

Dereck...Oz

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the death of L. Frank Baum, creator of the Wizard of Oz, one of my favorites! My way of acknowledging this centennial is to read as many Oz interpretations as I can find. This one is a gem! Though written for young readers it held my attention throughout—I read it in one sitting!

The protagonist, Dereck, is resentfully babysitting his little sister when he's caught up in a storm. He is trapped in his creepy cellar by a wind-slammed door and tumbles through a hole in the floor to a whole new world.

His landing is rough, and his adventure begins. Elements of the original tale of Oz are the backbone of the story, but many, many other fairy tale creatures and characters are woven through making this book a lovely blend of the tales I loved as a child.

Dereck's goal is to get back to his little sister whom he has decided is not so bad after all. After plenty of perils and adventures, Dereck does make it home. Brace yourself for a charming twist at the end of the book!