

# **MATILDA**

**From *Before Oz* by Lauren Grove**

*Matilda, 50s, is horrified to learn her daughter is engaged to an actor.*

MATILDA: An actor? You want to marry an actor? Have you lost your mind? You are Maud Elizabeth Gage! You are one of the first women to ever attend Cornell University. You could be a doctor or a lawyer. In my day, a woman could only dream of achieving such heights. What I wouldn't have given to attend medical school... And here is my own daughter, ready to throw it all away for an *actor*. Frank Baum is nothing but an impractical dreamer. He'll never be able to support a family. And you have so many suitors, Maud. Pick another one. Pick anyone! Just not this one.

I suppose it's my own fault, really. I raised you to believe a woman could do anything she wanted, be anything she wanted... So, you went ahead and decided to be an actor's wife. The irony! How can I make you understand... You're destined for more than this. I refuse to have my daughter be a fool and wed a damn thespian! I'll let you marry that man when monkeys fly!