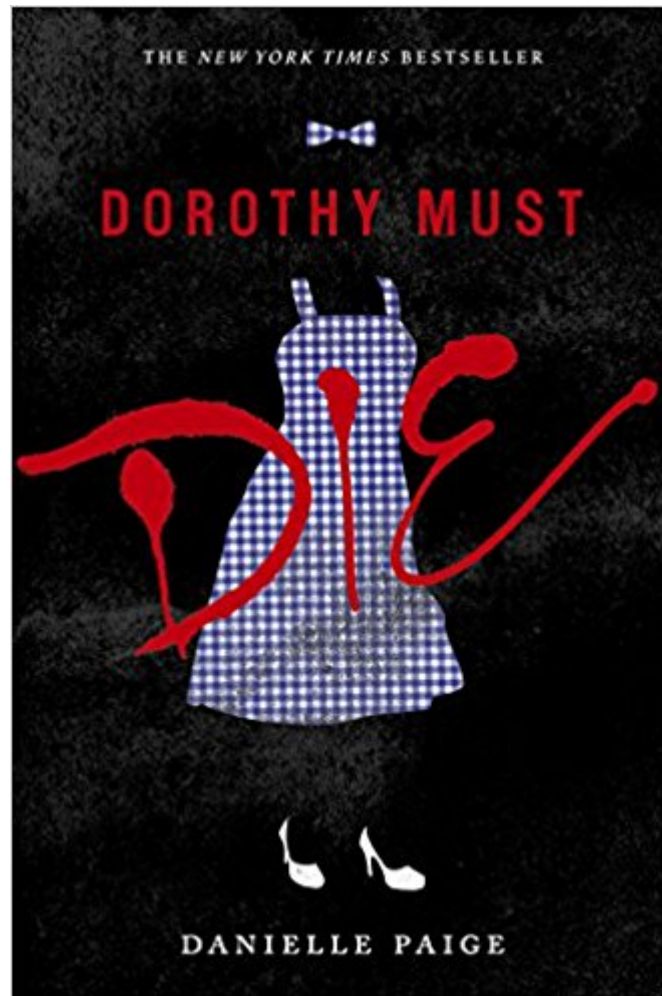




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# Dorothy Must Die



## Synopsis

The New York Times bestselling first book in a dark new series that reimagines the Oz saga, from debut author Danielle Paige. I didn't ask for any of this. I didn't ask to be some kind of hero. But when your whole life gets swept up by a tornado—taking you with it—you have no choice but to go along, you know? Sure, I've read the books. I've seen the movies. I know the song about the rainbow and the happy little blue birds. But I never expected Oz to look like this. To be a place where Good Witches can't be trusted, Wicked Witches may just be the good guys, and winged monkeys can be executed for acts of rebellion. There's still a road of yellow brick—  
but even that's crumbling. What happened? Dorothy. They say she found a way to come back to Oz. They say she seized power and the power went to her head. And now no one is safe. My name is Amy Gumm—and I'm the other girl from Kansas. I've been recruited by the Revolutionary Order of the Wicked. I've been trained to fight. And I have a mission: Remove the Tin Woodman's heart. Steal the Scarecrow's brain. Take the Lion's courage. And Dorothy must die.

## Book Information

Series: Dorothy Must Die (Book 1)

Paperback: 480 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; Reprint edition (March 31, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062280686

ISBN-13: 978-0062280688

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 1.1 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 718 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #18,688 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #34 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Wizards & Witches #179 in Books > Teens > Romance > Science Fiction & Dystopian #221 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Fantasy

## Customer Reviews

Danielle Paige, author of Dorothy Must Die, shares her favorite Oz versions. It was a thrill for me to write Dorothy Must Die. As a fan of the books, Oz felt like sacred ground. But stepping onto The Yellow Brick Road I saw a million other possibilities stretching out in front of me, some darker and

twistier than the Oz we are used to, and I couldn't resist. Here are some other trips down the Yellow Brick Road that I love. The Wizard of Oz (1939, movie) I was smitten from the very first notes of "Over the Rainbow." The movie is just perfection. I have seen it so many times it's almost embarrassing. It's epic and timeless. And I still literally stop whatever I'm doing and watch when I see it on screen, because it's just that good. Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of The West (1995, book) Love! I bow to Gregory Maguire! Recasting the Wicked Witch of the West as truly misunderstood, instead of evil, was just a stroke of genius. And the musical is just as satisfying. (I was lucky enough to see it on Broadway with Idina Menzel and Kristin Chenoweth. Just a fabulous production.) Return to Oz (1985, movie) It borrows so many deliciously creepy and quirky details from the Baum Books and makes up some new ones of its own. Seeing Mombi and her closet of interchangeable heads floored me. Tin Man (2007, tv miniseries) The adorable Zooey Deschanel as DG, a descendant of Dorothy, drawn into the SyFy miniseries version of Oz complete with androids and a shape-shifting Toto! One complaint: not a stitch of gingham on Zooey! The Wiz (1978, movie) Just total fun! Oz looks a lot like New York City. It's star studded and unapologetic with a young Michael Jackson as the Scarecrow, Diana Ross as Dorothy, and Sidney Lumet directing. And try to get the songs out of your head. "Ease on Down the Road" is so catchy. And "Home" is just one of my all time favorites. (When Kristin Chenoweth sang it on Glee a few years ago, I was so happy!) Oz the Great and Powerful (2013, movie) I love a prequel, and this one's visually stunning as well. The character of the Wizard has always fascinated me. He is a study of reinvention •figuring out what makes him tick and how he navigates the world of Oz with a slippery moral compass is inspiring. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Gr 9 Up •In this edgy update of Frank L. Baum's Wizard of Oz, Kansas teen Amy Gumm gets sucked into a complex assassination plot to dethrone the megalomaniac and magic addict Dorothy. Oz is no longer the cheerful Technicolor world made popular by the Judy Garland •starring film, and it has been drained of its fairy-tale glimmer by the red shoe •wearing despot and her crew of twisted friends. The Scarecrow, the Tin Man, Glinda, and the Lion all make horrific appearances, and characters from Baum's original are also highlighted in this grim and gory take. Roles are reversed as good and evil witches band together in the revolutionary group of the Wicked to train Amy to kill Dorothy. Debut author Paige doesn't hold back in this fast-paced action novel, and the body count mounts as the tale progresses. Leaps of logic distract from the overall story, and choppy language overwhelms at times, but teens will

identify with the heroine's insecurities and feelings of abandonment caused by her parents' divorce and her mother's subsequent drug abuse. The tentative relationship that begins with one of her tutors seems a bit tacked on but will hopefully be developed more in future installments. Plot twists will keep readers guessing, and Amy's affinity to her pet mouse Star will garner some chuckles. Give this cinematic upper-YA novel to fans of A. G. Howard's *Splintered* (Abrams, 2012), Frank Beddor's *Looking Glass Wars* (Dial, 2006), and TV shows such as *Once Upon a Time* and *Grimm*.  
—Shelley Diaz, *School Library Journal* --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Wow. This is one of those books that going in my "Why Did I Take So Long to Read..." series! I've heard of this book for so many years now and on a whim decided to get it. It sat on my bookshelf for about a month (or two?), and then I finally decided to read it after putting *Furthermore* by Tahereh Mafi on hold. Man was this book a fun ride! This book's a re-telling, something I typically can't stand, but I know the *Wizard of Oz* backwards and forwards, so I was never lost. You see, Oz (in this book) is one messed up place. The munchkins are used to mine magic, the good witches are bad, the bad witches are good, wicked is good, and happiness is individual and not holistic. In a word, Oz's darkly amazing and breath taking. We meet Amy Gumm, a girl whose name's beyond ridiculous, but her character's solid. She's a flawed character with self-destructive habits, but she was so real. Nox, her trainer, is the typical bad boy interest, but he fell flat for me. I loved Mombi at first, but then favored Gert, and finally loved Glamora the most. The Wizard reminded me of the Sorcerer from the *Sorcerer's Ascension*, by Brock E. Deskins, and Dorothy was a villain that was 100% believable. This book's plot has a few major parts: Amy in Kansas, Amy journeying to the Emerald city, Amy in the Emerald City (part one), Amy with the Revolutionary Order of the Wicked, and Amy in the Emerald City (part two). All parts engaged me fully, though its quite clear this book's plot driven. I don't have a problem with that, but during certain parts of the book it was painfully obvious certain events were meant solely for the sake of the plot. Now, the ending. Sigh. On my my biggest pet peeves is incompetent, so-called warrior heroines. Don't get me wrong, I really enjoyed Amy, but I was extremely frustrated when she flubbed her final chance to prove her competence. Moreso, I was forcing myself not to throw my book across the room when she repeatedly did something that was the exact opposite of her intended goal. Let me tell you, I almost busted an artery watching her stupidity. Overall, though, I truly enjoyed this book!

Ever since I first saw this book in the store I've been itching to read it. I've never been a huge *Wizard of Oz* fan. I've never read any other Oz books and I've only seen the movie in pieces, never

all in on sitting. But this story grabbed me from the moment I picked it up. *Dorothy Must Die* is the telling of a second girl, Amy Gumm, who gets transported to Oz and discovers that the hero Dorothy who conquered the Wicked Witch of the West is now some kind of tyrannical monster and has made the once shining Oz into a retched nightmare. The Scarecrow, Tin Man and Lion have likewise been corrupted and only Amy - along with the other remaining Wicked Witches - can set things right by...well, just look at the title. I think this is the first presentation of Oz that puts Dorothy in a bad light. The core of the story has similarities to *Wicked* - a character that's not quite what they've been made out to be. Actually, that description could be applied to nearly everyone in the book. Both the good guys and the bad guys - if you can figure out which one's which - have secrets to keep and it's great trying to figure out what those secrets could be. In a story that's been so completely flipped upside down like this one, you can't be sure of anything and it keeps the reader on their toes. I'm eagerly looking forward to the next book. FYI, I can't speak the title with saying it in a deep, booming voice. You know, like...DOROTHY...MUST...DIE!! There's just no whispering that sentence.

!!!Parents of readers on the younger end of the young adult range who want to read this be careful - there is some more adult language and it can get dark and a little grisly!!!! I confess, I began this book with trepidation. I read the prequel and was not overly enamored of it so I read something else before diving into this to "cleanse my palate." In the meantime a friend of mine read this book and was not terribly impressed so I put it off a little longer. However, another friend read it, loved it and began to actively campaign that I \*needed\* to read it so I finally dove in. The concept of the bad guys doing good is not a new one for me, pop culture is full of great, complex antiheroes so I was fully ready to embrace that the Order of Wicked could be out in Oz doing good. It's what drew me to the book in the first place. I enjoyed Paige's re-imagining of Oz, especially the way she worked in some minor characters from the original Oz books. Though I will admit, it was kind of hard to wrap my head around some of the beloved characters being so dark and grisly. In a nutshell it boils down to this - I just had a hard time connecting with these characters. I don't mean because they were "bad guys" I just don't feel very invested. Amy seemed lost and confused, allowable as she's just been transplanted to another world, but the other members of the Order seemed kind of one dimensional to me. I wanted more depth and complexity. Everyone keeps telling Amy not to trust anyone, so I would like to have seen more reasons WHY she shouldn't be trusting them. In summary, I felt like it was okay. I'm interested enough that I'll read the next book, but I don't know that I feel like this makes my list of "must reads."

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