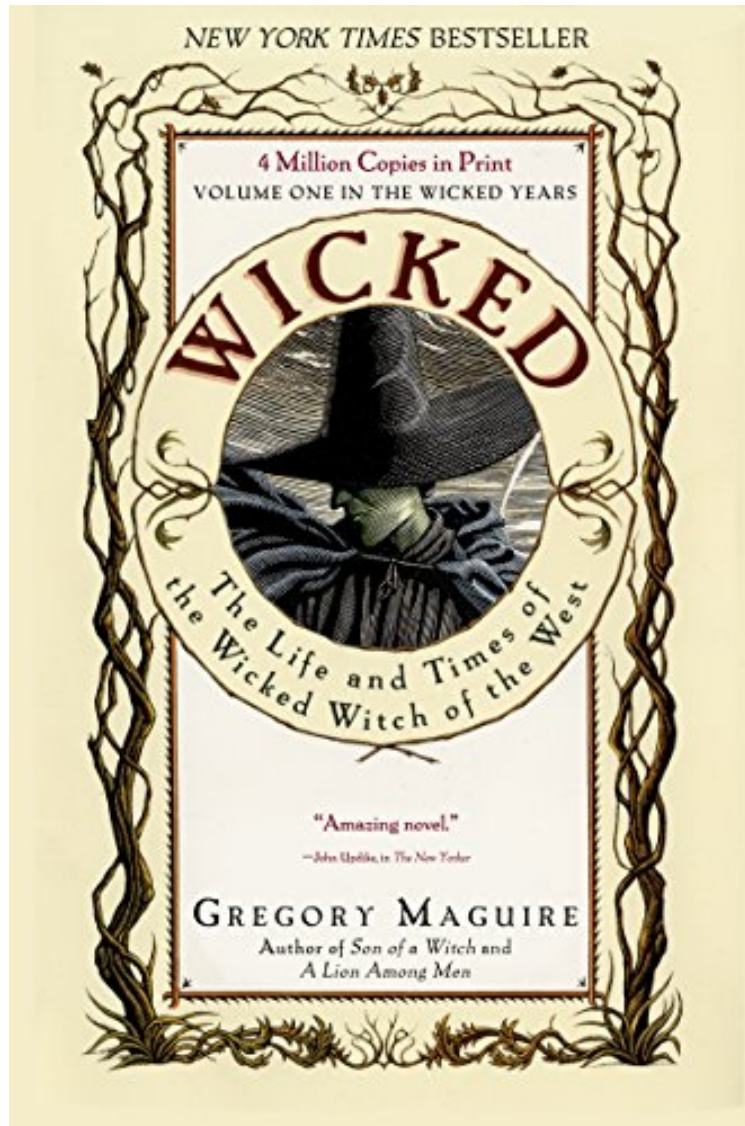


(Mobile ebook) Wicked: Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West (Wicked Years)

## Wicked: Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West (Wicked Years)

Von Gregory Maguire

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Von Gregory Maguire : Wicked: Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West (Wicked Years) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Wicked: Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West (Wicked Years):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen6 von 6 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Setting this old story straightVon Mr PocketI picked up Wicked, knowing nothing except that its subject matter was the 'life

and times of the Wicked Witch of the West', to be drawn immediately into Maguire's splendidly imagined world of sentient animals, multiple societies, and unique physical laws. Wicked is an enthralling, great read and hugely entertaining. On top of all this, Maguire has Bradbury's gift for creating atmosphere. The pages are heavy with dark, mysterious magic; its moral laws are ultimately incomprehensible and leave you disturbingly uncertain about the nature of evil. Apparently doomed at conception, Elphaba (the Wicked-Witch-to-be) is a truly terrifying infant. Razor-toothed and preternaturally intelligent, she is shunned from birth as a freak and regarded as a curse. She is nonetheless the tale's most complex, human, and compelling character, possessed of high moral sense and great courage. But neither of these qualities enables a single one of her brave, ethical actions to succeed. What are we to conclude from this? How is it that Dorothy, the sturdy little nobody from nowhere who committed manslaughter as she landed in Oz, struts about and skips down the Yellow Brick Road impervious to danger while Elphaba strives and plots to reap only negative results? Why is one protected while the other is doomed? Read Wicked and you will learn how the witch's monkeys became winged, where the rubies for those slippers came from, and, indeed, why the witch's skin was green. But you will wrestle, long afterward, with Maguire's moral pessimism and the snarl of grace and doom that underlies this novel. I know I will. If you can find a better book than Wicked, please let me know, the five stars don't do justice to this marvelous work.

14 von 15 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Nichts für sanfte Gemüter Von G. Tornow Für Leute, die die Welt gern schwarz-weiß sehen, ist dieses Buch recht ungeeignet. Es erzählt nicht nur die mitreißende Geschichte von Elphaba Thropp, die sich später selbst zur Wicked Witch of the West macht, es regt auch zum Denken an. Kann es vorkommen, dass ein Mensch keine Seele hat? Denn genau das ist es, was Elphie von sich behauptet. Trotzdem ihr Vater Pfarrer ist, entdeckt sie den Atheismus für sich. Neben der Frage nach Gott, der Natur von Gut und Böse und der Existenz einer anderen Welt, einem Jenseits, stellt sich in diesem Buch auch die Frage, ob die Böse Hexe des Westens wirklich so böse war. Zur Infragestellung dieser These erzählt uns der Autor von Elphies Geburt an. FAST alles, was sie in ihrem Leben geprägt hat: Von ihrer Geburt als häßlich-zhnlignes, grünes Mädchen über ihre Studienzeit an der Seite des beliebten, versnobten Schönlings G(a)linda; ihre Forschungsarbeit für ihren Lehrer Dr. Dillamond, ein ZIEGENBOCK (d.h., er kann sprechen); ihre Zeit als Untergrundkämpferin in der Smaragdstadt bis zu ihrer Auswanderung ins westliche Territorium, den Vinkus und schließlich ihr Ende. Wer bereit ist, sich die Geschichte von Oz, dem Zauberer und der kleinen Dorothy neu erzählen zu lassen, die Figuren in einem anderen Licht zu sehen und sich zu Nachdenken anregen zu lassen, der wird viel Freude mit diesem Buch haben. Maguires Schreibstil ist zum Teil recht unkonventionell, z.B. erfährt man eine ganze Weile lang die Geschichte nur aus Sicht von Außenstehenden, ohne in Elphies Gedanken Einblick zu erhalten. Doch er zeigt viel Liebe für Sprache und wohlgeformte Bilder, also ist auch vom lyrischen Aspekt her nichts zu bemängeln. Fazit: Eine fantasiereiche, anspruchsvolle Geschichte mit Fesselungseffekt!

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. WICKED GOOD! Von Marcus If you go into this story with expectations of a retelling of the classic "Wizard of Oz", then you may be disappointed...but enter with an open mind and a desire to be fully entertained, you'll find yourself incredibly satisfied by the end of this "Wicked"-good book. Gregory Maguire sets out on an ambitious journey into the story that we grew up with, but by giving it a clever twist and fleshing out the characters we never got to know in the original. Yes, we all know about Dorothy and her annoying little dog...the twister, the house... But, how much were we told about how Oz came to be, or Munchkinland, or the Wizard himself? We were expected to accept these places and things as they were, without any explanation, and as kids, we did. We accepted that Glinda was the good witch and that the Wicked Witch of the West was evil...but why? Well, when you read "Wicked", you get the story, warts and all! You find that perhaps the Wicked Witch of the West (born Elphaba) wasn't entirely acting out of pure evil at all, nor was Glinda acting on behalf of all that's good. You find that perhaps there was a lot more going on in that particular world than you ever imagined...but luckily for all of us, Maguire does an excellent job of imagining it for us! The politics, the treachery, the origin of The Wizard himself...all of this included in this highly readable, immensely likeable book! Don't start it expecting to read another take on Dorothy or her adventure in the "wonderful Land of Oz". She doesn't even enter into the picture until the very end! What you will find is an incredibly imagined story, for adults, that you'll find yourself thinking about for a long time after you've finished reading it!

**Kurzbeschreibung** This is the book that started it all! The basis for the smash hit Tony Award-winning Broadway musical, Gregory Maguire's breathtaking New York Times bestseller Wicked views the land of Oz, its inhabitants, its Wizard, and the Emerald City, through a darker and greener (not rosier) lens. Brilliantly inventive, Wicked offers us a radical new evaluation of one of the most feared and hated characters in all of literature: the much maligned Wicked Witch of the West who, as Maguire tells us, wasn't nearly as Wicked as we imagined. From Publishers Weekly With a husky voice and a gentle, dramatic manner that will call to mind the image of a patient grandfather reading to an excited gaggle of children, McDonough leisurely narrates this fantastical tale of good and evil, of choice and responsibility. In Maguire's Oz, Elphaba, better known as the Wicked Witch of the West, is not wicked; nor is she a formally schooled witch. Instead, she's an insecure, unfortunately green Munchkinlander who's willing to take radical

steps to unseat the tyrannical Wizard of Oz. Using an appropriately brusque voice for the always blunt Elphaba, McDonough relates her tumultuous childhood (spent with an alcoholic mother and a minister father) and eye-opening school years (when she befriends her roommate, Glinda). McDonough's pacing remains frustratingly slow even after the plot picks up, and Elphaba's protracted ruminations on the nature of evil will have some listeners longing for an abridgement. Still, McDonough's excellent portrayals of Elphaba's outspoken, gravel-voiced nanny, Glinda's snobbish friends and the wide-eyed, soft-spoken Dorothy make this excursion to Oz worthwhile. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From School Library Journal YA? Elphaba, the future Wicked Witch of the West, has gotten a bum rap. Her mother is embarrassed and repulsed by her bright-green baby with shark's teeth and an aversion to water. At college, she experiences disapproval and rejection by her roommate, Glinda, a silly girl interested only in clothes, money, and popularity. Elphaba is a serious and inquisitive student. When she learns that the Wizard of Oz is politically corrupt and causing economic ruin, Elphaba finds a sense of purpose to her life?to stop him and to restore harmony and prosperity to the land. A Tin Man, Cowardly Lion, Scarecrow, and an unknown species called a "Dorothy" appear in very small roles... The story presents Elphaba in a sympathetic and empathetic manner-readers will want her to triumph! The conclusion, however, is the same as L. Frank Baum's. The book has both idealism and cynicism in its discussion of social, religious, educational, and political issues present in Oz, and, more pointedly, present in our day and time. The idealism is whimsical and engaging; the cynicism is biting. Sometimes the earthy language seems appropriate and adds to the sense of place; sometimes the four-letter words and sexual explicitness distract from the charm of the tale. The multiple threads to the plot proceed unevenly, so that the pace of the story jumps rather than moves steadily forward. Wicked is not an easy rereading of The Wizard of Oz. It is for good readers who like satire, and love exceedingly imaginative and clever fantasy.? Judy Sokoll, Fairfax County Public Library, VA Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.