

The Story

Was the Wicked Witch of the West really wicked or the innocent victim of a corrupt regime?



Photograph by Matt Crockett

When Dorothy famously triumphed over the Wicked Witch of the West in **L. Frank Baum's** 'The Wonderful Wizard of Oz', we only ever heard one side of the story.

Gregory Maguire's "outstanding novel" (Independent), 'Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West', ingeniously re-imagines the Land of Oz, creating a parallel universe to the popular story that was first published in 1900.

Wicked tells the incredible untold story of an unlikely but profound friendship between two young women who first meet as sorcery students at Shiz University: the blonde and very popular Galinda Upland and a misunderstood green girl named Elphaba Thropp.

Elphaba has suffered prejudice and discriminatory behaviour all her life, due to the colour of her skin.

Yet she aspires always to do good and, together with Galinda, embarks on a journey to meet the 'Wonderful Wizard' to win justice and freedom for the increasingly oppressed animals of Oz.

But on discovering the truth behind their harassment and persecution, Elphaba and Galinda's friendship reaches a crossroads, and their lives take very different paths. Galinda's unflinching desire for popularity sees her seduced by power while Elphaba's determination to remain true to herself, and to those around her, will have unexpected and shocking consequences for her future.

