



Sunday, July 6, 2008

Nana Star: Generations

Four generations were involved in the creation of a new set of books that I was asked to review. It all started when Grandmother Elizabeth Owens (the original "Nana Star") created the character Nana Star "out of a great love for her little grandson, Vance, with a desire to give him sense of home wherever he was." Much later, two of her granddaughters (Elizabeth Sills and Elena Patrice) decided to put pen to paper and bring Nana Star to life in story books. The books' illustrations were drawn by Elena's and Elizabeth's mother (daughter of Nana) Linda Saker.



"We developed our grandmother's vision of Nana Star into a sweet, very simple, very edifying picture book series," explained Elizabeth Sills, co-founder of the ee (pronounced double e) publishing and production company, the laugh-friendly company®. "The book has a more old-fashioned feel in order to promote traditional values such as kindness, generosity and compassion." Adds her sister and business partner, Elena Patrice, fondly, "At the same time we wanted to remind children, as our grandmother reminded Vance, of how special and loved they are, no matter what. We hope that the stories cultivate young imaginations and inspire character all at the same time!"

Each Nana Star book includes an accompanying audio CD with the storybook and a sing-along song. To make the book a little more interactive, the authors have included a spelling mistake in each book and encourage readers to find it and send them a postcard with the correction. Children are then eligible to receive an 8x10 photo of the Nana Star costumed character and become an honorary member of the Nana Star Little Twinkles Club. The Club is expanded on its website, <http://www.nanastar.com/>, where language arts activities for emerging readers are offered.

The book and doll we received to review were the original Nana Star book and doll. My daughter was enchanted by how the doll was holding the star and tree branch just as we read it in the book. My son listened intently as we read the story, wondering how the little star was going to get home. We were all enchanted by the beautiful illustrations.

And not only are the books outstanding - the authors also decided that publishing the books was not enough - they wanted to make a difference with their Nana Star legacy. So they created the Nana Star Foundation. The foundation is dedicated to raising funds for terminally ill children and heightening awareness of the problems facing children attending inner-city schools. The small company also donates hundreds of books to such causes as Toys for Tots and First Book.

Awards won by the Nana Star series include:

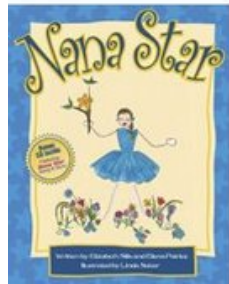
- iParenting Media Award for Excellent Products of 2007 (for the website)
- Mom's Choice Award® Finalist for Most Inspirational Children's Book
- Winner of Mr. Dad Seal of Approval and Great Dad Recommends

Bonus: *Meet Nana Star: Lucky parents and children in the Washington DC area have been able to meet Nana Star when she visits schools, hospitals and libraries to the joy of Little Twinkles everywhere. Nana Star (ee's own Elizabeth Sills) wears her blue princess dress and conducts storytime, singing, a language arts activity and if requested, a hug! Because community outreach is part of ee publishing & production's corporate citizenship, Nana Star appearances are gratis. A donation to The Nana Star Foundation in lieu of an appearance fee is gratefully accepted. Visit their website, <http://www.nanastar.com/>, for details on booking a D.C. area*

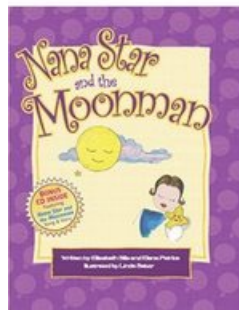
appearance with Nana Star.

So where can YOU buy these amazing books with accompanying plush dolls? By calling 1-877-MY-NANASTAR or visiting amazon.com or [online at the Nana Star website](http://online.at.the.NanaStar.website). **On the Nana Star website, you can use the code DidYouSeeThat10 for 10% off all purchases through July 31, 2008.**

--**Nana Star** • \$15.95: First in a series, this book introduces Nana Star and the lost baby star she stumbles upon, making an ordinary day extraordinary. Book comes with bonus audio CD that includes The Nana Star Song performed by Nashville singer/songwriter Tricia Walker.



--**Nana Star and the Moonman** • \$15.95: Second in a series, a comforting message about friendship and faith shines through this book for young readers who may not like the dark or are feeling lonely. The enclosed bonus audio CD includes The Moonman Song performed by Chloe Dolandis.



--**Nana Star Gift Set**: All boxed up for gift giving, a combination of hardcover book, and a soft Nana Star doll or Moonman plush. A 10% discount when you buy the set.

Adorable Nana Star Plushies –

--**Moonman Lovey**, a soft character doll whose head glows like the light of the moon and plays music, MSRP \$19.99;

--**Nana Star**, a plush character doll carrying Baby Star on a branch, just like in the story, MSRP \$21.99;

(A third plushie, Blue Wolf, a plush, stuffed animal that softly howls when his foot is pressed, is also expected this summer.)

About laugh-friendly company®

Sisters Elizabeth Sills and Elena Patrice trademarked their partnership the “laugh-friendly company” to reflect their philosophy of business and life. “We have been shushed our entire lives and wanted a place where we could be free to laugh out loud if we wanted,” said Elizabeth. The pair said they want to be able to laugh at both the

bad and the good as it comes along.

They believe that the simple story of Nana Star will be a success in today's society where it is hard for children to find appropriate role models. They also believe that parents will welcome a return to simpler, nostalgic times. "Marketing is very commercialized," said Patrice, "and children are introduced to characters who are very mature." The goal of ee publishing is to help families recapture calmer times in a hectic world.

For more information on the business, visit <http://www.laughfriendly.com/>, or to learn about its Nana Star products, click on <http://www.nanastar.com/>.

****WIN IT!** One lucky winner will be able to choose the original Nana Star book with the Nana Star plushie OR the Nana Star and the Moonman with the Moonman Lovey plushie!! To win, go to the Nana Star website, look up where ee publishing & productions, llc. (the laugh-friendly company®) is located, and email the answer to me at cpamomva (at) hotmail (dot) com by midnight, EST, July 14, 2008. Good Luck!

Posted by CPA Mom at [6:52 AM](#) 