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## **CANDLEWICK PRESS SIGN LAUREN CHILD'S RUBY REDFORT SERIES FROM HARPER COLLINS UK**

Somerville, MA – Candlewick Press is thrilled to announce the acquisition of a six-book middle-grade fiction series by Lauren Child. The Ruby Redfort books were acquired by Candlewick's Editorial Director and Associate Publisher Liz Bicknell from Carla Alonzi, Head of Rights at Harper Collins UK. The new series, which will be edited by Liz Bicknell, features Ruby Redfort, the girl detective who appears in Lauren Child's Clarice Bean novels. The series is slated to launch in fall 2011.

Ruby Redfort, undercover agent and mystery solver, will be familiar to Lauren Child's fans as Clarice Bean's favorite literary character. Of this new series Liz Bicknell says, "Lauren's books are full of wit, intelligence, and humanity—just as she is. It's an enormous honor and my personal pleasure to publish the Ruby Redfort books—I'm as eager as any of the numerous fans who write and ask for them."

Lauren Child is one of the most talented and creative author/illustrators working today, with more than 1.3 million books in print in the US. Her first two books were published in 1999, including the picture book *Clarice Bean, That's Me*. In 2000 Lauren Child won the prestigious Kate Greenaway Medal for *I Will Never Not Ever Eat a Tomato*, the first of her picture books featuring Charlie and Lola, the brother-sister duo who now star in an animated TV series that airs in more than 34 countries including the US. In 2008 Lauren was nominated as UNESCO Artist for Peace. The first Clarice Bean novel was published in the US in 2003 – *Utterly Me, Clarice Bean* – followed by *Clarice Bean Spells Trouble* and *Clarice Bean, Don't Look Now*. Lauren Child's most recent book with Candlewick Press is the picture book *Who Wants to Be a Poodle I Don't* which was published in Sept. 2009.

Ann-Janine Murtagh, who has worked with Lauren for over seven years, said "We are delighted to be working with Candlewick – Lauren's long term US home – on the launch of Ruby stateside which is a key part of our ambitious global launch. Lauren Child is genius at creating characters which connect with children worldwide. In Ruby Redfort she has created her sassiest character yet – with a glamorous cocktail of screwball comedy and hip action which sets Ruby to be a transatlantic smash hit!"

Candlewick Press is an independent, employee-owned publisher based in Somerville, MA. Candlewick publishes outstanding children's books for readers of all ages; including books by award-winning authors Kate DiCamillo, M. T. Anderson, and Laura Amy Schlitz; the widely acclaimed 'Ologies and Judy Moody series; and favorites such as the Where's Waldo and Maisy books. Candlewick's parent company is Walker Books Ltd., of London, England, with additional offices in Sydney, Australia, and Auckland, New Zealand.

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