecrow, who may have had a head of straw but who was really brainy; the Tin Woodman who believed that he needed a heart to love people – but managed better than most without; and the Cowardly Lion, who looked so fierce but felt so frightened...as so many big fierce people do.

The magic of the world of Oz came alive in his pen as Frank Baum wrote. The story was easy to tell, the characters were there in his mind's eye. Curiously, only the title proved a problem. He first called the story *The Emerald City*, but his publisher didn't think it was lively enough, and it took weeks before, one morning, Baum wrote: *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. It looked right on the page, it sounded right in his ear – and his publisher liked it.

And that was that. When it was published, in 1900, it became, instantly, a huge hit with children and grown-ups alike. The world of magic had become real, and was never to fade. Within a short time, there was a play and a musical. From the start, the illustrations by W.W. Denslow were also loved by everyone.

It started a craze. Thousands of children wrote to Baum saying how much they enjoyed it and, like Oliver, asked for more. He agreed, and in 1904 he published **The Marvelous Land of Oz**. It was followed, in 1907, by **Ozma of Oz** and four years later, **Dorothy and the Wizard in Oz**. Altogether, before he died, there were 14 sequels, with one book of short stories. He became known as The Royal Historian of Oz.

When he died, in 1919, there were 26 further stories, some of them written by his own son! By the time the series finished, in 1951, over seven million copies had been sold.

A film was first made of the story in 1925, but in 1939 a young actress called Judy Garland starred in a colour musical film and, like the book itself, it became one of the most loved films of all time. It seemed to be touched by magic. Staying quite faithful to Baum's original book, Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, the Cowardly Lion, the Great Oz and the Wicked Witch lived on the screen in the way they had lived in the imagination of millions of children.

The songs also became part of our musical world. *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*, *If I Only Had a Brain* and the others are now classics of their kind.

None of this was even suspected when

the author was born in 1856 in Chittenango, NY. His father, a rich businessman, called him Lyman Frank Baum, but even as a boy he never liked his first name.

He was quite a frail child, with a weak heart, and spent his childhood reading and dreaming rather than playing football or running around. When he was older, his parents tried to toughen him up by sending him to a military school, but he fell ill, and finally they recognised that he was not that kind of person, and allowed him to come home.

When he was 15 he started his own newspaper. From then on, he always wrote. He became a journalist, an actor, ran a theatre company, then became a salesman. He was never a very good businessman (he was too much of a dreamer) and various businesses he started – shops and newspapers – went bankrupt.

All this changed when he hit the big-time, first with **Father Goose – His Book**, and then with **The Wonderful Wizard of Oz**. He even started an Oz newspaper called Ozmapolitan. He died in 1919, knowing that his work would live on, but not seeing the film that would live, side by side, with his words.

Notes by Nicolas Soames

Other Oz Books by L. Frank Baum

- 1900 The Wonderful Wizard of Oz
- 1904 The Marvelous Land of Oz
- 1907 Ozma of Oz
- 1908 Dorothy and the Wizard in Oz
- 1909 The Road to Oz
- 1910 The Emerald City of Oz
- 1913 The Patchwork Girl of Oz
- 1913 Little Wizard Stories of Oz
- 1914 Tik-Tok of Oz
- 1915 The Scarecrow of Oz
- 1916 Rinkitink in Oz
- 1917 The Lost Princess of Oz
- 1918 The Tin Woodman of Oz
- 1919 The Magic of Oz
- 1920 Glinda of Oz

The music on this recording is taken from the NAXOS catalogue

HERBERT BABES IN TOYLAND Razumovsky Symphony Orchestra, Keith Brion	8.223843
BORODIN NIGHT ON A BARE MOUNTAIN Slovak Philharmonic, Daniel Nazareth	8.550051
ALBENIZ TANGO Salonorchester Schwanen, Georg Huber	8.554756

Music programming by Nicolas Soames

Pictures from the original illustrations by W.W. Deneslow.
Cover picture by Hemesh Alles after W.W. Deneslow.



Dorothy gazed thoughtfully at the Scarecrow



She caught Toto by the ear



'This is a great comfort,' said the Tin Woodman



The Cowardly Lion
'You ought to be ashamed of yourself'

Frank L. Baum

THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ

Read by **Liza Ross**

The story of Dorothy and her dog Toto is one of the great classics of children's literature. Whisked away by a cyclone from the dusty prairies of Kansas to the magical land of Oz, where she meets the Scarecrow, the Tin Man and the Cowardly Lion, Dorothy marches along the yellow brick road to the Emerald City. Once there, she faces the Wizard of Oz himself. Here is an opportunity to enjoy the enchantment of Frank L. Baum's original novel, which was a huge success even before the famous film.



Liza Ross (*The Awakening, Anne of Green Gables, The Christmas Collection*) has appeared on stage in the West End and in repertory across the country, including *Wings* and *The Front Page* at the Royal National Theatre. She has made many TV appearances including *After the War, Poor Little Rich Girl, Two's Company* and *The Month of the Doctors*. Her film work includes *Batman* and *The Shadowchasers*. She has worked extensively as a voice artist, and has recorded *Gone With The Wind* (unabridged).

"Another golden oldie is Liza Ross's spirited reading of The Wonderful Wizard of Oz. You realise how much more richly textured the book is. It adds scents, tactile values and wise reflection to compensate for the absence of the film's crude primary colours."

THE INDEPENDENT

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Total time
2:28:56