

Interview with the author illustrator D.W. Anthony
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What does this series do? What is its mission?

Entertainment. Education, and an invitation. The reader can view these as doorways into their own imaginations.

What makes this unique, and not just another tug on the shelf of science fiction fantasy?

This is humor! The characters are flawed and human, and they make mistakes! They get angry, elated, lost and inspired. And there is very little in literature about this time period and even less in our histories.

What is the target audience?

Readers who do not require industry devices to make a book interesting, such as evil themes, erotic, dark or romantic situations. This material is exotic, unpredictable, scientific and satirical. There can be considerable violence, but on the whole, it is straight adventure. It may favor the feminine outlook as most of the principal characters are female. Gender was not an issue then.

What is the series about?

Development of a civilization on a continent 65,000 years ago, as seen through the eyes of a young woman.

Who is in it?

There were five basic human races, each with different cultural values, and even skin colors. These were heavily mixed in most areas, and there were minimal to no ethnic tensions on Atlantis. It would be fair to say that the continent favored the Brown and Red races, but they were all mixed, even this far back. The books each introduce twenty to thirty new individuals who are from every conceivable station in life. There were also people who were not quite human, and whose origins are not explored. These could be described as aliens or some of the wild clans such as the Troglodytes and Barbarian groups. These people might stand out in a crowd today, although not by much.

Who is Jena? She is female, and...young? Obviously a Ranger, judging by the titles...

Almost everyone had to register their occupation. At seventeen, she lists this as Ranger with a warrior qualification. This doesn't mean much after the introductory book, as she is pulled into

many different roles, as is Sumatra Alexi, the other title character. By book seven, Jena is twenty one. She is a short, fiery, fast girl who falls into elastic situations far beyond the experience of people then. She is not very literate, and is not a tower of intellect, but she *is* clever and quick. She thinks in a linear pattern, whereas everyone else thought in circular patterns. She has failings; she is near-sighted, and used glasses, not common then. She is impatient and quick tempered, irreverent, ulcer-prone and a loner. She doesn't own property or do parties. She rarely studies and lacks social graces. She is highly romantic and full of passion, but these things are hidden from others, including the reader for the most part. Her love life is private to the point of mystery and speculation. These things wouldn't stand out today, but they did back then.

Everyone was very...social, within the fortified city walls. She also has unusual luck, whether by the strange jobs she is called to do, or seeing elementals and fairies when it really counts! She is brave, but that went around. She took it to new levels by including endurance, flexibility and the willingness to fight... to *really* fight.

First person account, or third?

Third! The focus might be brought in closer to see how a doorknob works, or how the fire starter kit functioned. And then the view might go distant, to figure out why the wave pattern changed on the ocean surface to indicate a different landmass. It's something like finding a quarter on the deck of a sinking ship, who would notice, unless the writer pointed it out?

What is the format of the books? How are they laid out? Short chapters? Tiny print? Illustrations?

School textbook. 12 point font. The layout is an illustration for each chapter title page, sometimes more. The illustrations are freehand by the author, and are very accurate. They exist in color, but these books are shown in gray tone, which is like a newspaper photo. The resolution is 300dpi, fine enough to get some very specific detail in them, and some of them are quite engaging! Text Times New Roman. These books can be read out loud for a very good effect. This is rare. Check it out, pull your favorite book and start reading it out loud to your favorite person. It is amazing how many words you have to delete or glaze over to make it understandable. There is considerable effort to make these books readable. The ideas may be complex, but the delivery is not. Next, it goes from chapter to chapter. Minute by minute. There aren't any time portals, or skipping around to other characters. They go from one event to the next. The time frames vary, but they are all very short. The longest is twenty eight days; the shortest is only one day. They are around a hundred thousand words each, average. The later ones are half again more. The chapters are all about the same length in each book, as they tend to cover time periods and not specific events.

What was Atlantis like, sixty five thousand years ago?

A detailed map comes with the sixth book, "Legions of Overstar." At the time, Atlantis was divided into ten provinces that were defined by natural barriers such as rivers or mountain ranges. The interior had volcanic activity and earthquakes were common, as were meteor showers, although this is a rumor, so far. The hour-glass shaped portion of the center of the

continent was not claimed by any sovereignty, and was known as a wasteland. The eighth book will find out about this, and the sixth book resulted in a small freed slave state in the southeast. There were many threats to life then, especially from the reptile groups, and it was this that resulted in all of the heavy fortifications and walls around the cities. These have all been on the coast, so far. This was for trade, travel and safety. Probably all of the cities were ruins of a former civilization that existed for many tens of thousands of years before this one took them over and rebuilt them. Nothing is known of these ancient people. Atlanteans were body conscious party folks. Good health was taken for granted, and there was generally plenty of food. Everyone had pets of every description. There were few roads. Wheels existed on toys and machines, but not usually for travel. Book six describes a three wheeled, self powered vehicle, but this was unique. The driving force during this time was chemistry and hydraulics. Neither is described in intimate detail, but it is intriguing material. The chemical reactions produced significant light shows, and powered everything from household light fixtures to manufacturing. It went well beyond what we do with it now. The hydraulic systems were immense, and not many people then knew of them. They had platforms on the ocean shores that were driven by the tides and could produce incredible power, added to the sciences of hydraulics and chemistry. This would have been useful material a hundred years ago, in our own time before petroleum took over, but now this technology is found only in books like these.

How much of these books are technical detail?

Probably more than most books of this type, and only because it is so fascinating. The fastest boats for example, had a set of sails held up by balloons. One city that Jena visits has a communication system set up that uses copper tubes filled with pressurized air that sound was sent through. Armor was used, and it was made from all kinds of things. Wood ash, calcium from oysters, *tree sap*, and another reminder here that it was the chemical actions that took place with the joining of these materials, and not the visual image that comes up with the name. Alchemy is a better term for it, although this suggests wizards, and there are none of these. So every now and again, the reader dips in for a closer look. Door latches, ornaments on clothing, candied fruits molded into faces, costumes on the pets...

Where does anyone come up with this material?

The best of all books throughout history have always reached higher and deeper than anyone wanted to give credit for. It is not enough to say that is the imagination, or promptings from ancestral ghosts, or unconscious memories of some past lifetime. It could be these, and it could be much more than that. To define it; lessens it. It is something like reaching into a collective conscious of all information that is not any one color or religion. Or, for some people, it just works. Some people grow great gardens and have great babies. Some people dream a lot. Anyone *could* come up with this material, if they wanted to...A short walk through any book library would be a great start.

How long does it take to write a book?

If you can think it, you should probably try. The folks swirling around in your mind might just make a difference in your life, as you put them into some form of print. It is easy to think that the

target audience of this series is the people *in* them. These books happen very quickly, at twelve to fifteen weeks each, with all of the illustrations and both front and back covers. In some ways, there is almost a responsibility to the individuals in the books to create them; to write them. They may be “imaginary”, but they certainly appreciate the efforts to make them real to us! This series is about 58% complete, and there are currently 160 individuals with very different personalities and preferences. Some of them even write their own books; Sumatra Alexi does. Occasionally excerpts are included.

How many titles are in this series?

Eleven are complete, there are that many more to write. There is another series available on the Salishan Tribes.

Who is the author?

A retired State Park Ranger who is married with three children and lives in Post Falls, Idaho. The images were all done freehand with a computer mouse at home, no models, templates, photos or imported images.