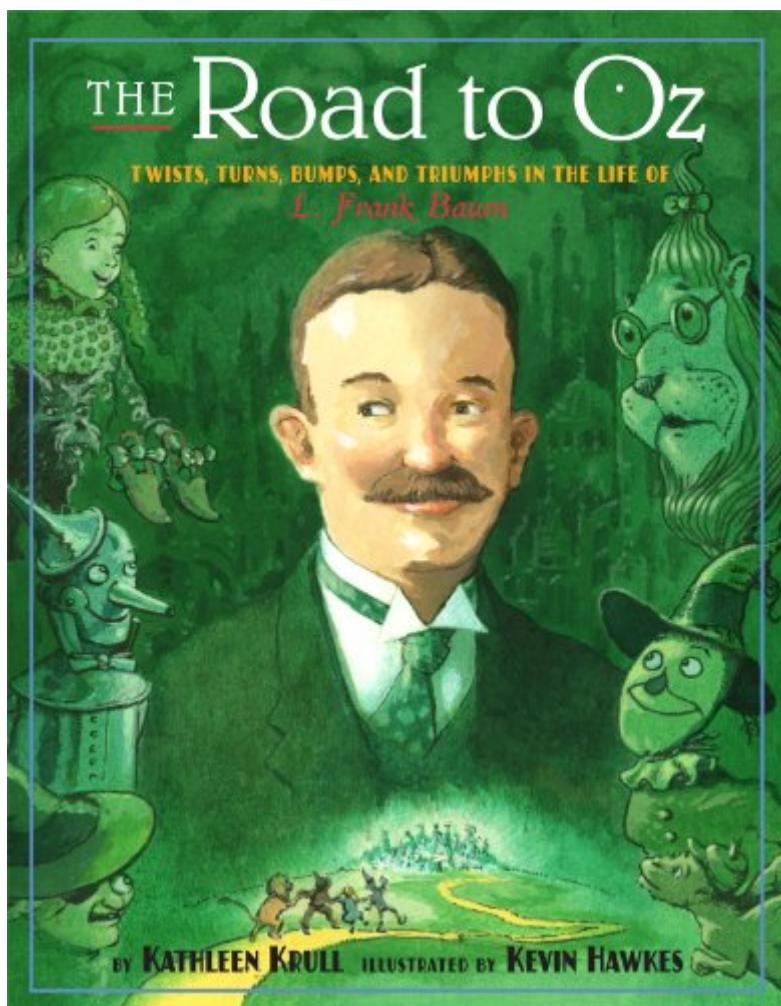


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# The Road To Oz: Twists, Turns, Bumps, And Triumphs In The Life Of L. Frank Baum



## Synopsis

KATHLEEN KRULL's LIVELY text traces the life of L. Frank Baum from his dreamy privileged childhood in mid-19th-century upstate New York through the many detours on his road to Oz. A failure as an actor, a breeder of prize chickens, a merchant in a wild west town, among other occupations, he finally made a success doing exactly what he had always loved to do: tell stories for children. Along the way, we see the antecedents of the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, green glasses, and other characters and attributes of the famous fantasy land. This is the first biography of L. Frank Baum that children can enjoy. With the same verve she brought to her biography of Dr. Seuss, Kathleen Krull's wry prose couples with Kevin Hawke's exuberant paintings and drawings to create a book not to be missed by Oz fans of all ages.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If you are a fan of the Oz books, you will enjoy how the stories came to be. This is written for a younger reader. However, it does provide solid information about the life of L Frank Baum that

matches other biographies written for adults.

I like this book for myself, but it may be inappropriate for small kids. Even though states the book is for ages 8 and up parents might not see that and easily mistake it for a book for younger kids. The reason I think it may not be appropriate is because it mentions Baum's bookkeeper's suicide, saying "he had shot himself after gambling away all Frank's earnings". Also, it occasionally uses words that kids might not understand- of course that could provide a good opportunity for them to learn. It also brushes over Baum's problems with Native American people, which is pretty ugly. I think it should be either left out completely or given more serious treatment. They merely state it was "one exception to his usual open mindedness". I didn't expect it to be addressed at all, nor his feminism, but since it was I wish they would have talked more about both topics...and then created a book that looked less like one for pre-schoolers. (Another thing I found weird for a kids book: it casually mentions him "chain smoking cigars" in the middle of a sentence about his cozy nighttime writing in his den). I don't think it would be a bad book to read to kids, I just think it requires a parent's commentary while reading. The illustrations are beautiful and it's a great introduction to Baum's life. It would be good for older kids and a good starting place for parents to have more conversations with their kids about Baum, literature, feminism, racism, history, etc. (Also, it has spoilers about The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, if you/kids haven't read that first).

This book briefly mentions the suicide of Baum's assistant. Mostly, it follows the seemingly hapless creative mind from project to failed project, until his storytelling comes to fruition. Excellent, excellent illustrations. This book shows clearly that sometimes, genius is slow to develop. We're used to prodigies; late-bloomers are much trickier to recognize. I think Malcolm Gladwell had a topic on late-blooming genius in his book "What the Dog Saw".  
What the Dog Saw: And Other Adventures

Great illustrations. Some vocabulary includes: founded, drama, troupe, vanished, deliberate, enact, absurd, manuever, envisioned.

I have greatly enjoyed reading the graphic novel adaptation of the Wizard of Oz series by L. Frank Baum and look forward to reading the original works at some time with my daughter. After reading this fascinating picture book on Mr. Baum I am even more excited to read the Oz collection. Did you know that before his successful release of the Wizard of Oz, at age 44, Baum did numerous odd jobs unsure of what to do for a career that would allow him to support his large family? Although he had written several editorials and a few uninspiring books Baum didn't consider himself an author

until he finally penned the oral stories he had been telling his children for years. The Oz collection was unlike anything else written before that time and revolutionized children's writing forever. Absolutely loved this informative little biography!

In this biography geared towards children, author Kathleen Krull gives us an up-close-and-personal look at the life of L. Frank Baum. Beginning with his privileged upbringing in 1860s New York, chronicling his never-ending money woes, and ending with his successful publishing of THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ in 1900, Ms. Krull takes us into the life and times of a brilliant author. Paired with beautiful illustrations by Kevin Hawkes, THE ROAD TO OZ is a testament to the man who brought us a legendary story that still holds the power to entertain. Even now, over one hundred years after its original publication, both the book and the movie are known throughout the world but thousands. Reviewed by: Jennifer Wardrip, aka "The Genius"

I picked up this book in my nephew's school library yesterday, and could not put it down. It made me want to know more about L. Frank Baum's life, and so I am going to read his full biography soon. He seemed like a good person, a good husband & a good father in a non-traditional sense for the times he lived in. This book feels full of love.

Dorothy's creator Frank Baum is revealed in a picturebook biography of his life and times and tells of a daydreamer who had many failed vocations before at age forty-four he did what he loved best: storytelling. In 1900 his WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ was published to acclaim and became a big success around the world. Baum's life history and inspirations for Oz makes for a wonderful read.

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