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## BOOKS & AUTHORS

Published: Sunday, January 14, 2007

# 'Oz' takes on another angle

**Name:** Joshua Patrick Dudley.

**Hometown:** Born and raised in Hooksett, now living in Nashua.

**Title of book:** "Lost in Oz."

**Synopsis:** "Lost in Oz" follows the adventures of high school student Joshua Dudley, his twin sister, Tamara, and their two best friends, Laura and Tommy, down the famous yellow brick road. After mysteriously arriving in the Land of Oz, the four teenagers must stick together to try to find a way home. But how can they find a way home when they don't know how they got there? (Note: There are two editions of the book, a normal one and a school edition without any foul language.)

**Publisher:** LuLu.

**Price/where is it available?** \$13.99 for paperback, \$26 for hardcover; available at [www.lostinozbook.com](http://www.lostinozbook.com).

**Web site:** [www.lostinozbook.com](http://www.lostinozbook.com).

**Brief biography:** Joshua Patrick Dudley was born and raised in Hooksett. He is the son of Laurel Levesque and Michael Dudley, brother to Tamara, Meghan and Caitlin Dudley. He has always been exposed to the arts.

His fascination and love for the stories of Oz started when he was 2 years old; he and his mother shared his first viewing of the MGM classic "The Wizard of Oz." From that point on, he was obsessed with the magical land and its inhabitants.

**What motivated you to write this book? How long have you been working on it?** I was motivated to write the book as I discovered things in life aren't always what they seem. I wondered what would happen if I had a chance to start all over again in a new place. Would I want to stay and make it work or hurry home? I always wanted to address a few issues, without causing a major uproar. I wanted to address racial discrimination, stereotypes and politics in a way that anyone could read.

I've only been working on the book for about three months, with a few brief pauses in the middle.

**Is the book geared to a particular type of reader? What do you hope readers will take from the book?** The book geared to anyone. Children, teenagers, parents, grandparents and all

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their dogs will enjoy it and get something from it. What I hope they get from it is a sense of who they are. When they read the story, I want them to ask themselves, "Would I do that or would I try it this way?" I want to stimulate identity growth and knowledge in all my readers.

**Name some of your favorite books and authors.** I love the "Harry Potter" series by J.K. Rowling. "Wicked" by Gregory Maguire is also a good read. My favorite author currently is Amelia Atwater-Rhodes, and my favorite author of all time is L. Frank Baum, who, of course, wrote the original Oz stories.

**If you have to give an aspiring author one bit of advice, what would it be?** Work through it. If you have to, act out the scene that you are writing in the room that you are in. Always be creative.

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