

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Belle's Star Receives Nomination**

*Belle's Star*, the first book in a new young adult series by award-winning author Connie Gotsch has been nominated as a finalist in the 2009 New Mexico Book Awards for the Juvenile Book (grade school to junior high school) category.

*Belle's Star* empowers children ages 8 to 12 to build new lives after escaping bullying and abuse or other difficult situations. Written in the first person from a dog's point of view, *Belle's Star* is full of adventure and colorful characters to help these children face painful issues, and find the strength to heal. When Big Toby and his father, Bonehead throw Belle out of their truck at a convenience store, 12 year-old Darcy and her Auntie Ellen rescue the frightened puppy. They show Belle kindness and offer her a life with love and security. However Belle thinks no human is worth trusting. Darcy's family and their pets, including a cat, try to show Belle otherwise. Will she realize that though she cannot change her past, she can put it aside and build a future full of happiness? When Bonehead and Big Toby reappear and threaten Darcy, the girl's survival depends on the choice Belle makes.

Ms. Gotsch said, "I'm very excited about the nomination. To have the book receive this honor illustrates the importance that books can have in empowering young people."

Ms. Gotsch is the author of two award-winning adult novels. In 2007 she received the New Mexico Press Women's Communicator of Achievement Award and has been chosen to speak at the second annual New Mexico Women Authors' Book Festival. She holds an Ed.D in Leadership and Policy Studies with an emphasis on educational media from Northern Illinois University, and works in public radio. She lives in Farmington, New Mexico.

The New Mexico Book Awards honor great books from New Mexico and the Southwest. The Awards represent the best of Southwestern literature as judged by a distinguished panel of scholars and librarians. The Awards are underwritten by Albuquerque The Magazine, Borders, Sunbelt Shows/Fiery Foods, Printer's Press, LPD Press & Rio Grande Books, New Mexico Book Co-op, and New Mexico Humanities Council, the New Mexico Book Awards are sponsored by Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System and the Friends of the Albuquerque Public Library, Albuquerque The Magazine, Borders, Cygnet Press, Land of Enchantment Romance Authors, New Mexico Book Association, New Mexico Coalition for Literacy, New Mexico Humanities Council, New Mexico Poetry Tangent, New Mexico State Library, PageOne Books, Pen New Mexico, Portales Public Library, Printer's Press, ReadingNewMexico.com, ReadWest, Rio Rancho Public Library, Santa Fe Public Library, SouthWest Writers, Sunbelt Shows/Fiery Foods, WalMart at Zuni, and WordHarvest Writers Workshop.

**About the Publisher:** Artemesia Publishing is a small publishing company located in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Currently with 8 titles in print, including *Belle's Star*, the company publishes high quality books from select authors that will educate, inform, and entertain the reader. *Belle's Star* is one of the

titles published under the Kinkajou Press imprint of Artemesia Publishing. For more information about the company, our other titles, or to arrange an interview with Ms. Gotsch please contact Mr. Habiger at the address above.

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