

# Sacramento Book Review



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## **A Lion Among Men**

*By Gregory Maguire*

*Morrow, \$26.95, 336 pages*

The third installment in the ever-relevant *Wicked Years* re-tellings of the Oz stories, *A Lion Among Men* continues Maguire's tradition of turning the Oz world on its head and ironically bringing that fantasy dreamland into the real world. *A Lion Among Men* chronicles the cowardly lion, named "Brrr," from cub-hood until post-Dorothy Oz times, where he is intertwined in wars and espionage that ultimately lead him to the prophet Yackle. His encounters with Yackle make him look back over his life, and give him perspective about who he really is – something he had been having trouble figuring out.

Bringing disconsolate themes to the Oz world, and reinventing it into a more J. R. R. Tolkien-style fantasy world that parallels our own, Maguire shows that he is still on top of his game when it comes to giving new life to this classic tale.

