



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On sale May 14, 2013

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LURLENE McDANIEL HEADLINES RANDOM HOUSE'S FIRST-EVER 'LIFE ACTUALLY' TOUR, CELEBRATING REALISTIC FICTION FOR TEENS

For the release of *The Year of Luminous Love*, McDaniel and 13 fellow authors will travel the country to discuss the importance of YA novels that deal with real issues

Random House Children's Books (RandomHouseKids.com) is pleased to announce the highly anticipated new novel from Lurlene McDaniel, **THE YEAR OF LUMINOUS LOVE**, to be published by its Delacorte Press Books for Young Readers imprint (On sale May 14, 2013 / Ages 14 up). Set in the rolling hills of Tennessee and the picturesque towns of Tuscany, this sweeping contemporary saga follows three best friends facing the challenges of life after high school.

In support of publication, McDaniel will headline a national tour to eight cities across the country, as well as a stop in her hometown of Chattanooga, Tennessee. The **LIFE ACTUALLY** tour (LifeActuallyTour.com) will be comprised of contemporary fiction authors coming together to promote McDaniel's latest title and to celebrate the powerful resonance of realistic stories for teens.

"Real life. Real problems. Real hopes and dreams. **Realistic fiction is like a mirror that helps us see ourselves,**" said McDaniel. "I'm so looking forward to meeting these fellow writers on the tour, and to connecting with the fans. I think they'll have a blast!"

The tour will feature: **Elana Arnold** (*Sacred*; Delacorte); **Beth Bauman** (*Jersey Angel*; Wendy Lamb Books); **Carolita Blythe** (*Revenge of a Not-So-Pretty Girl*; Delacorte); **Mariah Fredericks** (*The Girl in the Park*; Schwartz & Wade Books); **Shawn Goodman** (*Kindness for Weakness*; Delacorte); **Deborah Heiligman** (*Intentions*; Delacorte); **Anna Jarzab** (*The Opposite of Hallelujah*; Delacorte); **Elizabeth LaBan** (*The Tragedy Paper*; Alfred A. Knopf); **Tom Leveen** (*manicpixiedreamgirl*; Random House); **Lauren Morrill** (*Meant to Be*; Delacorte); **Dana Reinhardt** (*The Things a Brother Knows*; Wendy Lamb Books); **Alyssa Sheinmel** (*The Stone Girl*; Alfred A. Knopf); and **Wendelin Van Draanen** (*The Running Dream*; Alfred A. Knopf).

Paving the way for such writers as Nicholas Sparks, John Green, and Jodi Picoult, McDaniel's narratives full of heart and hope have inspired teen readers for years. *Bust* Magazine declared, "There is a legion of devoted Lurlene McDaniel fans, all of whom are ready to extol the virtues of her death-and-determination dramas." Indeed, McDaniel's books with Random House Children's Books have sold more than 8.5 million copies. To celebrate the release of her newest novel, the publisher will simultaneously reissue paperbacks of three of her most popular backlist titles: **DON'T DIE, MY LOVE**; **THE END OF FOREVER**; and **HIT AND RUN**.

Seventeen Magazine raved, "**THE YEAR OF LUMINOUS LOVE will definitely tug at your heart strings, and will make you so grateful for your friends. . . . If you're a fan of Eat, Pray, Love, you'll devour this pick!**" McDaniel's latest novel unfolds as three teenage girls, recently graduated from high school, plan the next phases of their lives while dealing with immediate personal issues. McDaniel subtly explores the many types of love the girls experience—for family, for friends, and for a significant other—and the sacrifices they choose to make for each of them. The book includes a teaser to the companion novel coming in the fall of 2014, **THE YEAR OF CHASING DREAMS**. An e-original story, **THE SUMMER OF WISHES AND HOPES**, will release in May of 2014.

LURLENE McDANIEL began writing inspirational novels about teenagers facing life-altering situations when her son was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes. Her books have received acclaim from readers, teachers, parents, and reviewers. Her bestselling novels include *Don't Die, My Love*; *Till Death Do Us Part*; *Hit and Run*; *Telling Christina Goodbye*; *True Love: Three Novels*; and *The End of Forever*. She lives in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Visit her online at LurleneMcDaniel.com, and connect with her at [Facebook.com/LurleneMcDaniel](https://www.facebook.com/LurleneMcDaniel) and on Twitter at [@Lurlene_McD](https://twitter.com/Lurlene_McD).

THE YEAR OF LUMINOUS LOVE by Lurlene McDaniel

Delacorte Press | On sale May 14, 2013 | Ages 12 up

Hardcover: 978-0-385-74171-2 | \$16.99/\$18.99 Can. | 384 pages

Ebook: 978-0-375-98675-8 | \$10.99

New Paperbacks Out May 14, 2013!

DON'T DIE, MY LOVE | Ember: 978-0-385-74379-2 | \$8.99/\$9.99 Can.

THE END OF FOREVER | Ember: 978-0-385-74380-8 | \$8.99/\$9.99 Can.

HIT AND RUN | Ember: 978-0-385-74381-5 | \$8.99/\$9.99 Can.

Learn more about the LIFE ACTUALLY authors and their books at LifeActuallyTour.com | Follow on Twitter: [#LifeActually](https://twitter.com/LifeActually)

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