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Hi-res photos available upon request

Author Cynthia Kern OBrien strikes at the heart of human compassion in her latest children’s book, *Marky the MAGNIFICENT Fairy*

CHANDLER, Ariz. (January 2023)—The latest book by author Cynthia Kern OBrien helps young readers understand that having differences is what makes them unique and lovable.

“We are delighted to work with Cindy,” said Linda F. Radke, president of Story Monsters LLC and publisher of Story Monsters Press. “She is a talented author who has every young reader’s best interest at heart. She continues to capture our imaginations with every new story.”

Through the eyes of a woodland fairy named Marky, readers learn how much we all want and need to be accepted for who we are. Follow along with *Marky the MAGNIFICENT Fairy*, who likes to play in the woods with her friends during the day and watch fireflies dance above her head as she falls asleep at night. We quickly learn that Marky cannot fly with the other fairies.

One of her wings is much smaller than the other, making her different from other fairies in the woods. That doesn’t bother Marky, who loves her small wing. To her, it’s beautiful!

Delightfully illustrated by Jeff Yesh, *Marky the MAGNIFICENT Fairy* (Story Monsters Press) is a book about believing in yourself. It’s about self-love, confidence, acceptance, positivity and compassion. These are important topics for everyone, no matter your age. This book is written with the intent of eliciting back and forth discussions with children at home or in the classroom.



“I had many conversations with both children and adults while creating this book,” said OBrien. “I am grateful that they were kind enough to share with me their personal stories of bullying, fear, anxiety, insecurities, and handicaps - both visible and invisible. Their stories were wide ranging. However, the lasting aftereffect was the same. They also shared the kindness shown to them along the way of help, encouragement, support, and love. These were the most profound, healing, and precious memories long held on to.”

This is OBrien’s fourth children’s book. She is the author of *I Used to be a Fairy... a True Story by Granny*; *The Tooth Fairy and the Baby Elf... a True Story by Granny*; and *I Don’t Want to Go to Preschool. The Fairy Queen Calls... a True Story by Granny*. She finds inspiration for her writing in her grandchildren and their worldview. She aspires to teach young readers caring and kindness for people and animals of all stripes. True to her heart, OBrien’s books aim to spark imagination and passion for each of those topics.

She is the recipient of multiple awards, including the Mom’s Choice Award, New York Big Book Award Distinguished Favorite; Independent Press Award; American Book Fest Parenting and Family Recommended; the 2020 American Fiction Award Children’s Picture Book; Readers’ Favorite International Book Award; Story Monsters Approved, School Life Category; and many others.

Marky the MAGNIFICENT Fairy (ISBN: 978-1-58985-015-6; paperback, perfect-bound; \$15.95 US) and other Story Monsters Press titles are available for purchase in the Story Monsters online store and at Amazon. Story Monsters Press is an imprint of Story Monsters LLC, dedicated to publishing books that offer hope, value differences, and help children build character. To learn more about Story Monsters Press, or to request a review copy of *Marky the MAGNIFICENT Fairy* please visit storymonsters.com.

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Marky the MAGNIFICENT Fairy

By Cynthia Kern OBrien

Illustrated by Jeff Yesh

THE CREATIVE TEAM



Cynthia Kern OBrien - Author

Cynthia Kern OBrien is the author of the *A True Story by Granny* debut picture book series: *I Used to be a Fairy*; *The Tooth Fairy and the Baby Elf*; and *I Don't Want to Go to Preschool, the Fairy Queen Calls*. A grandmother of three, she resides in California with her husband and Yorkshire mix, Pickles. OBrien finds inspiration for her writing in her grandchildren and their worldview, aspiring to teach young readers caring and kindness for people and animals of all stripes. Early on, her book series became a Readers Favorite and multi-award-winning recipient.

Awards:

Mom's Choice Award; New York Big Book Award Distinguished Favorite; Independent Press Award; American Book Fest Parenting and Family Recommended; 2020 American Fiction Award Children's Picture Book; Readers' Favorite International Book Award; Story Monsters Approved, School Life Category; First Place, Royal Dragonfly Book Awards, Parenting Award; First Place, Purple Dragonfly Book Awards, Picture Books 6 & Older.



Jeff Yesh - Illustrator

Jeff Yesh is a freelance illustrator and graphic designer whose award-winning work has been featured in multiple children's books, including *A Squirrel's Story—A True Tale* and *Story Monsters Among Us: A Brief History of Human Storytelling*. Yesh is also the artistic talent behind the Story Monsters character and is the graphic designer for the award-winning Story Monsters Ink, the literary resource for parents, teachers and librarians. Yesh graduated from Indiana State University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design. He lives in Indiana with his wife, two daughters and a slew of pets.



Michael Cope - Resource Guide Writer

Michael Cope is a Certified Prosthetist Orthotist who has been in practice for more than a decade. Prior to working in private practice, he received his Master of Science in Prosthetics and Orthotics from the Georgia Institute of Technology. He developed a strong love for people with disabilities as a child while helping to care for a younger brother with Cerebral Palsy.



Story Monsters Press - Publisher

Great Reads for Growing Minds

Story Monsters Press, an imprint of Story Monsters LLC, is a publisher of children's books that offer hope, value differences and build character. Every title also includes a resource or curriculum guide that complements the story.

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Illustrated by Jeff Yesh

FACT SHEET

Author: Cynthia Kern OBrien

Illustrator: Jeff Yesh

Publisher: Story Monsters Press, an imprint of Story Monsters LLC

Price: \$15.95 (Paperback, Perfect Bound); \$3.99 (eBook)

Trim: 8.5" x 11"

Page Count: 36 pages

Publication Date: January 10, 2023

ISBN: 978-1-58985-015-6 (paperback)

eISBN: 978-1-58985-016-3

Interest Level: 4 to 8 years

Website: www.pickleshousepublications.com



WHAT IS THIS BOOK ABOUT?

Marky the MAGNIFICENT Fairy is a book about believing in yourself. It's about self-love, confidence, acceptance, positivity and compassion. These are important topics for everyone, no matter your age. This book is written with the intent of eliciting back and forth discussions with children at home or in the classroom.

WHAT MAKES THIS BOOK UNIQUE?

This story is a wonderful resource for children with disabilities, or to help children understand how to be kind to others who have disabilities, no matter their age. The principles of courage, kindness and understanding are universal when dealing with individuals who have disabilities of any kind. Many of the people around us have disabilities, some visible and some invisible, while others face these challenges later in life. This story taps into the imagination of young readers by helping them imagine themselves among a group of fairy friends. By creating fictional characters, such as Marky, readers can imagine themselves in the story. They feel for Marky when the other woodland creatures make fun of her. They laugh at her small wing or say mean things about her fiery-red hair, her glasses or even her freckles. That really hurt Marky's feelings, and young readers can relate to this. Readers learn that Marky is not that different from the other fairies. Everyone has hopes and dreams! The book also includes a valuable resource guide for parents, caregivers and teachers: "How to talk to children about people with disabilities."

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BOOK DESCRIPTIONS

10-word description: You can believe in yourself, like Marky the MAGNIFICENT Fairy.

15-word description: Even though we have differences, you can believe in yourself, like Marky the MAGNIFICENT Fairy.

25-word description: *Marky the MAGNIFICENT Fairy* is a book about believing in yourself. It's about self-love, confidence, acceptance, positivity and compassion. It's about accepting our unique differences.

50-word description: Believing in yourself isn't always easy. When Marky's friends make fun of her for being different, she helps them understand everyone has exceptional qualities. Some are visible. Some are invisible. Marky reminds them they are magnificent. Through her kindness, Marky teaches her friends about self-love, confidence, acceptance, positivity and compassion.

100-word description: Believing in yourself isn't always easy. Marky learns that firsthand when the other woodland fairies make fun of her. They laugh at her one small wing and say mean things about her fiery-red hair, her glasses and her freckles. It is hurtful, but through Marky's determination, she helps them understand that everyone has exceptional qualities. Some are visible. Some are invisible. Through her kindness, Marky teaches her friends about self-love, confidence, acceptance, positivity and compassion. She reminds them they are magnificent. Readers of all ages learn to believe in themselves and the importance of treating everyone with respect and kindness.



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SUGGESTED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How did the story of Marky begin for you? Please explain your initial inspiration and how you developed it into this story.
2. Why use fairies as characters in your books? Do you find that young readers more easily identify with them?
3. What do you hope your readers, including the adults, take away from the story of *Marky the MAGNIFICENT Fairy*?
4. Tell us about your writing process, how you compose your stories from start to finish.
5. From fairies to elves, there is a sense of magic in your books. How do you keep your imagination alive and thriving?
6. Jeff Yesh's illustrations bring this story to life. Can you explain what your creative process looks like? How do you work together?
7. You mentioned that you had many conversations with both children and adults while creating this book. How did you start that process and how helpful was it to you as the author?
8. You have noted the importance of creating stories that highlight kindness and caring for others "no matter their ethnicity, religion, sexuality, size, handicaps." How do you plan to weave this theme into future titles?
9. When you wrote your first book, you said that becoming an author was a "happy accident." Looking back now, do you view it any differently?
10. With four different and inventive books, what's next?

