

Tales from the Mapmaker

Imagia and the Magic Pearls

At the end of 2009, Disney premieres its first theatrical release starring an African American fairytale princess. Although there has been a lot of criticism over the lack of true ethnic input and negative stereotypes, she is hailed as a long-overdue character profile that the audience craves. This year, Wizarding World Press also releases a new series featuring an ethnic princess...

Since 2002, Monroe S Tarver (an African American) has been sharing his own stories and illustrations of an ethnic elf princess and her fantasy world, as he fine-tuned his manuscripts and artwork. He visited schools and libraries, delivering his tales directly to his target audience. This experience helped make him a master storyteller, and reinforced what he already felt – there is a huge demand for classic fantasy stories featuring characters with ethnic appeal. The U.S. has evolved into a multi-cultural nation, so families welcome role models for their children that are diverse, yet promote positive values and morals.

While the author of *Imagia and the Magic Pearls* is African American, the story and themes are universal. Tarver's illustrations are an exciting part of his tales. His artwork has a unique style with various pop-cultural influences including anime, graphic novels, and Disney. Youth audiences of all ages have a preference for illustrated stories – especially those with a contemporary art style.

There is a new wave of cultural awareness in the world. *Imagia and the Magic Pearls* reflects this trend, and is at the forefront of the changes that are starting to occur in the fantasy genre.

Eventually, there will be more books like Tarver's. But right now, when this audience of young readers and their parents come in to look for the new wave in fantasy books, don't miss out... Have *Imagia and the Magic Pearls* on your shelf!

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Imagia and the Magic Pearls

as told by
Monroe S Tarver

- ISBN 13: 978-0-9723936-5-2
- Chapter Book, ages 5-9
- \$6.99
- 112 pages
- Illustrated throughout
- Softcover / 6 x 8 ½
- Wizarding World Press
- Distributed by SCB Distributors

