



The Lizard of Oz

R.L. Stine

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Kate Lipton loves animals, especially unusual ones. So when she sees a pop-up ad on her computer for an amazing lizard from Australia, she has to have it. The ad says the lizard is actually a kind of chameleon--it can change its color to blend in with its surroundings. But what makes this lizard really strange is that it's a copycat--the ad says it can even change its shape.

Kate's parents don't believe all the claims in the ad, but they tell her to go ahead and order it. They tell her not to be disappointed if it's just a plain old lizard. After anxiously checking the mail every day for two weeks, the package finally arrives. But when she finally opens it--there's no lizard inside. There's only an egg with a written warning. Is Katie ready for what's about to hatch?

The Lizard of Oz Details

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Author : R.L. Stine

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From Reader Review *The Lizard of Oz* for online ebook

Josiah says

The Most Wanted sub-series of the spectacularly popular Goosebumps franchise ends with R.L. Stine's second play on the title of L. Frank Baum's *The Wizard of Oz* (the first, *The Wizard of Ooze*, was released as book seventeen of the Horrorland series in 2010), and briefly takes us to the Land Down Under to collect a monster that isn't at all what it seems. Twelve-year-old Kate Lipton's parents are more impulsive than most. Their naive career ideas have foundered in the past (the miniature-horse petting farm earned no substantial revenue), but as always they're optimistic about their newest plan: putting together a public exhibit of rare lizards from around the world. On vacation in Australia they find a scientist willing to secretly sell them a Tasmanian cobra lizard, still unhatched in its egg. The lizard is so rare that it's practically nonexistent; if they can get the egg back home and babysit it until the lizard hatches alive and well, it will be a can't-miss starter exhibit.

Guarding the egg turns out to be stressful. Adele, a girl from Kate's school, almost breaks the egg when she visits to see it for herself. When the infant reptile does exit its shell, the creature is fast, difficult to catch if it escapes the cage. Tas, as they name it, is a biter; it snaps its teeth on Kate's finger the first time she picks it up, drawing blood. Kate doesn't think the wound is a big deal until her hand breaks out in a scaly rash...which spreads to her arms, shoulders, and eventually beyond. She's afraid to bring the rash to her parents' attention; what if something is seriously wrong that can't be fixed? The extent of the horror gradually dawns on her as the ugly, scaly skin spreads over most of her body: Tas's bite is turning her into a lizard. She's even acting like a lizard in weird ways that don't bode well for her future as a human. Kate needs to find a cure, but is it already too late?

This book is an interesting concept, similar to *How I Met My Monster* from earlier in the series. I'm not sure the pieces of the puzzle fit together convincingly, but it's a fun read, paced faster than the previous Most Wanted book, *Here Comes the Shaggedy*. Excluding special editions, I believe the Most Wanted series (ten books) peaks with book seven, *A Nightmare on Clown Street*, an eerie and surprising story that strongly hints at the unseen presence of Slappy the ventriloquist dummy. That peak continues most of the way through book eight, *Night of the Puppet People*. Perhaps it's a taste of horrors to come in the next Goosebumps series, SlappyWorld? *The Lizard of Oz* isn't R.L. Stine's best, but it's of uniform quality with the majority of the Most Wanted series, and I'd consider giving it one and a half stars. Enjoy, fellow Goosebumps lovers.

Alex says

This one just grossed me out too much for me to really enjoy it.

Jenny says

Truly hilarious. Bravo, Mr.Stine!

Reading this in my 30's, this book brought back memories of the awkwardness of puberty, and I think this (like many of his books) can be read as an analogy of that terribly awkward stage of life.

Adriana says

I can't believe I'm disappointed in a Goosebumps book! Lizard of Oz featured a main character that was bratty and a family that did "funny" pranks that weren't funny at all. I did like the twist at the end which sort of redeemed the story in a way but overall I wasn't spooked or scared at all.

Berkeley Poder says

Do you like lizards? If you do then you should really read this book this book has a whole lot of confusion 6ft tall lizards and even a lizard that can turn you into a lizard this is a story about a girl named Kate Lipton her parents are lizard freaks and go to Australia to get a very rare lizard that is out of this world this is a lizard that is able to bite you but is not really a carnivore its really an omnivore but still eats meat

Sherry Guice says

Pretty funny! A surprising twist at the end.
Short and engaging chapters that are good for struggling readers.

Evan Smith says

Very creepy lizard book. I might eat a fly next.

Hαα???? ?t???? says

This book was silly. It turned out as I expected.

Zaina Nasser says

This book was amazing I loved it when Kate's dad told her she was from a lizard family and when they both planned to scare Adel it was one of my favourite books.

Jonathan Askenazi says

the girl who cried lizard.

Billy says

The times have changed since the 1990s; however, the Goosebumps series has basically stayed the same, though new technology and slang are now used. The cover art with the evil lizard hatching out of it's shell is extremely creepy, though the actual plot has more humor in it than it does scares. R.L. Stine works his magic, giving us readers an interesting main character, Kate, and a surprising ending twist. Overall, Goosebumps Most Wanted: The Lizard of Oz is a fast-paced, fun book that will appeal to younger readers (or older fans).

Kaylee Johnson says

The lizard was spooky!Go and read the book for yourself.

Nicole Wrightson says

This was very interesting. I thought it was going to take one turn and it took a different turn all together. I love books that throw twists and turns at you. This book makes you feel like you have it figured out and then bam you are off in a different direction. But I love how this book ends and the nice way it ties up.
