

Lost in Oz: The Mini-Series Part 1

By

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Based on:

Chapters 1, 2 and 3 in the novel
Lost in Oz by Joshua Patrick Dudley.

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EXT. CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Our four main characters exit the High School and head toward a car.

JOSHUA
(sarcastically)
Hurry up, girls! Better hurry if
you want to make it home in time
for Oprah!

Joshua opens the drivers door and Tamara takes the front seat. Tommy and Laura get into the back.

TOMMY
WOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!! It's midget
paternity testing day!

LAURA
It's not nice to call them midgets.

TAMARA
Munchkins, then!

JOSHUA
It's not like we're in Oz.

The skies suddenly grow black and the wind picks up.

Lightning tears through skies and multiple tornadoes drop from the sky.

Joshua tries to drive away as quickly as he can, but it's too late. The car, with the four teens inside, is sucked into one of the tornadoes and disappears into the vortex.

CUT TO BLACK.

FADE INTO:

EXT. FORESTS OF OZ ON THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD - DAY

JOSHUA DUDLEY awakes in Oz, close-up on his face.

JOSHUA
Ugh... what happened.... where am
I?

He moans and groans for a few minutes before discovering his wounds, and rubs them reassuringly.

(CONTINUED)

JOSHUA (cont'd)
Oh man... okay... that really
hurts.

He rubs his eyes and looks around confused. He looks down and discovers the yellow brick road and tries to stop himself from screaming.

JOSHUA
This can't be real.

Breathing deeply, he rises to his feet and a sharp pain courses his side.

He moans and grabs his side.

JOSHUA
Ahhh!

He must have broken a few ribs from the fall.

Suddenly a scream is heard in the distance and Joshua instantly runs toward it. He knows that scream.

JOSHUA
TAM?!? Ta, is that you?!?!

He runs further down the yellow brick road, before tripping over something and falling.

It's TAMARA DUDLEY, his twin sister; she's lying on the road.

TAMARA
Geez, Josh. I'm in enough pain as
it is. Watch where you're going.

JOSHUA
It's hard to know where I'm going
when I have no clue where I am!

TAMARA
What the heck? Where are we? What
are you talking about? Everything
hurts...

JOSHUA
Tam... I don't think we're in New
Hampshire anymore.

TAMARA
(agitated)
What do you mean? What even
happened? How did we get here?

(CONTINUED)

JOSHUA

Calm down! I have no idea! (beat)
Are you okay to walk?

He extends his hand and helps Tamara to her feet. She looks down at her dress and then screams, trying to brush all the debris from the ground off of her.

TAMARA

I'M FINE! BUT MY DRESS ISN'T!

JOSHUA

You and your stupid clothes! I swear...

There's a rustling of leaves behind them.

TAMARA

Quiet, Josh. Do you hear that?

JOSHUA

(spooked)
Yeah I heard that.

TAMARA

What is it?

JOSHUA

How should I know? It could be anything coming down the YELLOW BRICK ROAD!!!

The sounds of rustling leaves grow faster and closer and both Joshua and Tamara are terrified.

Then TOMMY MURPHY and LAURA COLEMAN, Josh's two best friends, step out of the woods and onto the yellow brick road.

TOMMY

(relieved)
TAM! JOSH! You guys are alright!

LAURA

We were so worried.

TOMMY

What happened? Where are we?

JOSHUA

(hesitant)
I think I know where we are, but I don't think any of you will believe it.

(CONTINUED)

They all look at Joshua in desperation.

As they close in on him like a pack of rabid wolves, he points down to the road beneath them.

They pause for a moment, staring at the yellow brick.

LAURA

No.

TOMMY

It can't be.

TAMARA

I swear if you tell me you think we're in...

JOSHUA

Oz. We're lost in Oz.

TAMARA

Oz? Are you freaking' kidding me, Josh? You think we're in Oz?

JOSHUA

If you've got a better idea, let me hear it.

Tamara goes to speak, but in her frustration turns and walks away from the group.

Joshua looks to the others to see what their thoughts are on our situation.

Laura has dropped to the ground and is beginning to cry with her face in her knees.

Tommy's mouth is hanging open as he stands still in shock.

JOSHUA (cont'd)

Okay, guys. What are we going to do? We need to formulate some sort of a plan.

Laura raises her head from between her knees.

LAURA

A plan? You want to make a plan?

JOSHUA

Well, yeah. We've got to do something.

(CONTINUED)

Tamara returns to the group, still red in the face with anger.

TAMARA

(sarcastically)

I'll give you a plan, Josh. Let's go see the Wizard. Isn't that what they do in the movie? Maybe he could give you a brain and maybe, while we're at it, he could get me the hell out of here.

JOSHUA

Tam, come on.

TAMARA

No, Josh. Don't say anything else. Not a word. You're serious about this, aren't you? You actually think we're in Oz?! Grow up.

TOMMY

Okay, Oz or not, we have to figure out what to do. I mean, we can't just sit in the middle of a road all day.

JOSHUA

Right! Good! Now you're thinking. I think the best thing for us to do is just to walk down this road. We've got to come to something or someplace eventually.

TAMARA

Josh, I can't walk in these shoes. These are Prada. Ugh.

JOSHUA

Get over it. I'm not carrying you, and we're not sitting here all day. Take off your shoes and start walking... Please.

She takes off her shoes and begins to walk.

Tommy follows closely behind her and Joshua helps Laura to her feet. Tears are still streaming down her face.

JOSHUA (cont'd)

Laura. It's okay. We'll figure something out. Please don't cry.

(CONTINUED)

LAURA

I'm not worried that we won't figure anything out.

JOSHUA

Well, then, what's the problem?

LAURA

I'm just... scared. What if this is Oz? What if we are really here? Have you ever read those books Josh? They're terrifying--the things and creatures that live in Oz. I can't handle it. I couldn't even watch the movie when I was younger. The flying monkeys were just so... scary.

Joshua pulls Laura to her feet and hugs her.

JOSHUA

I promise, I'll protect you. (beat)
Come on, Laura, we gotta catch up.

LAURA

No, just wait one second.

Laura reaches for the backpack that has been nestled comfortably on her back since they left school. She reaches in and pulls out a copy of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, by L. Frank Baum.

JOSHUA

You just happen to be carrying the guide to Oz right in your backpack?

LAURA

It's an assignment for a class I'm taking. (beat) Look here, Josh. It has a map and everything.

JOSHUA

Well, I'm glad we have a backup plan. But, let's go. We don't want to lose them!

As Laura and Joshua come to a jog, Tamara and Tommy begin running back toward them, frantically.

JOSHUA (cont'd)

What? What's wrong?! Why are you coming back? Why are you running?!

(CONTINUED)

Tamara motions for them to be quiet. Tommy jumps up and down with glee. They approach quickly and soon are standing right in front of each other.

TOMMY

You're never going to believe this

JOSHUA

What?

TAMARA

(In shock.)

Josh, I'm so sorry.

JOSHUA

Sorry for what?

Tamara takes Joshua by the hand and Tommy does the same to Laura. They walk further along the road of yellow brick, until they're looking down at the long winding road, which we see crosses a river and disappears into a deep forest.

JOSHUA (cont'd)

I still don't see anything, Tam.
What is it?

TOMMY

Look down there, crossing the
river. Coming toward us.

There, right before they're very eyes, we see them. The famous four, coming toward Joshua and his group. DOROTHY GALE, a young girl wearing sparkling silver shoes and a blue gingham dress leads the way. She's followed by a small dog, TOTO, and a walking SCARECROW, who stumbles clumsily across the road. Just behind them is a man completely constructed out of tin, the TIN-MAN, who is slinging an axe over his shoulder as he walks comfortably beside a huge, wild LION.

TOMMY (cont'd)

We were going the wrong way.
Obviously we have to follow them to
find a way home.

TAMARA

You see story book characters
alive, in real life and you're
still worried about getting home?
I'm worried I need to be put in a
straight jacket and move into one
of those tiny little rooms, with
the really soft walls.

(CONTINUED)

As the other three continue to babble on, Joshua's mind continues to stir. He realizes there's a bigger problem at hand.

JOSHUA

Um, guys. We have a problem

TAMARA

What now?

JOSHUA

If those people are really here, then we're not just in Oz. We're in the story... or in the book.

LAURA

And technically, we'd be back in time, too!

TOMMY

Okay. So what? It's got to be just as easy to get out of a book as it is to get out of a made up country.

TAMARA

Yeah, I don't see the problem.

JOSHUA

The problem is that we can't talk to them. We can't be seen by them and we can't do anything to affect them.

LAURA

What? Why?

JOSHUA

Don't you watch movies? We can't talk to them because we could risk changing the story and if we do that, then Dorothy might not get home. If Dorothy doesn't get home, I have a sneaking suspicion that we won't get home either. Tommy you should understand this, I'm sure it has happened in one of the comics you read.

TOMMY

Nothing this crazy.

(CONTINUED)

TAMARA

So what do you think we should we do?

JOSHUA

Nothing, yet.

TAMARA

I don't care what you say; I'm talking to them and telling them we need to go with them to the green city.

LAURA

The Emerald City.

TAMARA

Whatever. I'm talking to them.

JOSHUA

No, Tamara! We don't know what might happen. COME BACK NOW!
TAAAAAAAAAAM!

Tamara begins to take off toward Dorothy and her friends.

Joshua tries to chase her, but the pain in his ribs and the rest of his body has increased a thousand-fold.

He lets out a loud moan and then drops to the ground.

CUT TO BLACK.

FADE IN ON:

INT. A DARK CABIN IN OZ - NIGHT

Joshua is lying on the floor in the middle of an old, broken-down, dirty cabin. He is still unconscious.

The door to the one room cabin opens and a small dog runs into the cabin and begins licking his face. It's TOTO!

Joshua does not look happy when he realizes that it's Toto.

JOSHUA

(to himself)

No, she didn't! I'll kill her!

He pushes the dog off of him and makes his way toward the door. He rips the door open and discovers a small fire crackling outside.

CUT TO:

EXT. OZ. A CAMPFIRE IN THE WOODS - NIGHT

Toto bursts out from behind him and races toward the fire, then jumps onto the lamp of DOROTHY GALE.

She's not at all how she looked in the movie. Her hair is a fair shade of blonde and she's only about 11 or 12 years old. Her plain face is only made beautiful by the dainty smile that never seems to leave it. And her shoes are silver shoes, not ruby slippers, but still obviously magical, as they are glowing.

The TIN-MAN and LION all also sit close to the fire for warmth. The SCARECROW stays far from the flames so he does not catch fire.

DOROTHY

Toto! Good morning! Did you keep the nice boy safe?

DOROTHY (cont'd)

(to Joshua)

I hope he wasn't any trouble for you. I'm Dorothy Gale.

JOSHUA

He wasn't any trouble at all. What's up with your shoes?

SCARECROW

Those are the magical silver shoes that once belonged to the Witch of the East.

JOSHUA

Are you sure?

DOROTHY

That's what the Good Witch of the North told me after my house fell on top of the witch of the East. They are much more comfortable than the shoes I had, so I was quite thankful for her generosity.

JOSHUA

Oh I'm sure. Excuse me for being rude, but where are the others?

(CONTINUED)

TIN-MAN

The others you came with?

JOSHUA

Yes, sir.

TIN-MAN

(pointing.)

They went down by the brook over there to bathe before bed.

JOSHUA

Thank you. I'll be back in a few minutes.

Joshua walks away from the group and makes his way through the dark woods, until he comes upon a rather large clearing.

CUT TO:

EXT. OZ LAKE - NIGHT

The full-moon shines brightly and we discover a small body of water that resting before him.

Tamara, Tommy and Laura are all swimming. Joshua walks to the very edge of the water and speaks to his friends.

TAMARA

Isn't this awesome? The moon is so bright!

JOSHUA

Awesome? I thought you hated it here.

TAMARA

Oh I do, but I might as well enjoy the scenery while I'm here.

TOMMY

Come in, man! The water is amazing!

JOSHUA

No, really, I'm fine. What did you guys say to Dorothy?

LAURA

Nothing. We told them we somehow got lost here and we need to find a way home. So they asked us to go to the wizard with them! Everything should be fine!

(CONTINUED)

TAMARA

And they didn't even make us sing a song about it!

JOSHUA

You know just as well as I do that Dorothy has to go through a lot more stuff before she gets to go home. Not to mention the fact that she only gets to go home with the ruby slippers and that girl has silver shoes on!

LAURA

Actually, the shoes in the book are silver and she still does get home with them.

JOSHUA

You didn't tell her she can get home with the shoes, did you?

TAMARA

(laughing)

No, we figured we'd just wait until she was asleep and grab them.

JOSHUA

You are all sick. We are not taking that little girls shoes.

JOSHUA walks away from the group and they all ignore him, climb out of the water and dry off.

Joshua makes his way back to the campfire, as he walks he thinks out-loud to himself.

JOSHUA (cont'd)

I can't let them change the story. I can't let them mess everything up. If we're going to get home we have to do it my way. My way is the only way. I have a plan, I just need to stay calm.

CUT TO:

EXT. OZ. A CAMPFIRE IN THE WOODS - NIGHT

JOSHUA

Dorothy, thank you for your kind offer. Though my friends and I would love to join you on your journey to go see the Wizard, I'm afraid we would slow you down. You see, my friends are really very lazy and apparently they can't always be counted on. So after you rest, please feel free to leave before us in the morning.

DOROTHY

I wouldn't dream of doing such a thing! It really is no problem.

JOSHUA

I insist.

TIN-MAN

We should stick to a strict schedule if we plan to get to the Wizard soon.

LION

I agree whole-heartedly. No offense, Tin-Man.

TIN-MAN

None taken.

JOSHUA

Then it's settled. Thank you again for your kind offer, have a lovely evening. It was a pleasure to meet you all.

Before they have time to respond, Joshua rushes away from the fire and back to the side of the lake.

CUT TO:

EXT. OZ LAKE - NIGHT

Where he finds all of his friends fast asleep, huddled together in a group for warmth.

Joshua lets out a large sigh and then slides onto the end of the group and falls asleep.

(CONTINUED)

JOSHUA
There's no place like home.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN ON:

EXT. OZ LAKE - MORNING

The next morning, as the sun begins to rise over the grassy, dew-filled shore they had slept on the previous night, Joshua blinks his eyes slowly as he wakes.

He finds Tamara, Laura and Tommy still fast asleep.

Joshua rises to his feet and runs through the woods, toward the area where the fire had burned last night. The sun is shining brightly, so he easily glides his way through the heavy brush that surrounds him.

CUT TO:

EXT. OZ. A CAMPFIRE IN THE WOODS - MORNING

He turns a corner and finds the spot where the four characters spent the night. There's nothing. Not even a slightly burning ember. They must have left hours ago.

Suddenly Tamara's scream comes from behind Joshua.

He turns around to find his 3 friends behind him, all looking shocked.

JOSHUA
What's wrong? Who screamed?

TAMARA
Are you kidding? What's wrong? They left without us!

LAURA
What are we going to do now?

TOMMY
Well, if we leave right now, we can probably catch up with them.

JOSHUA
I don't think so. It looks like they've been gone for hours. I think it's better this way--

(CONTINUED)

TAMARA

Oh, shut up, Josh! We're completely stranded now. They were our only hope.

JOSHUA

You're right, I can't believe that they would leave us here. In fact, I think it was quite rude of them. I mean, in the movie, they seemed so... so sweet.

LAURA

I know, even in the book they would have helped anyone.

TOMMY

Well, what are we going to do now?

JOSHUA

First, we have to find something to eat for breakfast. Once we're satisfied, we'll be able to think a lot better and consider our next plan of action.

The three agree with him.

TOMMY

I saw some wild berries we can pick!

JOSHUA

Ok! Good, let's do that!

LAURA

And Tam and I will try to catch some fish!

TAMARA

We will?

JOSHUA

Yes, you will! Have fun!

Tommy follows Joshua into the woods to help search for berries.

Tamara and Laura go back down toward the lake to try and catch some fish.

As Tommy and Joshua delve deeper into the woods, they find the biggest, juiciest looking berries they have ever seen.

(CONTINUED)

They run to the bush and instantly begin plucking handfuls of the ripe fruits.

They eat one and discover it instantly fills them up.

JOSHUA (cont'd)
(astonished)
I'm full! Off of one berry... what the heck?

TOMMY
Me too! That is so crazy!

JOSHUA
Grab some berries for all of us to take with us.

The boys grab a few handfuls of berries and tuck them in their pockets.

They return to the girls, who have not caught any fish and hand them some berries.

JOSHUA (cont'd)
Okay, children, we've got work to do.

TAMARA
Let's just go to the Emerald City on our own!

TOMMY
That's perfect!

JOSHUA
I agree. The Emerald City is our best hope of getting home. However, I think we need to stay clear of Dorothy and her friends. We don't want to mess with them anymore.

LAURA
You know what, Josh, I think you're right.

JOSHUA
Finally...

TAMARA
Fine! Let's go! Please, I just want to get this over with.

They slowly begin to walk.

LAURA

Wait! Don't you think we should read the book and see what else is ahead of us on this road?

JOSHUA

You're right! Get that book out and let's study up.

TAMARA

What book?

TOMMY

Yeah... did we miss something?

JOSHUA

Laura just so happens to be carrying a copy of the book we are in.

TOMMY

That is ridiculously awesome!

TAMARA

Yeah... if you're a dork. Case solved.

They walk off the road and pause for a moment under a large oak tree, while Laura digs through her backpack for the book.

Laura finds the book and begins to paw through the pages.

LAURA

Okay. Here's the part where Dorothy meets the Tin Woodman. Oh and here's the part with the lion... uh oh. Guys, it's not here.

JOSHUA

What's not?

LAURA

The Emerald City, the rest of the story. All of it. There's nothing here. The pages are blank!

Joshua rips the book from Laura's hands and inspects it.

JOSHUA

What? (noticing) She's right! There's nothing! How does the story just go blank? There's no way it

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JOSHUA (cont'd)
could... (beat) Unless the story is
being re-written because Tamara
talked to them. COME ON TAM!

Joshua throws the book from his hands and it hits the ground
with a loud thud.

TAMARA
Don't even try to put this all on
me, Josh!

JOSHUA
You talked to them! It's your
fault.

TAMARA
I didn't say anything to them.
There's no way this happened
because of me.

Joshua quickly returns to where he had tossed the book and
retrieves it.

Frantically flipping through the pages he finds the last few
pages before it turns blank.

JOSHUA
Oh, you didn't say anything. Then
how do you explain this?

He pushes the book toward Tamara and points directly toward
where she speaks to Dorothy.

TAMARA
Oh, we're in this book now too,
huh?

JOSHUA
(pointing)
Yeah, we are! Why don't you read
your direct quote from the book?
Right here. Where I'm pointing.

TAMARA
(reading out loud)
"That wizard is a sham anyways. I
know a way to get home now... wanna
hear it?" (beat) Oops.

JOSHUA
Oops, nothing Tamara! It's a good
thing Laura stopped you before you
could say anything else.

TAMARA

Wait a minute. What the heck is this?

She had been reading further into the book and discovered Joshua's plot.

TAMARA (cont'd)

You told Dorothy to leave? You think we're selfish and lazy? You're such a jerk. You talked to them too!

JOSHUA

It's a good thing I did too, before you could mess this up anymore than you already have.

TAMARA

So you scream at me for changing the story, then you change it too?

LAURA

Enough! So yeah, you both messed up, but, we need to get home. So forget it.

TAMARA

I'm not forgetting anything. From this point on, I travel alone.

LAURA

That's not safe!

TAMARA

Fine then. You come with me and the boys can go on their own.

JOSHUA

Fine!!!!

TAMARA

Fine!!! See you when we beat you back home. Laura, let's go, now!

As they turn to walk away, Laura looks scared.

We see a shot of Joshua watching them leave, he looks pissed.

We watch them pass over a hill and disappear into the distance.

(CONTINUED)

JOSHUA

She's gonna get herself killed.

TOMMY

At least we still have the book.

JOSHUA

You're right! The book! It'll keep us updated on where Tamara and Laura go and whether they're okay! We can just follow them there and we won't have to listen to Tamara complain the whole time!

TOMMY

And we'll know how close Dorothy is to getting home and where we need to go to hitch a ride with her back to reality.

JOSHUA

To Oz?

TOMMY

To Oz!

The two boys skip down the road and we

FADE TO BLACK.