

FRANK 3

From *Before Oz* by Lauren Grove

Frank, 40s, worries he will never be a real writer.

FRANK: I can't be a writer, Maud, no matter how much I used to want it! That was before we had Harry. I left that world behind when the boys came along and I've never looked back, not really. I'm doing this for you and the children. You don't understand... My father drilled into my head that Baum men are men of business. We take care of our families. I can't quit my job to write meaningless fairytales!

And I know you believe in me, Maud. I appreciate all your kind words, truly... But it's one thing to tell stories to my family or the children in the neighborhood. It's quite another to put them out there for the whole world to ridicule. What if I write the Oz book and no one wants to publish it? Or worse, what if it gets published but no one likes it? (*He looks down, ashamed.*) What if... What if I fail? What if I fail at the one thing I have loved my entire life? I would be letting myself down but, worst of all, I would be letting you down. And Dorothy... Dorothy...