

HarperCollinsChildren'sBooks

PRESS RELEASE

HARPERCOLLINS ACQUIRE WORLD RIGHTS IN STARFELL **A STAR FALLS ON THE HARPERCOLLINS LIST AFTER SEVEN PUBLISHER AUCTION**

London: March 22nd 2018. HarperCollins Children's Books have acquired world rights all languages to stunning new magical series *Starfell* by debut children's author Dominique Valente.

In a UK/US co-publication deal, world rights in four-books were acquired from Helen Boyle at Pickled Ink in a deal struck by Rachel Denwood, Publisher and Harriet Wilson, Editorial Director HCUK alongside Erica Sussman, Editorial Director HCUS. Rights were won following a fiercely contested seven-way publisher auction. Destined to be the debut hit of Bologna 2018, *Starfell* has already garnered huge interest with global publishers.

The first book in the *Starfell* series – *Willow Moss and the Lost Day* will publish in the UK, in hardback, e-book and audio in Spring 2019 backed by a major marketing and publicity campaign.



Starfell is a highly imaginative and inventive series for 9+ readers, and stars Willow Moss, a misfit witch with the least magical ability in her family. Willow's magic is for finding lost things – useful magic, but not impressive as far as anyone is concerned. Until Moreg Vaine, the most powerful witch in Starfell, arrives at Willow's door with the news that last Tuesday has been lost! Can Willow Moss find the day, to save the day?

Dominique Valente says "Writing *Starfell* has been a real labour of love over the past seven years and joining the incredible HarperCollins list is a dream come true. I was bowled over by the team's passion, vision, and warmth, and I'm so excited to start our journey together and to share this and future stories with readers."

Rachel Denwood, Publisher, HarperCollins Children's Books says: "We are buzzing with excitement about Dominique's exhilaratingly brilliant *Starfell*. This is a hugely significant world rights acquisition for us and we put our heart and soul into securing it! We can't wait for readers worldwide to meet unforgettable heroine Willow Moss. That *Starfell* is already proving such a hit with global publishers signals the dazzling future that lies ahead for this spellbinding series."

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

- HarperCollins Children's Books, unprecedented three times winner of Children's Publisher of the Year (2014, 2015, 2016) is one of the leading publishers of children's books, recognised for nurturing new talent as well as boasting a reputable list of established best-selling authors. Respected worldwide for its tradition of publishing quality, award-winning books for young readers, HarperCollins is home to many children's classics, including the Chronicles of Narnia, the Paddington stories, *The Cat in the Hat* and *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*, and to some of the biggest names in children's literature past and present, including David Walliams, Judith Kerr, David Baddiel, Lauren Child, Oliver Jeffers and Michael Morpurgo
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