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Tamora Pierce

The Immortals

Wild Magic

Wolf-Speaker

The Emperor Mage

The Realms of the Gods

by John Lennard

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Tamora Pierce: *The Immortals*

John Lennard

This e-book is dedicated to the memory of my father,



Michael Briart Lennard

1922–1986

*who let me read his books when I ran out of my own on holiday
and taught me more about them and the world than I can ever say,*

but died before I could know him as an adult.

I believe that, despite a technology he would have hated,

he would like what it tries to do

for reading and for thinking about what you read.

A Note on the Author

John Lennard took his B.A. and D.Phil. at Oxford University, and his M.A. at Washington University in St Louis. He has taught in the Universities of London, Cambridge, and Notre Dame, and for the Open University, and is now Professor of British & American Literature at the University of the West Indies—Mona. His publications include *But I Digress: The Exploitation of Parentheses in English Printed Verse* (Clarendon Press, 1991), *The Poetry Handbook* (1996; 2/e, OUP, 2005), with Mary Luckhurst *The Drama Handbook* (OUP, 2002), and the Literature Insights *Hamlet* (2007).

He is the general editor of the *Genre Fiction Sightlines* and *Monographs* series, and has written *Sightlines* on works by Reginald Hill, Walter Mosley, Octavia E. Butler, and Ian McDonald. His critical collection *Of Modern Dragons and other essays on genre fiction* (2007), published simultaneously with this e-book, launches the Monographs Series.

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1. Notes

1.1 Tamora Pierce

Tamora Pierce was born in December 1954 in South Connellsville, Lafayette County, Pennsylvania, a coalmining area. Neither of her parents' families were well-off, but her mum was studying towards a degree and intended to teach, while her dad worked for the telephone company, so there were both a steady income and plenty of books around. Tamora was the eldest child; sisters Kimberley (b.1960) and Melanie (b.1961) followed, and there was a large



extended family who cared for and shared with one another. But there were also tensions with and snobberies from her mother's family, who were class-conscious and found her father's family vulgar rather than warm.

In 1963 her father got a job in California and took his immediate family west. For six years, with the 1960s in full swing, Pierce grew up around San Francisco, where the district known as Haight-Ashbury was at the centre of US hippy culture. Though young and by her own account 'geeky', much of the liberalism rubbed off, especially where traditional restrictions on women were concerned. Home-life was difficult, though, and it may partly have been as a defence against the strain of living with her parents' failing marriage that she began telling herself, then writing down, stories initially fuelled by TV SF and drama. In 1966 Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* came out in the US in one volume, and Pierce (led to it by a canny teacher) became a serious fantasy reader and thinker. But in 1969 her parents' marriage ended and she moved with her mother back to Lafayette, and genuine poverty.

Writing was Pierce's great ambition, but she had run into a severe writ-