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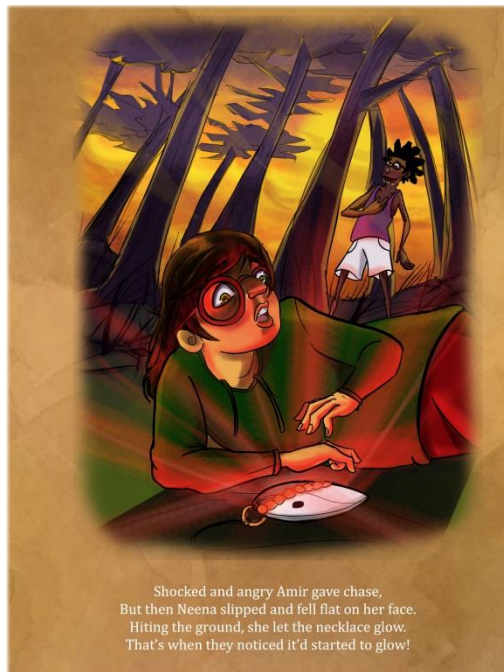
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LOCAL AUTHOR RASHAD MALIK DAVIS RELEASES FIRST CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK *CAREFREE LIKE ME: CHAPTER 1 – ROOT THE BRAVE*

Delightful children's book full of adventure and magic addresses ethnic diversity, empathy building and the power of understanding our emotions.

The uplift and affirmation of children of diverse backgrounds and the ability to understand our emotions is paramount in all times, but especially in today's world. In February 2017, illustrator and author Rashad Malik Davis launched his first book in a new series entitled, "Carefree, Like Me!". These are the illustrated tales of a sensitive, heart-on-your-sleeve type kid named Amir, his no-nonsense, rough and tumble best friend Neena, and the grand adventure they find themselves on in a whole new realm. Each book in the seven part series, beginning with *Carefree, Like Me: Chapter 1 – Root the Brave*, is dedicated to telling a larger story with a focus on a particular hero (each based on the seven main chakras) and a brand new adventure. The books are ideal for children ages 6-9 (Grades 2-4) but enjoyable for all ages.



In the series, the two friends have exhausted all their options for fun. Amir runs home to his dad, a master storyteller, who offers him a magical amulet for an adventure he won't forget. While playing with their newfound object, the magically charged amulet suddenly sucks them into an unknown world where they are faced with a predicament: Where are we, and what do we do now?

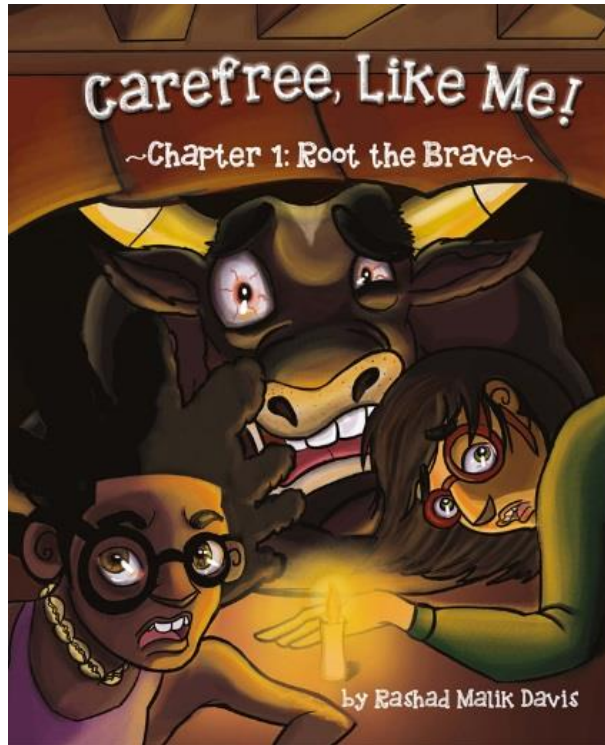


While there, the friends encounter seven unlikely heroes in an abrupt journey to this new realm. These fun and wacky heroes are out of balance and need the balanced energy of the friends to set their world back in order. The heroes are representatives of the seven main chakras, each with their own set of challenges. (Chakras are points on the body that represent different emotional and spiritual states of being, and *Chapter 1: Root the Brave* addresses the Root Chakra - the concept of dealing with our fears.)

What lies at the heart of this series is the concept of emotional literacy in children, especially boys, and particularly for boys of color. "We live with our emotions every day, and yet we are shamed or at worst harassed for expressing and living them fully," states Davis.

Davis' guiding vision is "to create a magical world, where even if it's just between these pages, expressing one's emotions in a healthy way is something that's normal and celebrated."

Bright and colorful child-friendly illustrations assist children in understanding the power and value of our emotions while drawing children and adults alike in to an adventure that they will never forget.



Carefree, Like Me! Chapter 1: Root the Brave

Written & Illustrated by: Rashad Malik Davis

US: \$14.95

CAN: \$16.95

Format: Hard Cover - 8.5 x 11 30pp

ISBN: 978-1-68401-098-1

Published by Mascot Books

Carefree, Like Me! is registered with the American Wholesale Book Company, Baker & Taylor, Follett Library Resources, and Ingram, and available online with the following retailers:



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



(Photo courtesy of: www.elizabethmealey.com)

Carefree Like Me: Chapter 1 – Root the Brave, marks Davis' debut venture into publishing his work. Rashad Malik Davis is a graduate of Tufts University where he majored in Anthropology and minored in Mandarin Chinese. He is also currently pursuing his Masters in Animation at the Savannah College of Art & Design. He is the illustrator of the best-selling children's book *Sunne's Gift: How Sunne Overcame Bullying to Reclaim God's Gift* and illustrated the book cover to *Shaping the Future of African American Film: Color-Coded Economics and the Story Behind the Numbers*. He currently lives in Lawrenceville, New Jersey. *Carefree, Like Me!* is drawn from his own life experiences with his real life best friend Nina, his connection to his spirituality, and his love for adventure tales. To order copies of the book and to learn more, visit ramalikillustrations.com.