



***Imani's Moon* by JaNay Brown-Wood, Illustrated by Hazel Mitchell**

Charlesbridge, 2014

ISBN: 9781934133576 Hardcover, 9781934133583 Paperback

*Age Range: 6 to 9 years

BOOK SYNOPSIS

A delightful mix of folklore and fantasy follows Little Imani as she works up the courage and confidence in herself to achieve big things.

Little Imani is the smallest one in her village. The other children make fun of her and tell her she's too tiny, that she's an ant, that a meerkat might stomp her, and that she'll never amount to anything. Imani begins to believe them.

At bedtime, Imani's mama tells her traditional Maasai stories about the moon goddess Olapa and Anansi the spider. They accomplished the impossible. Imani's mama tells her that she is the one who needs to believe if she wants to reach new heights. So Imani sets out to touch the moon.

An unforgettable story about the power of believing in ourselves that is sure to inspire young readers to reach for their own moons.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"The message of hope and gentle lyrical tone make this the perfect story with which to lull listeners into sweet slumber. Mitchell's watercolor-and-graphite illustrations are filled with movement, emotion, color, and perspective. An author's note, meanwhile, contextualizes the story within the Kenyan and Tanzanian traditions and extends it beyond the oral tradition and into the written one." —*Booklist*

"The cover illustration of a small girl, arms outstretched in front of a perfect full moon, invites readers into this story of determination tinged with magical realism. . . . Watercolor paintings add vibrant color and clear cultural details, for example, the beaded jewelry and characteristic clothing of the Masai." —*School Library Journal*

"Taking after her storytelling mother, ignoring the teasing children of her village, and emulating the majestic warriors in their tribal jumping dance, this delightful heroine overcomes her short stature and inspires young dreamers to similarly reach for the stars." —*Foreword Reviews*

". . . Imani, with her winning personality, is a child to be admired." —*Kirkus Reviews*

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AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- 2015 RIF's Multicultural Booklist (Grades K to 5)

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Imani's Moon Readers Theater](#)
- [Imani's Moon Teachers Guide](#)
- [Imani's Moon | Reading Is Fundamental Guide for Parent and Families](#)
- [Stephen Colbert Shouts Out Imani's Moon on *The Late Show*](#)

AUTHOR STATEMENT

Imani's Moon is a story about perseverance, believing in yourself, and overcoming adversity. It includes a blend of folklore, culture, and magic—and I have seen the inspirational effect my story has had on young readers. Each time I share this book about a small girl who sets a seemingly impossible task and eventually accomplishes it, kids are reminded that they, too, can reach their own goals and dreams.

Why a book like this would be banned, censored, or stripped from reading lists is beyond me. Regardless, as an author who prides herself in sharing diverse stories, I will continue to write books that serve as what Dr. Sims Bishop called mirrors, windows, and sliding glass doors because I believe all children deserve to find themselves on the pages of books in meaningful and validating ways.

*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

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