



The Wizard Returns

Danielle Paige

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The Wizard left Oz in a hot air balloon—or did he? This digital original novella is the third installment in the prequel arc to the edgy and exciting New York Times bestseller *Dorothy Must Die*.

Dorothy Gale is back . . . and she's not the sweet little heroine of Oz anymore. She's power-hungry and vicious, and she leaves a trail of destruction beneath her spike-heeled, magical shoes. But she wasn't always in charge. There used to be a different ruler of Oz. Someone who also came from the Other Place, and who stole power for himself. They called him the Wizard.

The story goes that when a young Dorothy revealed the Wizard as a fraud, the man behind the curtain fled Oz in his hot air balloon. But in *The Wizard Returns*, he wakes in a field of poppies to find out that not only had he never left, but that he has no memory of who—or where—he is. As he undergoes a series of tests to uncover his memories, he finds that the very girl who threw him from the Emerald Palace is in control. And that Oz may be his destiny after all.

The Wizard Returns by Danielle Paige is a dark and compelling reimagining of a beloved classic and is perfect for fans of *Cinder* by Marissa Meyer, *Beastly* by Alex Flinn, and *Wicked* by Gregory Maguire.

The Wizard Returns Details

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From Reader Review The Wizard Returns for online ebook

Milana Waller says

so the last one was written in third person ... I found myself getting a liiiiiitttle lost with this one but it still wasn't bad .

Erica says

This review appears in full on What Am I Reading?

Rate: 3

If Danielle Paige was trying to get me to hate the Wizard, then she did a great job. I was eager to find out what had happened to Wizard after he had "left" and subsequently "returned" later in the story, but I wasn't expecting all of this. The Wizard is selfish, manipulative, and slightly misogynistic. I immediately didn't like him and he had amnesia for crying out loud! Like you must be a terrible person and have a terrible personality if even when you can't remember who you are, you still hurt people as if you were your old self. But I kept reading because I had high hopes for the Wizard. I thought Paige was going to spin the story around and make it a sort of coming-of-age novella. But no such luck. The Wizard actually ends up worse in the end when he gets his memories back. In the end, he's selfish, manipulative, misogynistic, and deceptive. He claims to be staying in Oz to help them get rid of Dorothy, but really he's an evil male Dorothy in the making.

Another thing I disliked about this story was how everyone claimed that Oz was a beautiful, peaceful place before people from the Other Place arrived yet if the fairies are any indication, Oz has always been corrupted. It's like these people, these Ozians, are living in this self-proclaimed utopia, but now that cracks are starting to form they are being forced to recognize it as the corrupt dystopia it really is. The people (and creatures and things) of Oz claim that it's the people from the Other Place that are destroying Oz so why are they depending on these people to also save Oz. Pete said it himself that the Old Magic changes people as they transition from the Other Place to Oz so will the Wizard really be the key to saving Oz from Dorothy? Will Amy? To me, it seems like the true problem is Old Magic. It seems like the Magic is corrupt so it's making everyone and everything corrupt. Let's not blame the Other People for the structural fault of Oz.

So yeah, that story upset me. But at least I know to expect more drama and more corruptness before any "solution" is found. *sigh*

mith says

tbh she needs to chill with the novellas.

Natalie Monroe says

For fuck's sake, how many novellas are there?

Reddish says

Hex, más mal no me puedes haber caído.

“Do you really think that's how it works? You forget about all the bad things you did, and they just go away? The people you hurt still remember.”

Morgan says

Well, I suppose one of the novellas had to be a clunker.

This one just felt messy on top of all of the other bleh bits when you read it.

If you've read the first book and the first and second novellas you've seen bits and pieces of the Wizard and know that there's this whole WHAT DOES HE WANT. WHAT IS HE UP TO. vibe.

In this we get a hint of what happened to him after he left Dorothy, in the time since, and what happened before he showed back up in the Emerald City again. But it's all just...meh.

Everything else I've read so far from this series has been 4 stars, but this one was just... Like part of me feels like two stars is generous.

I just honestly didn't like it.

Jess says

I mean...why does this exist? This was a nonsense story that I don't think added anything, was extremely confusing, and just plain unnecessary.

Vivian Chen (Vivian's Book Pavilion) says

This is post originally on Vivian's Book Pavilion

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To be honest...I don't find this novella so interesting. Not bad, but not interesting as well. We all know that the Wizard involved in some creepy scheme in Dorothy Must Die, but we never know why. I was only so

shock that he had such an ending, that plot twist was the best. Yet, what made him do those decision? Although after reading this novella, I couldn't connect this Wizard and that Wizard...yet it somehow solves some problem and brings more questions. By the way, Pete appeared in this novella as well...and in order not to spoil you, I'm not telling you what my reaction was when I saw him.

Now, why did I say "more questions"? So in this novella, the Wizard lost all his memory, and tried to remember all. Yet, not without certain difficulties. However, after reading the ending, you might assume that the Wizard was about to be a good guy, I'm not telling you why, but yes, we could glimpse a little bit of goodness in him. Yet, when I was reading Dorothy Must Die series, I always assumed that the Wizard wasn't a nice person. He wasn't as wicked as Dorothy or her friends, however he definitely served his own good. So...that's why I didn't really enjoy this novella, since it gave me more questions, and the trials of Wizard weren't really exciting as well. There were just...normal.

Candace Robinson says

I normally dislike the Wizard. Especially when James Franco portrayed him. Anyway, after this novella, I still think the Wizard is an idiot of a character. The story however was good! He apparently never left Oz and lost his memories. We find some things out about him, and I guess i'll have to see what is to come next!

Jamie says

Are you ready to learn the truth behind the wizard? It's not pretty. We all though he was just a phony but he was also a jerk (to put it kindly)! Now with no memory he has the chance to set things right. He is given three trials to determine his true character.

This is one of those stories I can't say too much without giving things away. It does answer some things from Dorothy Must Die but also raises others. I am very curious to see how it all ties into the next couple books.

3.5 stars

Ashley says

I don't think it's ever taken me this long to read a novella. I had a really hard time getting into this. It was definitely my least favorite of the novellas tied to this series.

I wasn't overly interested in the wizard or his story. The other novellas added something to the series at large. They were interesting and helped explain backstories of several important characters. That's not to say the wizard isn't and won't continue to be important in the actual books, his backstory just wasn't all that compelling.

The only reason I didn't give this fewer stars is because of the way we get to see the wizard grow and change in this novella. It was nice to see. I also liked the character Iris and found her to be entertaining. But that doesn't change the fact that overall this novella was an unnecessary one.

Nancy The book junkie says

Review coming soon!

Veronica Morfi says

Rating: 4/5

This review has been long overdue.

In the third prequel of the Dorothy Must Die series, we get a glimpse in the life of the Wizard of Oz right after he left for our world with his balloon. It turns out he never made it back. Instead he ended up in the middle of the poppy field where he spent a few years sleeping, only to be awakened by a boy telling him that Oz needs him but he first has to go through 3 tests to prove his heart, brain and courage.

This was really enjoyable. I loved learning the backstory of the Wizard. When he showed up in the first book I had no idea if we could trust him or not. After reading this book turns out I still don't, but at least now I can understand his actions. I love how Danielle Paige builds the characters' stories, making their decisions justifiable, it makes them more real to me. And the Wizard was an especially mysterious character that I needed to learn more about. Now I can't wait to get my hands on *The Wicked Will Rise* and get back to Oz.

Clarissa says

Quick synopsis: This novella picks up immediately after Dorothy's first triumph, with the Wizard in his hot air balloon leaving Oz. Somehow he crashes lands into a field of some hallucinogenic flower or plant (I'll be honest, I zoned out) and stays there for 25 years losing all of his memories. He is later found by Pete (aka Ozma has we find out at the end of *Dorothy Must Die*) and is told he must undergo 3 tests to see if he is worthy of being helped by the fairies to retrieve his memories.

Throughout this short story, he is shown to have not always been a great person (already knew that) and shows that he can still be somewhat redeemable. He chooses to stay and fight for Oz instead of living out the rest of his life in the Other Place.

Honestly, I felt like this did nothing to add to the story. Sure, we learn why the Wizard came back but not much else. The flying monkeys clearly aren't happy with Dorothy and nothing is explained about Pete so he remains a mysterious character. I finished this but I don't remember what I read which is never a great sign.

1.5 stars.

Catherine ? says

Ah, and so Danielle Paige does it again - she turns a distant and mysterious character into one that seems more human, one that has a backstory.

Overall, I wasn't really drawn into this one, but it did give me a better idea of who the Wizard was as a character.
