



News From  
**THE KATURRAN  
ODYSSEY**  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***The Katurran Odyssey* is remarkably beautiful. Terry! Whitlatch's boundless imagination is on full view here, and anyone who is lucky enough to spend time with *The Katurran Odyssey* will be richer for the experience. It's a lyrical, lovely and vibrant book"**

**George Lucas, creator of *Star Wars***

An artist of rare imagination and insight, concept designer Terry! Whitlatch is recognized worldwide for creating amazing creatures for major motion pictures, including *Star Wars – The Phantom Menace*. After her years with Lucasfilms, she began exploring the idea of a mystical fantasy world populated by real animals, including familiar, exotic and extinct species.

**THE KATURRAN ODYSSEY** is the culmination of Whitlatch's vision: an enchanting, thrilling and deeply affecting epic adventure of courage, faith and hope. In the grand tradition of international best selling classics like James Gurney's *Dinotopia*, Brian Froud's *Good Faeries/Bad Faeries* and C. S. Lewis' *The Chronicles of Narnia*, **THE KATURRAN ODYSSEY** (An Imaginosis Book/Simon & Schuster; October 22, 2004; \$29.95) will capture the hearts, minds and imagination of readers of all ages.

In collaboration with author David Michael Wieger, screenwriter and kindred animal lover, and Lucasfilm colorist Stephanie Lostimolo, Whitlatch invents an intriguing world inhabited by exotic quaggas, fossahs, nyalas, synthetoceras and glyptodonts along with warmly familiar lemurs, monkeys, antelopes, dolphins and sea turtles. Sure to captivate the eyes and imagination of young children, Whitlatch's dazzling full-color, richly detailed (and anatomically correct) illustrations bring the landscape and denizens of **THE KATURRAN ODYSSEY** to vivid life. As Wieger's poetic and compelling narrative reveals, in the time-honored custom of folktale and myth, the diverse characters embody many of the joys, hopes, weaknesses and fears of ordinary people – save one exceptional young lemur named Katook.

**THE KATURRAN ODYSSEY** opens in the tiny village of Kattakuk on Bo-hibba, an island surrounded by a vast sea. Kattakuk is suffering from a seemingly endless winter of cruel cold

An Imaginosis Book  
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and widespread hunger. *What did we do to displease the great Fossah, Lord of the Land and Sky?*, Katook hears his parents ask, again and again, as they pray for forgiveness and the return of the sun. Acting boldly and impetuously, Katook witnesses a secret act of betrayal and the priests blame his trespass for the Long Winter. Katook is denounced as evil, banished forever from the island of Bo-hibbah, and forced to seek a new home in the strange lands across the Big Blue.

Katook's journey reveals a new world, rich in wonder and marvels and filled with excitement and danger. Along the way, Katook will make new friends, discover unknown strengths, acquire valuable wisdom, confront challenges in his faith, make heroic sacrifices, and experience life-changing revelations. The Voice in his heart guides his every step so that he may unlock the secret of the Long Winter, and restore warmth, light and hope to all the inhabitants of his beloved home, Bo-hibba.

**THE KATURRAN ODYSSEY** explores epic themes of difference and oneness, understanding and belonging, love and power, courage and faith, all in a universe filled with the glories of creation. It is a book for readers of all ages – whether 6 or 60 – and is destined to become a classic. `

#### About the Creators

**Terryl Whitlatch**, widely acknowledged as the film industry's foremost "creature designer," spent eight years working with Lucasfilms and was the principal concept designer for the *Star Wars* prequels. She has contributed designs to many other films, including *Jumanji* (I and II), *Dragonheart*, and *Brother Bear*, and is the coauthor of *The Wildlife of Star Wars: A Field Guide*. An internationally respected animal anatomist, she studied zoology before graduating from the Academy of Art College in San Francisco. She lives in Albany, Oregon, with her husband, Tom, their Whippet Timmy and a cranky cockatiel.

**David Michael Wieger**, a former member of the prestigious Sundance Institute screenwriting lab, has written and produced screenplays for Warner Brothers and other major studios, including his film *Wild America*. His writing has also appeared in numerous literary journals. He lives in Santa Barbara, California, with his wife, Sarah, and their animal companions – one dog and two cats.



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About the Book

**THE KATURRAN ODYSSEY**

**By Terryl Whitlatch & David Michael Wieger**

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