

## MAUD

From *Before Oz* by Lauren Grove

*Maud, 30s, tries to convince her husband to be a writer.*

MAUD: Frank, you can't keep living like this. We can't keep living like this. Every time you leave, the boys and I have to fend for ourselves for weeks at a time. And you always come back miserable and exhausted. You need to be home, with your family. Are you even happy being a traveling salesman? Do you even like those cheap China plates you try to peddle? No, of course not. I think it's time you changed careers. You need to write, Frank. It's what you were born to do. We can turn that old study into your writing room. You could tuck your children in every night and be there when they wake up the next morning. *(Frank starts to protest.)*

No, I don't want to hear it! I know what your father always told you. "Baum men are men of business..." But this is your dream, Frank. When you tell the boys these stories, do you ever look into their eyes? I do. Every time. You deliver your audience from the humdrum of their daily lives to a place of wonder. It's time you share that place with the children of the world. From the night I met you, I knew you were a storyteller. A great storyteller, Frank. Maybe the best. But you have fought against it at every turn... It's time to stop fighting.

I know it will take some time to write the Oz book, but we'll make ends meet somehow. I can do some embroidery work for the local seamstress. And don't you dare make a peep about a woman bringing home a paycheck. I am the daughter of Matilda Gage and if I want to enter the work force to support my husband, then I will, damn it!