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Journey to Imagination for Children's Fantasy Author

It's hard to believe now, but Nick Ruth never thought of himself as an imaginative person. How, then, did the 45-year-old computer programmer end up writing a fantasy series which includes a Monarch butterfly wizard, a talking jellyfish, and a shape changer who can switch heads?

The journey towards discovering his own imagination began in the imagination of his son. "He has such an amazing imagination," says Ruth about his son, David. "He always wanted me to play make-believe games with him, but I'm not the kind of person who likes to get down on the floor and play." So Ruth had to find another way to interact with his son.

The opportunity came through a love of books, shared by both father and son. Tired of reading the same books over and over to his son, Ruth began embellishing the books by adding David into them. He invented a character called Magical David, who would come into the story and save the day.

Eventually, Ruth came up with an idea to give Magical David a story of his own. Ruth and his family had been raising Monarch butterflies as a family project. What if, Ruth thought, one of the butterflies turned out to be a wizard? He sat down to write, thinking that he would write a twenty-page short story for his son. Over 200 pages later, *The Dark Dreamweaver* was born.

Ruth never intended for the book to be published. "I wrote it for an audience of one," he is fond of saying. But his wife Sheila was so astonished when she read it that she set out to get it published: "It's such an amazing book, that I thought people should have the chance to read it."

Others apparently agree; the American Booksellers Association selected it as a Book Sense Pick, and it was a finalist for PMA, the Independent Book Publishers Association's Benjamin Franklin Awards. Numerous reviewers have praised *The Dark Dreamweaver*, but the comments that mean the most to Ruth are the messages from the fans. One fan writes, "I would just like to say, first what a magnificent book this is. As a sixth grade student it is now one of my favorites.... You are a very talented writer."

Perhaps it was comments like this that inspired Ruth to write another book. Or perhaps it was the persistent nagging of his "audience of one," David. The new book, *The Breezes of Inspire*, is just as imaginative as the first one and is sure to please his fans. *The Breezes of Inspire* will be available on September 24.

Information about the books can be found on the Internet at www.DarkDreamweaver.com.

Journalists: To interview Nick Ruth or to request a review copy, please contact the publisher: 888-203-4068, sruth@imaginatpress.com

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