



# Imani All Mine

*Connie Rose Porter*

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## **Imani All Mine** Connie Rose Porter

"With authority and grace" (Essence), Imani All Mine tells the story of Tasha, a fourteen-year-old unwed mother of a baby girl. In her ghettoized world where poverty, racism, and danger are daily struggles, Tasha uses her savvy and humor to uncover the good hidden around her. The name she gives her daughter, Imani, is a sign of her determination and fundamental trust despite the odds against her: Imani means faith. Surrounding Tasha and Imani is a cast of memorable characters: Peanut, the boy Tasha likes, Eboni, her best friend, Miss Odetta, the neighborhood gossip, and Tasha's mother, Earlene, who's dating a new boyfriend. Tasha's voice speaks directly to both the special pain of poverty and the universal, unconquerable spirit of youth. Authentic in every detail, this is an unforgettable story. As Seventeen declared, "Porter's candid narrative will have you hooked from the opening sentence."

## **Imani All Mine Details**

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Author : Connie Rose Porter

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# **From Reader Review Imani All Mine for online ebook**

## **Jacqueline says**

Took a bit for me to get into it, but once I did I couldn't put it down. I loved her voice & perspective.

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## **Ieshia Sharp says**

A young girl growing up in Chicago without a father, manages to do very well in school, even though she has a newborn child, Imani Dawson. Tasha is just a normal girl but all her family and friends are amazed to see her doing so well. They all think she is a teenage mother because she is just too grown and manish. Tasha never told anyone that she was pregnant because she was raped, she was afraid they would all just laugh and think she was stupid or wouldn't believe her. But even though people made assumptions they never treated her different or with no respect. Through this entire story you read that Tasha comes across different struggles at home in the streets, and at school, even with her mother doing what little she can. Then Tasha's mother meets and falls in love with a white man named Mitch. Mitch is very loving and caring and he begins to take care of their little family. Finally Tasha's life seems to be coming into pace with Mitch being a father-figure. But one day everyone's life came crashing down when a stray bullet from a drive-by hit Imani. The bullet was meant for Tasha's drug-dealing neighbor, "June Bug", Tasha's childhood friend, but happens to take the life of an innocent baby instead. This book was great!

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## **Regina says**

I sit here stunned after completing this book.

Such a poetic and yet simplistic force that was far more than what the book description says.

While the title reads true, and the bulk of this story is dramatically centered around Imani, the infant of a child-mom, this story reached deep into the mind and heart of Tasha Dawson, her mother. Tasha is a fourteen-year-old who lives in what I consider any urban location, where drugs, violence, and harsh reality interfere with the simple acts of growing up. An unwanted encounter finds her pregnant and at odds with her mother, Earlene. The usual questions of "what will you do with your life", and "how will you go to college" are quieted only a bit when as time goes on Tasha becomes the very best mother she can. This story deals with the first year of Imani's life and how Tasha fights to maintain grades, peace of mind, and find spiritual understanding while witnessing the realities around her, stumbling through them and growing up along with her baby.

I was absolutely blown away by not only the beauty of this book, but by the honesty of it. I could see these scenes, and hear these thoughts as though I was there myself. The ease with which Ms. Porter's words weave the reader in and out of rather complex conversations and thoughts was like having a gentle hand along your back. Tasha was a gentle and innocent character that I couldn't help but love from the very first page. She knows what she believes are her setbacks, but the world around her, including the reader can see so much more.

I haven't shed tears while reading a book for some time...but this book left both my cheeks moist. Absolutely riveting and beautiful.

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## **Natasha says**

My heart hurt for young Tasha. She dealt with a lot, more than a girl her age should and sadly I'm sure this was more common than not. I really liked that despite her circumstances of being a young single mother she was very smart and still had a bright future. Although she didn't know it all, had a lot of learning and growing to do, she had a good head on her shoulders and didn't seem to fall easily for what every young boy threw her way. She was selective. Even though the story ends before letting on to what her future holds after high school, it left me feeling like she would make it, with support and love and determination, Tasha would do just fine.

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## **Donna says**

I stumbled upon this book accidentally and let me tell you the world needs to know about this jewel. It is not a new publication, it was written back in 1998. It is brilliant!! Tasha is a 15 year old African American who has a baby at 15 (Imani). The baby was conceived as a result of a rape. The story tells of her struggles to understand what her life is now and to learn HOW to be a mother. You've heard the saying 'a child raising a child'? It's spelled out on these pages. Imani is Tasha's world. Her only reason for existing and struggling to finish high school. Tasha's mother is mostly absent. She's busy leading her own life, trying to find Mr. Right. This is a typical story about girls having babies at a young age, who live in the ghetto, minus a father (Tasha didn't even know who her father was), minus a baby daddy, no education.....and the list continues.

I was not prepared for the ending.....and you won't be either.

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## **Black Carrie says**

I read this book when I was pregnant and this book had me in tears. This book really helped me get through my own rape. Tasha was a good mother (She really reminds me of myself , just younger). My mother was just like Tasha's mother =( ( re-reading this book really made me feel like Tasha all over again. I loved it so much but it had me crying so hard , I was depressed after reading this book though all I could do was ask "WHY IMANI , WHY IMANI" - I was left wondering what was going to happen next I think this book should at least had an epilogue. Imani All Mines , was very enjoyable to me. I was shocked on how the book ended. I recommend this book for people who like tear jerkers and who are patient with what is going to happen because the end it is such a shock that i never would of guessed it ended like it did =(.

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## **Mely says**

I'm disappointed that I did not enjoy this book as much as I hoped. This one has been on my TBR for a while. While I appreciate the author trying to write through the eyes of an urban African-American teenage mother, I thought the writing style was very hard to follow. And that may be due to cultural difference. There were some very heartbreaking moments that pulled at my heartstrings. There is a bunch of religious references throughout the book, especially at the end, which for me was not relatable being non-religious

myself, but I'm sure would definitely touch a personal note with a different type of reader. I can see how this would be a very special book to the right audience, but for me personally was not my taste.

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### **Jordyne says**

Imani all mine is a very good, emotional book. This book is about a fourteen year old girl and her struggles to raise a newborn while still maintaining school and her daily life. Imani is Tasha's daughter. Tasha was raped and never told anyone because she was ashamed so she just tries to avoid what she calls the man "him". Throughout the book you see how Tasha's mother is very strong worded and doesn't show the love and affection towards Tasha. This book is definitely for someone who likes a good detailed book and who likes emotional scenes. This book gives off a lot of determination from Tasha on how she wants the best for her baby and will do anything to protect her. It was very enjoyable for me to read, by far very interesting. I was shocked on how the book ended. I recommend this book for people who like tear jerkers and who are patient with what is going to happen because the end it is such a shock that I never would have guessed it ended like it did.

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### **Tye says**

Imani All Mine is a great read. It's funny, it's sad, and it captures the essence of what it means to be a Black teen. The book is written using colloquial language so it is super accessible to older students who are struggling readers.

I would not give this book to a younger audience. It is definitely meant for young adults. It contains sexual encounters and violence including drugs, gang banging, gun violence, and rape.

I am a high school teacher at a Title I school and was able to give this to my 10th grade students who read at a 6th grade level and they were able to access this book with no issues.

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### **Hayley says**

Incredibly emotional, incredibly tragic, incredibly eye-opening. But, I despised the writing. I know it was part of the book's overall literary style, but I just couldn't stand it.

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### **Heather Munao says**

Heartbreaking. Tasha's voice was so authentic, raw, and honest. She used some great figurative language. Her story was the cruelest kind life deals out. She tries to do everything right with the little she has in the face of poverty, bad influences, violence, drugs, a hard mother, an unsupportive teacher. There were a couple pieces that didn't fit (mom's boyfriend and the revelation at the very ending which enraged me), but overall, I don't know HOW more people were not talking about this book.

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## Lydia says

Imani All Mine was named as a BCALA [Black Caucus of the American Library Association] Honor Book for 1999. It is the story of a 15-yr old black female -- a bit on the heavy side -- who is raped and has a child. Tasha lives in the "ghetto", a life of poverty with the accompanying problems of drug dealing, etc. Yet, she knows her mother loves her but does not tell her mother that her daughter, Imani, is a result of rape. Tasha is a straight A student, despite the fact that she speaks entirely in ghetto dialect and hates to speak correctly as her English teacher requires because "it gives her a headache". Her best friend is Eboni, who ends up having twins, and lives with Miss Lovey, a caring and interested foster parent who tries to help Tasha. When Imani is killed in a drive-by shooting, Tasha finds her solace in a church.

I personally despise these types of books. I cannot determine the theme. The writing seems to emphasize the problems of a gifted child who has thought she could attain goals that would bring her out of her poverty-stricken neighborhood, but hasn't quite figured out how to do that. The book seems more interested in portraying a typical poverty scene, despite the author's notes in the back that claims Tasha is not a "stereotype".

I do not recommend this book at all.

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## SunnyD says

hhhhmm...maybe i need to go back and read this one again. i'm really surprised it has so many good reviews. i read it probably 10 years ago, at the suggestion of someone who was impressed that i was into books (condescending) and figured it would be a good one for me to read since i would be able to identify with the main character (did i mention this person was condescending?!). i was a teen mom, tasha (the main character) is a teen mom. the similarities started and ended there. i remember reading the book in 2 days and thinking at the end:

- 1 - this really wasn't worth my time
  - 2 - what a horrible story
  - 3 - why the hell did she think i would be able to relate to that story?
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## Medeia Sharif says

Tasha lives a difficult life. She's a teenage mother, and the father of her child is someone dangerous she needs to keep as far away from as possible. Her mother has numerous faults, but is loving and supportive nevertheless. They live in a neighborhood where gunshots resound because of gang violence. Tasha keeps her head up at school, but at times classmates and teachers are not on her side. The light in her life is her daughter, Imani.

This book is high on emotion and realism. I felt all of Tasha's ups and downs. Some situations were painful to read, but they make Tasha who she is, because that's her journey, as difficult as it is. She's been through bad times, but she has the intelligence and strength to make it in the world. I kept thinking about her after

finishing the book, because she's a character who stays with the reader. I heard about the book through word of mouth, from readers who had been wowed by it, and had to get a copy myself. I'm so glad I didn't put it off.

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## **Melrose Brown says**

Tasha is an African-American honor student. She's fourteen years old and lives with her mother in a not so good area of town. She has dreams and goals of leaving the area and going on to doing great things. One evening, at a skating rink, she meets a young man that she believes likes her. She ends up pregnant from the result of a rape and names her baby girl, Imani, which means "faith". Despite being so young and the circumstances in which she had Imani, she's by all means a devoted mother. When she sees her daughter, she sees herself and not the young man that attacked her. She learns that he attends the same school as she does, but he doesn't know that since he really doesn't know her. She tries to come to grips with her mother dating a white man. And she, too, falls in love with a neighborhood boy named, Peanut. Just when things seem to be going smoothly, a tragic incident, worse than what she's endured happen and changes her young life forever. This book is a definite page turner and guaranteed to bring the reader to tears. It touches on so much: poverty, violence, interracial relationships, and sexual assault. Due to the graphic nature, this book is meant for high school (young adult) readers. It's relatable is most cases with the youth coming from where Tasha comes from and of any race.

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