



ACQUISITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Embargoed until 5th November 2009 1.00pm UK / 8am US EST

In a hard fought auction in the UK, followed by a swift pre-emptive bid in the US, David Fickling Books has acquired TRASH, a novel by Andy Mulligan. In a first for David Fickling Books TRASH will be published simultaneously by the imprint in the UK and US in fall 2010, exact publication date to be announced.

DFB has acquired World English Language rights. In the UK the deal was made by David Fickling Books with Jane Turnbull of the Jane Turnbull Literary Agency, and in the US by David Fickling Books US with Kenneth R. Wright of Writers House acting on behalf of Turnbull.

David Fickling, Publisher, DFB, comments, 'Oxygen levels on the planet will rise when this book gets published. So many people will be holding their breath to see what happens! It is a fantastic nail-biter. Young adult readers will love it, and in my opinion so will everybody else over the age of 12. It is an 'all read'. The clincher for me is that it is also touching, in places deeply touching, and beautifully written. It says things that need to be said in a way that will be heard. And nobody's going to put it down. This is just one of those stories that the whole world will want to read.'

Andy Mulligan adds, 'You dream of working with a publishing house that is genuinely excited about books, stories, and getting those stories out to the world. As a teacher, I have already been hugely grateful to DFB - *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* have made hundreds of English lessons rich experiences. Clearly this team has a passion for fine children's fiction, and has raised the bar. To think that my book is to be given that same imaginative treatment...well, it is very frightening and very exciting. I wake up most mornings positive there's been a mistake. As for TRASH itself, I wrote it hard and fast – it was one of those books where I knew the ending before the beginning, and I found the characters easily: children who survive, against the odds, with a set of instincts and skills that just keep them breathing.'

'Me ha encantado- es fantástica!' commented Sigrid Kraus, Publisher at Salamandra, who made a pre-emptive offer for Spanish Language rights following DFB's acquisition. Translation sales are being handled by Sally Riley at Aitken Alexander Associates Ltd on behalf of Jane Turnbull, and auctions are currently underway across Europe.

TRASH is Mulligan's second book, his debut RIBBLESTROP is shortlisted for the Roald Dahl Funny Book Prize 2009. Mulligan, who has worked as a theatre director, and then retrained as a teacher, currently divides his time between London and Manila.

Notes for Editors

David Fickling Books is publisher of quality picture books and fiction, and is home to some of the most bestselling and highly acclaimed authors including Philip Pullman (published by DFB in the UK only), John Boyne, Mark Haddon (published by DFB in the UK only) and Jenny Downham. Its authors have won all of the major literary prizes including the Costa Children's Book of the Year, the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize, and most recently the Carnegie Medal. David Fickling Books is an imprint of Random House Children's Books UK and Random House Children's Books in the United States and is based in Oxford, England and New York, USA.

For more information please contact:

In the UK: Clare Hall-Craggs T: 020 8231 6412 or E: clarehallcraggs@randomhouse.co.uk

In the US: Judith Haut T: 212 782 8626 or E: jhaut@randomhouse.com